

# Paul, His Life and Teachings



## Paul's Theology God (Part 3)

### Lesson 41

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“Justice for all”



What comes to your mind when you think of Judge?





Tigger is an  
“Anthropomorphism”

Ascribing human forms on  
non-humans!

# God as “Judge”



“God judges the hearts of men”  
(Rom. 2:16)

Paul is using “courtroom” language



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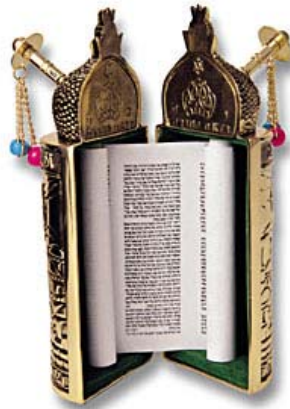




Paul is also using Old Testament language







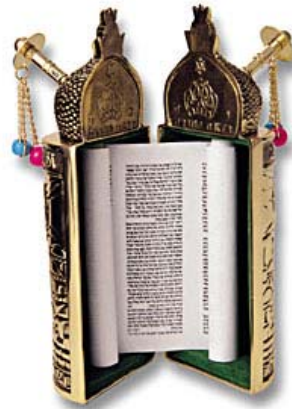
Understand the  
Old Testament  
usage



Understand the  
Old Testament  
usage



Understand  
Paul's usage

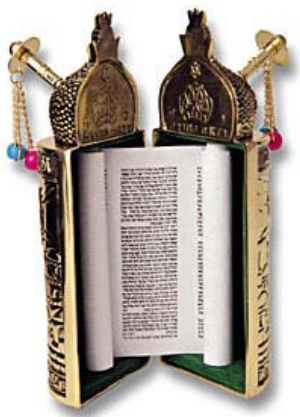


Understand the  
Old Testament  
usage



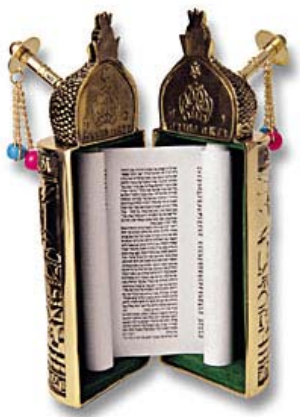
Understand  
Paul's usage





# God Judges Israel as a nation

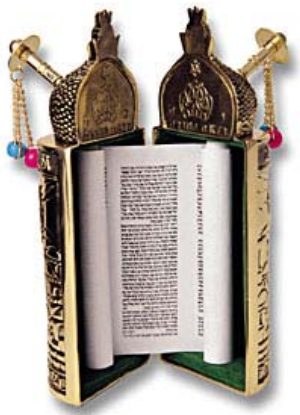




# God Judges foreign nations







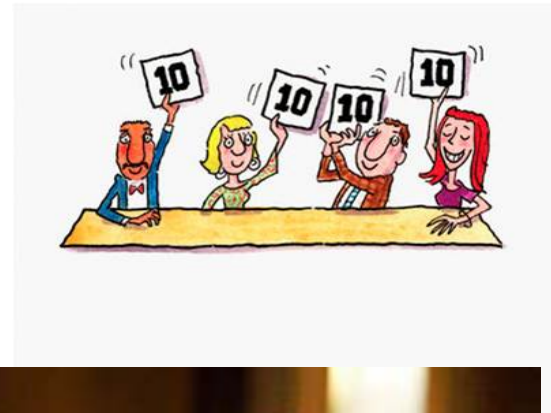
# God Judges individuals



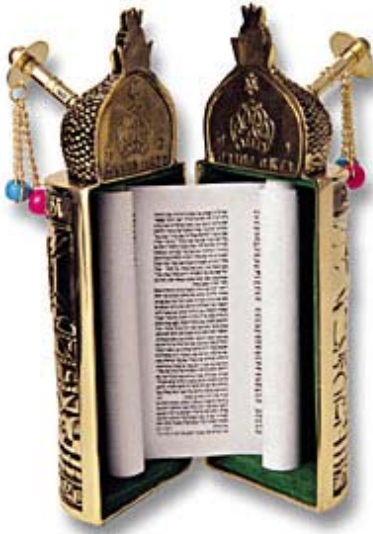
# What kind of a judge is God?



