

# Is God Just?

A difficult question for a Christian  
to answer atheists.

God tells us to be merciful and loving toward our enemies.

At the same time, God will send his enemies to hell for eternity.

Is God in the OT God of merciless killing while God in the NT is presented as kindness and light?

Mat 5:38 "You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.' (39) But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also.

Exo 21:22 "If people are fighting and hit a pregnant woman and she gives birth prematurely but there is no serious injury, the offender must be fined whatever the woman's husband demands and the court allows. (23) But if there is serious injury, you are to take life for life, (24) eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, (25) burn for burn, wound for wound, bruise for bruise.

Note the difference – the misquotation of Mt 5.38 –  
“you have heard it was said” – did not show the  
judicial responsibility of fairness.

Rom 13:1 Let everyone be subject to the governing  
authorities, for there is no authority except that which  
God has established. The authorities that exist have  
been established by God. (2) Consequently, whoever  
rebels against the authority is rebelling against what  
God has instituted, and those who do so will bring  
judgment on themselves. (3) For rulers hold no  
terror for those who do right, but for those who do  
wrong.

Exo 23:4-5 "If you come across your enemy's ox or donkey wandering off, be sure to return it. (5) If you see the donkey of someone who hates you fallen down under its load, do not leave it there; be sure you help them with it.

Mat 5:43 "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' (44) But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, (45) that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

What Jesus was telling them was exactly what the LOM said.

Lev 19:18 "'Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against anyone among your people, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the LORD.

Luk 6:27-28 "But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, (28) bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.

As we look at Jehovah in the OT, we find that He is concerned with physical Israel and the coming of the Christ.

Gal 4:4 But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, (5) so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.



As Moses receives the tables of stone –

Exo 34:5 The LORD descended in the cloud and stood there with him as he called upon the name of the LORD. (6) Then the LORD passed by in front of him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth; (7) who keeps lovingkindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression and sin; yet He will by no means leave the guilty unpunished, visiting the iniquity of fathers on the children and on the grandchildren to the third and fourth generations." (8) Moses made haste to bow low toward the earth and worship. (9) He said, "If now I have found favor in Your sight, O Lord, I pray, let the Lord go along in our midst, even though the people are so obstinate, and pardon our iniquity and our sin, and take us as Your own possession."

Exo 34:11 "Be sure to observe what I am commanding you this day: behold, I am going to drive out the Amorite before you, and the Canaanite, the Hittite, the Perizzite, the Hivite and the Jebusite. (12) "Watch yourself that you make no covenant with the inhabitants of the land into which you are going, or it will become a snare in your midst. (13) "But rather, you are to tear down their altars and smash their sacred pillars and cut down their Asherim (14) --for you shall not worship any other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God--

Jonah 4:2 He prayed to the LORD and said,  
"Please LORD, was not this what I said while I was  
still in my own country? Therefore in order to  
forestall this I fled to Tarshish, for I knew that You  
are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to  
anger and abundant in lovingkindness, and one  
who relents concerning calamity.

Rom 12:19 Never take your own revenge,  
beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for  
it is written, "VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY,"  
says the Lord.

What is the difference between  
justice by the individual and justice  
by the judicial system?

One is murder – the other is  
execution.

One is justice – the other is  
revenge.

How can God judge us?

Psa 44:21 Would not God find this out? For He knows the secrets of the heart.

Act 15:8 "And God, who knows the heart, testified to them giving them the Holy Spirit, just as He also did to us;

1Jn 3:20 in whatever our heart condemns us; for God is greater than our heart and knows all things.

How could God judge the nations  
around Israel?

He knew their hearts!

Gen 18:26 So the LORD said, "If I find in Sodom fifty righteous within the city, then I will spare the whole place on their account." (27) And Abraham replied, "Now behold, I have ventured to speak to the Lord, although I am but dust and ashes. 28... "I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there." (29) ..., "I will not do it on account of the forty." (30) Then he said, "Oh may the Lord not be angry, and I shall speak; suppose thirty are found there?" ...if I find thirty there." (31) ..."I will not destroy it on account of the twenty." (32..."I will not destroy it on account of the ten."

2Pe 3:9 The Lord is not slow about  
His promise, as some count  
slowness, but is patient toward you,  
not wishing for any to perish but for  
all to come to repentance.



There was a time when the people of this earth –  
not any of them – were ready to hear about the  
kingdom of God.

Gal 4:4 But when the fullness of the time came,  
God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born  
under the Law, (5) so that He might redeem  
those who were under the Law, that we might  
receive the adoption as sons.

Luk 18:7-8 now, will not God bring about justice for His elect who cry to Him day and night, and will He delay long over them? (8) "I tell you that He will bring about justice for them quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?"

2Th 1:5 This is a plain indication of God's righteous judgment so that you will be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which indeed you are suffering. (6) For after all it is only just for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you, (7) and to give relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, (8) dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.

Rev 9:20 The rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, so as not to worship demons, and the idols of gold and of silver and of brass and of stone and of wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk; (21) and they did not repent of their murders nor of their sorceries nor of their immorality nor of their thefts.