

Does God Judge Everyone the Same Way?

1 Chronicles 16:32-33: (NASB) ³²*Let the sea roar, and all it contains; let the field exult, and all that is in it.* ³³*Then the trees of the forest will sing for joy before the LORD; for He is coming to judge the earth.*



The Bible says righteousness and judgment are the foundation of God's throne. This picture language shows us God does indeed judge everyone and everything, and His judgments are based on that which is right and equitable. How does it work? Does God have a "rubber stamp" approach as He looks at people, governments, institutions and angels that proclaims "Guilty!" or "Innocent!"? Not at all! On the contrary, God's approach to and methods for judgment are varied and even complex. How do we sort all this out? Who gets judged when, how does it happen and what are they scrutinized for? How do we decipher God's patterns of judgment so we can appreciate His unbiased conclusions?

There are many judgments of God that we will not spend time on today. These often happened because of deeply heinous moral sin, or opposition to God's chosen people.



The key point to remember: *None of these judgments were final.* For example, Sodom and Gomorrah were judged to destruction. Jesus tells us they will have an opportunity in the Day of Judgment.

God's judgments vary depending on the group, the individuals or the systems He is judging.

In the examples we are covering today, God's judgment is always focused upon those who *should know better* based on their experiences and the context of their lives.



What are the consequences?

Matthew 3:12: (NASB) *His winnowing fork is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clear His threshing floor; and He will gather His wheat into the barn, but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable <762> fire.*

Unquenchable: Strong's #762 *asbestos* not extinguished, i.e. (by implication) perpetual

Who specifically is being judged?

The leaders and the nation of Israel related to the coming of Jesus:

Matthew 3:7-11: (NASB) ⁷But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, You brood of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Therefore bear fruit in keeping with repentance; ⁹and do not suppose that you can say to yourselves, We have Abraham for our father; for I say to you that from these stones God is able to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰The axe is already laid at the root of the trees; therefore, every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ¹¹As for me, I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I.

John knew their hearts were not right and told them from the start God was bringing them change and blessing if they were willing. The leadership of the nation of Israel was judged more harshly than the nation.

What were they judged for?

Deep hypocrisy and lawlessness towards the Law they were to keep:

Matthew 23:27-28: (NASB) ²⁷Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which on the outside appear beautiful, but inside they are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness. ²⁸So you, too, outwardly appear righteous to men, but inwardly you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.

They were not responsive to the Law because they were keeping it on the surface. How many miracles, teachings, parables and debates did they see which all proved the messiahship of Jesus?

Where did their judgment bring them, and was it equitable?

They were brought to a permanent transition - the end of an age of sole national privilege and the beginning of another age of privilege based upon grace through Jesus:

Matthew 3:10: (NASB) The axe is already laid at the root of the trees; therefore, every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

Matthew 23:37-38: (NASB) ³⁷Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were unwilling. ³⁸Behold, your house is being left to you desolate!

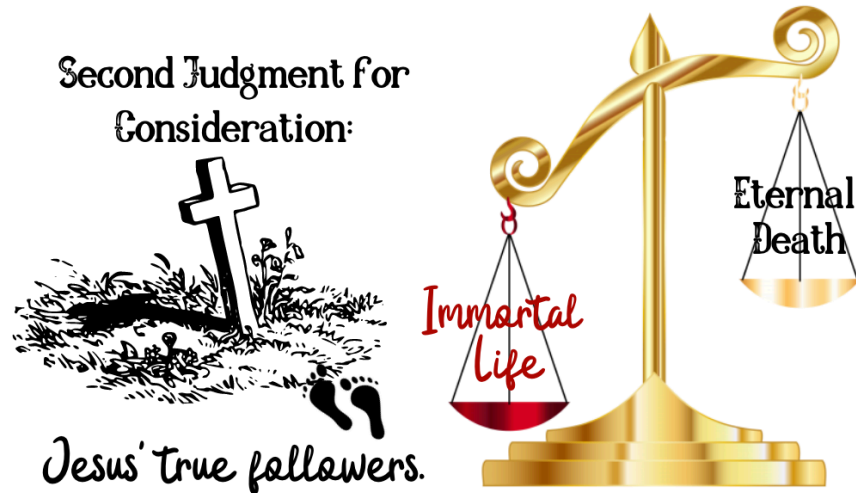
The system of government in Israel at the time was thoroughly corrupt and it would cost them and all their people. It was a dramatic, hard and equitable judgment. They had ample opportunity to see Jesus as the Messiah.



