

Happy, Exciting, Delightful Justice

- The Bible gives vivid pictures of how God, creation, and humans emotionally respond to justice.
- A good test of whether you have a biblical understanding of justice is how you emotionally respond to it.
- **Justice is delightful! God's response**
 - This is what the Lord says:
"Don't let the wise boast in their wisdom,
or the powerful boast in their power,
or the rich boast in their riches.
But those who wish to boast
should boast in this alone:
that they truly know me and understand that I am the Lord
who demonstrates unfailing love
and who brings justice [*mishpat*] and righteousness [*sedeqah*] to the earth,
and that I delight in these things.
I, the Lord, have spoken! (Jeremiah 9:23-24 NLT)
 - Delight is God's *why* behind the justice, righteousness, and steadfast love He practices.
 - It's not out of frustration or obligation that God does justice and righteousness, but *delight*.
- **Justice is exciting! Creation's response**
 - Tell all the nations, "The Lord reigns!"
The world stands firm and cannot be shaken.
He will judge all peoples fairly.
Let the heavens be glad, and the earth rejoice!
Let the sea and everything in it shout his praise!
Let the fields and their crops burst out with joy!
Let the trees of the forest sing for joy
before the Lord, for he is coming!
He is coming to judge the earth.
He will judge the world with justice [*sedeq*],
and the nations with his truth. (Psalm 96:10-13 NLT)
 - The heavens are GLAD, the earth REJOICES, the sea SHOUTS GOD'S PRAISE, the fields BURST OUT FOR JOY, forest trees SING FOR JOY. Why? *For God is coming to judge the earth.*

Demystifying Biblical Justice

- The news of God coming to judge the earth makes creation so happy that it can't help but erupt with joy.
- **Justice is happy! People's response**
 - Zion hears and is glad, and the daughters of Judah rejoice, because of your judgments [*mishpat*], O Lord. (Psalm 97:8 ESV)
 - Your right hand is filled with righteousness [*sedeq*]. Let Mount Zion be glad! Let the daughters of Judah rejoice because of your judgments [*mishpat*]! (Psalm 48:10b-11 ESV)
 - Justice makes the people of Israel and Judah GLAD and REJOICE.
 - Judgement (*mishpat*) is so wonderful that the news of it makes people happy.
 - Justice should inspire joy when it's done:
 - When justice [*mishpat*] is done, it is a joy to the righteous [*saddiyq*] (Proverbs 21:15a)
- ***Justice and righteousness fill people, creation, and God with joy.***
 - God's justice and righteousness are delightful.
 - When God's justice and righteousness happen, it should bring us joy.
 - The justice and righteousness that we do should be full of gladness.
 - Our work should be fueled by delight.