and begin to restore humanity back to the original purpose. His coming marks a major phase in God's restoration plan; it's the central event of all history.

Righteousness and justice in the flesh. A living manifestation of the restoration of our relationship with God, others and ourselves.

The prophets of old predicted it; we get the pleasure of proclaiming it!

Nick Hausted

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The Big Crescendo

In a very real way, the entire corpus of Old Testament revelations was fulfilled in Jesus. Everything, like an awesome crescendo, climaxed in Him. The themes of the Old Testament, like individual notes in a symphony, all join in a beautiful harmony and get louder and louder in anticipation of Christ.

One of those musical notes is the theme of justice. It's one of the central themes which surfaces over a thousand times throughout the Old Testament. From God's perspective, the burden is on Israel, His people, to model justice to the world.

ON DAVID’S THRONE SITS MESSIAH

In light of such a weighty responsibility, Israel is gifted with the reign of King David—the greatest of Israel’s kings. He's a foreshadow of something special. God called him to uphold “righteousness and justice” in Israel. “So David reigned over all Israel, and David administered justice and righteousness for all his people” (2 Samuel 8:15, NASB).

He was a man after God’s own heart (Acts 13:22). The biblical prophets attached significance to David’s reign. They saw in him a glimpse into something else; a buildup to something greater, or Someone greater. Flowing through his veins was the bloodline of the Chosen One. When the prophets envisioned the coming Messiah they saw Him as One who comes as a King like David who would eventually usher in “righteousness and justice” in all its fullness:

“'Behold, the days are coming,' declares the LORD, 'when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land’” (Jeremiah 23:5; 33:15, ESV).

“'For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this’ (Isaiah 9:6-7).

When the prophets cried out for justice, they were longing for the Messiah as the culmination of righteousness and justice. That's the message of the Old Testament—the Messiah will come...
These things “are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come” (1 Corinthians 10:11). How often we misinterpret God’s blessings, and flatter ourselves that we have been so ungrateful; but when their faith is tested, even by little trials, they manifest no more faith or patience than did ancient Israel. When brought into strait places, they murmur at the process by which God has chosen to purify them. Though their present needs are supplied, many are unwilling to trust God for the future, and they are in constant anxiety lest poverty shall come upon them, and their children shall be left to suffer. Some are always anticipating evil or magnifying the difficulties that really exist, so that their eyes are blinded to the many blessings which demand their gratitude. The obstacles they encounter, instead of leading them to seek help from God, the only Source of strength, separate them from Him, because they awaken unrest and repining.

Ellen White
The Desire of Ages, p.106

A Letter

by Nick Hausted

I knew I needed to experience it, and I also knew I would love it. Once I got past the financial doubts and sorted out the uncertainties about my future, I knew my impression to attend ARISE was of God. I was sure the program would alter my life in some way. Now, already a year later, I can tell you it has altered my life immensely. God has used every element of it to grow me into who I am today and who I will continue to be tomorrow. That’s how significant a role you’ve played in my life, the role of showing me Jesus and converting me to His way.

The first time I heard about the idea of an internship, I thought it was too good to be true and almost didn’t even consider it. But when I learned that it was in fact happening, I began considering and praying and seeking guidance. It wasn’t just a small decision I had to make. My plans thus far of their only son “making it in the world,” not to mention the long distance between me and my family who have always been my lifeline and support. But to stay also meant a growth spurt in my Christian walk. After getting to know the teachers and staff, I was confident they would lead me on the right path and that I would learn much more about discipleship, the Christian experience, and independent study than in any college course. I decided that I wanted to be equipped with something that I could potentially use for the glory of God instead of being equipped about the Cornerstone program, which ancient Israel passed, that they may be instructed in their preparation for the heavenly Canaan.

Ellen White
Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 293

As many of you know, we have a group of ARISE graduates that are part of a yearlong internship program. They are actively engaged in frontline ministry. They are serving in local churches, giving Bible studies in the community, conducting training for the laity, organizing small groups, visiting backsliders, integrating into the overall life of local churches, and targeting the University of Oregon with outreach ministries. Last week one of our interns sent a heartfelt letter to the staff that was a source of encouragement. We’d like to share it with you, to spread our praises to God for what He is doing in the lives of the people around us.

Dear Light Bearers guys,
Since the first time I heard about the Cornerstone program, it wasn’t just a small decision I had to make. My plans thus far of their only son “making it in the world,” not to mention the long distance between me and my family who have always been my lifeline and support. But to stay also meant a growth spurt in my Christian walk. After getting to know the teachers and staff, I was confident they would lead me on the right path and that I would learn much more about discipleship, the Christian experience, and independent study than in any college course. I decided that I wanted to be equipped with something that I could potentially use for the glory of God instead of being equipped

Ellen White
The Desire of Ages, p.106

The history of the wilderness life of Israel was chronicled for the benefit of the Israel of God to the close of time. The record of God’s dealings with the wanderers of the desert in all their marchings to and fro, in their exposure to hunger, thirst, and weariness, and in the striking manifestations of His power for their relief, is fraught with warning and instruction for His people in all ages. The varied experience of the Hebrews was a school of ages. The varied experience of the Hebrews was a school of ages.