

UNJUST LAWS AND UNFAIR JUDICIAL DECISIONS ANGER GOD

Contributed by Administrator
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A Small Group Bible Study on Economic Justice

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- CONTENT: READ ALOUD THESE SCRIPTURES:

Woe to those who enact evil statutes, and to those who constantly record unjust decisions, so as to deprive the needy of justice, and rob the poor of My people of their rights, in order that widows may be their spoil, and that they may plunder the orphans.

Isaiah 10:1-2 (NASB)

Can a throne of destruction be allied with Thee, one which devises mischief by decree? They band themselves together against the life of the righteous, and condemn the innocent to death.

Psalm 92:20-21 (NASB)

- BACKGROUND:

Isaiah evidently came from a fairly prominent family in the southern kingdom of Judah, as is revealed by his ready access to kings and priests. His writings concern themselves with the ongoing sins of his people--idolatry, meaningless ritualism, and economic injustice--and reveal the coming of Christ as deliverer of Israel and coming earthly king. He was a contemporary of both Micah and Hosea, and decried the same injustice as did those somewhat lesser known prophets.

- QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

- What is God's definition of an "evil" statute or an unjust judicial decision?
- Compare your view of injustice with that of God. How are they similar, how do they differ?
- Isaiah speaks of the "rights of My people." What are these rights according to Scripture?
- Why are widows and orphans singled out for special protection? Would single parents qualify for these same protections today?
- The second Scripture asks if a "throne of destruction" can be allied with God. What do you interpret a "throne of destruction" to be, and how are they often allied with God today?
- The Psalmist seems to believe in deliberate attempts by evil persons and groups to join together in threatening the lives of the righteous and condemning the innocent to death. What do you think?

- Does the church have any obligation today to oppose evil statutes and unjust judicial decisions?
- If so, what can be done against such injustice, and how do you plan to participate?

- PRINCIPLES FOR CONSIDERATION:

- God adamantly opposes those who create evil laws and who make unjust judicial decisions.
- Scripture defines what righteous laws and fair court decisions ought to be.
- Divine judgment follows disobedience to God's commands.
- Attempts to ally evil economic behavior with the righteousness of God are doomed to failure.
- Christians and their churches have a duty to oppose evil legislation and unjust judicial decisions.

- REFERENCES:

Ex. 22:21-25; Lev. 25; Ps. 35:10; Ps. 37:12-15; Ps. 82:3; Prov. 6:16-19; Isa. 1:16-17; Mal. 3:5; Matt. 22:37-40; Acts 20:35; James 1:27.