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# What does “Judge” mean in the Old Testament?



*Shapat* - שָׁפַט שֹׁפֵט שֹׁפְטִים

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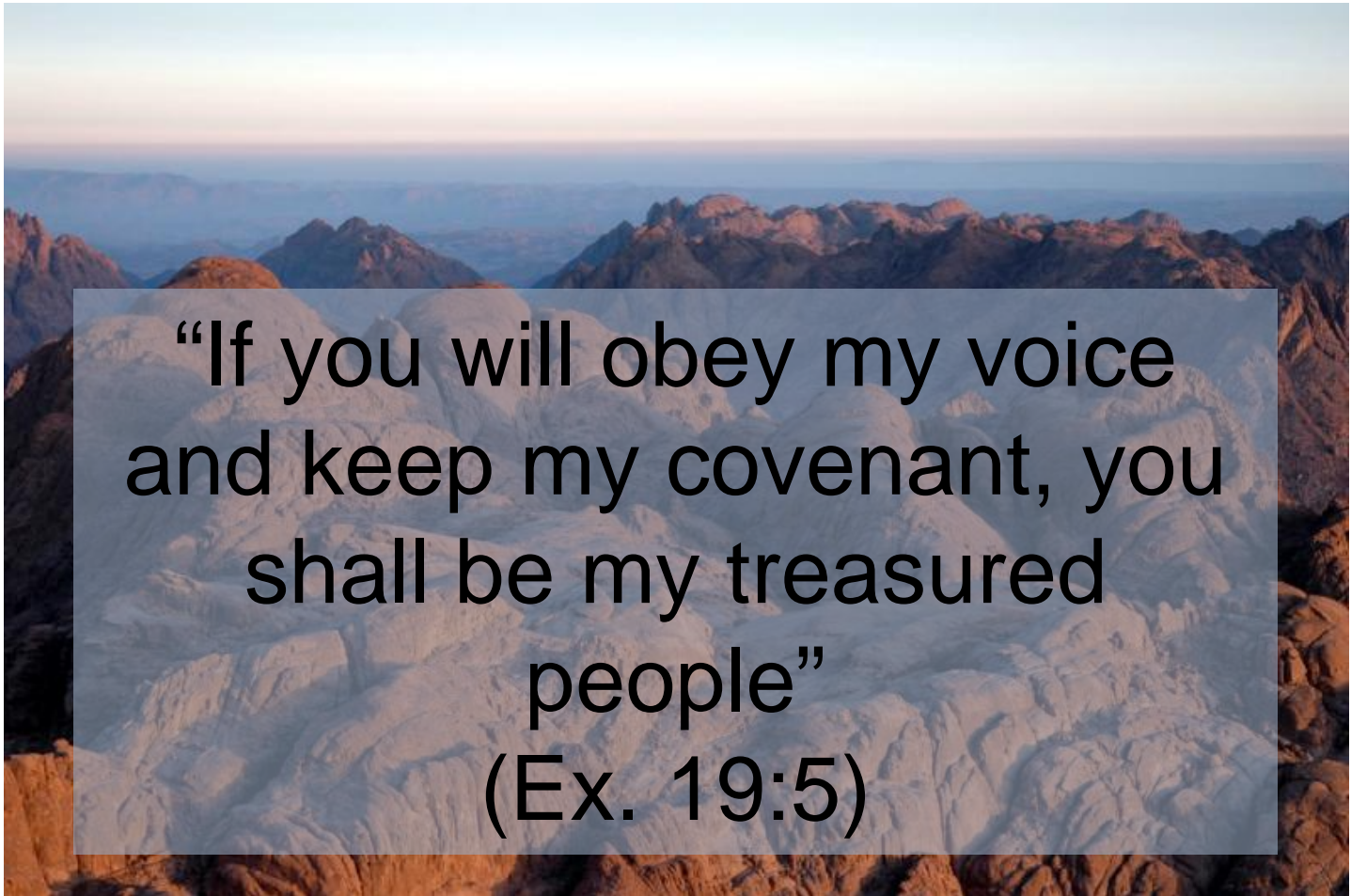
*Shapat* - שָׁפַט שֹׁפֵט שֹׁפְטִים

The Hebrew for  
“Judge” also  
implies “Ruler”

