

Divine Judgments

**A Biblical Study
of The
Judgments of
God**

**Written By Rev.
John Marinelli**

Copyright

**2016-John Marinelli
PO Box 831413 Ocala FL 34483
All Rights Reserved**



Preface

I write this eBook as a biblical study of the Judgments of God. My purpose in attempting this study is to make Christians and inquiring minds aware of the various divine judgments God orchestrated in the earth.

I will look closely at those who were judged and why God judged them. We will look back into the ancient days of Israel, as well as some of the more popular prophetic revelations of future divine judgment.

We will look also at warning signs of pending judgment and key factors as to whether or not a specific event was a judgment from God or a natural occurrence.

We will attempt to formulate conclusions as to what could have been done to prevent God's judgment and review any lessons learned from the reading.

I will be using the KJV bible as the main source for material but will also refer to noted ministries that have posted views and research on the Internet.

Introduction

Most of us believe in a, “Judgment Day,” a day sometime in the future when God will judge humanity, one by one, for its deeds done in the flesh. More and more, folks are setting aside the notion of divine judgment and the concept of God with it. It’s easier to believe in evolution or a pantheistic view of god than to become subject to divine judgment.

If there is a god that is everything and everything is god, there is no need for judgment. If evolution is really true, we are our own gods, ever evolving towards perfection. On the other hand, if there is only one true and living God, that created us and everything else, we are obligated to find out who this god is and what he is like so we don’t make him angry.

The Bible tells us that there is only one God and that He did in fact create us along with all of creation. It also says that we are responsible to Him and are held accountable.

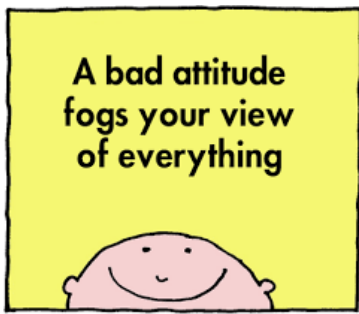
Humanity is God’s prize possession. We are the apple of His eye. Genesis tells us that He created us in His own image and His own likeness. We were to be the head and not the tail. We were to subdue the earth and rule over it. We were fashioned in innocence and was being groomed for eternal perfection as a morally righteous being, just like God.

With the fall of man through disobedience (Sin) against God, the innocence was lost, the breath of life was taken out of the human race and it was left to face a physical death. But God still loved us and set up a plan that would bring us back to Him where we could be restored. “But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us”

Romans 5:8

So here we sit today waiting to exhale and meet our maker face to face on “Judgment day.” Our meeting with God can be a joyful thing or a time of terror. The deciding factor is what we did with the plan of Salvation that God gave us. “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” **John 3:16**

Let’s look at some of the divine judgments recorded in the Bible and see if we can learn from them.



Our Attitude Reflects Our Judgmental Posture

I want to be clear about judgments so before I begin with the judgments of God, I want to discuss judgment in general so we do not get man's judgments confused with those that come from God.

We all know that when we get mad at the government or another individual, we usually formulate a pattern of judgmental speech that delivers condemnation. Our attitude reflects our judgmental posture and we can see that in ourselves and in others.

Sometimes we fluff it off as being from God so as to justify our actions. This was the case with the white supremacy folks in the south during the race riots. They used the bible, twisting its meanings to validate their actions. We also saw this in WWII with the Nazis'. They declared God dead and used the absence of God to condemn 29 million people to death including 6-million Jews.

