

JUSTICE IN THE BOOK OF PSALMS / *Psalms 94*

Justice is a major theme in Psalms. The Psalmists praise God because he is just; they plead for him to intervene and bring justice where there is oppression and wickedness; they condemn the wicked who trust in their wealth; they extol the righteous who are just toward their neighbors.

Justice in Psalms is more than honesty. It is active intervention on behalf of the helpless, especially the poor. The psalmists do not merely wish the poor could be given what they need—they plead with God to destroy those nations that are subverting justice and oppressing God's people.

Here are some example of psalms that speak about justice. As you read them, ask yourself, Who is my neighbor? Does my lifestyle—my work, my play, my buying habits, my giving—help or hurt people who have less than I do? What one thing could I do this week to help a helpless person?

Selected psalms that emphasize this theme are Psalms 7; 9; 15; 37; 50; 72; 75; 82; 94; 145.