



# CONTENTS

<b>Foreword</b>	xi
<b>Introduction to the English Edition</b>	xiii
<b>Abbreviations</b>	xvii
<b>Chapter 1: Justice in Ancient Mesopotamia</b>	1
Introduction	1
1. Mesopotamia before social reforms	2
2. The social reforms of Entemena, Urukagina, and Gudea	2
3. The codes of Ur-Nammu, Lipit-Ishtar, and Eshnunna	5
4. The Code of Hammurabi	8
5. Proclamations of mercy	12
6. Texts of faith in the protective divinities of justice	15
Conclusion	17
Bibliography	18
<b>Chapter 2: Justice in Ancient Egypt</b>	21
Introduction	21
1. Justice in the Old Kingdom (2700–2130 B.C.E.)	22
2. Justice in the First Intermediate period (2130–1940 B.C.E.)	27
3. Justice in the Middle Kingdom (1940–1570 B.C.E.)	30
4. Justice in the New Kingdom (1570–1070 B.C.E.)	32
5. Justice in popular religion	37
Conclusion	38
Bibliography	39
<b>Chapter 3: Exodus as an Event of Liberating Justice</b>	42
Introduction	42
1. The Exodus in the Bible	43
2. The Exodus in the Bible's sources and traditions	47
3. The Exodus in history	50
3.1. The Exodus event and its religious dimension	51

3.2. Exodus and the revolutionary model	53	2.9. Third Isaiah and the postexilic community	115
3.3. Exodus and egalitarian society	55	Conclusion	117
3.4. Exodus as the first revelation	56	Bibliography	118
3.5. Exodus as a paradigm of liberation	57		
Conclusion	61	<b>Chapter 6: Justice in the Psalms and Wisdom Books</b>	122
Bibliography	62	Introduction	122
<b>Chapter 4: Norms of Justice in the Laws of the Covenant</b>	68	1. Justice in the Psalms	122
Introduction	68	1.1. Justice, order, right conduct, and saving action	123
1. The laws of Sinai in Exodus	68	1.2. God, the source and model of justice	124
2. The Ten Commandments	69	1.3. Justice and the poor	124
2.1. "Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy"	70	1.4. Identification of the poor	125
2.2. "Honor your father and your mother"	72	1.5. The enemies of the poor	128
2.3. "You shall not kill"	73	1.6. Reflections on the prosperity of the wicked	130
2.4. "You shall not commit adultery"	76	1.7. Eschatological expectations of the poor	131
2.5. "You shall not steal"	77	2. The book of Proverbs	132
2.6. "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor"	77	3. The book of Job	135
2.7. "You shall not covet your neighbor's house"	78	4. The book of Ecclesiastes	138
3. The Covenant Code	79	5. The book of Sirach	141
3.1. The social groups and the treatment of the slaves	80	6. Wisdom of Solomon	143
3.2. Concern for the needy	80	Conclusion	146
4. The social laws of Deuteronomy	82	Bibliography	147
4.1. Humanitarian justice for Israelite slaves	83		
4.2. Humanitarian justice for the needy	83	<b>Chapter 7: Justice in Apocalyptic Writings</b>	151
5. The Holiness Code	85	Introduction	151
5.1. The social groups	85	1. The Book of the Watchers	152
5.2. Social justice as an imitation of the sanctity of God	86	2. The Book of the Epistle of Enoch	155
5.3. The sabbatical institutions	86	3. The book of Daniel	158
Conclusion	89	4. The Book of the Similitudes	163
Bibliography	90	5. The second book of Esdras	165
		Conclusion	169
<b>Chapter 5: Justice, Monarchy, and Prophecy</b>	95	Bibliography	170
Introduction	95		
1. Kingship in ancient Israel	95	<b>Chapter 8: Justice in the Ministry of Jesus of Nazareth</b>	173
1.1. The monarchy in ancient Israel	95	Introduction	173
1.2. The king's power	97	1. The quest for the historical Jesus	174
2. Prophecy in ancient Israel	99	2. The social and historical context of Jesus of Nazareth	178
2.1. The prophets Nathan and Elijah	100	3. Jesus of Nazareth's social condition and public action	181
2.2. The prophet Amos in the northern kingdom	100	4. Jesus' expectation of the imminent coming of the eschatological kingdom	183
2.3. The prophet Hosea in Samaria	104	5. Jesus and the social and familial dimensions of the kingdom	186
2.4. Isaiah of Jerusalem	106	6. The social dimension of Jesus' sapiential sayings	187
2.5. Micah of Moresheth in the southern kingdom	108	7. The social aspect of Jesus' prophetic sayings and actions	189
2.6. Jeremiah and the last decades of Jerusalem	109	8. The promotion of women	191
2.7. Ezekiel during the Babylonian exile	110	9. Jesus and nonviolence	193
2.8. Second Isaiah and the liberation from the exile	111		