Our desires to kill, condemn, criticize, and gossip are not and can never be divine. All these things are Sin and should be put out of our minds as quickly as they enter. Hear the Word of the Lord:

1. "Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but *rather* give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance *is* mine; I will repay, saith the Lord." **Romans 12:19**
2. "For we know him that hath said, Vengeance *belongeth* unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people." **Hebrews 10:30**
3. "Vengeance is Mine, and retribution, In due time their foot will slip; For the day of their calamity is near, And the impending things are hastening upon them." **Deuteronomy 32:35**
4. "Do not say, "Thus I shall do to him as he has done to me; I will render to the man according to" his work." **Proverbs 24:29**
5. "May the LORD judge between you and me, and may the LORD avenge me on you; but my hand shall not be against you." **I Samuel 24:12**

Natural Disasters And God's Children



I know what you're thinking...what about so called "Acts of God?" Things like Earthquakes, Floods, Tornadoes and other events that are beyond our control? An "Act of God" is an Insurance term. It is an event that is caused solely by the effect of nature or natural causes and without any interference by humans whatsoever.

Why do we automatically assume that a hurricane or flood is a direct act of God? The Bible says, "For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now." **Romans 8:22**

The whole creation is in a state of turmoil. No wonder there are violent acts of nature occurring around the world. That is not to say that they are a direct and vicious attack by God.

We have already seen the nature of God through His attributes and how He is compassionate, merciful, loving...all of which are good. The so-called "Acts of God" would be out of character. They do not line up with who God is and His care for mankind.

So, what do we do when bad things happen to us? Here are a few thoughts.

1. Seek the Lord, applying **Proverbs 3:5-6** ("Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. ⁶In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.") No matter what has happened, God will direct your paths if you trust in Him. He will lead you out of the sorrow, stress and heartaches.
2. Let the Lord comfort you. ("Blessed be **God**, even the Father **of** our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father **of** mercies, and the **God of all comfort**") **II Corinthians 1:3**

3. Know that Jesus is always with you. (“lo, I am with you always, even unto the **end of the world**. Amen.” **Matthew 28:20b**)
4. Realize that God will work everything together for good. (“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.”) **Romans 8:28**
5. Refocus your eyes upon those things that you cannot see for they are eternal. “While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen *are* temporal; but the things which are not seen *are* eternal.” **II Cornithians 4:18**
6. Rest in the Lord, knowing that He will deliver you. (“The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them.”) **Psalms 34:7**

Natural disasters are just that...a natural result of a creation that is in turmoil. They are not planned by God as an act of vengeance. I am referring to God’s Children when I say all that I said above.

Natural Disasters And The Children of Darkness

It’s a different story if you are a child of the devil. God will and has used natural and even supernatural weather events to carry out His vengeance against the children of darkness.

When God uses the elements of nature in Judgment, He does it with such a splendor that everyone knows it was He. There is no doubt or question as to whom. All I have to do is mention the great Deluge or Flood or the two cities of Sodom and Gomorrah where they were destroyed when God rained down fire and brimstone from heaven.

It’s important to note that God’s Judgments always fall on the wicked. He never pours out His wrath on His children.

He will however, allow the overthrow of His people by wicked kings because His children have turned away to follow false gods. The Old

Testament is full of situations where the people of God began to worship idols. As a result, they lost their land, homes, wealth, and social status and were even led into captivity by their enemies.



Weather, As God's Judgment



Most Relevant Verses

Joshua 10:11 ...As they fled from before Israel, while they were at the descent of Beth-horon, the LORD threw large stones from heaven on them as far as Azekah, and they died; there were more who died from the hailstones than those whom the sons of Israel killed with the sword.

Isaiah 30:30...And the LORD will cause His voice of authority to be heard, And the descending of His arm to be seen in fierce anger, And in the flame of a consuming fire In cloudburst, downpour and hailstones.

Ezekiel 38:22 ... "With pestilence and with blood I will enter into judgment with him; and I will rain on him and on his troops, and on the many peoples who are with him, a torrential rain, with hailstones, fire and brimstone.

1 Kings 17:1 ...Now Elijah the Tishbite, who was of the settlers of Gilead, said to Ahab, "As the LORD, the God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, surely there shall be neither dew nor rain these years, except by my word."

Haggai 1:10-11 ... "Therefore, because of you the sky has withheld its dew and the earth has withheld its produce. "I called for a drought on the land, on the mountains, on the grain, on the new wine, on the oil, on what the ground produces, on men, on cattle, and on all the labor of your hands."

