



## Bible Reading Plan : 40 Days on Justice

Day 21

### A Just King

**Read > Psalm 72:1-20**

**Contemplate >** On what basis does this Psalm say that the king and the land will be blessed? What is the link between just rule and blessing? How are the twin themes of righteousness and justice shown in this passage? What actions does this just king take on behalf of the poor, the needy and the weak? What actions does this just king take against oppressors? In what ways can Australia do better at redeeming people's lives from oppression and violence, and valuing the blood of the weak and needy as precious? What government policies need to change to implement these principle of justice for the poor? What can you do to help bring about change in this regard?

Day 22

### The Lord is a God who Avenges

**Read > Psalm 94:1-23**

**Contemplate >** Why do you think the Psalmist is calling on God to bring vengeance and judgement? How will judgement of the wicked bring justice for the oppressed? What offences of the wicked does the Psalmist list? Does the Psalmist find any help from anybody in standing against the wicked and the evildoers (verse 16)? What does this Psalm teach about God's support for the oppressed? In verse 20 it defines wicked rule as "contriving mischief by statute". How are you aware of injustice being implemented in our society by changes to the law? Can you think of anything that is lawful but is also unjust? What can you do to bring about change in that area? What does the Psalmist say will be God's response to unjust rule (verse 23)?

Day 23

### Defend the Cause of the fatherless

**Read > Isaiah 1:1-31**

**Contemplate >** What issues of righteousness are identified in this passage? What issues of justice are identified in this passage? Which groups of people are identified as being sinned against? Why does God compare Judah to Sodom and Gomorrah? Why does God find the sacrifices of his people offensive? In what ways does God call his people to repentance (verses 16-17)? What does God find offensive about the leaders of his people (verse 23)? What does God want for the orphan and the widow (verse 23)? What does God say will be the consequences of the injustice in Judah (verses 24-31)? What is the connection here between God's judgement of his people, and their future restoration? What will their restoration look like? What is the thing that will turn judgement into restoration, rather than final destruction (verses 27-28)?



Day 24

### True Fasting

**Read > Isaiah 58:1-59:21**

**Contemplate >** How does God define true worship fasting? How could a lifestyle of fasting from those things that enslave others bring about justice? What are some examples of things that enslave people that we are party to through obtaining some benefit? What practical ways can we share bread with the hungry, house the poor, cloth the naked and support our families? What will we have to give up (fast from) in order to make that happen? What does God promise to those who take up the lifestyle-fast of justice? What sins does God identify as barriers between people and God (Isaiah 59:2-8)? What is God's response when he saw that no one was willing to intervene against the injustices of his people (Isaiah 59@:15-20)? What are the implications for us, when so much of the western lifestyle is propped up by oppression in the developing world? What would justice look like in the world economy? What actions would God have us take as individuals to bring about that vision of justice? What will be consequences if we don't?

Day 25

### Judgement on Israel

**Read > Amos 2:6-16**

**Contemplate >** What issues of justice and of righteousness are identified in this passage? Does it surprise you that issues of morality (a father and son sleeping with the same woman, drinking in the temple) are listed alongside issues of justice (selling the righteous for silver, the needy for sandals, trampling the poor)? What does God say he is going to do about the injustice and unrighteousness of Israel? In a society that is defined by its "sex, drugs and rock n' roll" culture, what can we learn? In a society that treats refugees and asylum seekers with contempt, what can we learn? In a society that is founded on the theft of land, murder and rape, and removal of children from Aboriginal people, what can we learn?