Conclusion	196		
Bibliography	196		
<b>Chapter 9: Justice in the Gospel of Mark</b>	201		
Introduction	201		
1. Jesus as Messiah, spokesman, and agent of God's kingdom	202		
2. Jesus as the crucified Messiah and the cornerstone of the new community	204		
3. Reordering power in the world	206		
4. Power as a service for the community	208		
5. Liberation from the slavery of wealth	209		
6. A family of disciples on equal conditions	210		
7. Reshaping the center of purity	211		
8. The dignity of women	213		
Conclusion	214		
Bibliography	215		
<b>Chapter 10: Justice in the Gospel of Matthew and the Letter of James</b>	217		
1. Justice in the Gospel of Matthew	217		
1.1. Justice in the Beatitudes	218		
1.2. Justice in the antitheses of the Sermon on the Mount	225		
1.3. Justice in the trilogy: almsgiving, prayer, and fasting	227		
1.4. Justice in the parable of the Two Sons	230		
1.5. Justice in the option for the poor and the afflicted	231		
2. Justice in the Letter of James	235		
Bibliography	239		
<b>Chapter 11: Justice in the Gospel of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles</b>	242		
Introduction	242		
1. Jesus in the synagogue of Nazareth	242		
2. The Beatitudes	247		
3. The rich man and the alternative offered him by Jesus	250		
4. A banquet for the poor and a call to share	252		
5. A new map of relationships	255		
6. Promotion of women	256		
Conclusion	259		
Bibliography	259		
<b>Chapter 12: Justice in Paul's Letters</b>	263		
Introduction	263		
1. The Roman Empire in the first Christian century	263		
2. Paul of Tarsus and his background	264		
3. Paul as apostle of Christ	265		
4. The social dimension of God's justice	266		
5. God's justice and the dignity of women	270		
6. God's justice and slavery	273		
		7. God's justice and the Pax Romana	276
		8. Paul and civil government	278
		9. God's justice and the collection for the Jerusalem church	280
		10. Justice and the exercise of authority in the Pauline Letters	282
		Conclusion	285
		Bibliography	286
		<b>Chapter 13: Justice in the Johannine Writings</b>	290
		Introduction	290
		1. The Fourth Gospel	290
		1.1. An oppressed community, confident of divine vindication	291
		1.2. An oppressed community experiencing Christ's liberation	295
		1.3. An oppressed community fostering inner solidarity and equality	297
		2. Justice in the Johannine Letters	300
		2.1. The saving justice	300
		2.2. Righteous works, product of God's children	301
		2.3. Equality in the community	304
		3. Justice in the book of Revelation	304
		3.1. The critical situation of Christians	305
		3.2. Revelation's purpose and approach	306
		3.3. Revelation's alternative to the Roman Empire	308
		3.4. Christian participation	311
		Conclusion	313
		Bibliography	313
		<b>Chapter 14: Overall Conclusion</b>	317
		Bibliography	323
		<b>Glossary of Frequently-Used Ancient Words</b>	325
		<b>Index of Modern Authors</b>	327
		<b>Index of Ancient Sources</b>	333