Genesis 7:11-12 ...In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on the same day all the

fountains of the great deep burst open, and the floodgates of the sky were opened. The rain fell upon the earth for forty days and forty nights.

Exodus 9:22-26 ...Now the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand toward the sky, that hail may fall on all the land of Egypt, on man and on beast and on every plant of the field, throughout the land of Egypt." Moses stretched out his staff toward the sky, and the LORD sent thunder and hail, and fire ran down to the earth. And the LORD rained hail on the land of Egypt. So there was hail, and fire flashing continually in the midst of the hail, very severe, such as had not been in all the land of Egypt since it became a nation.

Leviticus 26:18-19 ...'If also after these things you do not obey Me, then I will punish you seven times more for your sins. 'I will also break down your pride of power; I will also make your sky like iron and your earth like bronze.

Deuteronomy 11:17 ..."Or the anger of the LORD will be kindled against you, and He will shut up the heavens so that there will be no rain and the ground will not yield its fruit; and you will perish quickly from the good land which the LORD is giving you.

Deuteronomy 28:22-24 ..."The LORD will smite you with consumption and with fever and with inflammation and with fiery heat and with the sword and with blight and with mildew, and they will pursue you until you perish. "The heaven which is over your head shall be bronze, and the earth which is under you, iron. "The LORD will make the rain of your land powder and dust; from heaven it shall come down on you until you are destroyed.

Jeremiah 3:3 ..."Therefore the showers have been withheld, And there has been no spring rain Yet you had a harlot's forehead; You refused to be ashamed.

Jeremiah 14:1-6 ...That which came as the word of the LORD to Jeremiah in regard to the drought: "Judah mourns And her gates languish; They sit on the ground in mourning, And the cry of Jerusalem has ascended. "Their nobles have sent their servants for water; They have come to the cisterns and found no water They have returned with their vessels empty; They have been put to shame and humiliated, And they cover their heads.

Amos 4:7 ..."Furthermore, I withheld the rain from you While there were still three months until harvest Then I would send rain on one city And on another city I would not send rain; One part would be rained on, While the rest not rained on would dry up

Zechariah 14:17-19 ...And it will be that whichever of the families of the earth does not go up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, there will be no rain on them. If the family of Egypt does not go up or enter, then no rain will fall on them; it will be the plague with which the LORD smites the nations who do not go up to celebrate the Feast of Booths. This will be the punishment of Egypt, and the punishment of all the nations who do not go up to celebrate the Feast of Booths.

Job 30:15 ..."Terrors are turned against me; They pursue my honor as the wind, and my prosperity has passed away like a cloud.

Jeremiah 23:19 ..."Behold, the storm of the LORD has gone forth in wrath, Even a whirling tempest; It will swirl down on the head of the wicked.

Isaiah 55:10-11..."For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, And do not return there without watering the earth And making it bear and sprout, And furnishing seed to the sower and bread to the eater; So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; It will not return to Me empty, Without accomplishing what I desire, And without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.

Let's look at some of the Judgments of God. I see them in 10 categories:

1. Judgments against nations.
2. Judgments against cities.
3. Judgments against individuals.
4. Judgments against angels.
5. Judgments against demons.
6. Judgments against the redeemed.
7. Judgments against the lost or un-saved.
8. Judgments against Sin.
9. The Great White Throne Judgment.
10. The judgment of the damned



What God Does to Sinful Nations

The bible and history show that God will destroy the sinful nations that forget him. **Psalm 9:17** says, “The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God.” Every nation will be judged in its proper time. Since God has promised to warn the sinful nation before it happens. There is a time for everything and the time to repent is now before it is too late. The bible has many examples of people trying to repent **after** judgment began but God did not accept them because they did not repent when God called them to repentance. By not repenting at the proper time, you run the risk of not being accepted by God.

Here are a few nations that were destroyed by God’s Wrath because of their evil and wickedness: Persia, Philistines, Ephraim, Amalekites, Hittites, Jebusites, Moabites, Israel, Canaanites, Assyria, Rome and all the nations at the time of the flood. You will discover more as you read more on the subject.

