

Prophecy

The Judge and Judgments of The Future

Introduction

One of the aspects of God that men love the least is that God is the God of judgment. Indeed, Moses wrote: “The judgment is God’s (Deut. 1:17). Furthermore, since God insisted that judgment must be done in righteousness without respect of persons (Lev. 19:15), then it is expected that God must judge in the same way. Paul, when writing to the saints at Rome, mentions principles of judgment.

- a) He executes judgment by giving them up to uncleanness and vile affections (Rom. 1:24, 26); giving them over to a reprobate mind (Rom. 1:28).
- b) He judges:
 - i) Those who do such wickedness and those who have pleasure in doing them (Rom. 1:32)
 - ii) According to truth (Rom. 2:2)
 - iii) According to the despising of God’s goodness and forbearance (Rom. 2:4-5)
 - iv) Rendering to every man according to his deeds (Rom. 2:6)
 - v) Without respect of persons (Rom. 2:11)
 - vi) According to the measure of light on God’s moral law (Rom. 2:12)
 - vii) According to the gospel (Rom. 2:16).

God spoke to Adam in the garden warning him not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, foretelling judgment if he did: “Thou shalt surely die” (Gen. 2:17). Man ate in disobedience and the first level of judgment fell when he discovered that he was naked (Gen. 3:7). After several generations the world of humanity was corrupt and God said: “I will destroy man whom I have created” (Gen. 6:7), a judgment He executed by the flood. Going to Revelation an individual cannot help but be impressed by the fact that it is a book of judgment. The Lord judges the churches (Rev. chs. 2-3); this is followed by the judgments of opening the seals, the blowing of the trumpets, the seven thunders, the giving to men those who have the character man desires (Rev. 13); the pouring out of the vials, the judgment on the whore, the armies of earth, the Beast and False prophet, Satan, and this material world. God is to be taken seriously for He is the God of judgment.

Why Does God Act In Judgment?

He is perfect and all He is connected with and made must also be perfect. That can only happen as it conforms to his design and function within His boundaries. Could He not try to fix the world and people when they act and behave in a dysfunctional manner? He has tried to remake man by the new birth but thousands refuse to be made anew by being born again (born from above) (Jn. 3:7). If I made a car and found it had a mind of its own and no matter what I did it would not function as intended, I would not destroy it after the first breakdown, but when it happened repeatedly and deliberately then I would just scrap the entire thing and start anew. This is what God is doing. He has, by the warnings verbally, sickness, natural disasters, and miraculous disasters, sought to bring man to his senses. There is coming a time when God will determine, “That is enough”, and break all rebelliousness and that forever, ultimately bringing all who wanted conformity and reconciliation into a perfect fellowship which can never be broken. Judgments are God’s attempts to get our attention, and if we do not listen then the consequences will follow.

Christ The Appointed Judge

- 1) Who appointed Him as Judge?
 - a) When Moses went out a second day and saw two Israelites fighting and tried to stop them, the question was presented to him: “Who made thee a prince and a judge over us?” (Ex. 2:14). It is a very major question for since Christ is the Judge, who appointed Him? The scriptures are very emphatic, God the Judge of all the earth who does right (Gen. 18:25) has appointed Him:
 - i) Christ - “It is he which was ordained of God to be the Judge of quick and the dead” (Acts. 10:42)
 - ii) God - “hath appointed a day, in the which He will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom He hath ordained” (Acts 17:31)

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- iii) “The day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ” (Rom. 2:16)
- iv) “We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ” (2 Cor. 5:10)

2) What were His qualifications?

a) In almost any country for anyone to be appointed a judge, especially of the Supreme High Court, the appointee must have certain qualification. Therefore, what are the qualifications Christ has to be able to judge, and make a perfect assessment of any individual or nation?

i) He had to be a man:

1. In becoming human the Lord added humanity to His deity, adding to Himself that which He was never before. He was the only human being to ever come into this world, for all our forefathers have always been in it. Our Lord had every faculty of humanity, sin apart, a genuine human being, not just having the outward appearance.

Illustration: When my daughters were little girls they had their dolls, it was their “baby”. In time they grew and became mothers having a real baby. My granddaughters are not plastic imitation play dolls, they are real babies.