# God is both Ruler and Judge under the covenant at Sinai

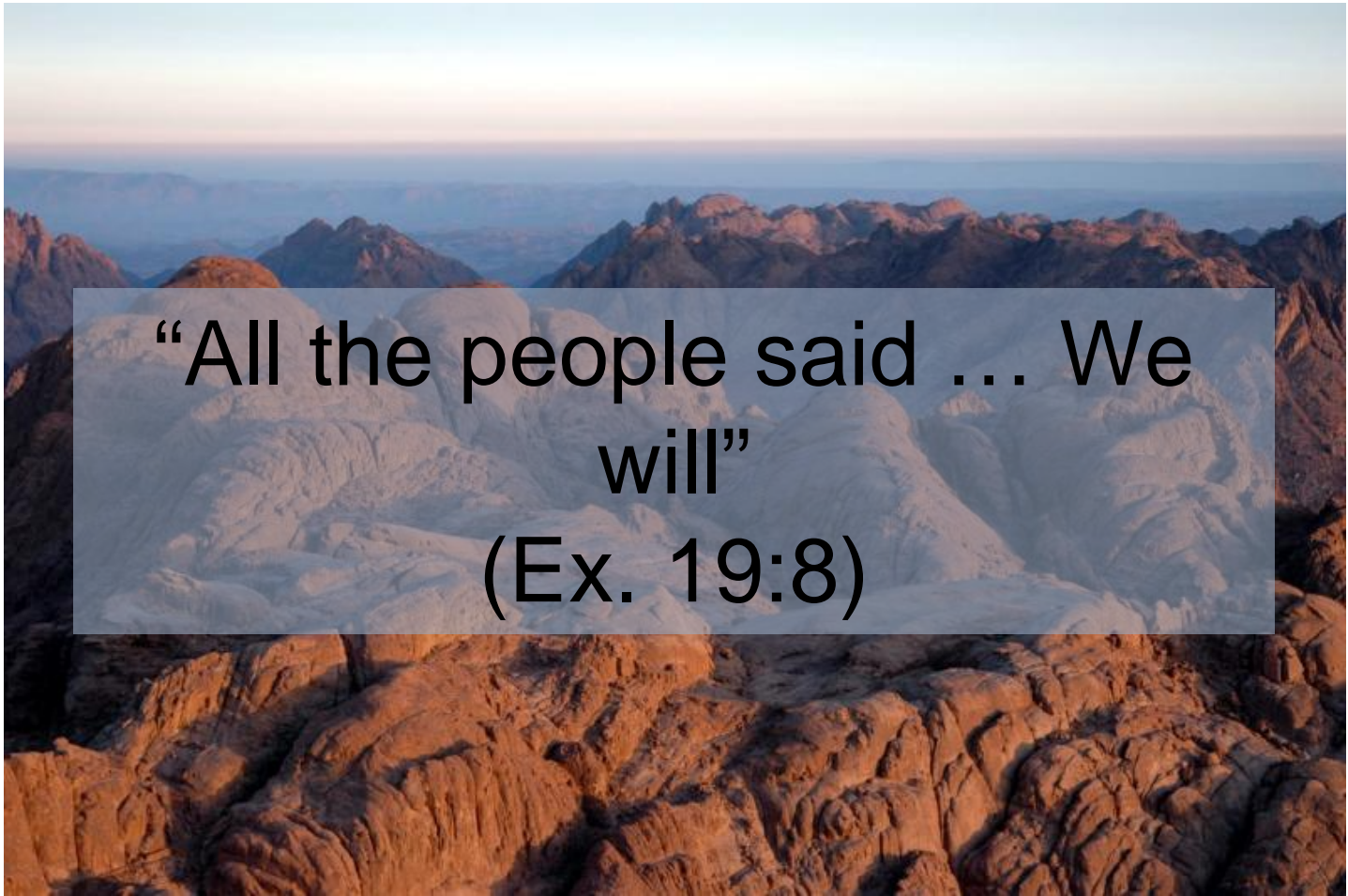


# God is both Ruler and Judge under the covenant at Sinai



“If you will obey my voice  
and keep my covenant, you  
shall be my treasured  
people”  
(Ex. 19:5)

# God is both Ruler and Judge under the covenant at Sinai



“All the people said ... We  
will”  
(Ex. 19:8)



# As ruler God sets out the “Thou Shalts” and “Thou shalt nots”



What does God use for judging?



