

# The Record Keeper



The television crime drama makes escaping justice seem so simple—at first. The perpetrator concludes his incriminating call and snaps the cell phone in half. With the SIM card out and the battery gone, that's it! There is no more trail. Unable to be tracked, the criminal moves forward with an attitude of invincibility.

But what he doesn't see is the resolve of the one in pursuit. Both inventive and relentless, the pursuer will not stop until the culprit is captive, or, if the offenses warrant, destroyed.

We derive satisfaction from such tales because they are both predictable and neat. We want to live in a world in which justice is handed out in 60-minute increments, but real life isn't so simple.

News stories remind us every day that terrorists, warlords, drug dealers, and other miscreants routinely find ways to slither into dark crevices, temporarily escaping the eyes of accountability, and eluding the arm of justice.

The settings vary widely, but they all bear witness to the shedding of innocent blood. An inner city park, a Middle Eastern food market, a dark alley in the metropolis of a developing nation, and with disturbing frequency schools, shopping malls, and workplaces all have pain-filled stories to tell, and we listen breathlessly, apparently unable to bring about change. The monster of indiscriminate violence roars.

What that monster cannot see is the resolve of the One who created the world not for chaos, but for peace. He has spoken words of reassurance that we can firmly believe in these troubled times. No one can escape His hand of justice.

"I will take revenge; I will pay them back. In due time their feet will slip. Their day of disaster will arrive, and their destiny will overtake them" (Deuteronomy 32:35, NLT).<sup>1</sup> While we wait for that day, we must not lose hope. We must work continually for justice until Justice appears.

Let us remember that these words are true: "The Lord reigns, let the nations tremble; he sits enthroned between the cherubim, let the earth shake" (Psalm 99:1, NIV).<sup>2</sup> When will the earth witness the drop of blood that finally makes the cup of God's wrath overflow? When will God, who cares when each sparrow falls, decide that the last grief-filled tear has fallen? I don't know. I believe very soon.

My very hairs are numbered in His books. No details are ever lost. There is a Record Keeper.