Jeremiah 11:11,14 says:

- Therefore thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will bring evil upon them, which they shall not be able to escape; and though they shall cry unto me, I will not hearken unto them.
- 14. Therefore pray not thou for this people, neither lift up a cry or prayer for them: for I will not hear them in the time that they cry unto me for their trouble.

Jeremiah 8:5,7 says:

- They refuse to return (repent)... no man repented him of his wickedness, saying, what have I done? Every one turned to his course, as the horse rusheth into the battle.
- Yea, the stork in the heaven knoweth her appointed times; and the turtle and the crane and the swallow observe the time of their coming; but my people know not the judgment of the LORD.

God says the animals know when to do certain things but the people don't know when it's time to repent.

What About America?

Psalm 9:17 says *"The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God."* This is a promise from God, given thousands of years ago through a prophetic word. It is still apolitical today as it was then.

The Sins of America...Here is a partial list of the sins of America that provokes God to bring judgment: *"Woe To Them That Call Evil Good And Good Evil"*

Abortion...Our Nation is stained with the innocent blood of abortion and because no one will acknowledge it as sin and repent, it cannot be cleansed. Simple Mathematics Shows How Much Innocent Blood America Will Have to Answer For...Just like the prophet Nahum said of ancient Nineveh, people in America are continually stumbling upon murder victims. These victims are the unborn that are killed every day, now totaling over 50 million.

The primary guilt is not with politicians or judges or abortion providers, but with the mothers who allow themselves to be deceived and believe the lies of the abortion providers whose goal is to make a profit. They are the ones that know better but still engage the services of someone, "the Government Funded clinic" to murder their unborn children. Also everyone who agrees with, consents to, or otherwise does not oppose abortion bears part of the guilt. You must stand against and speak against abortion or you will bear part of the guilt. If you say it should be left to the mother to decide, then you favor abortion.

Fornication and Adultery-This nation has gone crazy over sex. Even Christian ministries give an inordinate amount of attention to sex and marriage. In Old Testament times adultery got the death penalty, thus showing how God considers this a grievous sin. There are countless scriptures that condemn all kinds of sexual impurity.

Homosexuality...It is still a sin according to the bible. Some people think this sin has evolved into "not sin." Stealing, lying, murder, adultery, robbery are all still sins. They have not evolved into "not sin." The bible teaches against all forms of sexual impurity.

Covetousness-This is when you never have enough money. Covetous people sit around and talk about what they "need." They make lists of things they want to buy. They imagine themselves winning the lottery. They always want the next gadget that comes along. When people have an income and still never have enough money, the root cause of their problem most often is covetousness. Covetous or greedy people are always in a financial bind. In **Romans 1:29** the apostle Paul makes a list of sins and covetousness is right in among fornication and murder.

1. **Romans 1:29...** "Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy murder, debate deceit, malignity; whisperers,"
2. **1Timothy 6:9-10...** "But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. 10. For the love of money is the root of all-evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows."
3. **Jeremiah 6:13...** "For from the least of them even unto the greatest of them every one is given to covetousness; and from the prophet even unto the priest every one dealeth falsely."
4. **Jeremiah 22:15-17....** "Shalt thou reign, because thou closest thyself in cedar? did not thy father eat and drink, and do judgment and justice, and then it was well with him? 16. He judged the cause of the poor and needy; then it was well with him: was not this to know me? saith the LORD. 17. But thine eyes and thine heart are not but for thy covetousness, and for to shed innocent blood, and for oppression, and for violence, to do it."

Do you see in verse 17 above how covetousness is mixed up with shedding innocent blood, oppression, and violence? It is not a light thing

to be covetous. The Bible says we should hate covetousness. (**Exodus 18:21**)

The above references fit America perfectly. The warnings from God have been sent from heaven and are still being sent. If we do not repent, our nation will be dragged into hell as the scripture says in **Psalm 9:17**. God help us to repent before it's too late.

