

Bible-
based



Ministry

EMERGENCY PREPARATION

“Behold, I have told you in advance.”

Jesus of Nazareth (Matthew 24:25)

A BIBLE-BASED PERSPECTIVE ON

DIVINE JUSTICE

UNDERSTANDING THE ULTIMATE WORST-CASE SCENARIO

A Study for Church Leaders

www.BibleEmergencyPreparation.org

Divine Reasons for Justice

A STUDY ON GOD AS JUDGE

And it shall come about if you ever forget the Lord your God... I testify against you today that you shall surely perish; like the nations that the Lord makes to perish before you (Deuteronomy 8:19-20).

R e a s o n s

If emergency preparation requires identifying and getting ready for the worst-case scenario, then the ultimate worst-case is that of Divine Judgment. For that reason, it is worth taking a look at.

An aspect of God's character that is often overlooked is that He is just. This simply means He sees one gets what one deserves. If one has done good, ultimately there will be goodness received. If one has done evil, however, judgment is received.

Most people understand the issue of justice when it is applied to an individual. What is rarely considered is that God also applies it to nations as well. To have your nation judged by God places you in great peril.

God may not be angry with you personally. But if your nation is conducting itself against His principles, it can be judged — even if you are living a godly life.

The greatest amount of information we have on why God judges a nation is contained in the Old Testament and deals with the nations of Israel and Judah. Because God's character never changes, the reasons He judged them still hold true today.

It is, then, of significant value to identify those reasons.

REFLECTION

“Now the end is upon you, and I shall send My anger against you; I shall judge you according to your ways, and I shall bring all your abominations upon you. For My eye will have no pity on you, nor shall I spare you, but I shall bring your ways upon you, and your abominations will be among you; then you will know that I am the Lord!” Thus says the Lord God, “A disaster, unique disaster, behold it is coming!... And My eye will show no pity, nor will I spare. I will repay you according to your ways, while your abominations are in your midst; then you will know that I, the Lord, do the smiting. Behold, the day! Behold, it is coming! Your doom has gone forth; the rod has budded, arrogance has blossomed. Violence has grown into a rod of wickedness. None of them shall remain, none of their multitude, none of their wealth, nor anything eminent among them” (Ezekiel 7:3-5, 9-11).

ANALYSIS

1. He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? (Micah 6:1).

2. We hope for justice, but there is none, for salvation, but it is far from us. For our transgressions are multiplied before Thee, and our sins testify against us; for our transgressions are with us, and we know our iniquities; transgressing and denying the Lord, and turning away from our God, speaking oppression and revolt, conceiving in and utterly from the heart lying words. And justice is turned back, and righteousness stands far away; for truth has stumbled in the street, and uprightness cannot enter. Yes, truth is lacking; and he who turns aside from evil makes himself a prey. Now the Lord saw, and it was displeasing in His sight that there was not justice (Isaiah 59:11-15).

3. But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He does not hear. For your hands are defiled with blood, and your fingers with iniquity; your lips have spoken falsehood, your tongue mutters wickedness. No one sues righteously and no one pleads honestly. They trust in confusion, and speak lies; they conceive mischief, and bring forth iniquity.... Their works are works of iniquity, and an act of violence is in their hands. Their feet run to evil, and they hasten to shed innocent blood; their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity; devastation and destruction are their highways. They do not know the way of peace, and there is no justice in their tracks; they have made their paths crooked; whoever treads on them does not know peace. Therefore, justice is far from us, and righteousness does not overtake us (Isaiah 59:2-4, 6-9).

4. "For from the least of them even to the greatest of them, everyone is greedy for gain, and from the prophet even to the priest everyone deals falsely. And they have healed the brokenness of My people superficially, saying 'Peace, peace,' but there is no peace. And I set watchmen over you saying 'Listen to the sound of the trumpet!' But they said, 'We will not listen.' Therefore, hear O nations, and know O congregation: behold, I am bringing disaster on this people, the fruit of their plans, because they have not listened to My words, and as for My law, they have rejected it also." (Jeremiah 6:13, 14, 17-19; 8:10, 11).

5. "Will you steal, murder, and commit adultery, and swear falsely, and... walk after other gods that you have not known, then come and stand before Me in this house, which is called by My name, and say 'We are delivered!'— that you may do all these abominations? Has this house, which is called by My name, become a den of robbers in your sight? (Jeremiah 7: 9-11).

