

Part 3 – They Walk On in Darkness

In part 2 we saw God begin to speak to the unjust (evil) judges, who perverted judgment by accepting bribes that caused the rich criminals to be rewarded while punishing the innocent who were too poor to defend themselves. And that's why He specifically ordered them to defend the poor and fatherless and do justice to the afflicted and needy - which are the people in society who are unable to defend themselves. And He also demanded that the judges deliver (*save*) the poor and needy (those who are defenseless and thus oppressed) out of the hand of the wicked by their judicial judgments. Since all people are God's children (Ezek 18:4, Rev 4:11), He gets *really* angry when they are oppressed. And those who are unable to defend themselves (either from lack of money, power and/or influence in society) are *always* the ones oppressed. That's why He has ordained the institution of government; to protect the innocent, poor and needy from those who are wicked and more powerful (and richer) than they are. But, when the government itself becomes corrupted, this process (protecting the poor and powerless from the rich and powerful) is overturned and God gets *very* angry at that. Therefore, He *will* intervene and punish those who are *supposed* to be protecting His children, but are *not* doing so.

And thankfully, we who believe in Jesus Christ, can ask God for help (in Jesus' name) because Jesus Christ is our eternal Advocate (our intercessor) Who not only died to atone for our sins, but also to *protect us from all evil* (John 17:15, 2 Thess 3:3). So, while we might not get justice on earth, our Heavenly Father will send the Holy Spirit to give us peace of mind that will help us get through whatever hard times that may come. And, as Jesus said in Matt 5:10-12, when we're persecuted for doing *what's right*, we will be *richly* rewarded 'in heaven', which means either when we die, or when Jesus Christ returns (whichever comes first). And that's why being content with what we have, and continuing to strive to do what's right (obey God's Word, from the heart), is truly *great gain* (1 Tim 6:6). For, while many sell their eternal life away for fleshly riches, those who sincerely believe, trust and obey Jesus Christ are wise enough to live within our means (not lusting for great riches, power or prestige) and thus, *have eternal life waiting for us* (Matt 16:26-27). But this fact doesn't turn away God's anger from the unrighteous judges on the earth. And we'll pick up with that though in this precious Psalm...

Psalms 82

5 They know not, neither will they understand; they walk on in darkness: all the foundations of the earth are out of course.

Let's first take a look at some of the words here. The words '**they know**' means *to know* (properly, to ascertain by seeing); used in a great variety of senses, figuratively, literally, euphemistically and inferentially (including **observation, care, recognition**; and causatively, **instruction, designation, punishment**, etc.) (#3045). And then the words '**they understand**' means *to separate mentally* (or **distinguish**), i.e.(generally) **understand** (995). And the word

‘course’ means *to waver*; by implication *to slip, shake, fall* (#4131). Now, let’s remember that the subject of this chapter has been the unjust (wicked) judges of (likely) Israel; and our Heavenly Father has been, not only dressing them down, but also admonishing them as to what they *should* be doing. And now He is describing *what they are like* when judging. In essence, He’s saying that they lack the ability to understand *truth* because they *only* think with their *carnal* mind, as though they were a dumb animal (Ps 32:9) ... and that’s no offence to animals here; they actually use all of what God gave them, but we humans usually do not! And therefore, they (the wicked judges) stumble around in moral darkness (judging perversely), which undermines the very foundations of God’s perfect law system (i.e. law and order). So, they don’t think with God’s wisdom (spiritually) but rather, they think with their *carnal* mind (Rom 8:6, Ps 32:9). As the book of James points out, the ‘wisdom of the world’ (thinking with your carnal mind) is earthly (worldly #1919), sensual (animalistic #5591) and devilish (daemon like #1141). And the effects of worldly wisdom (driven by the lusts of the carnal mind) is envy, strife, confusion and *every evil work*. That’s what these judges were like. And what God is telling them they need to do, is to *put that carnal mind off* and **put on the mind of Christ** so they can learn God’s wisdom (i.e. wisdom from above), which is *pure, peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace* (James 3:15-18).