City States That Fell Under God's Wrath

Here's a partial list of cities that God dealt with because of Sin and wickedness; Sodom & Gomorrah, Babylon, Canaan, Petra, Edom, Jericho, Moab, Philistia, Dumah, Tyre and Damascus and let's not forget Jerusalem.

You probably have never heard of many of these cities. That is because they were dragged into hell and no trace was left of them save a dim historical trace.

You can study every nation, every kingdom and every society in the cities of God's Wrath and you will see the common denominators that all of them had...Immorality, Idolatry, and Sexual Perversion. These are the embers that flame the fires of God's Wrath.



The Dead Will Face The Judgment of All-Mighty God

“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 judged out 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.” **Revelation 20:11-15 We have a date with God in eternity to discuss our future. And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: Hebrews 9:27**

“For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ” **I Thessalonians 5:9**

The judge that you appear before, out there in eternity, will be one of mercy or of wrath. We pick the Judge on this side of life. After death, we will meet God face to face.

There are two thrones where judgment takes place, The **Great White Throne** judgment and The **“Bema Seat.”** All of humanity will meet with Jesus at one of these thrones. No one is exempt.

Peter told the early church that they, because they were followers of Christ, would not be invited to the Throne of His Wrath. John, who wrote the book of Revelation, tells us that the dead, small and great...everyone would have to stand before God at the Great White Throne Judgment. The reason followers of Christ will not be there is because it is for the dead and Christians have been “Born Again” and are alive forever more. Life is to be in relationship with Jesus.

The Difference Between The Great White Throne And The Bema or Judgment Seat of Christ

The Great White Throne Judgment is where all the dead are summoned to be judged. All are judged by what was written in the books that were opened. Their deeds were on trial.

Another book was also opened, the book of Life. Those whose name was not found written in the book of Life was cast into the lake of fire. Thus occurs the second death. The 1st death being physical and the 2nd death spiritual which lasts forever.

The Judgment Seat of Christ, or "Bema Seat" is where followers of Christ are rewarded for their loyalty to Him while in the flesh. "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things *done* in *his* body, according to that he hath done, whether *it be* good or bad." **II Corinthian 5:10**

The difference in the two judgments is, one is a true judgment that awards punishment for things done in the flesh. The other is where followers receive awards and honor for their faith and commitment to Christ.

The Meaning of the Judgment (*Bema*) Seat

Both **Romans 14:10** and **2 Corinthians 5:9** speak of the "judgment seat." This is a translation of one Greek word, the word *bema*. While *bema* is used in the gospels and Acts of the raised platform where a Roman magistrate or ruler sat to make decisions and pass sentence (**Matt. 27:19; John 19:13**), its use in the epistles by Paul, because of his many allusions to the Greek athletic contests, is more in keeping with its original use among the Greeks.

This word was taken from Isthmian games where the contestants would compete for the prize under the careful scrutiny of judges who would make sure that every rule of the contest was obeyed (**2 Tim. 2:5**). The victor of a given event who participated according to the rules was led by the judge to

the platform called the *Bema*. There the laurel wreath was placed on his head as a symbol of victory (**1 Cor. 9:24-25**).

In all of these passages, “Paul was picturing the believer as a competitor in a spiritual contest. As the victorious Grecian athlete appeared before the *Bema* to receive his perishable award, so the Christian will appear before Christ’s *Bema* to receive his imperishable award. The judge at the *Bema* bestowed rewards to the victors. *He did not whip the losers.*”² We might add, neither did he sentence them to hard labor.