6. "Lies and not truth prevail in the land; for they proceed from evil to evil, and they do not know Me," declares the Lord. "Let everyone be on guard against his neighbor, and do not trust any brother; because every brother deals craftily, and every neighbor goes about as a slanderer. And everyone deceives his neighbor, and does not speak the truth, they have taught their tongue to speak lies; they weary themselves committing iniquity.... Through deceit they refuse to know Me," declares the Lord (Jeremiah 9:3-6).

7. ". . . for the land is full of bloody crimes, and the city is full of violence" (Ezekiel 7:23).

8. For the Lord has a case against the inhabitants of the land . . . There is swearing, deception, murder, stealing, and adultery. They employ violence, so that bloodshed follows bloodshed. Therefore the land mourns and everyone who lives in it languishes.... Since you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.... So I will punish them for their ways, and repay them for their deeds... their rulers clearly love shame (Hosea 4:1-3 , 6, 9, 18).

A list of reasons for Divine Justice:

- **turning away from God**
- **denying the Lord**
- **speaking oppression**
- **speaking revolt**
- **lying continually**
- **lawlessness**
- **retaliation for doing good**

- **shedding (innocent) blood**
- **speaking falsehoods (half-truths) and lies**
- **conceiving mischief**
- **conduct acts of violence**
- **acts of damage**
- **causing destruction**

- **greedy for gain**
- **ministers dealing falsely**
- **ministers misleading people**

- **stealing**
- **murdering**
- **committing adultery**
- **swearing falsely**
- **turning to idols** (anything you love more than God)

- **neighbor turning on neighbor**
- **being devious with family members**
- **lies and deceit**

- **bloody crimes and violence**

- **swearing**
- **being deceitful**
- **stealing**
- **murdering**
- **committing adultery**
- **violence and bloodshed**

9. How the faithful city has become a harlot, she who was full of justice! Righteousness once lodged in her, but now murderers. Your rulers are rebels, and companions of thieves; everyone loves a bribe, and chases after rewards. They do not defend the orphan, nor does the widow's plea come before them (Isaiah 1:21, 23).

10. Thou hast abandoned thy people... their land has also been filled with silver and gold, and there is no end to their treasures; their land has also been filled with horses, and there is no end to their chariots. Their land has also been filled with idols; they worship the work of their hands, that which their fingers have made (Isaiah 2:6-8).

11. Woe to those who enact evil statutes, and to those who constantly record unjust decisions, so as to deprive the needy of justice, and rob the poor of My people of their rights, in order that widows may be their spoil, and that they may plunder the orphans (Isaiah 10:1, 2).

12. "You have become guilty by the blood which you have shed, and defiled by your idols which you have made.... Behold the rulers of Israel, each according to his power, have been in you for the purpose of shedding blood. They have mistreated father and mother lightly within you. The alien they have oppressed in your midst; the fatherless and the widow they have wronged. You have despised My holy things and profaned My sabbaths. Slanderous men have been in you for the purpose of shedding blood.... In your midst they have committed lewdness... and one had committed abomination with his neighbor's wife.... In you they have taken bribes to shed blood; you have taken interest and profits, and you have injured your neighbors for gain by oppression, and you have forgotten Me," declares the Lord God (Ezekiel 22: 4, 6-9, 11, 12).

13. "Her priests have done violence to My law and have profaned My holy things; they have made no distinction between the holy and the profane, and they have not taught the difference between the unclean and the clean; and they hide their eyes from My sabbaths, and I am profaned among them.

Her princes within her are like wolves tearing the prey, by shedding blood and destroying lives in order to get dishonest gain.... The people of the land have practiced oppression and committed robbery, and they have wronged the poor and needy and have oppressed the sojourner without justice.... Thus I have poured out My indignation on them; I have consumed them with the fire of My wrath; their way I have brought upon their heads," declares the Lord God (Ezekiel 22:26, 27, 29, 31).

14. For the Lord has a case against the inhabitants of the land.... There is swearing, deception, murder, stealing, and adultery. They employ violence, so that bloodshed follows bloodshed. Therefore the land mourns and everyone who lives in it languishes.... Since you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.... So I will punish them for their ways, and repay them for their deeds... their rulers clearly love shame (Hosea 4:1-3 , 6, 9, 18).

15. "Rulers of the house of Israel, is it not for you to know justice? You who hate good and love evil... who abhor justice and twist everything that is straight... and Jerusalem with violent injustice. Her leaders pronounce judgment for a bribe, her priests instruct for a price, and her prophets divine for money. Yet they lean on the Lord saying, 'Is not the Lord in our midst? Calamity will not come to us.' Therefore, on account of you..... Jerusalem will become a heap of ruins" (Micah 3:1, 9-12).

16. Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness; who substitute bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes, and clever in their own sight! Woe to those who are heroes in drinking wine, and valiant men in mixing strong drink; who justify the wicked for a bribe, and take away the rights of ones who are in the right! (Isaiah 5:20-23).

17. You have plowed wickedness, you have reaped injustice, you have eaten the fruit of lies, because you have trusted in your way, in your numerous warriors, therefore, a tumult will arise among your people, and all your fortresses will be destroyed (Hosea 10: 13, 14).

- **murderers**
- **greedy rulers; bribe takers**
- **lack of justice**
- **materialistic**
- **turning to idols** (anything you love more than God)
- **unjust**
- **rob the needy**
- **shedding (innocent) blood**
- **worship of idols** (anything you love more than God)
- **disobedient children**
- **despised God**
- **adultery and making a spectacle of sexuality**
- **murder for hire**
- **ministers violating God's Law**
- **ministers disrespectful of God's ways**
- **dishonest politicians**
- **greedy rulers**
- **swearing**
- **deception and stealing**
- **murder**
- **adultery**
- **bloodshed**
- **stealing**
- **dishonest politicians**
- **greedy ministers**
- **unjust judges**
- **drunkards**
- **bribe takers**
- **strong trust in the military (instead of in God)**

APPLICATION

There is always the argument that any or all of these reasons can be seen in any nation that has ever existed, or exists today, and, therefore, all nations should be concerned about Divine Justice.

No argument is offered against such a position. In fact, every nation should then take notice. Hence, the strong line of reasoning that there is a continual need for emergency preparation. (One never knows exactly when Divine Justice might occur.)

There are, however, some nations that are more susceptible:

The Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for His own possession out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth (Deuteronomy 7:6).

Thus says the Lord God, "This is Jerusalem; I have set her at the center of nations, with lands around her. But she has rebelled against My ordinances more wickedly than the nations and against My statutes more than the lands which surround her; for they have rejected My ordinances and have not walked in My statutes." Therefore, thus says the Lord God, "Because you have more turmoil than the nations which surround you, and have not walked in My statutes, nor observed My ordinances..." therefore, thus says the Lord God, "Behold, I, even I, am against you, and I will execute judgments among you in the sight of nations" (Ezekiel 5:5-8).

If a nation has been especially blessed by God, like the inhabitants of Jerusalem had once been, its people should take notice of this passage.

Should that nation subsequently turn its back on God, rejecting His ways, like Jerusalem of old, and largely participating in the very things that are the reasons given here in this study for causing Divine Justice, that nation should know it is in dangerous jeopardy of similar judgment.

The prophets Daniel and Ezekiel, both godly men, nonetheless had to undergo the judgments brought upon Jerusalem for its disobedience. Those judgments, as you will see, were very severe, including, for Daniel and Ezekiel, being deported to Babylon. God was not angry at them. But He was angry at their nation. Daniel and Ezekiel, again godly men, still suffered as a result of their nation's sins.

Let the reader take notice and prepare accordingly.

Divine Methods of Justice

A STUDY ON GOD AS JUDGE

“The end has come for My people Israel. I will spare them no longer. The songs of the palace will turn to wailing in that day,” declares the LORD God (Amos 8: 2,3).

Once you have an understanding of why God judges a nation, it becomes important to see how He applies that justice.

God is pretty straightforward in telling us the methods He will use.

Again, the greatest amount of information we have on how God judges a nation is contained in the Old Testament and deals with the nations of Israel and Judah. The methods He used to judge them are still applied by Him today.

Therefore, it is worth looking at those methods.

REFLECTION

1. And the Lord said to him, “Go through the midst of the city even through the midst of Jerusalem, and put a mark on the foreheads of the men who sigh and groan over all the abominations which are being committed in its midst.” But to the others He said in my hearing, “Go through the city after him and strike; do not let your eye have pity, and do not spare. Utterly slay old men, young men, maidens, little children, and women, but do not touch any man on whom is the mark; *and you shall start from My sanctuary*” (Ezekiel 9:1-9).

2. Lament and wail; for the fierce anger of the Lord has not turned back from us. “And it shall come about in that day (of judgment),” declares the Lord, “that the heart of the king and the heart of the princes will fail; and the priests will be appalled, and the prophets will be astounded” (Jeremiah 4:8, 9).