A less than human Jesus is an imitation, a farce. He had every essential feature of any human being having a human genealogy, growing physically and mentally, having basic needs, therefore knowing what it was to be hungry, thirsty, wearied, and dying. He had human emotions, and most importance, not only a God consciousness but also the awareness of His place as man before God, and living in dependence on God.

ii) He had to be a man of experiences in human life:

1. He learnt by experience what it is to be misunderstood, as when on the cross the Lord uttered His forsaken cry. They misunderstood Him thinking He called for Elias. (Matt. 27:47)
2. He learnt by experience what it was to be wrongfully insulted when the soldier smote Him. (Jn. 18:23)
3. He learnt by experience what it was to be misrepresented when the false witness said he heard Him say: “This fellow said, I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to build it in three days”. (Matt. 26:61)
4. He learnt by experience what it was to trust God in unnerving situations when in the wilderness, He was with the wild beasts. (Mk. 1:13)
5. He learnt by experience what it was to be looked down on for the religious leaders said: “We know that God spake unto Moses: as for this fellow, we know not from whence he is”. (Jn. 9:29)
6. He learnt by experience what it was to be the object of jest, when He said the little girl was sleeping they “laughed Him to scorn”. (Matt. 9:24)
7. He learnt by experience what it was to be not wanted and rejected for the Samaritans “besought Him to depart”. (Matt. 8:34)
8. Being a man who experienced all the conflict and opposition to walking with God, He can perfectly succor us in the struggles of our christian walk. I often wonder how did He not get discouraged when loneliness, harassment, rejection, and being like a “thing to be used” without gratitude? He knows the severity of these and when we are in them, He is ready to help. Sadly, oftentimes we get so down we cannot see Him, and the evil one taking advantage of the situation makes us feel like totally giving up. It is then He is holding us closer than at other times. It is like a little child who is hurting and mum or dad lifts them, holding them close, but it takes time before the comforting love starts to break through the hurt, and the child feels like life again.

iii) He had to be a man of moral excellency:

1. As I look back on life there are many things for which I regret and wish I had either never done, or done differently. I hear of those who held responsible positions in the church but whose business dealings in the world were far from God glorifying. There would be a

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fear of all who know us standing up and publicly saying all they knew about us. One day the Lord gave a challenge, He said: "Which of you convinceth me of sin?" (Jn. 8:46). Pilate three times over acknowledged: "I find no fault in Him" (Jn. 18:38; 19:4, 6). Judas said: "I have betrayed the innocent blood" (Matt. 27:4). Paul will say: "He knew no sin" (2 Cor. 5:21). Peter will record: "He did no sin" (1 Pet. 2:22). John will write: "In Him is no sin" (1 Jn. 3:5).

- iv) He had to be God and be fully and perfectly cognizant with every individual, their character, environment they lived in, background, and opportunities.
 - 1. When David was writing his musings on God he gathered a number of them and wrote: "Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, Thou understandest my thought afar off . . . Thou art acquainted with all my ways . . . There is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O Lord, Thou knowest it altogether" (Psa. 139:2, 3, 4). Furthermore, he told of the inability to hide from God (v. 7-12). In other words, no matter where I go or do, the Lord knows all about it. Samuel is told by God that He goes deeper, saying: "Man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart" (1 Sam. 16:7).
- v) He had to be perfectly just in every decision for each one was exceedingly solemn since there was no appeal.
 - 1. When the Lord judges every mouth will be shut, for his assessments are always precise and righteous. The Psalmist wrote: "The judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether" (Psa. 19:9); they are permanent: "Every one of Thy righteous judgments endureth forever" (Psa. 119:160); concerning the character of the Judge the angel cried: "Thou art righteous, O Lord, which art, and wast, and shalt be, because Thou hast judged thus . . . true and righteous are Thy judgments" (Rev. 16:5, 7).

3) How extensive is His Judgeship?

- a) The Holy Spirit through John informs us that: "All judgment is committed unto the Son" (Jn. 5:22) and gives a series that which ought to be the results of this.
 - i) He must be honored with the same degree of honor that one gives to God, the Judge of all the earth. (Jn. 5:23)
 - ii) He has the power to give spiritual life, and there is no repeals of His judgment. (Jn. 5:24)
 - iii) He has the power to raise from the dead so there is no escape from His assessment. (Jn. 5:25)
- b) John then adds another truth. He alone has the authority to execute judgment:
 - 1. Because He is the Son of man. (Jn. 5:27)
 - 2. Because His judgment is just. (Jn. 5:30)

**May God grant us good understanding as He, by His Holy Spirit, deigns to guide us into all truth.
John 16:13**

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