In other words, it is a reward seat and portrays a time of rewards or loss of rewards following examination, but it is not a time of punishment where believers are judged for their sins. Such would be inconsistent with the finished work of Christ on the Cross—because He totally paid the penalty for our sins. Chafer and Walvoord have an excellent word on this view:

With reference to sin, Scripture teaches that the child of God under grace shall not come into judgment (**John 3:18; 5:24; 6:37; Rom. 5:1; 8:1; 1 Cor. 11:32**); in his standing before God, and on the ground that the penalty for all sin—past, present, and future (**Col. 2:13**)—has been borne by Christ as the perfect Substitute, the believer is not only placed beyond condemnation, but being in Christ is accepted in the perfection of Christ (**1 Cor. 1:30; Eph. 1:6; Col. 2:10; Heb. 10:14**) and loved of God as Christ is loved (**John 17:23**).

The Positive Aspects of The *Bema*

(1) To evaluate the quality of every believer’s work whether it is good or bad, i.e., acceptable and thus worthy of rewards, or unacceptable, to be rejected and unworthy of rewards. Actually an evaluation is going on every day by the Lord (**Rev. 2-3**).

(2) To destroy and remove unacceptable production portrayed in the symbols of wood, hay, and stubble. All sinful deeds, thoughts, and motives, as well as all good deeds done in the energy of the flesh will be consumed like wood, hay, and stubble before a fire because they are unworthy of reward. Why? This will be answered as we consider the basis on which rewards are given or lost.

(3) To reward the believer for all the good he or she has done as portrayed by the symbols of gold, silver, and precious stones, that which is valuable and can stand the test of fire without being consumed.

1 Cor. 3:13-15 says each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it, because it is *to be* revealed with fire; and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work. 14 If any man's work which he has built upon it remains, he shall receive a reward. 15 If any man's work is burned up, he shall suffer loss; but he himself shall be saved, yet so as through fire.

“Evident” is *phaneros* which means “known, plain, visible, revealed as to its nature.” “The day” refers to a day well known and refers to the day of the *Bema* after the rapture of the church. “Declare it” is *deloo* which means “to make evident, clear.” “Be revealed” is *apokalupto* and means “to unveil.” “Test” is *dokimazo* and means “to test for the sake of approval.” “The quality” is *hopoios*, a correlative and qualitative pronoun meaning “of what sort or kind.”

1 Cor. 4:5 Therefore do not go on passing judgment before the time, *but wait* until the Lord comes who will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and disclose the motives of *men's* hearts; and then each man's praise will come to him from God.

“Bring to light” is *photizo*, “to bring to light, make visible.” “Disclose” is *phaneroo*, “to manifest, reveal.” The issue should be extremely clear from these two verses: The Lord will evaluate the quality and nature of every person's work. Compare also:

2 Corinthians 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

Revelation 22:12 Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward *is* with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done.

The Negative Aspects of the *Bema*

There are a number of passages that refer to the negative aspects of the *Bema* which need to be mentioned and explained. In these passages we read

such things as “give account of himself,” “suffer loss,” “shrink away from Him in shame,” and “recompense for his deeds ... whether good or bad.”

Will believers experience shame, grief, and remorse at the *Bema*? If so, how do we reconcile this with passages like **Revelation 7:17**, “God shall wipe away every tear from their eye,” and **Revelation 21:4**, “and He shall wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there shall no longer be any death; there shall no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away,” or with **Isaiah 65:17**, “For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; And the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind”?

The negative effects involve the following:

(1) The loss suffered in **1 Corinthians 3:15** refers to the loss of rewards, not salvation as the verse goes on to make clear. Please note that the clause “he shall suffer loss” would be better rendered “it (the reward) shall be forfeited.”

(2) The disqualification mentioned in **1 Corinthians 9:27** means disqualified from rewards, not loss of salvation. This is clear from the context and the analogy to the Greek athletic games.

(3) The “recompense” (NASB) or the “receive back” (KJV) of **2 Corinthians 5:10** refers to the dispensing of rewards or their loss. The verb used is *komizo* and means “to carry off safe,” “to carry off as booty.” In the middle voice as here, it meant “to bear for oneself,”¹⁰ or “to receive back what is one’s own.”¹¹ Compare **Matthew 25:27** and **Ephesians 6:8**.

