

Psalm 103:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The LORD executeth righteousness and judgment for all that are oppressed.

Analysis

God 'executes righteousness' (tsedaqah) and 'judgment' (mishpat) for all the oppressed. This isn't arbitrary favoritism but commitment to justice for the vulnerable. God's character as defender of the oppressed permeates Scripture (Deut 10:18, Ps 146:7-9). The Reformed emphasis on God's justice recognizes both His punitive judgment of sin and His protective justice toward victims. Christ's ministry consistently championed the marginalized, and believers are called to reflect this concern for justice.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern societies had widespread oppression of the poor, widows, orphans, and foreigners. Israel's God distinguished Himself by commanding His people to practice justice and by personally defending the vulnerable.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does your life demonstrate God's concern for justice and the oppressed?

2. What forms of oppression in your community require the church's advocacy and action?

Interlinear Text

לְכָל וְמִשְׁפָט יְמִינָה צִדְקָה וְתַעֲשֶׂה הָיָה

executeth righteousness The LORD and judgment H3605

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עֲשֵׂה־קָרְבָּן:

for all that are oppressed

H6231

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 12:5 (References Lord): For the oppression of the poor, for the sighing of the needy, now will I arise, saith the LORD; I will set him in safety from him that puffeth at him.

Psalms 9:9 (References Lord): The LORD also will be a refuge for the oppressed, a refuge in times of trouble.

Psalms 72:12 (Parallel theme): For he shall deliver the needy when he crieth; the poor also, and him that hath no helper.

Psalms 146:7 (Judgment): Which executeth judgment for the oppressed: which giveth food to the hungry. The LORD looseth the prisoners:

Proverbs 14:31 (Parallel theme): He that oppresseth the poor reproacheth his Maker: but he that honoureth him hath mercy on the poor.

Psalms 109:31 (Parallel theme): For he shall stand at the right hand of the poor, to save him from those that condemn his soul.

James 2:6 (Judgment): But ye have despised the poor. Do not rich men oppress you, and draw you before the judgment seats?

Psalms 72:4 (Judgment): He shall judge the poor of the people, he shall save the children of the needy, and shall break in pieces the oppressor.

Ezekiel 22:7 (Parallel theme): In thee have they set light by father and mother: in the midst of thee have they dealt by oppression with the stranger: in thee have they vexed the fatherless and the widow.

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