God's judgments:  
separate out good from evil



# God's judgments: separate out good from evil



Solomon prays to “judge rightly” to  
“discern between good and evil”  
(1 Kings 3:9)

God's judgments:  
seek to level the playing field



# God's judgments: seek to level the playing field



“Every valley filled, every hill made low, the crooked become straight, the rough level”

God's judgments:  
the proud brought down, the humble lifted



God's judgments:  
the proud brought down, the humble lifted



“The Lord is exalted in justice ... the haughty are brought low” (Isaiah 5:16, 15)



God's judgments:  
the proud brought down, the humble lifted



“The Lord is exalted in justice ... the haughty are brought low” (Isaiah 5:16, 15)

# God's judgments: God champions the cause of the needy



# God's judgments: God champions the cause of the needy



“Bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow’s cause” (Isaiah 1:17)

# God's judgments: God is interested in social justice



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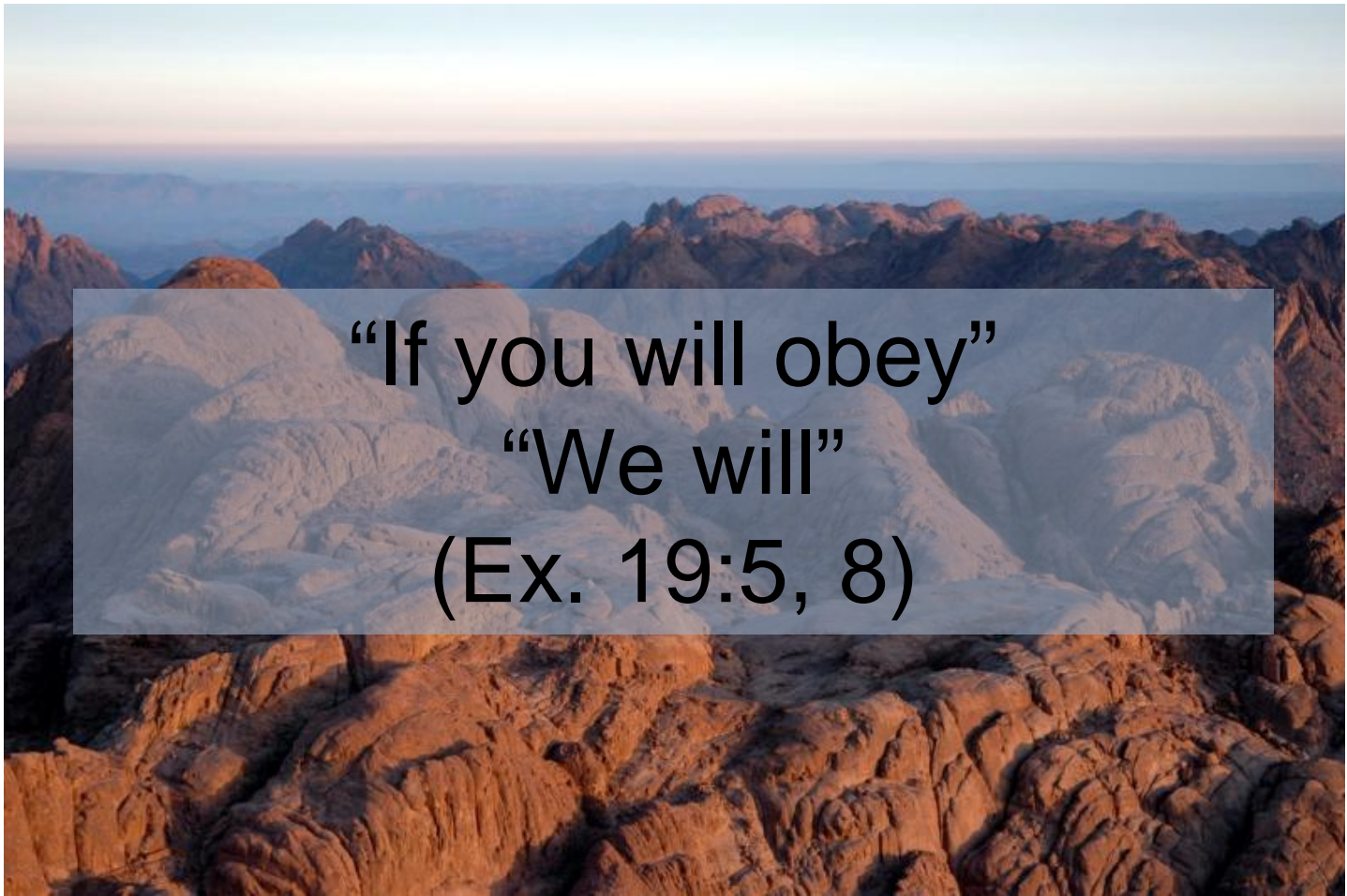
“You shall not pervert  
the justice due to  
your poor in his  
lawsuit” (Ex. 23:6)

