

JUST ONE – RIGHTEOUS ONE

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""You stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, you are always resisting the Holy Spirit, just as your fathers did, so are you doing. Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? And they have slain those who spoke beforehand of the coming of the **Just One**; of whom you have now become the betrayers and murderers; and who have received the law by the disposition of angels, and yet have not kept it." When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed at him with their teeth. But he, being full of the Holy Spirit, looked up steadfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God, and said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the **Son of Man** standing on the right hand of God." Then they cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears, and ran upon him with one accord, and cast him out of the city, and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul. And as they stoned Stephen, he called upon God, and said, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." And he knelt down, and cried with a loud voice, "Lord, lay not this sin to their charge." And when he had said this, he fell asleep ." (Acts 7:51-60) (quoted from the story of Stephen's defense before the Jewish Council, the Sanhedrin)

Just-One: from the Greek word: dikaios which means: "correct, or righteous; and by implication: just, innocent; especially 'Just' in the eyes of God; describes what is in conformity to God's own being (His will, and standard of rightness); hence "upright." Usually, translated either 'Just One' or the 'Righteous One'.

Stephen called Jesus **the Just One**, or **the Righteous One**. ... Consider also these verses:

"And as the lame man, who was healed, held on to Peter and John, all the people ran together unto them in the porch that is called Solomon's, greatly wondering. And when Peter saw them, he answered unto the people, "You men of Israel, why do you marvel at this? Or why do you look so earnestly upon us, as though by our own power or holiness we had made this man to walk? The God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified His Son Jesus, whom you delivered up, and denied Him in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let Him go. But you denied **the Holy One and Just One**, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you; and killed the **Prince of Life**, whom God has raised from the dead; of which we are witnesses. And in His Name, through faith in His Name this man has been made strong, whom you see and know. Yes, the faith which is **by Him** has given this man perfect soundness in the presence of you all." (Acts 3:11-16)

"And one Ananias, a devout man according to the law, having a good reputation among all the Jews who dwelt there, came unto me, and stood, and said to me, "Brother Saul, receive your sight." And that same hour I looked up upon him. And he said, "The God of our fathers has chosen you, that you should know His will, and see the **Just One**, and should hear the voice of His mouth. For you shall be His witness unto all men of what you have seen and heard."" (Acts 22:12-15)

"My little children, these things write I unto you, so that you sin not. And if any man sins, we have an **Advocate** with the Father, **Jesus Christ the Righteous**. And He is the Propitiation for our sins: and not for our's only, but also for the sins of the whole world." (1 John 2:1-2)

The context is that Jesus, who is the **Just One**, the **Righteous One**, the **Holy One**, the **Upright One**, the **Innocent One**, is indeed **the One** spoken of by the prophets – God's promised Messiah, the **unblemished** Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world!

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Consider these verses:

"And there truly were many priests, because they were not able to continue by reason of death: But this man (Jesus), because He abides forever, He has an unchangeable priesthood. Therefore He is able also to save those to the uttermost who come unto God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them. For such a High Priest did He become for us, **who is holy, innocent, undefiled, separate from sinners**, and exalted higher than the heavens; who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for His own sins, and then for the people's. For He this did once, when He offered up Himself. For the law appoints men as high priests who have infirmity; but the word of the oath, which came after the law, appoints the Son, who is consecrated for evermore." (Hebrews 7:22-28)

"But Christ having come as a high priest of good things to come, and by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this creation; and not by the blood of goats and calves, **but by His own blood** He entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us. For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh; How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? And for this cause He is the Mediator of the New Testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the First Testament, so that they who are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance." (Hebrews 9:11-15)

(see also Leviticus 22:17-24 for the Old Testament requirement that sacrificial animals be unblemished, perfect offerings to God)

These titles and attributes: the **Just One**, the **Holy One**, the **Righteous One**, **Jesus Christ the Righteous**, innocent, undefiled, separate from sinners, were true reflections of the life that Jesus perfectly lived. They are attributes that were necessary for Jesus to be the perfect unblemished sacrificial offering on the cross for the forgiveness of sin for each person who puts their faith and trust in Jesus for their salvation, and for the promise of eternal inheritance.

**JESUS is ...
the Just One,
the Holy One,
the Sinless One,
the Innocent One,
the Righteous One,**

**who offered Himself without blemish,
as the perfect sacrifice on the cross for the forgiveness of sin!**

Blessed is our Savior who has been exalted higher than the heavens!

**Lord Jesus, You are Innocent One who hung on the Cross in my place,
so that I could receive the promise of eternal inheritance
in Your Kingdom – Forever and ever, Always and always – Amen and Amen !!!**