God gave the spiritual leaders and the nation of Israel a three-and-a-half year witness of concentrated, unmistakable godliness and miracles. While the leaders and the nation cast Jesus off and lost a significant privilege, God did NOT renege on His promise to them as given to Abraham. A strong judgment that is righteously placed.

**God's judgment upon Israel resulted in their loss of His favor.
If they lost it, where did God bring it?**

It is humbling to realize that we as Christians are only called to follow Jesus in a self-sacrificing way now as a result of Israel's blunder. If they were accountable to a high standard based on the obvious circumstances of the time in which they lived, we also must have a high level of accountability now.



What are the consequences?

Immortal life:

Revelation 2:10: (NASB) *Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.*

Or eternal death:

Hebrews 10:26: (NASB) *For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins.*

We are not referring to individuals who show up at church occasionally, but to those who are begotten of God's Holy Spirit and are called to follow after Jesus in a sacrificial way.

Who specifically is being judged?

The individual called-out followers of Christ. They are in an ongoing judgment to choose who of the called will become inheritors of immortality:

1 Peter 2:9-11: (NASB) *⁹But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession,... ¹⁰for you once were not a people, but now you are the people of God; you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. ¹¹Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul.*

Now is the "Day of Judgment" for spirit begotten followers of Jesus and it is the biggest battle of their life.

In 2 Corinthians 6:1-2 Apostle Paul says, "All people are not saved now and therefore not judged now." Many Christians use this Scripture to say, "Now is the judgment for everyone." Now is actually a "day of judgment" which applies only to the true followers of Christ.

For more on this, please see the Bonus Material of this Rewind.

What were they judged for?

Sacrificial faithfulness to God through Jesus, even unto death. Israel had the Law, as well as Jesus in the flesh. What does the true church have?

We have Jesus also, and God's Holy Spirit:

1 John 2:1-2: (ASV) *'My little children, these things write I unto you that ye may not sin. And if any man sin, we have an **advocate** <3875> with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: ²and he is the **propitiation** <2434> for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for the whole world.*

Advocate: Strongs #3875 *parakletos* an intercessor, consoler:

1.) summoned, called to one's side, esp. called to one's aid; 2.) one who pleads another's cause before a judge, a pleader, counsel for defense, legal assistant, an advocate

Jesus' role for the believer is an advocate



An advocate is someone who sits with you on your side and pleads your cause before a judge.

Propitiation: Strongs #2434 *hil-as-mos*' the means of appeasing, a propitiation

True Christians have the advantage of Jesus as our advocate. The other advantage is having God's spirit:

John 14:26: (ACV) *But the helper, the Holy Spirit that the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things, and will remind you of all that I said to you.*

We have Jesus on our side and in 2 Corinthians 5:17 it tells us we become a new creature by God's spirit dwelling within us.

 **Advocate + Holy Spirit**
Help us in our being judged.

We see God's mercy in giving us the help we need, because even if we sin or fall, we can get up again and ask forgiveness and claim the blood of Christ.

Let's go to a different perspective since we see things differently than most of Christianity.

 **What you know, How Will God Judge Someone Who Has Never Heard the Gospel, Dr. William Lane Craig**

- *The question here is, "How does God judge people who have never heard the gospel of Christ?" And I think that the Bible indicates that God judges on the basis of the information that they have. He judges them on the basis of the light that they have. So that those who have never heard of Christ will not be judged on the basis of whether they*

placed their faith in Christ. That would be manifestly unfair. They've never heard of Jesus; how could they place their faith in him? Rather, Paul says in Romans 1 and 2 that they will be judged on the basis of how they've responded to God's general revelation in nature and in conscience.