(4) That dispensing of rewards is in view is also evident from the Greek words in **2 Corinthians 5:10** translated “good” (*agathos*—valuable like good fruit) and “bad” (*phaulos*—unacceptable like rotten or spoiled fruit). The idea is not good in the sense of righteousness versus bad in the sense of evil or sinfulness. For those ideas Paul would have most likely used *kalos*, “good,” and *kakos*, “evil.” For good works, those valuable like good fruit, we will receive back rewards, but for bad works, those rotten and worthless, we will receive no rewards or the loss of rewards.

This is no more a punishment than when a student turns in a worthless assignment and receives an F or a D. His poor work results in a just grade or

recompense. This is what his work deserves. There used to be a sign in the registrar's office at Dallas Seminary, which read, "Salvation is by grace ... Graduation is by works."

(5) **1 John 2:28**. This verse undoubtedly refers to the *Bema* and shows there will be both boldness as a result of abiding, and shame before the Lord as a result of failing to abide.

"And now little children." John is writing to believers. This is his term of endearment for his readers as born again people.

"Abide in Him." "Abide" is a synonym for fellowship which is the subject of the book (1:3-7). It means to remain in Him from the standpoint of drawing on His life as the source of ours and then to obey Him out of that relationship of dependence. This is the basis of rewards or the cause of their loss, the abiding, Christ-dependent life.

"So that" points us to the purpose, the return of the Savior and what it will mean.

"When He appears." The "when" points to the imminency of the return of the Lord. It is literally "if He appears." The conditional clause does not question the reality of Christ's coming, only the time of it and thereby points to its imminency. "Appears" refers to the rapture, which leads quickly into the *Bema*.

(Taken from Bible.org Article)

So here's what we know from our study so far:

1. Believers are rewarded for their faith and dedication at the Judgment Seat of Christ.
2. Non-believers are judged in accordance to their works. However, all that are not found in the Lamb's Book of Life are cast into the Lake of Fire.
3. No non-believer escapes Judgment Day. Judgment is an appointment after we die.

4. Christians are not included with the lost on Judgment Day. They escape the wrath of God because Jesus bore it in His body for them and they accepted His finished work of Grace.

The Judgment Against Angels & Demons

Fallen angels are those that rebelled against God to follow Lucifer, which we also know as Satan and the devil or evil one. They were thrown out of heaven. The angels became demons and now dwell in a disembodied state as an evil spirit under an eternal chain of darkness.

“And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.” **Jude 1:6**

He hath reserved in everlasting chains - **2 Peter 2:4**. Peter says, "chains of darkness;" that is, the darkness encompasses them "as" chains. Jude says that those chains are "everlasting."

The sense is, that that deep darkness always endures; there is no intermission; no light; it will exist forever. This passage in itself does not prove that the punishment of the rebel angels will be eternal, but merely that they are kept in a dark prison in which there is no light, and which is to exist for ever, with reference to the final trial. The punishment of the rebel angels after the judgment is represented as an everlasting fire, which has been prepared for them and their followers, **Matthew 25:41**. (**Excerpts from Barns Commentary Notes**)

The only way to see the light of day is through your eyes. If that evil spirit can influence you and attach itself to you, it can see and with that sight, live again to bring torment to your soul and death to your dreams and hopes for the future. That's why Jesus defeated all of them on the cross and has given us the spiritual weapons to protect ourselves from demonic attacks.

The Serpent Bites The Dust

Genesis 3:14-15 tells us about the judgment of the Serpent that was used by Satan to bring down Adam & Eve. The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, Cursed are you more than all cattle, And more

than every beast of the field; On your belly you will go, And dust you will eat All the days of your life; And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel."

This is the 1st prophecy of the Messiah and God Himself uttered it. He said that the Serpent, now being referred to as Satan, would bruise His, Jesus' heel but Jesus would crush his, the serpent (Devil's) Head. This happened by Jesus on the cross and was recorded for our edification. "And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it. **Colossians 2:15**

Judgment of This World

2 Peter 3:7 "But by His word the present heavens and earth are being reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men. "

Here Are Some More References To The Destruction of Our Earth

Genesis 6:13 ...Then God said to Noah, "The end of all flesh has come before Me; for the earth is filled with violence because of them; and behold, I am about to destroy them with the earth.

