

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

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

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

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

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

וְכֹהֵן מֶלֶךְ יִהְיֶה לְךָ כִּי
H4310 And what nation is there so great H1471 H1419 H834 H0 that hath statutes
H2706

אָנֹכִי אֲשֶׁר כִּי תְּהִלֵּת יְמִינְךָ מִצְדִּיק מִמְשְׁפָט יְמִינְךָ
and judgments so righteous H4941 H6662 H3605 H8451 H2063 H834 H595

לְפָנֶיךָ מִנְתָּחֶן יְמִינְךָ
which I set before you this day
H5414 H6440 H3117

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