3. “As for you [Jeremiah],” declares the Lord, “do not pray for this people, and do not lift up cry or prayer for them, and do not intercede with Me; for I do not hear you (Jeremiah 7: 16).

4. Then the Lord said to me, “Even though Moses and Samuel were to stand before Me, My heart would not be with this people; send them away from My presence! (Jeremiah 15:1).

- **All persons within a nation are subject to God’s judgment**

- **His judgments begin with His own – “My sanctuary” – first**

- **Rulers, and yes, even ministers, will be afraid**

- **Once a nation is judged, and justice is decided upon, no earthly force can stop it**

M
e
t
h
o
d
s

ANALYSIS

1. For behold, the Lord God of hosts is going to remove from Jerusalem and Judah both supply and support, the whole supply of bread, and the whole supply of water (Isaiah 3:1).
2. (The Lord) said to me, “Son of man, behold, I am going to break the staff of bread in Jerusalem, and they will eat bread by weight and with anxiety, and drink water by measure and in horror, because bread and water will be scarce; and they will be appalled with one another and waste away in their iniquity” (Ezekiel 4:16, 17).
3. And I will send the sword, the famine, and the pestilence upon them until they are destroyed from the land which I gave to them and their forefathers” (Jeremiah 24:10).
4. They did not obey Thy voice or walk in Thy law; they have done nothing of all that Thou commandest them to do; therefore Thou hast made all this calamity come upon them: the sword, the famine, and the pestilence (Jeremiah 32:23, 24).
5. “The sword is outside, and the plague and the famine are within. He who is in the field will die by the sword; famine and the plague will also consume those in the city” (Ezekiel 7:15).
6. “They will die of deadly diseases, they will not be lamented or buried; they will be as dung on the surface of the ground and come to an end by sword and famine, and their carcasses will become food for the birds of the sky and for the beasts of the earth” (Jeremiah 16:4).
7. . . . declares the Lord, “to the sword, to the pestilence, and to the famine; and I will make you a terror to all the kingdoms of the earth” (Jeremiah 34:17).
8. Because the ground is cracked, for there has been no rain on the land; the farmers have been put to shame... for there is no vegetation. Thus says the Lord to this people, “Even so they have loved to wander; they have not kept their feet in check. Therefore the Lord does not accept them; now He will remember their iniquity and call their sins to account.” So the Lord said to me, “Do not pray for the welfare of this people. When they fast, I am not going to listen to their cry.... Rather I am going to make an end of them by the sword, famine, and pestilence.” But, “Ah Lord, God!” I said, “Look, the prophets are telling them, ‘You will not see the sword nor will you have famine, but I will give you lasting peace in this place.’ ” Then the Lord said to me, “The prophets are prophesying falsehood in My name. I have neither sent them, nor commanded them, nor spoken to them; they are prophesying to you a false vision, divination, futility and the deception of their own minds... — yet they keep saying ‘There shall be no sword and famine in this land’ — by sword and famine those prophets shall meet their end!” (Jeremiah 14:4, 6, 10-16).
9. And the waters from the sea will dry up, and the river will be parched and dry, and the canals will emit a stench, the streams... will thin out and dry up; the reeds and rushes will rot away.... And all the sown fields by the Nile will become dry, be driven away, and be no more.... Moreover, the manufacturers of linen made from combed flax and the weavers of white cloth will be utterly dejected. And the pillars of Egypt will be crushed; all the hired laborers will be grieved in soul (Isaiah 19:5-10).
10. And the people will be oppressed, each one by another, and each one by his neighbor; the youth will storm against the elder, and the inferior against the honorable (Isaiah 3:5).

“Last Days” Additions

“For many will come in My name,” (said Jesus), “saying ‘I am the Christ,’ and will mislead many. And you will be hearing of wars and rumors of wars... for these things must take place, but that is not yet the end... and in various places there will be famines and earthquakes.... And because lawlessness is increased, most people’s love will grow cold... (Matthew 24:5-8, 11, 12).

The standard methods of Divine Justice:

- drought
- famine (and scarcity)
- war (and all its horrors)
- pestilence (disease)
- plague (epidemics)
- a terror (horror) to all the kingdoms of the earth
- do not pray for these people
(there comes a point-of-no-return when judgment can no longer be prevented)
- false leaders (“experts”) add to the confusion with incorrect information, which misleads and causes frustration
- as scarcity sets in, so does economic depression...
- leading to a break-down in the social order

An increase in amount and intensity of:

- false religious leaders
- wars
- famines
- earthquakes
- lawlessness