

The God of True Justice

Romans 3:25

“God presented Jesus as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in His blood. He did this to demonstrate His justice..”

March 18th

Justice and the Holiness of God

Exodus 19

GETTING THE BIG PICTURE

There is a lot of talk in our day about justice—for the poor, for the alien, for the environment, etc. Often the word “fair” is used as a synonym. We just want a world in which things are “fair”. What few people really understand is how much the Easter season is shaped around the justice/fairness of God. The whole reason for the cross, and the reason for the resurrection centers in the fact that God is just; and it was His justice that demanded Jesus to make the ultimate sacrifice. As we head towards Easter this year we will never forget that Easter is the greatest expression of justice—and justice is ultimately rooted in the holiness of God.

Optional Readings

Isaiah 6

The prophet comes face to face with a holy God

GETTING INTO THE TEXT

Study Day(s)

READ & OBSERVE: Exodus 19

Write down anything you find interesting or unique about this passage.

ANSWER

The Background (skim chs. 12-18)

How long has it been since Israel left Egypt, and what have they seen since they left (see 19:1)?

Look up Genesis 15:12-16. How does this move out of Egypt fulfill a promise God made hundreds of years ago to Abram? Why didn't God bring the people of Israel out of Egypt sooner?

The Instructions from the Mountain (19:1-25)

What was the special calling that God gave to the people of Israel, and why does God say they should trust Him (vs.4-6)?

What is Israel's response to the initial requirements of God for them to be God's "treasured possession" (vs. 8)?

God is not just revealing himself to the Israelites; He is also revealing Moses' relationship with Him so the people understand it. What does He want them to know about Moses?

Before God descends upon the mountain, what does He tell Moses to do with the people to get them ready (vs. 9-15)? What is God teaching the people of Israel about Himself? Why is this so important?

What was the penalty for trying to force one's way up the mountain to see the Lord? Why such a harsh judgment?

What was it like when the Lord descended on the mountain, and what was the peoples' reaction (vs.16-19)?

GETTING TO THE HEART

Application Day

As God readies the people of Israel to enter the promised land (and enter a new kind of relationship with Him), He begins by revealing His holiness. The word holy means "different"—God is not the same as the people. He is above them. As you think of the person and character of God, what does His holiness mean to you? Are there times when you think of God and your response is to "tremble"?

Read Acts 5:1-11. This is for those who think that the character of God has changed—you know, He once was mean, but now he's just a nice guy. In the early years of the New Covenant, God taught the people about His holiness all over again. Describe what happens in our personal lives and in our culture when we cease believing in a Holy God?

Name a concrete way in which you can live a life that reflects a belief in the holiness of God.