

# Deuteronomy 4:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And what nation is there so great, that hath statutes and judgments so righteous as all this law, which I set before you this day?

## Analysis

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The rhetorical question 'what nation is there so great' emphasizes Israel's unique privilege of possessing divinely revealed law. The phrase 'righteous statutes and judgments' (Hebrew 'tsaddiq'—just/righteous) indicates that God's law reflects His perfect moral character. Unlike arbitrary pagan codes, biblical law flows from divine nature. This verse establishes the theonomic principle that God's law is the supreme standard of justice. From a Reformed perspective, while ceremonial aspects are fulfilled in Christ, the moral law continues to guide Christian ethics, revealing God's unchanging righteousness.

## Historical Context

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Set against ancient Near Eastern law codes, Israel's law was revolutionary: equal justice regardless of social class (Exodus 23:3, 6), cities of refuge for manslaughter (Numbers 35), prohibition of interest on loans to the poor (Leviticus 25:35-37), gleaning rights (Leviticus 19:9-10), and seventh-year land rest benefiting poor and wildlife (Exodus 23:10-11). These righteous ordinances reflected God's character and distinguished Israel morally from surrounding nations.

## Related Passages

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

### Study Questions

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1. How does the righteousness of God's law reveal His moral perfection and serve as humanity's ultimate ethical standard?
2. What aspects of Old Testament civil law continue to instruct Christians about justice, mercy, and social responsibility?

### Interlinear Text

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וְיָמִי      גּוֹי      גָּדוֹל      אֲשֶׁר      לֹא      חֻקֵּי יָמִים  
H4310      **And what nation**      **is there so great**      H834      H0      **that hath statutes**  
H1471      H1419      H2706

וּמִשְׁפָּטֵי יָמִים      צְדִיקָה      כָּל      הַתּוֹכָה      הַזֹּאת      אֲשֶׁר      יֵאָמְרוּ  
**and judgments**      **so righteous**      H3605      **as all this law**      H2063      H834      H595  
H4941      H6662      H8451

נִתְּנָה      לְפָנֶיךָ      הַיּוֹם:  
**which I set**      **before**      **you this day**  
H5414      H6440      H3117