

# GOD THE JUDGE

## INTRODUCTION:

We think a lot about God as our Father, helper, friend, our Savior; but do we ever consider God as our Judge? Scripture is clear that He is the judge of all creation (Psalm 75:7; Hebrews 12:23).

I. Throughout history, God's judgment is demonstrated. What are some instances you can recall of God's judgment in the Bible?

- A. God judged Adam & Eve (Genesis 3)
- B. God judged mankind in Noah's day with the flood (Genesis 6-8)
- C. God judged Sodom & Gomorrah (Genesis 18-19)
- D. God judged the Egyptian task masters (Exodus 7-12)
- E. God judged those who worshiped the golden calf (Exodus 32)
- F. God judged Israel for unfaithfulness (Judges 2:11-15; 3:5-8)
- G. God judged Ananias & Sapphira for lying to God (Acts 5:1-10)
- H. God judged Herod for his pride (Acts 12:21-23)
- I. God judged the Corinthian Christians related to the Lord's Supper (1 Cor. 11:29-32)

II. Through Bible teaching, we see God's judgment

- A. In Mosaic writings, we see God judging the law breakers
- B. The prophets spoke of judgment for lawlessness
- C. Wisdom literature: Eccl. 11:9, 12:14: "God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil."
- D. The New Testament speaks of the certainty of a coming day of universal judgment (James 5:9, 1 Peter 4:5, Acts 10:42; Romans 2:16; John 5:22)

III. Characteristics of the Judge

- A. The judge is a person with authority  
As our creator, God owns everything and, therefore, has the right to make laws and hold us to them (Psalm 24:1)
- B. The judge is a person identified with what is good and right. God is a judge who loves righteousness and hates evil. (Psalm 119:137-138)
- C. The judge is a person of wisdom, to discern truth. The judge is the one who hears all the facts, determines what is true, and makes a decision accordingly. God knows everything. His judgments are always based on wisdom. Col. 2:3
- D. The judge is a person of power to execute sentence. God not only announces the sentence, He also carries it out.

IV. Judgment and Retribution

- A. God, as judge, renders to people what they deserve. He rewards good with good and evil with evil.
- B. God will judge all people according to their works, for our works are an expression of what is in our hearts (Matthew 12:33-37). (Matt. 16:27, Rev. 20:12-13).
- C. Believers will stand before the judgment seat of Christ (2 Cor. 5:10)
- D. God will not judge with favoritism. (Romans 2:6-11)

- E. Sometimes it seems like there is no justice. The evil flourish and the good are victims (Psalm 73). But God's character guarantees that all wrongs will someday be made right (Romans 2:5).
- F. The idea of God as judge shows that He cares about right and wrong and is moral is His character. For God not to judge would show moral indifference and wrongs would never be made right.

#### V. Jesus is the Judge

Matthew 25:31-34; John 5:22-23, 26-29

#### VI. How do free forgiveness and justification by faith (John 5:24) square with judgment according to works (2 Cor. 5:10)?

- A. Salvation through Christ shields believers from being condemned and banished from God's presence as sinners. (Romans 8:1, Rev. 20:11-15).
- B. But justification does not mean believers will not be assessed for how they lived their lives and whether they will receive rewards in heaven (1 Cor. 3:12-15).
- C. Judgment will be according to knowledge. (Luke 12:47-48) "To whom much has been given, more will be required."
- D. Do we need to fear death because of judgment? No. If we have received Christ, the judge has become our Savior (Romans 8:31-39). But we would be wise to learn "the fear of the Lord", (Proverbs 1:7).