

## **A Few of God's Judgments**

A study of Scripture reveals that throughout the ages God has kept close watch over His creation. Sometimes it seems that He has chosen to allow man and nations to self destruct. Other times He has prevented or deferred their destruction. Scripture makes clear that He has and does cause their destruction. When he allows or causes their destruction, we call this God's judgment. I believe what is happened, and is continuing to happen to the United States, is in many ways an example of His allowing self destruction, and also of His deferment of judgment. For the biggest part of two centuries, it seems that God had blessed this nation and its people mightily, probably more than any other nation that ever existed, except for His most favored people from whom would come Jesus. However, during much of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and beyond the American people and their government have lost their moral compass, along with essentially every aspect of what has held a healthy God-given social structure in place. While I believe that He has abandoned this nation and its people, our deserved judgment has been blessedly deferred. Scripture tells us that God is long suffering, yet His patience will not endure forever. (Numbers 14:12)

Another example of His long suffering and delay of His judgment on His people is found in the 250 years of apostasy before He destroyed the Northern Kingdom and 381 years until His judgment caused the 70 years of enslavement for those who lived in the Southern Kingdom. Three times we read in Romans 1:24-32. *"<sup>24</sup> Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonor their own bodies between themselves: <sup>25</sup> who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen. <sup>26</sup> For this cause, God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: <sup>27</sup> and likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompense of their error which was meet. <sup>28</sup> And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave*

*them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; 29 being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness, full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity, whisperers, 30 backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, 31 without understanding, covenant-breakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: 32 who, knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.”*

This tells us that God has been looking into their hearts, knowing that they would never repent, so He gave them up, or over to their own wicked ways. I see this growing rapidly throughout the world during these end times as the growth in number of saved souls is declining toward zero, at which moment God will call His Church home.

What follows is a list of a few of the well-known judgments that Scripture tells us about:

1. The first judgment we learn about was against Adam and Eve. Thus Adam knowingly joined Eve in that sin thereby invoking God's judgment against the entire human race. It was a judgment that will continue until the whole world is destroyed at the end of the millennium. God's mercy and grace however, will provide escape from the justified eternal damnation. This escape is centered around Jesus and His suffering death on the cross, but only for those of a saving faith.
2. The next judgment was against Satan. It will ultimately be the same as for all of mankind who, through their refusal of God's merciful grace through faith will spend eternity in the lake of suffering.
3. The third recorded judgment was against Cain. Scripture seems to indicate that both Cain and Able had received the same information regarding what manner of worship God required. While Abel obeyed, Cain rejected God's way in preference to his way. God even offered him a second chance to obey which he

refused. His rebellious stance was so far removed from God's way, that the evil in his heart burst forth in violent anger to the extent that he killed his own brother. God's judgment, from a human perspective, appears to have been too merciful in that He merely banished him to the vast wilderness where he was able to perpetuate his line for several generations, probably all the way to the flood. While this physical judgment may seem less than we might have considered appropriate, there may have been a far more serious spiritual aspect of it involved. Remember that Cain was the first born, and as such was entitled to rule over Abel and to receive a double share of Adam's estate (Genesis 4:7) If his heart had been right with the Lord, might it have been that his lineage, rather than that of Seth, would have been the ancestral line of Jesus? No, because God had chosen Seth!

4. The next was a world wide judgment provided through the great flood. (Genesis 8) There we read that God destroyed all of mankind except Noah and his family. In only 1656 years after creation man's wickedness had become so great (Genesis 6:5) that God saw no alternative but to destroy essentially all breathing life on the earth. In order to repopulate life on this cleansed earth, God also spared two of each kind of breathing animal as well as Noah and his family.
5. The judgment of the believer's sins on the Cross of Christ. (John 12:31) Through the blood and spiritual suffering of Jesus on the cross all of the past, present and future sins of all of the past and future sinners who come to the saving faith are cleansed of their sins, and given eternal life on the new earth after this earth is destroyed. God's judgment on all who do not believe, trust and accept Jesus as the One and only Savior, thereby also accepting Him as their Lord and Master will spend eternity in that lake of suffering.
6. The believers self judgment. (1Corinthians 11:31) This is not so much the believer's moral condemnation because of his or her own ways or habits, as it is condemnation of oneself for allowing such ways to invade their souls. Self judgment avoids chastisement. If neglected, the Lord judges, and the result is

- chastisement, but never condemnation (2Samuel 7:14, 15; 12:13, 14; 1Corinthians 5:5; 1Timothy 1:20; Hebrews 12:7)
7. Judgment of the believers works. (1Corinthians 5:10) No issue of sin is involved here, for they have been forgiven. Every work of the saved soul will be judged, by Jesus from the Bema Seat. (Matthew 10:12, Romans 14:10, Galatians 6:7, Ephesians 6:8, Colossians 3:24, 25) Those who served Him well during their lives will be rewarded by a higher level of eternal service. Those who didn't serve Him, or served Him poorly will be relegated to lesser positions in the eternal kingdom. The major difference will be what was in their hearts that motivated the work. Then the "net" result of this judgment will determine where in the hierarchy of eternal service to the Lord that the person will be assigned.
  8. The judgment of Nations at the return of Christ. (Matthew 25:32) This is also called the sheep and goats judgment. There are three classes present here, the sheep, the goat, and the brethren. This occurs within the 75 days after the Tribulation right here on earth. The test is the treatment of His brethren, that is, the 144,000.
  9. The judgment of Israel at the return of Christ (Ezekiel 20:38; Psalms 1:1-7; Ezekiel 20:33, 34; Malachi 3:2-5, 4:1,2) We find that two thirds of all the Jews are killed, leaving the entire remaining one third saved and will enter into the millennium.
  10. The judgment of the fallen angels will be after the one thousand years. (Jude 6) This is when the final judgment of Satan occurs. It is therefore appropriate to conclude that this is also the time that the fallen angels are judged with him. (2Peter 2:4)
  11. The judgment of the wicked dead. This is the final judgment that God will ever impose. It is the judgment of the wicked dead. This includes every person who

ever lived into their age of accountability, and who failed to acquire a saving faith, regardless of how commendably from an earthly perspective, their lives may have been. Each unsaved person who is to come before Jesus during this white throne judgment will be told exactly why they are there and what their eternal fate will be. While all go to the lake of fire, the degree of punishment will vary considerably. It will relate directly to how they conducted their lives in their unbelief, that is by their works.