If the world is judged on what they are able to know, and billions of people do not know Christ, what do we do with that?

The level of responsiveness is high for a Christian. Romans 12:1: (KJV) *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.*

A living sacrifice versus just being accountable for what you know. That is not equitable.

Where did the true church's judgment bring them, and was it equitable?

Their judgment brings them life:

John 5:28-29: (ASV) ²⁸Marvel not at this: for the hour cometh, in which all that are in the tombs shall hear his voice, ²⁹and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of judgment.

When the Scripture says *they that have done good*, it is not talking about just doing nice things, it is referring to godly and spiritual good - sacrificing our will for the will of God in Christ. Doing good and being faithful unto death is what brings us *resurrection of life*.

The other side of the issue for those who are called out is if they are entirely unfaithful, it brings them death - not eternal torment:

Hebrews 6:4-6: (NASB) ⁴For in the case of those who have once been enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gift and have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit, ⁵and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, ⁶and then have fallen away, it is impossible to renew them again to repentance, since they again crucify to themselves the Son of God and put him to open shame.

Death in these verses does not apply to the average person who goes to church. Death here is for the spirit begotten ones - *those who have once been enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gift (understood) and have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit and have tasted the good word of God*. If these make the choice to walk away, there is nothing left for them but death because they have used up the ransom of Jesus.

What about those who are not totally faithful? God does have mercy for those who tried and are not completely faithful unto death. They are not rejecting Christ. For more of a lesson on this topic, please search our archives for Episode #590 "Is Oil Really Important?"



God gives the true church significant advantage with His Holy Spirit and Jesus as advocate. His mercy is clear as He allows for those who try, but lack. The trial for eternal and immortal life requires strong righteous judgment.

A nation and a called-out people are judged strongly, and yet with grace. Is this always God's pattern?

We can thus far observe that God is in fact judging with firmness and grace, but this pattern will be altered in our next example. The common denominator so far has been people who are chosen by lineage or called to son-ship. We look at a system that takes advantage of grace.

Third Judgment for Consideration:

False systems of Christianity.



What are the consequences?

Destruction:

Matthew 13:30: (NASB) *Allow both to grow together until the harvest; and in the time of the harvest I will say to the reapers, First gather up the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them up; but gather the wheat into my barn.*

There is a dramatic difference between the destiny of the wheat and the destiny of the tares.

 **God judges the people, Paul Washer False Teachers are God's Judgment, Paul Washer**

- *These preachers are God's judgment on people who don't want God but in the name of religion plan on getting everything their carnal heart desires. That's why a Joel Olsteen is raised up. Those people who sit under him are not victims of him; he is the judgment of God upon them because they want exactly what he wants, and it's not God. And you can line them all up along with him. That's where it is. For ourselves, teachers in accordance to their own desires. So, you get a Benny Hinn in there who all he wants to do is tell you you're going to have a Mercedes-Benz. Those people are victims; he is God's judgment upon them.*

Most people in those congregations are not being judged by God now.

Who specifically is being judged?

Any and every pseudo-Christian entity and belief that diminishes Christ:

Matthew 13:25: (NASB) *But while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went away.*

An important point: The parable of The Wheat and the Tares is obviously talking about a 2,000 year period of time, as Jesus references the harvest time of the wheat being the end of the call of the church. Therefore, we CANNOT look at this parable as an illustration about individuals, (because no one lives for 2000 years) but rather as classes.

Evil sower = the devil

Tares or children of the evil one = false Christianity and beliefs

What are these systems judged for?

Imitating the true wheat for personal and political gain:

2 Corinthians 11:13-15: (NASB) ¹³For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. ¹⁴No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. ¹⁵Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness, whose end will be according to their deeds.

