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Concepts of Justice

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CONCEPTS OF JUSTICE

	BIBLICAL LAW	NATURAL LAW	SOCIOLOGICAL LAW
SOVEREIGNTY (Source of Law)	God, the Creator and Provider, is the transcendent source of Law. Man, as God's creature, is under His Law-Word.	Immanent Nature or an Impersonal Spirit, like Aristotle's Unmoved Mover; Tradition; Custom; philosophical principles	Individual (Anarchism) or the State is the ultimate authority. General Will; Majority Rule; Voice of the People is the Voice of God
INFALLIBILITY (Source of Truth and Knowledge)	Special Revelation through the Bible (inerrant Scriptures); General Revelation through God's Creation and Providence. Truth is transcendent but knowable. John 8:32	General Revelation or the Spirit of the Age. Truth may be elicited from the organic growth of human experience. Epistemological Dualism (Kant): noumenal and phenomenal worlds.	No Revelation. All knowledge is derived from empirical induction or rational deduction. Truth is relative or situation rather than absolute.
PREDESTINATION (Telos; Source of Direction)	God is the Architect of His Creation and has created man in His Image. Human law is ministerial rather than legislative. Man has been commanded to exercise dominion--in love and communion.	The natural order is an organic growth regulated lawfully, as by an invisible hand. Progress occurs through gradual unfolding and is based on precedent. Out of tiny acorns do mighty oak trees grow.	The universe is impersonal and man is a cog in the mighty wheel. Whirl is king. Man must master his fate by taking the helm and creating a suitable home for his heart--a scientific utopia.
LIABILITY (Source of Justice)	Atonement is vicarious. The wage of sin is death but the penalty must be paid by a perfect Man. God limits liability: restitution to victim required.	State may limit liability: corporations, privileges, insanity defense, etc. Custodial view of punishment.	Liability rests with society. Rehabilitation of criminals and victims through therapeutic social programs. Redistribution of goods to abolish inequality.
SALVATION (Source of Happiness)	God's grace and mercy in reconciling man to Himself through the atoning blood of Jesus Christ. Individual and social righteousness.	Good works and service to others. Political stability. Rule of virtue and wisdom under the law. Limited, ordered liberty with security.	Structural reform or revolution. Equality of condition in a planned society. Pursuit of happiness undeterred by conventional constraints.

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