God exercises his judgments faithful to:  
the covenant and his own righteousness

God exercises his judgments faithful to:  
**the covenant** and his own righteousness



God exercises his judgments faithful to:  
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“If you will obey”  
“We will”  
(Ex. 19:5, 8)



God exercises his judgments faithful to:  
the covenant and **his own righteousness**

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God exercises his judgments faithful to:  
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“What does the Lord  
require of you but to  
do justice, and to  
love kindness, and to  
walk humbly with  
your God” (Mic. 6:8)

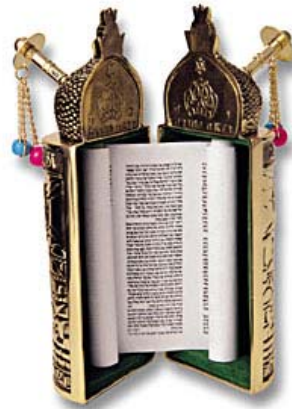
God exercises his justice faithfully and consistently



God exercises his justice faithfully and consistently



“The rock, his work is perfect, for all his ways are justice. A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is he.” (Dt. 32:4)



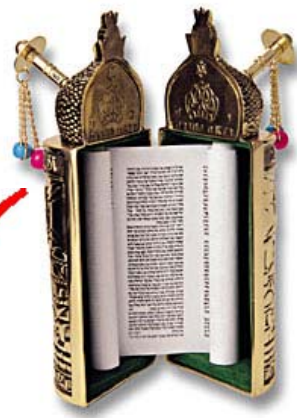
Understand the  
Old Testament  
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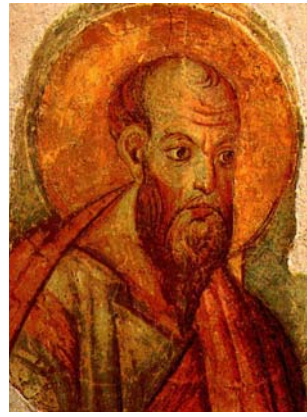
Understand  
Paul's usage



A light to our path



Understand the  
Old Testament  
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Understand  
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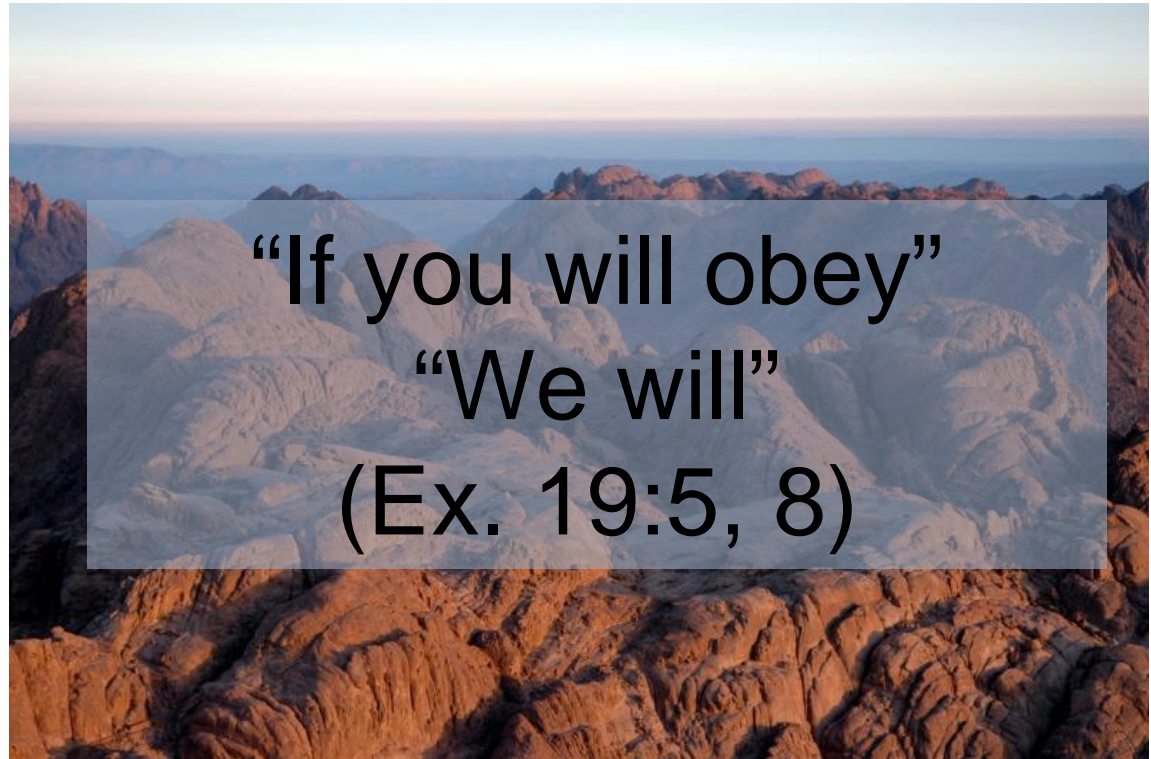