Mark 13:31 ..."Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.

Revelation 21:1... Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea.

Isaiah 51:6 ..."Lift up your eyes to the sky, Then look to the earth beneath; For the sky will vanish like smoke, And the earth will wear out like a garment And its inhabitants will die in like manner; But My salvation will be forever, And My righteousness will not wane.

Zephaniah 1:18...Neither their silver nor their gold Will be able to deliver them On the day of the LORD'S wrath; And all the earth will be devoured In the fire of His jealousy, For He will make a complete end, Indeed a terrifying one. Of all the inhabitants of the earth

Isaiah 34:4 ...And all the host of heaven will wear away, And the sky will be rolled up like a scroll; All their hosts will also wither away As a leaf withers from the vine, Or as one withers from the fig tree.

Matthew 5:18..."For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished.

Matthew 24:29..."But immediately after the tribulation of those days THE SUN WILL BE DARKENED, AND THE MOON WILL NOT GIVE ITS LIGHT, AND THE STARS WILL FALL from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

2 Peter 3:7... But by His word the present heavens and earth are being reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.

2 Peter 3:10...But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up.

2 Peter 3:12 ...looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat!

Revelation 6:14...The sky was split apart like a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.

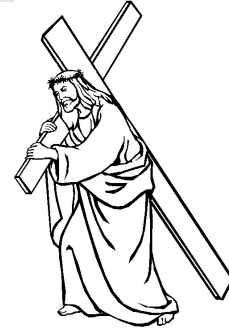
Revelation 20:11... Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them.

Revelation 8:7...The first sounded, and there came hail and fire, mixed with blood, and they were thrown to the earth; and a third of the earth was burned

up, and a third of the trees were burned up, and all the green grass was burned up.



God's Judgment Against Sin



Romans 5:12-17 tells us, “¹² Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned: ¹³ (For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law. ¹⁴ Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come.

¹⁵ But not as the offence, so also is the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many. ¹⁶ And not as it was by one that sinned, so is the gift: for the judgment was by one to condemnation, but the free gift is of many offences unto justification. ¹⁷ For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.)

Romans 8:3 give us a clearer picture of God's Judgment of sin. “For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:”

Jesus was the penalty for our sin. All the sins of the entire world were laid upon him. God judged Sin in the flesh but not any flesh. The only flesh that could be judged is the flesh of Jesus because His flesh was holy, righteous and pure. There was no sin in Him.

That's why we call him the slain Lamb of God. He was foreshadowed in the sacrificial system of Israel where the pure Lamb was slain for the sins of the

people. Year after year this happened until Jesus came. He was the purest of them all and it took just one to die for sin.

Romans 5:10 further clarifies this, “For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.”

His death paid the penalty but His life, because it was and is holy and righteous, saves us. That means when I feel bad about myself or unworthy in any way, I can look to Jesus by faith and declare that His righteousness is now mine and I can finally have a life above criticism, hostility and hatred...so says the apostle Paul to the **Galatians 2:20** “am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.”

Conclusion

We have looked at a lot of divine Judgments, those against Nations, Cities, People, Angels and Demons, Satan and others. We looked at “The Day of Judgment” and if and when God’s children are judged by God. We looked at the “Judgment Seat of Christ” and what is and what it is not.

Without exception, the verses reviewed declare that God’s wrath will fall on the ungodly, not the righteous. Therefore, to escape the terrible day of vengeance that God will bring upon this world, we need only to repent, believe in Christ as the penalty for sin, and put our faith in His finished work of Grace.

As long as we do not follow the example of the Old Testament Saints that fell into immorality and followed after false gods, we will never experience God’s wrath.

We surely do not want to be accounted with the damned. God is able and willing to bring us out of temptation and snares set for us by the devil. He wants us to walk by faith with Him.