

Shophet

In Hebrew the word ‘judge’ or “Shophet”, is often parallel to the word king”. So when we pray to God our Shophet, we are praying to the one true King and Ruler, whose righteousness and judgments demands perfect justice.

What better man to illustrate this point than David, King of Israel

King David a man who loved Shophet God, served God with vigor and love but like many of us, he, on occasion made mistakes. One such mistake was telling Joab, his General to number Israel. Now numbering Israel in and of itself wasn’t wrong but the motive behind it was. That motive, I believe was pride. One should not boast in something they had nothing to do with. (a little hint, our strength comes from Shophet, not ourselves). Joab, sensing this was wrong tried to persuade David not to do it, because he knew it flew directly in the face of Shophet God. But David insisted. No sooner had Joab return with the number, David realized his sin and David, who God said was a man after His own heart, immediately repented. However, because our God is a Righteous Judge and requires all sin, regardless of who you are, to be reconciled, sent Gad, the seer or Prophet to David to bring this sin before him. Our God is no respecter of persons and nothing gets past Him.

Let’s take up the story from there! If you have your bible turn to 2 Samuel 24, starting at verse 10

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2 Samuel 24:10-14,

10: And David's heart smote him after that he had numbered the people. And David said unto the LORD, I have sinned greatly in that I have done: and now, I beseech thee, O LORD, take away the iniquity of thy servant; for I have done very foolishly.

11: For when David was up in the morning, the word of the LORD came unto the prophet Gad, David's seer, saying,

12: Go and say unto David, Thus saith the LORD, I offer thee three things; choose thee one of them, that I may do it unto thee.

13: So Gad came to David, and told him, and said unto him, Shall seven years of famine come unto thee in thy land? or wilt thou flee three months before thine enemies, while they pursue thee? or that there be three days' pestilence in thy land? now advise, and see what answer I shall return to him that sent me.

14: And David said unto Gad, I am in a great strait: let us fall now into the hand of the LORD; for his mercies are great: and let me not fall into the hand of man.

kjv

Read

Now remember, All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: And in this case, this doctrine came straight from Shophet God via His Prophet.

That said, let me say this: We share something common with David and all people:

1: We are all sinners:

And

2: We serve a Merciful and Just God:

So what did David know:

- a David knew that man's judgment and justice would be overkill and certainly without mercy. (David had a lot of enemies).
- b David knew that the Shophet is merciful and equally important, he knew that he could place his fate in the hands of God a Shophet that administers perfect justice and judgment and trust that the chastisement he would suffer was done in love and served as correction.

Shophet God loves us and because of this love He prepared a perfect sacrifice for our sin. Through this sacrifice, He is able to look past our sin to the one whose blood covers our sin, Jesus Christ. Now while Christ had not yet died on the cross for sin, He is the Alpha and Omega and He was there to cover David's sin.

But the key is acknowledging and confessing our sins and when we do, He judges us in perfect righteousness.

Slide 4 - The Psalmist wrote

Psalms 32:5,

I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. Selah.

Here's the deal, when we acknowledge our sin "Shophet" because He loves us extends His mercy. But there is more. Shophet not only forgives our sins, He tells us He would forget them. How cool is that!

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Hebrews 8:12,

For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more.

kjv

Who else but a righteous judge could administer perfect justice? God, our Shophet, provided a way for us to be acquitted of our guilt, our sin through the life and death of His resurrected Son, Jesus Christ.

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2 Corinthians 5:19

19: To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

Our God, Shophet put on flesh and walked among us. He became our redeemer, our High Priest and He brought with Him a new covenant. I want to show you something I think is pretty awesome. The miracle of turning water into wine represents a powerful truth concerning is right to judge righteous judgment.

Let's read:

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John 2:3-10

3: And when they wanted wine, the mother of Jesus saith unto him, They have no wine.

4: Jesus saith unto her, Woman, what have I to do with thee? mine hour is not yet come.

5: His mother saith unto the servants, Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it.

6: And there were set there six waterpots of stone, after the manner of the purifying of the Jews, containing two or three firkins apiece.

7: Jesus saith unto them, Fill the waterpots with water. And they filled them up to the brim.

8: And he saith unto them, Draw out now, and bear unto the governor of the feast. And they bare it.

9: When the ruler of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and knew not whence it was: (but the servants which drew the water knew;) the governor of the feast called the bridegroom,

10: And saith unto him, Every man at the beginning doth set forth good wine; and when men have well drunk, then that which is worse: but thou hast kept the good wine until now.

kjv

I want to focus on three things here

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First, The empty water pots represented the old covenant. –

Second, The filled water pots represented the glory of Christ and a new covenant

Third, What the old covenant could not do, Jesus, the new wine, could, and with it He brought salvation and Grace- **Read third note**

First, The water pots were used for purification or ceremonial cleansing. However, you might remember in this case they were empty, I like to think of this as them being void of true cleansing and Jesus used these pots to illustrate a new cleansing was taking hold.

Second, Jesus filled the waterpots to the brim with overflowing joy, like the Holy Spirit does when it enters in. When Jesus provided this new wine, the scripture indicate the ruler didn't know where it came from. Like the Pharisee or Jewish Rulers, they failed to recognize the Messiah, the true Bridegroom and because they failed to recognize Him, they failed in their responsibility to shepherd the people. They didn't supply the Gospel or good wine, even though their scriptures wrote of Him. But our merciful Shophet, God, supplemented the failures of the Jewish rulers with Jesus who fulfilled the duties of the bridegroom and saved the wedding, our marriage feast.

Third, When the world had lost it's taste for good wine (old covenant law), Christ came in the fullness of time and brought a new taste, a better wine, a new covenant and a promise of life. What the old covenant could not do, the new covenant (new wine) could in that it brought what I like to call "salvation-celebration" to the marriage feast. We are saved by the new covenant of Grace brought by the miracle of Christ.

This is so awesome to me!!

Our Shophet, God gave the world a new standard and we are to measure ourselves by this new standard, the one- Jesus the Christ.

We must continually Sacrifice unto Shophet God

Slide 8

Read

What is this sacrifice?

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit and a broken and contrite heart. Jesus Christ our Shophet will judge the world by His word. Jesus said:

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John 5:30:

I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me

We belong to Shophet, God and as His children, heirs to the Kingdom, we look forward to His righteous judgment because we will receive a crown of righteousness. As our beloved Paul reminds us in 2 Timothy 4:8

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2 Timothy 4:8,

8: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.