Paul saw the problem





# Paul saw the problem



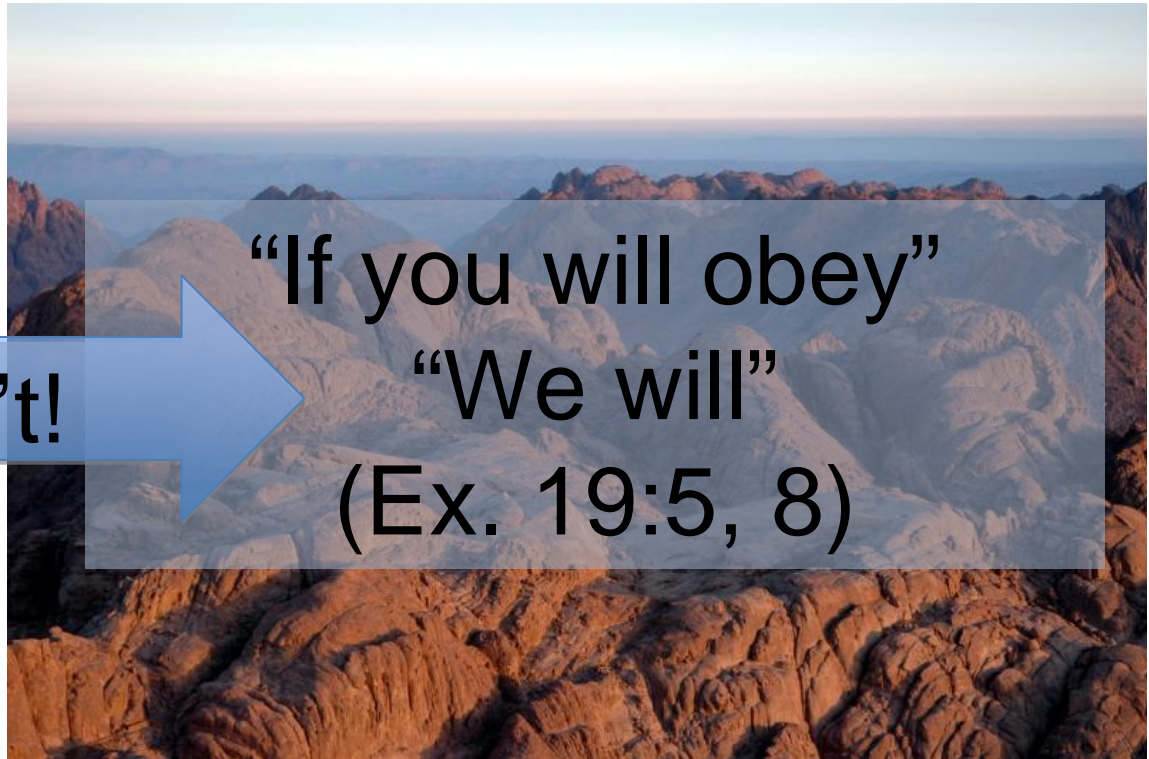


# Paul saw the problem

We don't!



