

Ps. 89:14, "Justice and judgment are the habitation of thy throne." Distributive justice is God's rectitude in the execution of law, both in reference to the good and the evil. It relates to the distribution of rewards and punishments. Rom. 2:6, God "will render to every man according to his deeds." I Pet. 1:17, "The Father without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work." Isa. 3:10, 11, "Say ye to the righteous that it shall be well with him. Woe unto the wicked! it shall be ill with him." Distributive justice is twofold: (a) remunerative justice; (b) retributive justice.

Remunerative justice is the distribution of rewards both to men and angels. Remunerative justice is the expression of the divine love..., as retributive justice is of the divine wrath.... It proceeds upon the ground of relative merit only. The creature cannot establish an absolute merit before the creator....

Retributive justice (sometimes denominated punitive, vindicative, of, in the older English, vindicative, avenging, or revenging, L. C. 77) is that part of distributive justice which relates to the infliction of penalty. It is the expression of the divine [ORGE]. In a sinless world, there would be no place for its exercise, and it would be comparatively an unimportant aspect of the general attribute of justice. But in a sinful world, retribution must hold a prominent place; and hence in the Christian religion, which is a religion for a fallen race of beings, retributive justice comes continually into view. Hence when justice is spoken of without any qualifying word to show that some other aspect of the attribute is meant, punitive justice is intended. Passages of Scripture which present it are: Rom. 1:32, "The judgment of God is, that they which do such things are worthy of death." Rom. 2:8, "Who will visit tribulation and anguish upon every soul of man that doeth evil." 2 Thess. 1:8, "The Lord Jesus shall be revealed in flaming fire, taking vengeance... on them that know not God." Acts 28:4, "Vengeance... suffereth not to live." Rom. 12:19, "Vengeance... is mine, I will repay, saith the Lord."

The justice of God is that characteristic by which He imposes righteous laws and impartially executes them, and by which He righteously distributes rewards and punishments

These two aspects are frequently spoken of as God's rectoral justice and God's distributive justice. God's distributive justice may be further distinguished into remunerative justice (rewards) and retributive justice (punishments).

In connection with these distinctions we may state that Scripture represents God as a righteous ruler and a just judge.