

Justice, God's Way

Isaiah 30:15-18

July 25, 2021

Isaiah 30:15–18 (NASB95)

15 For thus the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel, has said, "In repentance and rest you will be saved, In quietness and trust is your strength." But you were not willing, 16 And you said, "No, for we will flee on horses," Therefore you shall flee! "And we will ride on swift horses," Therefore those who pursue you shall be swift. 17 One thousand will flee at the threat of one man; You will flee at the threat of five, Until you are left as a flag on a mountain top And as a signal on a hill. 18 Therefore the Lord longs to be gracious to you, And therefore He waits on high to have compassion on you. For the Lord is a God of justice; How blessed are all those who long for Him.

Isaiah 30:1–3 (NASB95)

1 "Woe to the rebellious children," declares the Lord, "Who execute a plan, but not Mine, And make an alliance, but not of My Spirit, In order to add sin to sin; 2 Who proceed down to Egypt Without consulting Me, To take refuge in the safety of Pharaoh And to seek shelter in the shadow of Egypt! 3 "Therefore the safety of Pharaoh will be your shame And the shelter in the shadow of Egypt, your humiliation.

Isaiah 59:9, 13-15 (NASB95)

Therefore justice is far from us, And righteousness does not overtake us...Transgressing and denying the Lord, And turning away from our God, Speaking oppression and revolt, Conceiving in and uttering from the heart lying words. 14 Justice is turned back, And righteousness stands far away; For truth has stumbled in the street, And uprightness cannot enter. Yes, truth is lacking...Now the Lord saw, And it was displeasing in His sight that there was no justice.

Politics is about how a person (or a group of persons) believes the community ought to be ordered for the common good.

Justice goes to the very heart of how human beings made in the image of God are to treat one another. It has bearing on how marriage is supposed to work, how the family is to be ordered, and where the state has authority from God to reward good and punish evil.

The irony and futility of misplaced trust

Isaiah 30:6–7 (ESV)

6 An oracle on the beasts of the Negeb. Through a land of trouble and anguish...they carry their riches on the backs of donkeys, and their treasures on the humps of camels, to a people that cannot profit them. 7 Egypt's help is worthless and empty; therefore I have called her "Rahab who sits still."

The answer to sin, injustice, and rebellion is to turn to God and His Word in humility and trust.

And this brings us back to the verse we started with in the beginning where the Lord says to these very people:

Isaiah 30:15b (NASB95)

"In repentance and rest you will be saved, in quietness and trust is your strength."

“If a view of justice encourages rage and resentment toward people groups as a motivator for social activism then it is not true justice. A biblical worldview calls us to overcome evil with good, love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us. Family and reconciliation among every tongue, tribe and nation, not intertribal warfare, is the Bible’s model for justice.” - Thaddeus Williams

Isaiah 30:18 (NASB95)

18 Therefore the Lord longs to be gracious to you, And therefore He waits on high to have compassion on you. For the Lord is a God of justice; How blessed are all those who long for Him.

Long for the Lord and His future reign.

Pray for those who have fallen under the spell of the secular social justice movement.

Engage people, but do it with a heart that has been conditioned by a confidence in the Lord.