Some seemed to have become involved in Christianity just to exploit it - *deceitful workers and false apostles disguising themselves - wolves in sheep's clothing!* Individuals purposefully taking the goodness and the grace of the gospel and making money off of it, gaining power and influence from it.



Philippians 3:18-19: (NASB) ¹⁸For many walk, of whom I often told you, and now tell you even weeping, that they are enemies of the cross of Christ, ¹⁹whose end is destruction, whose god is their appetite, and whose glory is in their shame, who set their minds on earthly things.

Some seemed to have started out well and let their base nature overcome them. There is no mercy with the church systems - they will be destroyed.



How would God handle judgment on those who claim they know Christ? They go to church regularly and do their hand waving techniques; however, by their ungodly words and ungodly actions, they show they are not followers of Christ. Does God turn individuals like that over to a reprobate mind?

Where does the judgment of the systems bring them, and will it be equitable?

These beliefs and systems reap destruction:

2 Peter 2:1-3: (NASB) ¹But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves. ²Many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of the truth will be maligned; ³and in their greed they will exploit you with false words; their judgment from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.

In their greed they will exploit you with false words - The thought of being exploited indicates you are being taken advantage of. Many are drawn into a hypnotizing and emotional environment. "By their ungodly words and ungodly actions, they show they are not followers of Christ." They go there, get their "emotional fix" and then go back to their ungodly life. That is a living contradiction. God's spirit is not indwelling in those individuals.



God saw fit to let them develop as a test for and a comparison to true Christianity:

Matthew 13:40-42: (NASB) ⁴⁰So just as the tares are gathered up and burned with fire, so shall it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹The Son of Man will send forth his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all stumbling blocks, and those who commit lawlessness, ⁴²and will throw them into the furnace of fire; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

There will be a destruction of the systems.



God clearly hates hypocrisy and greed, and these systems and beliefs will meet their end while those involved will need to face the errors and results of their ways. Those who are preaching the errors will be accountable.

God's judgment is absolutely firm with false systems.
How does He handle the rest of humanity?

We have already seen how God's mercy works with His justice when judging people who should know better. When it comes to the rest of the human race, it can be argued that they may or may not know enough to even be accountable. God's judgment of these billions is truly masterful.

Fourth Judgment for
Consideration:

The human race.



What are the consequences?

Life or death:

Galatians 6:8: (NASB) For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.

Those in the world are not spirit begotten.

 Nature and Conscience, How Will God Judge Someone Who Has Never Heard the Gospel, Dr. William Lane Craig

- Paul says in nature all men, at any time in history, any place in the world, can know that there is an eternal and powerful deity who has created the world. And in chapter 2 he says that God's moral law is written on the hearts of all people, even those who do not have the Old Testament Law. So that we do by nature what the law requires. We have an instinctual grasp of right and wrong. And so those who have



never heard the gospel will be judged on the basis of their response to God's general revelation in nature and conscience. Now that does not mean that someone can be saved apart from the work of Christ.

He is referring to Romans 1-2.

Who specifically is being judged?

Each and every human being:

Romans 1:20-21: (NASB) ²⁰For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. ²¹For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

God's wisdom and power has been seen in creation and it has been corrupted. People should know there is a God. But what if they do not? Does that mean it is the end of their eternal life because they cannot see God in nature? No.

What are they judged for?

All aspects of their lives.

Their deeds:

Romans 2:5-6: (NASB) ⁵But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, ⁶who will render to each person according to his deeds.

Romans 2 is referring to judgment of the average person which is a future judgment. Those who do not live a godly life fall into this category. Also, those who appreciate the gospel and love God and Christ but are not dedicated to sacrifice fall into this same category. They will be blessed, but they will be judged in the future.

They will also be judged for their intentions and words:

Matthew 12:33-37: (NASB) ³³Either make the tree good and its fruit good or make the tree bad and its fruit bad; for the tree is known by its fruit. ³⁴You brood of vipers, how can you, being evil, speak what is good? For the mouth speaks out of that which fills the heart. ³⁵The good man brings out of his good treasure what is good; and the evil man brings out of his evil treasure what is evil. ³⁶But I tell you that every careless word that people speak, they shall give an accounting for it in the day of judgment. ³⁷For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.