So, it was because these earthly judges were carnally minded (willingly so), they used worldly (Satanic) wisdom to judge with. And that’s why God says that they stumble around in darkness. As Prov 4:19 says: *The way of the wicked is as darkness: they know not at what they stumble*. And Mic 4:12 also sums it up rather well: *they know not the thoughts of the LORD, neither understand they his counsel*. To reiterate, God’s purpose for earthly governments (those in power) is to maintain ‘law and order’ (by using His Laws) in order *to protect the weak* from being abused by the rich and powerful (Ps 72:12-14, Prov 31:9, Rom 13:4). But, when the leaders (including judges) do the opposite (becoming corrupt and wicked themselves), then it ‘turns the world upside down’, which is what *all the foundations of the earth are out of course* means. When this happens, you end up with institutionalized criminality, which we also call ‘organized crime’, but it’s at the *highest* levels of society! And again, this *really* (totally) messes up the foundation of a healthy society. After all, the law enforced by earthly governments is truly *only for those who want to do harm to others*. It provides a *physical* way to *stop them* from harming those who are weaker (less powerful) than they are, whether that’s physically weaker, finically weaker or not having as much power in society. As Paul points out...

8 But we know that the law is good, if a man use it lawfully:

9 Knowing this, that **the law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and for sinners, for unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers,**

10 For whoremongers, for them that defile themselves with mankind, for menstealers, for liars, for perjured persons, and if there be any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine;

1 Tim 1:8-10

So, the law is good *only* IF it's used *lawfully*. That means, only if the government itself is not breaking the very same laws they claim to be enforcing! As Paul also wrote, they which do such things (weaponize the law) shall *not* inherit the kingdom of God (Gal 5:21). As Jesus Himself also said...

*19 Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called **great** in the kingdom of heaven.*

20 For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.

Matt 5:19-20

The Scribes and Pharisees were just like these unjust judges God is speaking to here in this great Psalm 82. And Jesus said we have to be *more* righteous than they are **if** we want to enter the Kingdom of Heaven, which means being allowed to reign with Jesus Christ when He returns (Rev 20:4-6). As Jesus also pointed out in Matt 23:2-4, the Scribes and Pharisees sit in Moses' seat and *claim* to teach God's Law, but they really twist it (Mth 15, Mk 7). And they try and put very heavy burdens (laws that are not even in the Bible) on the 'little people' while not at all trying to obey them. In Matt 23:28, Jesus boldly said to them: *ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but **within** ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity.* You can probably see why these guys plotted to murder Jesus, but He was right. And this kind of crooked (yea, *wicked*) 'leadership' was *not* contained to the Scribes and Pharisees. It happened for thousands of years before then and afterwards too (still goes on today, obviously – Ecc 1:9). So, when spiritual darkness (i.e. hating the truth) blinds the judgment of a nation's leaders (Mth 15:14, 23:16-26), the foundations of society (law and order) are indeed shaken, because corruption (even anarchy) rules; and the poor, needy and the righteous are the ones who suffer the most. How well did the Lord (YHVH) say through the prophet Hosea...

*1 Hear the word of the LORD, ye children of Israel: for the LORD hath a controversy with the inhabitants of the land, because **there is no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land.***

2 By swearing, and lying, and killing, and stealing, and committing adultery, they break out, and blood toucheth blood.

3 Therefore shall the land mourn, and every one that dwelleth therein shall languish, with the beasts of the field, and with the fowls of heaven; yea, the fishes of the sea also shall be taken away.

4 Yet let no man strive, nor reprove another: for thy people are as they that strive with the priest.

5 Therefore shalt thou fall in the day, and the prophet also shall fall with thee in the night, and I will destroy thy mother.

*6 **My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge:** because thou hast rejected knowledge, **I will also reject thee,** that thou shalt be no priest to me: **seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God,** I will also forget thy children.*

7 As they were increased, so they sinned against me: therefore will I change their glory into shame.

Hos 4:1-7

When there is no truth, mercy or knowledge of the Lord (YHVH) in a country, then the people truly are destroyed both physically and spiritually. And that's what causes a once mighty nation (like Israel, or even the Christian nations of today) to fall into such corruption that it's truly quite shameful and even gets to the point where it's irreversible (Isa 1:4-9). And the prophet Isaiah also addresses this...