“If you will obey”  
“We will”  
(Ex. 19:5, 8)





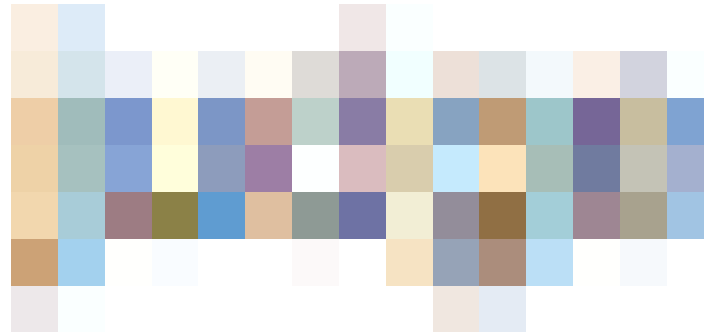
Paul knew the solution



Paul knew the solution



# Has Paul changed the focus of God as Judge?



Has Paul changed the focus of God  
as Judge?



**NO!**

God's judgments:  
separate out good from evil



God's judgments:  
separate out good from evil



God "test our hearts"  
(1 Thes. 2:4)



# God's judgments: seek to level the playing field



“God considers it just to repay with affliction those who afflict you” (2 Thes. 1:6-7)

# God's judgments: seek to level the playing field



“Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap”  
(Gal. 6:7)

God's judgments:  
the proud brought down, the humble lifted



# God's judgments: the proud brought down, the humble lifted



“Walk with all humility” (Eph 4:2)

“In humility count others more significant” (Ph 2:3)

“Put on humility” (Col. 3:12)

