

May 16, 2020

The Names of Love - Part 16 - Jehovah Shophet

Psalm 43:1, "Vindicate me, my GOD, and plead my cause against an unfaithful nation. Rescue me from those who are deceitful and wicked."

The Name of God in this passage is Jehovah Shophet; The Lord Who is our Judge.

We have a God that is absolutely perfect in every way, including His justice. Every law that is broken must be paid for. That is why the scripture says in Rom 6:23, "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our LORD." The penalty for our sin had to be carried out. Either we pay for our sins through eternal punishment in Hell, or we trust in the One, Jesus Christ, Who took our sins upon Himself and paid for them with His sinless blood. Why? Because justice must be done. God is perfectly just in every area of life. As the hymn says: Jesus paid it all, All to Him I owe, sin had left a crimson stain, He washed it white as snow.

God's justice has to be carried out because of the righteous nature of God. He is completely righteous. He is a "just" God. He will never go against doing the right thing. In essence, He must judge a fallen world and He does so according to His own righteousness. And He does this motivated by His great love. That is why He does what He does. He does not look forward to bringing down His judgment on anyone. That is why He is so patient with us when we've pushed everyone else way beyond their boundary of patience. 2 Pt. 3:9, "The LORD is not slow in keeping His promise, as some understand slowness. Instead He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance."

Jesus said in Mt. 7:1-2 "Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

We need to just know this: As much as God loves us and shows us His love, there will come a day of judgment. The righteous Judge, Shophet, will Judge all of creation and when that happens, it will be with His mighty right hand of righteousness. Heb. 10:31, "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God."

Dear Jehovah Shophet, You are the Judge of all things and all people. I am not. Help me to leave the judging up to You and instead, help me to love others the way that You love me. In Jesus Name, Amen