The true church needs its judgment now. The world's judgment is future.

Where does their judgment bring them, and will it be equitable?

Their judgment brings them before God in a new environment. The whole point of the ransom price was to SAVE humanity by paying the price for Adam:

Jeremiah 31:29-30: (NASB) ²⁹In those days they will not say again, The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge. ³⁰But everyone will die for his own iniquity; each man who eats the sour grapes, his teeth will be set on edge.

This shows future judgment for the world when they will be accountable for their own actions and character and not what they inherited.

Jesus can only bring them so far. Humanity, by virtue of their free moral choice, must do their part:

1 Timothy 2:3-6: (NRSV) ³This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the **knowledge <1922>** of the truth. ⁵For there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human, ⁶who gave himself a ransom for all --this was attested at the right time.

Knowledge: Strongs #1922 *epignosis* recognition, i.e. (by implication) full discernment, acknowledgement;
Lexicon: precise and correct knowledge

God our Savior, who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. God is not talking about the called-out ones in this Scripture because it says Jesus was provided as a mediator between God and mankind. The true church has an advocate.

Jesus' role for the world is a mediator



A mediator is someone who intervenes between two sides at odds and brings them together.

The world is saved - ransomed - and then given the opportunity for full discernment without the influence of Satan. This is God's merciful judgment.

God's judgment to individuals always has grace attached - He gives ample opportunity to everyone to find Him.



God requires full accountability of everyone. This accountability will be in the context of the ransom having been paid. Life and righteousness will be the order of the day.

**God's judgment again prevails in the context of His mercy.
Does this combination apply to nations as well?**

Here we need to be careful to separate out the elements. We shall soon see that God's judgment upon nations as systems is similar to His judgments on false Christianity. Caution needs to be in place as we proceed, always remembering God's judgment upon all people is tempered with grace.

Fifth Judgment for Consideration:

The
governments
of this world.



What are the consequences?

Destruction:

2 Peter 3:10: (NASB) *But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up.*

Since Satan is the prince of this world, the nations under his control must be destroyed. The systems will be burned up, not the earth.

Who specifically is being judged?

Every kingdom of man not standing for the true God:

Daniel 2:44: (NASB) *In the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and that kingdom will not be left for another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever.*

The God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed - It will crush all the other kingdoms.

What are they judged for?

The rampant idolatry that carries men away from God:

Jeremiah 10:10-11: (NASB) ¹⁰*But the LORD is the true God; He is the living God and the everlasting King. At His wrath the earth quakes, and the nations cannot endure His indignation.* ¹¹*Thus you shall say to them, The gods that did not make the heavens and the earth will perish from the earth and from under the heavens.*

Where does their judgment bring them, and will it be equitable?

The systems of governments will be utterly destroyed and *replaced* with God's own government through Jesus:

2 Peter 3:13: (NASB) *But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.*

The present heavens (ecclesiastical systems) and the earth (earthly governments) will be destroyed and *replaced*. They will be replaced with God's original intention - what was originally lost.



Not capable, What Happens to People Who Have Never Heard of the Gospel, THE BEAT, Allen Parr

- *The third group of people includes those who are unable to have ever heard of the gospel of Jesus Christ. This could include babies who die prematurely or those who are mentally retarded. These are people who were mentally or physically unable to observe the creation, they couldn't violate their own conscience, and they never had the opportunity to reject or accept Jesus Christ. Now the Bible doesn't say a whole lot about this smaller group of people. Some theologians will point to the example of King David who lost his son and David seemed very confident that he would see his son again in heaven. Other theologians will point to the character of God and say, "Well because God is compassionate, He is slow to anger, He's abounding in love," that it would be logical to assume that God would not send a group of people who were unable either mentally or physically to make a decision to accept or reject Jesus Christ to hell. But we must always remember that God is not logical or illogical. He is theological which means there are some decisions that He may make that we may not understand.*

The beauty of God's plan is that we do not need to wonder. Jesus died for every man, woman and child. Everyone who lived, whether they were capable or not, will still be resurrected in the future and will receive judgment. Babies who died will have the opportunity to grow up in an environment where righteousness reigns and they will learn from the mistakes of others. They do not go to heaven. They will be resurrected on earth because earth was created for humanity.

