Who is God?
Wednesday, September 18
Part Seven in the Series

THE COMING JUDGMENTS BY ALMIGHTY GOD

Last week we studied the amazing love of God. Tonight it may seem ironic that we follow up that study with this one on the coming judgments at the hand of our “loving God.”

We do well here to carefully recall our study on the sovereignty of God. That is, His right and might to do whatever he wishes at any time that is consistent with His divine nature. We recall that God hates sin because it kills His creation. James 1:15 - *Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.* It isn't a matter that sin “might” kill; it always kills, not only with spiritual aspect, but, yes, even physical. God will bring sin - in all its aspects - to judgment.

So tonight, WHO IS GOD? HE IS THE ULTIMATE JUDGE AND EVERYONE WILL FACE HIM AT ONE OR MORE OF THE COMING JUDGMENTS.

One day the whole world will behold His holy righteous character. Those covered by the blood of Christ will be declared "not guilty." Exodus 12:13 - *And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt.* But woe to those who have neglected their salvation, for now they stand in judgment before Him. Those who have allowed Christ Jesus to be their Lord and Savior need have no fear of any of the coming judgments. Romans 8:1 - *There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.*

DO THE SCRIPTURES VALIDATE GOD AS THE SUPREME JUDGE OF ALL?

Hebrews 12:23 - *To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God, the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect…*

Acts 10:42 - *And he commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify that it is he which was ordained of God to be the Judge of quick and dead.*

The “quick” are those who have been “quickened” by the Holy Spirit: Ephesians 2:1 - *And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins…*

And the "dead" are those who are still slaves to Satan and sin and who will stand in condemnation before God. Rev. 20:11-15 - *And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no
And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

Scripture does indeed validate God as the One and True Judge of all men and women. To disagree with this biblical truth is one's prerogative. It is also fatal.

There can be no question as to the fairness of God's judgment: Genesis 18:25 - That be far from thee to do after this manner, to slay the righteous with the wicked: and that the righteous should be as the wicked, that be far from thee: Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?

THE COMING JUDGMENTS

“But....I am a Christian! I thought I would no longer be under suspicion or guilt.”

No believer will ever be judged for his or her sins since Christ covered that on the cross: John 5:24 - Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

The only judgment that concerns me as a believer is:

THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST

I have preached about this judgment many times here. And the older I get, the more concerned I am. I will not be judged for sin. I will be judged for motivation. Not for the good things I may have done… BUT WHY I DID THEM. Note carefully the writings of Paul to the saints in Corinth:

1 Cor. 3:11-15

For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. [12] Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; [13] Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. [14] If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. [15] If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.
Note carefully:

1. Jesus Christ is the foundation for our faith: (Verse 11) I have always been thankful that our fellowship, the Assemblies of God, is not founded on the work or reputation of a man. Even someone as powerful as John Wesley and the Methodists – a fantastic person to be sure. And there are many others. But our foundation has always been recognized as Christ. Thank God for the many men and women who have graced this ministry; but Jesus is the foundation.

2. As born again believers, we rest upon Christ! "On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand!" So any work we do for the Kingdom has to start with our Lord Jesus. He alone is our foundation. Our work for the Lord, properly motivated, is gold, silver and precious stones. That which we do for our own promotion is hay, wood and stubble.

I have been preaching the Gospel for over 60 years. But if I did that for my own benefit (even including income to support my family), it's all been hay, wood and stubble. An old saying teaches, "Only what's done for Christ will last." So why have I been preaching all these years? That the truth the Judgment Seat of Christ will reveal. And I will only have rewards based on that which was done for Jesus' sake and honor. Everything else - hay, wood and stubble - will be destroyed by fire. Yes, I will still be saved but "without rewards."

1 Cor. 3:15
If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

THE JUDGMENT OF ISRAEL

The coming Tribulation - seven years on earth - is also known as "the time of Jacob's trouble. Jeremiah 30:7 - Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it. "He shall be saved out of it" means Israel will not be destroyed because of it, but will truly suffer greatly.

God will have sealed a remnant of the Jews: Rev. 7:1-7
And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree. [2] And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, [3] Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads. [4] And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel. [5] Of the tribe of Juda were sealed twelve thousand.
Of the tribe of Reuben were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Gad were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Aser were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Nepthalim were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Manasses were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Simeon were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Levi were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Issachar were sealed twelve thousand.

As I taught last week, this biblical passage is a sharp rebuke to those who now teach that God is done with Israel and all the promises made to her are now directed at the Church. This is base heresy. But sin must be punished; and those who have rejected God's salvation will have to pay the price for it. I believe Israel has some dark days ahead of it, but the Jews will emerge gloriously victorious.

THE JUDGMENT OF BABYLON (AND THE FALSE RELIGIOUS SYSTEM)

From the writings of Genesis til now, Babylon has represented antagonism - enmity - against God. It is my personal feeling that Babylon today is represented by Islam. I also believe - though cannot definitely prove - that the coming Muslim Mahde is Antichrist (as he fits all the prophecies regarding his appearing.) Scriptures record:

Rev. 17:1-10

And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters: With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication. So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication: And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration. And the angel said unto me, Wherefore didst thou marvel? I will tell thee the mystery of the woman, and of the beast that carrieth her, which hath the seven heads and ten horns. The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is. And here is the mind which bath wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth. And there are seven kings: five are fallen, and one is, and the other is not yet come; and when he cometh, he must continue a short space.
Verse 6 clears up God's extreme anger at Islam: "Drunken with the blood of the Saints... and with the blood of the martyrs..." In our time right now, Islam is slaughtering believers in Christ in many locales around the world.

The word "whore" describing her represents Islam's control of many world governments. Even now we are witnessing Islam's spread into governments, including our own United States Congress.

According to Revelation 17, Islam will make league with the Antichrist (the Mahde) and make war with the tribulation saints of God and then the Almighty will respond: Rev. 17:14-18

*These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful. [15] And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues. [16] And the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast, these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire. [17] For God hath put in their hearts to fulfil his will, and to agree, and give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled. [18] And the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth.*

Babylon represents not only the last world religious entity, but also the last truly successful economic power. Watch for it and stay alert.

**THE JUDGMENT ON SATAN AND HIS UNHOLY TRINITY, INCLUDING ANTICHRIST AND THE FALSE PROPHET**

Rev. 19:19-21

*And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army. [20] And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone. [21] And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh.*

This will be the finale for Antichrist and the False Prophet. But not for Satan. Upon completion of the thousand year Millennium, Satan will be loosed for a short time to gather around him those who still follow his eternally evil rule.
Rev. 20:7-9

And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,
[8] And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. [9] And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.

During the Millennium, the world's mortals (those who never accepted Jesus as Saviour) will worship our Lord because they have no choice. God gives every person a choice on whom they will serve. Multitudes flock to Satan and their demise will be quick.

THE GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGMENT

This final judgment will be devastating and will end life as we know it for eternity now follows: Rev. 20:10-15

And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever. [11] And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. [12] And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were out judged of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. [13]And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. [14] And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. [15] And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

Verse 15 is mocked by the world system. But that doesn't change it. It is the goal of First Assembly to reach as many as we can for the Lord Jesus before the end comes.

REACH / TEACH / SEND