

Adonai Lives Up to His Own Standards

Isn't the fast I choose: To break the chains of wickedness, to untie the ropes of the yoke, to set the oppressed free, and to tear off every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, to bring the poor and homeless into your house, to clothe the naked when you see him, and to not ignore your own flesh and blood? Then your light will appear like the dawn, and your recovery will come quickly. Your righteousness will go before you, and the LORD's glory will be your rear guard. At that time, when you call, the LORD will answer; when you cry out, He will say: Here I am. If you get rid of the yoke from those around you, the finger-pointing and malicious speaking, and if you offer yourself to the hungry, and satisfy the afflicted one, then your light will shine in the darkness, and your night will be like noonday. - Isaiah 58:6-10 HCSB



Like any good father or great king, Adonai does not demand of His followers what He is not willing to do. If He asks us to break the chains of wickedness, it is because He has already done so for us through the atoning death of His Son.

If He asks us to untie the ropes of the yoke, set the oppressed free and tear off every yoke, it is because He has already delivered our ancestors from Egypt.¹

He asks us to share our bread with the hungry as He gave manna to Israel in the wilderness.²

If we bring the poor and homeless into our house, it is because our Master gave us the example by bringing Israel into the Promised Land, to Zion itself.³

God clothed naked Adam and Eve⁴ and has again and again come to the rescue of His people.⁵

God dealt with the finger-pointing, malicious “friends of Job”, vindicating His righteous child.⁶

He offered Himself to the hungry, both spiritually⁷ and practically.⁸

He has satisfied those afflicted by sin’s wages, healing them by taking sin’s wounds in their place.⁹

He has rebuilt the ancient ruins of Israel, bringing them back from the nations and forming a nation where none existed for more than a thousand years. Jerusalem is once again under the control of Jews and they have been busily working at restoring Israel to what it once was.

When our Master asks us to practice bikur ch’olim (literally “visiting the sick”), it is because He did so for our ancestor Abraham.¹⁰

What a great God! What a marvelous example of righteousness! Let’s purpose in our hearts to imitate His holiness.¹¹ Let’s do our best to meet and exceed these wonderful works.¹²

¹ Judges 6:9

² Exodus 16:39

³ Exodus 33:1; Leviticus 20:24

⁴ Genesis 3:21

⁵ Judges 2:11-19

⁶ Job 42:7

⁷ John 6:33-35, 48:51

⁸ Matthew 14:17-21

⁹ Isaiah 53:4-5

¹⁰ Matthew 25:36 cp Genesis 17:26-18:1

¹¹ Leviticus 11:44; Ephesians 1:4; 1 Peter 1:15-16;

¹² John 14:12