The peoples of earth maintain their regions and their uniqueness, and that is what thrives under God:

Zechariah 8:22-23: (NASB) ²²So many peoples and mighty nations will come to seek the LORD of hosts in Jerusalem and to entreat the favor of the LORD. ²³Thus says the LORD of hosts, In those days ten men from all the nations will grasp the garment of a Jew, saying, Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you.

The peoples of earth, being freed from all sin and idolatry, will finally learn godly righteousness:

Micah 4:1-3: (NASB) ¹And it will come about in the last days that the mountain of the house of the LORD Will be established as the chief of the mountains. It will be raised above the hills, and the peoples will stream to it. ²Many nations will come and say, Come and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD And to the house of the God of Jacob, that He may teach us about His ways and that we may walk in His paths. For from Zion will go forth the law, even the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. ³And He will judge between many peoples and render decisions for mighty, distant nations. Then they will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation will not lift up sword against nation, and never again will they train for war.

God's judgment is not a final proclamation. There will be learning involved. It is a period of time in which the people can go through the process of development. They will learn how to be godly righteous.



God will ultimately remove any and every system of man that promotes godlessness and replace them all with a godly, righteous, perfect and eternal earthly government.

God has a plan and His judgments vary depending on the time, the circumstances, the people and the systems. Some systems need destruction. The people need opportunity to be raised in Christ. God's judgment upon the people will be wonderful, equitable and life-giving.

*So, does God judge everyone the same?
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...
Think about it...!*



Join us next week for our podcast on May 27, 2019:
Ep. #1075: Am I an Arrogant Christian?

Bonus Material!

How little do they see what really is, who frame their hasty judgment upon that which seems. — Daniel Webster

God's righteousness will prove to be magnificent:

Psalm 36:5-7: (NASB) ⁵Your lovingkindness, O LORD, extends to the heavens, Your faithfulness reaches to the skies. ⁶Your righteousness is like the mountains of God; Your judgments are like a great deep. O LORD, You preserve man and beast. ⁷How precious is Your lovingkindness, O God! And the children of men take refuge in the shadow of Your wings.

Isaiah 26:9-10: (NASB) ⁹At night my soul longs for You, indeed, my spirit within me seeks You diligently; for when the earth experiences Your judgments the inhabitants of the world learn righteousness. ¹⁰Though the wicked is shown favor, he does not learn righteousness; he deals unjustly in the land of uprightness and does not perceive the majesty of the LORD.

These texts dramatically show us the thoughts and reactions of humanity and that now is not the time for all judgment upon all people:

Matthew 11:20-24: (NASB) ²⁰Then he began to denounce the cities in which most of his miracles were done, because they did not repent. ²¹Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles had occurred in Tyre and Sidon which occurred in you, they would

have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. ²²Nevertheless I say to you; it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in the day of judgment than for you.

(Source: Commentary by Matthew Poole) Tyre and Sidon were habitations of heathens, their country joined to Galilee. They were places of great traffic, inhabited with Canaanitish idolaters, and exceedingly wicked; threatened by the prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 23:1-18), and by the prophet Ezekiel (Ezekiel 26:1-28:26), and by Amos (Amos 1:9,10); a people odious to the Jews upon many accounts.

²³And you, Capernaum, will not be exalted to heaven, will you? You will descend to Hades; for if the miracles had occurred in Sodom which occurred in you, it would have remained to this day. ²⁴Nevertheless I say to you that it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for you.



