

On the other hand, if you are not walking in holiness and have justified your sins, even modified your doctrine to accommodate your sinful lifestyle, you should expect God's discipline, judgment, chastisement at any moment. God loves you so much that He will not spare the rod, but will seek to correct your waywardness. This is true love. Nonetheless, it is important to make a distinction between those who love God and hate sin but occasionally stumble because they are weak... and those who excuse themselves.

Here is another interesting point: Judgment and testing often occurs simultaneously. Consider the devastating natural disasters that have ravaged our country and other parts of the world. Wherever these calamities strike, the unrighteous are judged and the righteous are tested. And both will grow closer to the Lord if they respond correctly. The Holy One is in the midst of it all helping, encouraging, comforting... and correcting. What an awesome God we serve!

If you are having difficulty with the word *judgment* perhaps you have received some incorrect teaching. Check your lexicon. You will see there are several meanings. Some judgments are meant to correct, while the most severe have no redemptive value; they are final.

During a recent catastrophic hurricane, a city known for its sinfulness was seriously flooded with several feet of water and buried under tons of sludge, chemicals and human waste. This city was completely evacuated and rendered uninhabitable for many weeks. However, the most overtly wicked part of the city remained virtually untouched by the flooding. Could it be the

Sovereign Judge left this section unscathed because He had given them over to their own devices, even to a reprobate mind? If so, this is the most grievous of judgments. Dear servant of Jesus, weep for this city and pray for her. The mayor has publicly declared that they plan to continue in their sinful ways... just as soon as possible.

*Lord, You are a holy and righteous God deserving of our heartfelt love and obedience. You have blessed this nation like no other; You have showered Your grace upon us... and we have taken You for granted; we have turned our backs on You and gone our own way. Please forgive us.*

*We admit we have sinned against You. We have disobeyed You and have not loved You with all of our heart, soul, mind and strength. We have been blinded and deceived... and we can hardly recognize the seriousness of our idolatries and lusts. We have rationalized our sins and justified our transgressions. We have even blamed others for our failings. Please forgive us and have mercy upon us. Revive us, Lord; revive us! We need You. We choose to humble ourselves and turn from our wicked ways. Help us. Please hear from heaven and heal our land.*

#### **The Capital Region Prayer & Healing Center**

553 Clinton Avenue

Albany, New York 12206

(518) 432-7100

[www.prayerandhealingcenter.org](http://www.prayerandhealingcenter.org)



# **The Judgment of God**

*"For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness" Romans 1:18*

In this hour when an entire generation has grown complacent about the things of God, a revelation of the fear of God will be given. Open your eyes; this is now in progress. Shakings, disciplines and judgments are coming upon the earth. See what God is doing:

Although a child enjoys his Father's love, he may sometimes take it for granted, testing the boundaries, pushing his forbearance to the limit. Surely you have seen this in your own family. Then comes a warning, and another a bit more stern, and perhaps yet another... this father is slow to anger. But then if the child's behavior is still not corrected this loving father must administer some form of discipline... reluctantly, but firmly. And what if the child becomes rebellious, breaking rules and

breaking laws? He will probably be apprehended by the police and warned at a more serious level. The discipline will also increase. God forbid, prison and even the death sentence has been issued to the most rebellious.

Do you understand, beloved? Glean some wisdom and know the ways of the Almighty. Our Father is loving, merciful and kind. He is slow to anger and abounding in mercy. His grace is abundant, Jesus' blood sufficient to cover all sin. Nevertheless, He is also holy, righteous and just. God will not be mocked. How foolish to think that God does not bring judgments. The Bible is full of His warnings and judgments... sometimes intensely severe. Does this mean that He is not LOVE? Of course not! A loving father disciplines, even scourges his favored sons. *"And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: 'My son, do not despise the chastening of the Lord, nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; for whom the Lord loves He chastens, and scourges every son whom He receives.' If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten?"* (Heb.12:5-7) God's discipline is usually painful, but it is also love, pure love. The intention is to correct and to set one's feet on the right path... that we may know and love the Lord and fulfill our destiny.

OK, but what about the wrath of God, His fierce anger and righteous punishment? It is coming, dear saint. It has come and will come again. Take note of our New Testament text *"For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven."* His wrath IS revealed, a present activity. Not merely delegated to the Old Testament or to the

end of the age. The destruction of Jerusalem in 70AD was prophesied by Jesus Himself.

A quick review of world history reveals God's mercy and long-suffering toward the nations. However, eventually judgment comes to those who refuse to repent: calamity, decline, destruction, or sometimes obliteration. This has occurred many times. In fact, more than twenty great civilizations have declined or have been completely destroyed during the course of human events. Do you not think that the 20th Century decimation of Germany, the bombardments and fire bombings and the killing of so many was not the judgment of God unfurled against a nation who started two world wars and murdered six million of His chosen people? Yes, this judgment was delivered through the allied forces. God's judgment often-times came to Israel via an advancing army.

And then there are personal judgments noted in the New Testament: The judgment of weakness, sickness, even death for receiving Holy Communion in an unworthy manner: *"For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself"* 1Cor. 11:29 There is also a judgment for not forgiving someone who has offended you: *"And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him. So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses."* Matt. 18:34-35 Our Father is very serious about these matters. You must fear God, beloved, and obey Him. Our nation must fear God. What judgment is stored up for a nation that has killed over forty million babies for the sake of convenience?

*"Who shall not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy. For all nations shall come and worship before You, for Your judgments have been manifested."* Revelations 15:4

## Judgment or Testing?

*"I form the light and create darkness, I make peace and create calamity; I, the Lord, do all these things. Rain down, you heavens, from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness; let the earth open, let them bring forth salvation, and let righteousness spring up together. I, the Lord, have created it. Woe to him who strives with his Maker!"* Isaiah 45:7-9

As judgment begins to befall a nation (or an individual) many will ask the question: "Is this truly the judgment of God or is it merely a test, like so many other difficult times in the past?" In fact, there is a large segment of Christianity that has a big problem seeing God as a disciplinarian. They prefer to focus on His mercy, grace and kindness. Actually, they are correct, we should focus on these loving attributes; God is love. Nevertheless, let us not lose sight of His holiness and justice, etc... this is also love.

Anyway, how do you tell the difference between testing and judgment, discipline, chastisement? Beloved, it is quite simple: If you have been walking righteously before God you can assume that any given adversity is a test (either allowed by Him... or directly from His hand) rather than judgment. Surely it would be unjust for our Father to discipline you if you were obeying Him. This would be like a parent slapping their child for no reason. You know the Lord is not like that.