# God's judgments: God champions the cause of the needy



# God's judgments: God champions the cause of the needy



Paul has harsh words for the judgments of the rich in 1 Corinthians 4

# God's judgments: God is interested in social justice

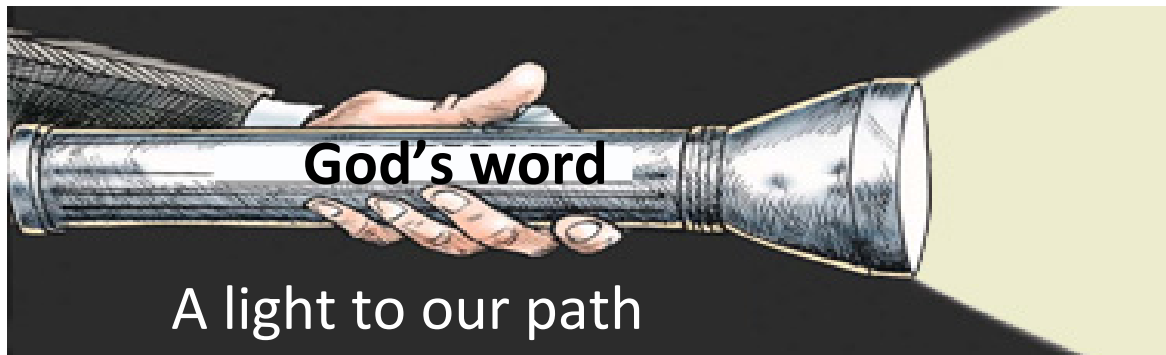


# God's judgments: God is interested in social justice



Paul's letter to  
Philemon is one of  
social justice



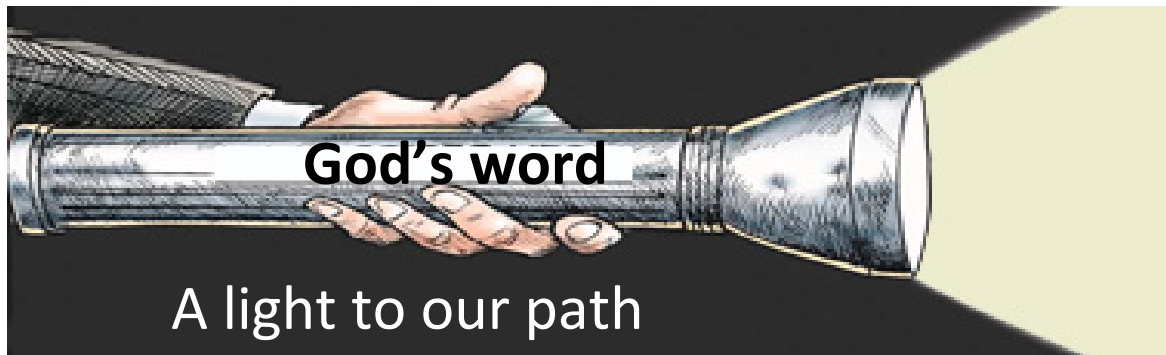


## Points for Home

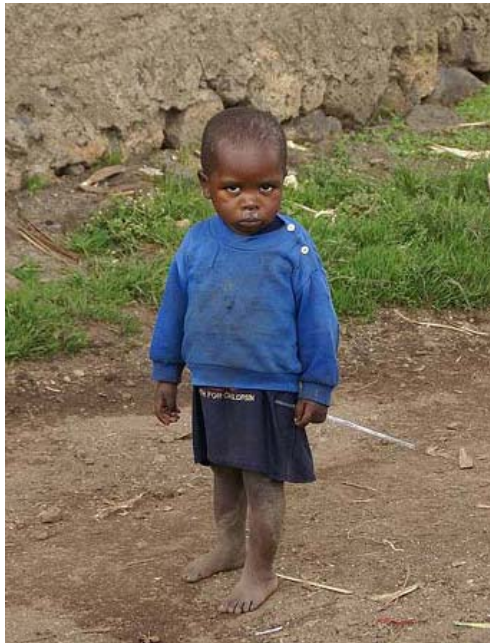


“Let not the wise boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches”  
Boast in knowing the Lord of justice!

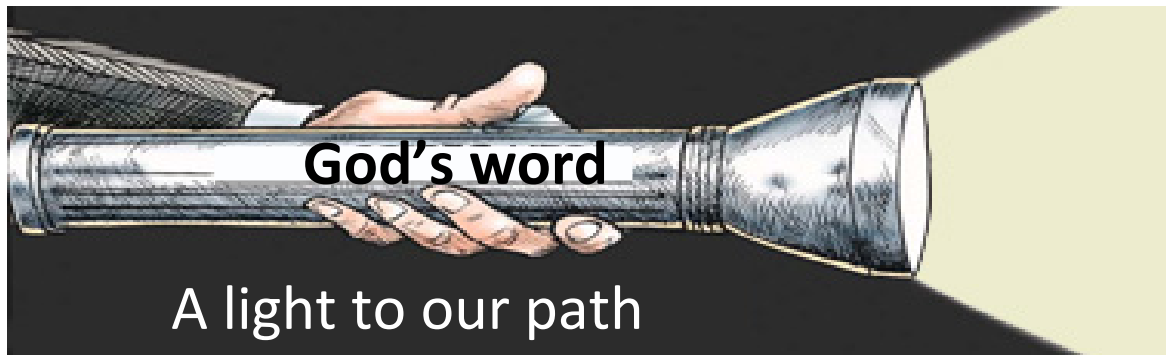
(Jer. 9:23-24)



## Points for Home

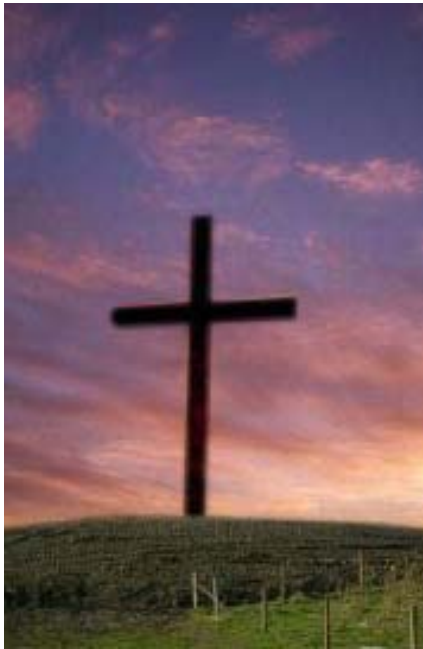


“Bring justice to the fatherless,  
plead the widow’s cause.”  
(Isa. 1:17)



A light to our path

## Points for Home



“The righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ.”  
(Rom. 3:21)