

God Is Coming To Judge The Earth

One of the major themes in the Bible is that one day God will come to this world and judge it. This can be found in the Old Testament:

1 Samuel 2:10: “The adversaries of the Lord shall be broken to pieces; out of heaven shall he thunder upon them: the Lord shall judge the ends of the earth; and he shall give strength unto his king, and exalt the horn of his anointed.”

This teaching can be found in the New Testament as well. Jude spoke of the day when God will come to this world *in person* to execute judgment upon the ungodly:

Jude 1:14-15: “And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him.”

The coming judgment of God is also one of the major themes of the prophets. Joel prophesied of the day when God will gather all nations and punish them for their evil deeds:

Joel 3:1-2: “For, behold, in those days, and in that time, when I shall bring again the captivity of Judah and Jerusalem, I will also gather all nations, and will bring them down into the

valley of Jehoshaphat, and will plead with them there for my people and for my heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations, and parted my land."

Likewise, the book of Revelation is almost entirely about the time when the Lord Jesus Christ (who is God) will pour out His wrath upon the world, and then return in person to judge it and reign over it. The day when He will return in judgment and wrath (which is what the book of Jude was talking about) is described in Revelation 19:

Revelation 19:11-16: "And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, King Of Kings, And Lord Of Lords."

Jesus Himself spoke about this coming judgment in the parable of the sheep and the goats:

Matthew 25:31-34: "When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with

him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:”

Matthew 25:41-46: “Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: For I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not. Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee? Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me. And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.”

When the Lord Jesus Christ returns to this world at the end of the seven-year tribulation, He will judge the nations¹. At that time He will gather all of the wicked and cast them into

1 It should be noted that this is *not* the same thing as the Great White Throne judgment, which will happen after the millennial kingdom has come to an end, and after the universe itself has been destroyed. The judgment being spoken of here is the one that takes place when Jesus returns at the end of the tribulation, before His millennial reign begins.

everlasting fire (which is what the parable of the sheep and the goats is talking about). After that happens, *all* of the wicked will be gone from the world. Only the righteous will remain.

The teaching that one day God will come to this world to judge it is widely known (even though many people don't believe it). However, what many miss is that the Bible teaches this coming judgment *is a cause for rejoicing*. In fact, God commands *the entire world* to rejoice in the fact that He's coming to judge it:

Psalm 96:11-13: “Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea roar, and the fulness thereof. Let the field be joyful, and all that is therein: then shall all the trees of the wood rejoice before the Lord: for he cometh, for he cometh to judge the earth: he shall judge the world with righteousness, and the people with his truth.”

The fact that God is coming to judge this world is seen as such a wonderful thing that even the sea, the trees, and the fields are commanded to be glad and rejoice! This same teaching is found in Psalm 98 as well:

Psalm 98:7-9: “Let the sea roar, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein. Let the floods clap their hands: let the hills be joyful together before the Lord; for he cometh to judge the earth: with righteousness shall he judge the world, and the people with equity.”

It's one thing to know that one day God will come and judge this world. It's quite another to eagerly be looking forward to it and rejoice in it.

Why would anyone rejoice in the day of judgment? Because that's when the King of Kings and Lord of Lords will judge the world with righteousness. That's when all of the wicked

will be removed from the world and won't be able to torment the righteous anymore. That's the day the meek will finally inherit the world (Psalm 37:11, Matthew 5:5), because all those who oppressed them will be gone. On that day peace will come to all nations and weapons of war will no longer be needed (Isaiah 2:4, Micah 4:3). That is the day God will give the victory to the righteous, and the wicked will be eternally punished for their evil deeds.

The teaching that we should long for the day when God will come to judge the world isn't just found in the Old Testament. In the New Testament we're told that the martyrs who are in Heaven are also looking forward to that day:

Revelation 6:9-11: "And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth? And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellowservants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled."

Why are the martyrs looking forward to God returning to judge the world? It's because that's when God will take vengeance upon the wicked people who persecuted and killed them. The martyrs know that they were unjustly killed, and they want God to avenge them – and God has promised to do exactly that.

It's true that God doesn't take pleasure in the death of the wicked. The Bible makes that clear:

Ezekiel 33:11: "Say unto them, As I live, saith

the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?"

God wants people to repent and be saved – and He repeatedly commands people to repent, so that they will be spared His wrath. The Lord Jesus offers forgiveness, grace, and mercy upon all who repent of their sins and believe in Him.

However, the day will come when God will punish the wicked for what they've done. That is God's sovereign and holy will, and it will surely come to pass. It's not wrong to rejoice in the will of God, or to praise Him for carrying it out. For example, when God pours out His wrath during the tribulation era upon those who killed the martyrs (which is exactly what the martyrs desired), the holy angels of God will praise Him for doing so:

Revelation 16:3-7: "And the second angel poured out his vial upon the sea; and it became as the blood of a dead man: and every living soul died in the sea. And the third angel poured out his vial upon the rivers and fountains of waters; and they became blood. And I heard the angel of the waters say, Thou art righteous, O Lord, which art, and wast, and shalt be, because thou hast judged thus. For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and thou hast given them blood to drink; for they are worthy. And I heard another out of the altar say, Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are thy judgments."

The angels praised God's judgments because He gave the wicked exactly what they deserved. Since God's judgments are true and righteous, the angels glorified Him – and the psalms command us to do the same:

Psalm 48:11: “Let mount Zion rejoice, let the daughters of Judah be glad, because of thy judgments.”

Psalm 97:8: “Zion heard, and was glad; and the daughters of Judah rejoiced because of thy judgments, O Lord.”

The day is coming when God will return to this world and judge it. That will be a great day for the righteous, which is one of the reasons why we're commanded to rejoice in it. However, it will be a truly terrible day for the wicked. That's why God repeatedly commands the wicked to *turn from their evil ways so that they might live* (as we saw in Ezekiel 33:11).

If the wicked don't repent, they won't be mourned when the day of judgment comes and they're cast into Hell. One of the ways the righteous will worship God after the return of the Lord Jesus is by looking upon those who are in Hell *and being abhorred by them*:

Isaiah 66:23-24: “And it shall come to pass, that from one new moon to another, and from one sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me, saith the Lord. And they shall go forth, and look upon the carcases of the men that have transgressed against me: for their worm shall not die, neither shall their fire be quenched; and they shall be an abhorring unto all flesh.”

God is coming to judge the earth! The world has been warned. It's far better to be righteous and rejoice in His return than to continue to live in sin and face His everlasting wrath. Until He returns it's still possible to be saved – but once the day of judgment comes it will be too late.