



SUNGAI WAY-SUBANG METHODIST CHURCH

**SERMON | 6 AUGUST 2023**

# **SEEK THE LORD AND LIVE!**

Seek good, not evil that you may live!

*Amos 5: 4, 6, 14, 18-27*

Pastor Robin Liew

# **OVERVIEW**

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- 1. Amos (Burdensome). Shepherd and tender of sycamore–fig tree in Tekoa**
- 2. Dated 760–750 BC King Jeroboam II (2 King 14:24-25)**
- 3. Kingdom of Israel far from God, breakdown of values**
- 4. Judgment coming. Call to repentance.**

# ACCUSATIONS

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1. The elites enriched themselves at others expense (3:15; 4:1; 6:3-6)
2. Righteous and poor oppressed (2:6-7)
3. Prophets silenced and compromised (2:12)

# ACCUSATIONS

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4. Courts compromised (5:12)
5. Economic fraud and excessive profiteering (8:5)
6. Meaningless religious activities (5:21-23)

# ACCUSATIONS

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You who **T U R N** justice  
into bitterness  
and **C A S T** righteousness  
to the ground. Amos 5:7 (6:12)

# WHAT is RIGHTEOUSNESS and JUSTICE?

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## RIGHTEOUSNESS

Tsedaqah

- ❖ Attribute
- ❖ Ethically right
- ❖ Straight
- ❖ To do justice
- ❖ Uphold truth

## JUSTICE

Mishpat

- ❖ Attribute
- ❖ Equitable decision
- ❖ Execute justice
- ❖ Punitive/Restorative

# WHAT is RIGHTEOUSNESS and JUSTICE?

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**RIGHTEOUSNESS**

and

**JUSTICE**

are the **FOUNDATION** of your throne

Psalm 89:14

LORD God vs “Gods” of the nations

# WHAT is RIGHTEOUSNESS and JUSTICE?

Defend the weak and the fatherless; uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed. Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.

**Psalm 82:3-4**

“Do not mistreat or oppress a foreigner, for you were foreigners in Egypt.

“Do not take advantage of the widow or the fatherless.

**Exodus 22:21-22**

I know that the LORD secures justice for the poor and upholds the cause of the needy. **Psalm 140:12**

**RIGHTEOUSNESS** and **JUSTICE**  
are the **FOUNDATION** of your throne

Psalm 89:14

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# WHAT is RIGHTEOUSNESS and JUSTICE?

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Ethical obligations/demanded on all (rich and poor)

- Israel's God is righteous and just
- Israel chosen of God (3:2)
- Israel experienced righteousness and justice
- Israel is the image bearer (Lev 19:2)

**RIGHTEOUSNESS** and **JUSTICE**  
are the **FOUNDATION** of your throne  
Psalm 89:14

# REFLECTION

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**How has God's righteousness and justice in Jesus Christ impacted you ?**

**How much of me is about I instead of OTHERS ?  
What is my attitude towards the vulnerable,  
weak, underprivilege or marginalise ?**

# WHY ISRAEL ENDED UP THIS WAY?

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## **IDOLATRY = REJECTING GOD**

From Jeroboam (1 King 12:28-33) to Jeroboam II (2 King 14:24)

- **The VERTICAL and HORIZONTAL** relationships are inter-connected
- **DEHUMANISED and DEADENED**  
Romans 1:18-32

# REFLECTION

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**Health check :  
How is your soul today ?**

# CALL TO REPENTANCE

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**SEEK**

**Me and live** Amos 5:4-6

**SEEK**

**good, not evil that  
you may live** Amos 5:14-15

# CALL TO REPENTANCE

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But let **justice roll on like a river**

**righteousness like a never failing**

**stream.**

**Amos 5:23**

# INVITATION

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**“Come,”** He replied, **“and you will see.”**

John 1:39

**“Follow Me.”** John 1:43