

Session 9 Jesus the Righteous Judge, part 2

I. REVIEW

- A. The garments of justice: Isaiah 59:17-18 shows us God’s divine motivation for justice. Understanding Jesus as *Righteous Judge* will give the Church, the poor, and the oppressed of the earth assurance that justice will come to those who entrust their lives to the leadership of Jesus.
- B. Jesus’ garments also reveal to us the divine tools and strategic weapons that He will use to accomplish all that is in His heart concerning justice. He will establish righteousness by bringing releasing “salvation vengeance” (Rev. 6-19). There are global implications to the unfolding of this divine drama of justice.
- 3“Let us know, let us pursue the knowledge of the Lord.” (Hos. 6:3)***
- C. “What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.” — A.W. Tozer
- D. God made all things so that He might disclose all that He is to His people. Understanding Jesus as Judge is part of our intimate and devotional pursuit of Him. This disclosure is called the knowledge of God.
- E. The Lord is raising up gospel messengers who will prepare a generation for the unique dynamics related to Jesus’ return to the earth to set up the Father’s eternal kingdom, the throne of glory.
- 15 ... “The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!” (Rev. 11:15)***
- F. There will be three primary, unique activities of the Holy Spirit that will manifest globally in the generation of Jesus’ return. Each one of these dynamics are directly connected to the three faces of Jesus which the Holy Spirit will also emphasize.
1. Establish the 1st commandment in the first place – Jesus the passionate Bridegroom
 2. Manifest God’s saving and sovereign power of the nations – Jesus the sovereign King
 3. Release God’s fierce and righteous judgments in the nations – Jesus the righteous Judge
- G. The preaching of Jesus the Judge was an essential part of the apostolic preaching in the book of Acts – (Acts 2:17-20; 5:3-13; 13:41; 17:30-31)
- 25 “Now as he reasoned about righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid” (Acts 24:25)***
- H. The Holy Spirit speaks about judgment –
- 8“... He [Holy Spirit] will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment.” (Jn. 16:8)***

- I. Understanding Jesus the righteous Judge shows us His beauty (Ex. 15:11-13, Isa 33:17-18; Dan. 7:10-13; Ezek. 1 Ps. 45:1-5; 149:5-9; Zeph. 3:17-19; Rev. 4-5; 15:2-4; 19:6).
- J. The end-time Church will have perfect understanding of the beauty of Jesus as Judge and will rejoice in His actions in this role.

²⁰“... In the latter days you will understand it perfectly.” (Jer. 23:20)

II. LAMB OF GOD: THE FIERCE AND TENDER JUDGE

- A. Central to understanding Jesus as Judge is the revelation of Christ and Him crucified (the Lamb). It is significant that in the center of the judgments of the book of revelation is Jesus as the Lamb of God.
- B. The centrality of the Lamb shows us that the Judge is the God who is filled with deep, holy and tender love for the world. The God of Israel became flesh to give His life and shed His blood for sinners.

¹⁶For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. ¹⁷For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. (Jn. 3:16-17)

- C. The cross didn't do away with the need for judgment. The cross is precisely what unlocks the end-time judgments and qualifies Jesus as the administrator of His Father's divine discipline in the earth to drive the nations to the cross and to learn righteousness. Judgment creates an environment for the gospel.

⁹And they sang a new song, saying: “You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals; for You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood ... (Rev. 5:9)

“... For when Your judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness [the message of the cross – gospel].” (Isa. 26:9)

“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” (Rom. 5:8)

- D. Both Old and New Testament messengers describe the global judgments in the same terms that judgment against Israel was described in passages like Deuteronomy 28 and Leviticus 26. At the end of age, the nations, along with Israel, will undergo the judgments that God spoke to her.
- E. The Lord makes it clear in Deuteronomy 28 and Leviticus 26 that judgment is largely in context to lack of response to the covenant He made with Israel. Thus the prophets come with a severe message of the accountability. However, the nations will also undergo similar judgments at the end of the age.
- F. Matthew 24:14 is a passage filled with hope and good news, even though it is one of the most terrifying passages in the Bible. The gospel witness of the cross has brightly shone; however, there has been and will be significant global unresponsiveness. This lack of responsiveness results in the release of His judgment.

- G. The book of Revelation laments the lack of repentance in response to the judgment of the Lamb. (Rev 9:20, 16:9, 11). This indicates the motivation for God’s judgments, which is to drive the nations to the cross in order to receive salvation by grace through faith in the work of Jesus Christ on the cross.

²¹“And they did not repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts.” (Rev. 9:21)

³⁰Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, ³¹because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man [Jesus] whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead. (Acts 17:30-31)

III. THE SCOPE OF GOD’S JUDGMENT

¹⁶⁰“The entirety of Your word is truth, and every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever.” (Ps. 119:160)

- A. It is essential that we partake of the wholeness of who God is. We want to embrace the whole truth about Him.
- B. When thinking about the subject of judgment, our minds tend to be limited to apocalyptic images of destruction. Jesus as Judge is not limited to the social and comic shakings. We want to pursue the broader implications of Jesus as Judge seen in scripture. He is revealed as Judge in various ways.
1. Jesus’ judgment against Satan at the cross (Jn. 12:31; 16:11; Col. 2:15)
 2. The preaching of the gospel is judgment against Satan (Lk. 10:18)
 3. Jesus judged the power of evil on the cross (Col. 2:14)
 4. Jesus judging sin through conviction (Jn. 16:9)
 5. Jesus’ righteous judgments are seen in persecution (2 Thess. 1:5)
 6. Jesus is seen as Judge in vindicating His church (2 Thess. 1:6-9; Rev 6:9-11)
 7. Jesus is seen as Judge at the Lake of Fire (Mt. 13:42, 18:8; 25:41, 46; Mk. 9:47-48; 2 Thess. 1:8-9; Rev. 14:10-11; 19:20; 20:10, 13-15; 21:8)

IV. FORERUNNER MESSENGERS PROCLAIMING THE ENTIRETY OF THE LAMB THE

³⁶ *And looking at Jesus as He walked, he said, “Behold the Lamb (Servant) of God!” Jn. 1:36*

A. John the Baptist, the first forerunner, called for the “beholding of the Lamb” (*Christ crucified*). Jesus unveiled His meekness and humility to His disciples and invited them to come learn of Him.

B. Paul declares this to be the primary focus of his life is to know Jesus as the Lamb.

²*For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified [the Lamb that was slain]. (1 Cor.2:2)*

C. The Holy Spirit is calling the Church in this hour to become deeply acquainted with “Christ crucified.” This will equip the end-time Church to become deeply and eternally yoked with the Lamb and His judgments (Rev. 5:6-19; 6:1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 12, 16; 7:10; 13:8; 14:1, 10-11; 17:14; 19:7; 21:9).

D. In just judgment, the Judge Christ Jesus removes everything that distorts the revelation of love and hinders the process of love. Jesus judges because He is love. Jesus does not suspend His love to reveal His face of the Judge.

“Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb!” (Rev. 6:16)