Pieter Schoubroeck
- De verwoesting van
Sodom en Gomorra

Sodom: Here was a city specifically destroyed because of its inherent evil.

But wait - does the Apostle Paul not tell us that this is the time of salvation:

2 Corinthians 6:1-2: (NASB) ¹And working together with Him, we also urge you not to receive the grace of God in vain— ²for He says, At the acceptable time I listened to you, and on the day of salvation I helped you. Behold, now is the acceptable time, behold, now is the day of salvation.

Let's go back to the verses he quoted:

Isaiah 49:8: (NASB) Thus says the LORD, In a favorable time I have answered you, and in a day of salvation I have helped you; and I will keep you and give you for a covenant of the people, to restore the land, to make them inherit the desolate heritages.

Salvation DOES come in stages.

Other thoughts relating to God's various judgments:

Judgment Day will be run by Jesus through his faithful:

1 Peter 2:12: (NASB) Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may because of your good deeds, as they observe them, glorify God in the day of visitation.

Matthew 25:31-32: (NASB) ³¹But when the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. ³²All the nations will be gathered before him; and he will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.

This indicates that Jesus' faithful followers will be within the capacity of judgment.

Thoughts on the use of fire in relation to God's judgment. It either purifies or it destroys:

From today's podcast:



Judgment 1 upon Israel:

Matthew 3:12: (NKJV) ¹²His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather His wheat into the barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.

Judgment 3 upon false Christian systems:

Matthew 13:41-42: (NKJV) ⁴¹The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness, ⁴²and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

Judgment 5 upon all nations of the earth:

Matthew 25:41: (NKJV) Then He will also say to those on the left hand, Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels.

What is with the fire? Fire does two things: it purifies, and it destroys.

Total destruction (NOT torment) is the Biblical end for the incorrigible and for those systems that promote idolatry:

Romans 8:6: (KJV) For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

Romans 6:23: (KJV) For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Acts 3:23: (KJV) And it shall come to pass, that every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be **destroyed <1842>** from among the people.

Knowledge: Strong's #1842 *exolothreu*, to extirpate:

AV-destroy 1.) to destroy out of its place, destroy utterly, to extirpate;

1a.) to destroy completely wipe out; 1b.) to pull up by the root; 2.) to cut out by surgery

One example of fire used as a symbol for purifying:

1 Peter 4:12-13: (NKJV) ¹²Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; ¹³but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when his glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy.

This is the song of praise that is sung when David restores the Ark to its rightful place of honor and worship:

1 Chronicles 16:23-34: (NASB) ²³Sing to the LORD, all the earth; proclaim good tidings of His salvation from day to day. ²⁴Tell of His glory among the nations, His wonderful deeds among all the peoples. ²⁵For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; He also is to be feared above all gods. ²⁶For all the gods of the peoples are idols, but the LORD made the heavens. ²⁷Splendor and majesty are before Him, strength and joy are in His place. ²⁸Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength. ²⁹Ascribe to the LORD the glory due His name; bring an offering and come before Him; worship the LORD in holy array. ³⁰Tremble before Him, all the earth; indeed, the world is firmly established, it will not be moved. ³¹Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; and let them say among the nations, the LORD reigns. ³²Let the sea roar, and all it contains; let the field exult, and all that is in it. ³³Then the trees of the forest will sing for joy before the LORD; for He is coming to judge the earth. ³⁴O give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; for His lovingkindness is everlasting.

Isaiah 42:1-4: (ASV) ¹Behold, my servant, whom I uphold; my chosen, in whom my soul delighteth: I have put my Spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the Gentiles. ²He will not cry, nor lift up his voice, nor cause it to be heard in the street. ³A bruised reed will he not break, and a dimly burning wick will he not quench; he will bring forth justice in truth. ⁴He will not fail nor be discouraged, till he have set justice in the earth; and the isles shall wait for his law.

Acts 17:30-31: (NASB) ³⁰Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent, ³¹because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising him from the dead.