*7 Their feet run to evil, and they make haste to shed innocent blood: **their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity;** wasting and destruction are in their paths.*

*8 **The way of peace they know not;** and there is no judgment in their goings: they have made them crooked paths: whosoever goeth therein shall not know peace.*

*9 **Therefore is judgment far from us, neither doth justice overtake us: we wait for light, but behold obscurity; for brightness, but we walk in darkness.***

*10 **We grope for the wall like the blind, and we grope as if we had no eyes: we stumble at noonday as in the night; we are in desolate places as dead men.***

*11 **We roar all like bears, and mourn sore like doves: we look for judgment, but there is none; for salvation, but it is far off from us.***

*12 **For our transgressions are multiplied before thee, and our sins testify against us: for our transgressions are with us; and as for our iniquities, we know them;***

*13 **In transgressing and lying against the LORD, and departing away from our God, speaking oppression and revolt, conceiving and uttering from the heart words of falsehood.***

*14 **And judgment is turned away backward, and justice standeth afar off: for truth is fallen in the street, and equity cannot enter.***

*15 **Yea, truth faileth; and he that departeth from evil maketh himself a prey: and the LORD saw it, and it displeased him that there was no judgment.***

Isa 59:7-15

These verses really sum up what the Lord (YHVH) is saying about the crooked judges and how their wickedness screws up the foundations of a healthy society. There can never be any peace without justice, and no justice without *righteous* judgement. In a country where the criminals are *running the government*, those who 'depart from evil' truly do make themselves a prey (a target for persecution)! And *that* is very displeasing to our Heavenly Father, for He created all things

for His pleasure (Rev 4:11). It does not please Him to see His children harmed by His other children. Nor does it please Him when we harm His animals and earth either. And that's why He went on (in Isaiah) to say...

*16 And he saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no intercessor [i.e. there was no fleshly man to enforce His righteous Laws]: therefore **his arm brought salvation unto him; and his righteousness, it sustained him.***

17 For he put on righteousness as a breastplate, and an helmet of salvation upon his head; and he put on the garments of vengeance for clothing, and was clad with zeal as a cloke.

18 According to their deeds, accordingly he will repay, fury to his adversaries, recompence to his enemies; to the islands he will repay recompence.

19 So shall they fear the name of the LORD from the west, and his glory from the rising of the sun. When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him.

20 And the Redeemer shall come to Zion, and unto them that turn from transgression in Jacob, saith the LORD.

Isa 59:16-20

So, God's response to the lack of righteousness in the world – especially in the government – is that He would send a Savior (Jesus Christ) who would repay (punish) all those who do wickedly (without repenting sincerely). And while that day has not yet come (Jesus Christ has not returned) we know He shall *soon* return. And when He does return, it will be 'with a vengeance'. However, to those who sincerely love and follow Jesus Christ, they have nothing to worry about. For God's wrath is not directed at those who love, fear and obey Him. Truly, the 'day of vengeance' IS what *comforts* (and saves) those who are doing what's right and who mourn for all the wickedness going on in the earth (Isa 61:2). So, while the wicked judges, and rulers, of the earth march along (despite God's many warnings to repent) in spiritual blindness, and continue to screw things up on earth, we should never forget that *it won't always be this way*. We simply must be *patient* for Jesus' return and *continue* to serve Him faithfully (John 8:31), *for yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry* (Heb 10:36-37). So, continue to find your God given gift(s) and use them the best you can (Mth 25:14-30, 1 Cor 12), share the truth whenever the opportunity arises (Eph 5:15-16, Col 4:5-6) and strive to always live your life in the way that will let the light of Jesus Christ shine to others (Mth 5:16) - for your 'good works' is what glorifies our Heavenly Father *greatly*, because it helps others (who are not hard hearted, i.e. they are seeking the truth) to *want* to draw close to Him...

15 See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise,

16 Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

17 Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.

18 And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;

19 Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;

20 Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;

Eph 5:15-20

We'll pick this up in part 4...

AMEN.