

MONDAY

October 27

The Supreme Judge

Read Genesis 18:25; Psalm 7:11; Psalm 50:6; Psalm 82:1; Psalm 96:10; and 2 Timothy 4:1, 8. What are these verses saying about God's moral character? How does the role of God as the judge of the universe help us understand the question of divine war?

GEN 18:25—

That be far from thee to do after this manner, to slay the righteous with the wicked: and that the righteous should be as the wicked, that be far from thee: Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?

PS 7:11—

God judgeth the righteous, and God is angry with the wicked every day.

PS 50:6 —

And the heavens shall declare his righteousness: for God is
judge himself. Selah.

PS 82:1 -

God standeth in the congregation of the mighty; he judgeth among
the gods.

Ps 96:10-

Say among the heathen that the LORD reigneth: the world also
shall be established that it shall not be moved: he shall judge
the people righteously.

2 TIM 4:1, 8-

I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ,
who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his
kingdom; Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of
righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give
me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that
love his appearing.

DAVID AND SAUL IN THE CAVE --

LORDS ANOINTED - WHY WAS SAUL THE LORD'S ANOINTED - HE WAS
KILLING PRIESTS, THREATENING TO KILL HIS SON, TRYING TO KILL
DAVID AND ABOUT TO SPEAK THROUGH A WITCH -

1 SAM 24:12-

The LORD judge between me and thee, and the LORD avenge me of
thee: but mine hand shall not be upon thee.

ROMANS 14:10-13 - LIKE DAVID WE NO LONGER NEED TO JUDGE OTHERS
REVELATION 22:11 - GOD KNOWS WHO CAN BE REACHED AND WHO HAVE
REACHED AN UNREACHABLE PLACE -

REVELATION 7:6 - GOD CALLS US TO BE SEALED AS THE TRIBE OF
MANASSES INSTEAD OF THE TRIBE OF DAN. DAN MEANS TO JUDGE GEN.
49:16, 17 LIKE A SERPENT. The 24/7-365 accuser.

MANASSES MEANS "CAUSING TO FORGET" ROOT WORD MEANS "TO REMIT,
REMOVE."

LIKE JOSEPH GOD WANTS US TO EXPERIENCE FORGIVENESS OF OUR SIN SO
THAT WE CAN FORGIVE OTHERS.

THIS IS THE MESSAGE OF GOD'S AS JUDGE.

IF WE DON'T ALLOW GOD TO BE SUPREME JUDGE THEN MEN WILL ATTEMPT
TO BE JUDGE AND LIFE WILL CONTINUE TO BE A ROUND OF HATE,

VIOLENCE, ENVY AND SELFISHNESS. WHEN WE ALLOW GOD TO BE JUDGE,
WE GIVE ALL INJUSTICE INTO HIS HANDS KNOWING THAT HE WILL MAKE
ALL RIGHT IN HIS TIME. IN THIS WAY WE WALK THE WALK OF CHRIST
FOR THIS WAS THE WAY HE WALKED AMONG US - SAYING OF HIS
BITTEREST ENEMIES "FATHER FORGIVE THEM FOR THEY KNOW NOT WHAT
THEY DO"

The holiness of God's character means that He cannot tolerate sin. He is patient. However, sin must reap its final consequence, which is death (*Rom. 6:23*). Yahweh declared war against sin, regardless of where it was found, whether in Israel or among the Canaanites. Israel was not sanctified through participating in holy wars any more than other nations were (*Deut. 9:4, 5; Deut. 12:29, 30*) even when they became the means of Yahweh's judgment against His chosen nation. Different from other ancient Near Eastern people, the Israelites experienced the reversal of holy war, when God did not fight for them but *against* them, allowing their enemies to oppress them (*compare with Joshua 7*).

The whole concept of holy war can be understood only if it is seen in the light of God's activity as judge. When seen this way, Israel's wars of conquest take on a completely different character. In contrast to the imperialistic wars of self-

aggrandizement, so common in the ancient world (and ours today), Israel's wars were not meant to accomplish glory for themselves but to establish God's justice and peace in the land. Therefore, at the heart of understanding the concept of holy war stands the concept of God's rule and sovereignty, which are at stake in the imagery of God as warrior, just as they are in the imagery of God as king or as judge.

Yahweh as warrior is the One who, as a judge, is committed to implementing, stabilizing, and maintaining the rule of the law, which is the reflection of His character. The image of God as warrior, similar to that of judge and king, asserts that Yahweh will not tolerate rebellion against His established order forever. Therefore, one can affirm that the goal of Yahweh's activity is never war itself, or victory itself, but the reestablishment of justice and peace. Ultimately, to judge and to wage war, or to deliver justice, are the same thing if God is the subject of the action.

Reflect on God as a righteous judge who cannot be bribed nor influenced by partiality. How is a God who will not endlessly tolerate sin, oppression, the suffering of the innocent, and the exploitation of the oppressed part and parcel of the gospel

