

Isaiah 33:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For the LORD is our judge, the LORD is our lawgiver, the LORD is our king; he will save us.

Analysis

For the LORD is our judge, the LORD is our lawgiver, the LORD is our king; he will save us (פִּי יְהוָה שְׁפָטֵנוּ יְהוָה מְחַקֵּנוּ יְהוָה מֶלֶךְנוּ הוּא יְשִׁיבֵנוּ) ki YHWH shoftenu YHWH mechoqenu YHWH malkenu hu yoshienu)—Yahweh is our שופט (shofet, judge), our מחקן (mechoqe, lawgiver, engraver of statute), our מלך (melekh, king); He will ישא (yasha, save).

This verse encapsulates theocracy: Yahweh holds all governmental authority. Modern separation of powers (executive, legislative, judicial) are unified in Him. He judges (judicial), decrees law (legislative), rules (executive), and saves (redemptive). James 4:12: 'There is one lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy.' Human governments derive authority from God (Romans 13:1) but remain subordinate. Christ embodies all three roles: Judge (John 5:22), Lawgiver (Matthew 5:21-22, 'but I say unto you'), King (Revelation 19:16, 'KING OF KINGS'). His government brings salvation, not oppression.

Historical Context

Israel's theocracy meant God ruled through judges, then kings. But human judges corrupted justice (Isaiah 1:23), kings oppressed (1 Samuel 8:10-18), lawgivers multiplied burdens (Matthew 23:4). Only when God Himself executes these roles perfectly does salvation come. Jesus unified all offices: teaching with authority (Matthew 7:29), judging rightly (John 7:24), reigning as King (Luke 1:33). His Kingdom is everlasting government of perfect justice, righteous law, gracious rule.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does recognizing God as Judge, Lawgiver, and King affect submission to earthly authorities?
2. In what ways do human governments fail that only God's perfect governance can remedy?
3. How does Christ fulfill all three offices (judge, lawgiver, king) in His redemptive work and Kingdom?

Interlinear Text

יְהִי הָכֹה	שְׁפִיטֵנוּ	יְהִי הָכֹה	מְחַקֵּרֵנוּ	יְהִי הָכֹה
H3588	For the LORD	H8199	For the LORD	is our lawgiver
H3068			H3068	For the LORD
			H2710	
			H3068	
מֶלֶךְנוּ	וַיִּשְׁמַעַנּוּ	הָא	וַיִּשְׁמַעַנּוּ	מֶלֶךְנוּ
is our king	he will save			
H4428	H1931		H3467	

Additional Cross-References

James 4:12 (Salvation): There is one lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy: who art thou that judgest another?

Acts 5:31 (Salvation): Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.

Psalms 89:18 (Kingdom): For the LORD is our defence; and the Holy One of Israel is our king.

Isaiah 25:9 (Salvation): And it shall be said in that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, and he will save us: this is the LORD; we have waited for him, we will be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

Isaiah 35:4 (Salvation): Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come with vengeance, even God with a recompence; he will come and save you.

Isaiah 12:2 (Salvation): Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the LORD JEHOVAH is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation.

Zechariah 9:9 (Salvation): Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass.

Psalms 50:6 (Judgment): And the heavens shall declare his righteousness: for God is judge himself. Selah.

Psalms 75:7 (Judgment): But God is the judge: he putteth down one, and setteth up another.

Revelation 19:16 (Kingdom): And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.