

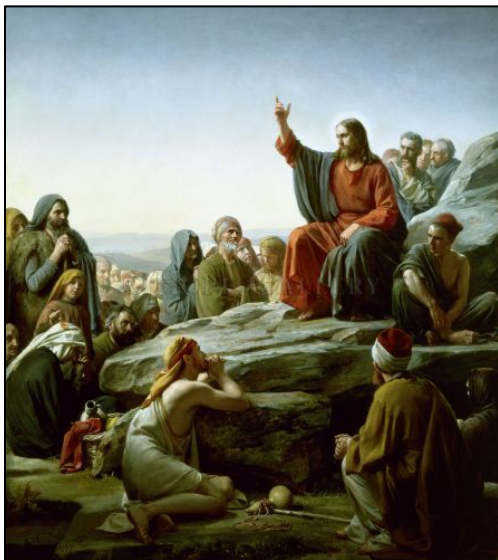


CHRISTIAN
UNION

Seven Keys to Kingdom Advancement

KEY TWO: THEOLOGICAL FOUNDATIONS: JUDGMENT

May God's Kingdom Come



Matthew 6:9-10 - Pray then like this: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”

Sermon on the Mount, 1877
Carl H. Bloch



2. Theological Foundations: 5. Judgment

We live in the church age, and it's our role to hasten the day of Christ's return by deepening and expanding the kingdom of God.

Understanding the judgment of God brings balance to our understanding of Him and helps us seek Him wholeheartedly as He requires, bringing His presence and advancing the kingdom of light.



Seven Keys to Kingdom Advancement

1. Aspiration and Desperation
2. **Theological Foundations**
3. Seeking God Wholeheartedly
4. Spiritual Practices
5. Supernatural Aspects
6. Impacting the Three Spheres
7. Leadership



Theological Deceptions Cause Great Damage

It's not just some time in the future that false doctrines will deceive millions of Christians. That time is already upon us. Current doctrines, arguments, and ways of thinking in the church are deceptions of the enemy, serving to blunt motivations and efforts to seek God wholeheartedly.

Although God is more loving than wrathful, He's still a God both of love, as well as judgment.

The Choice (in a vision)



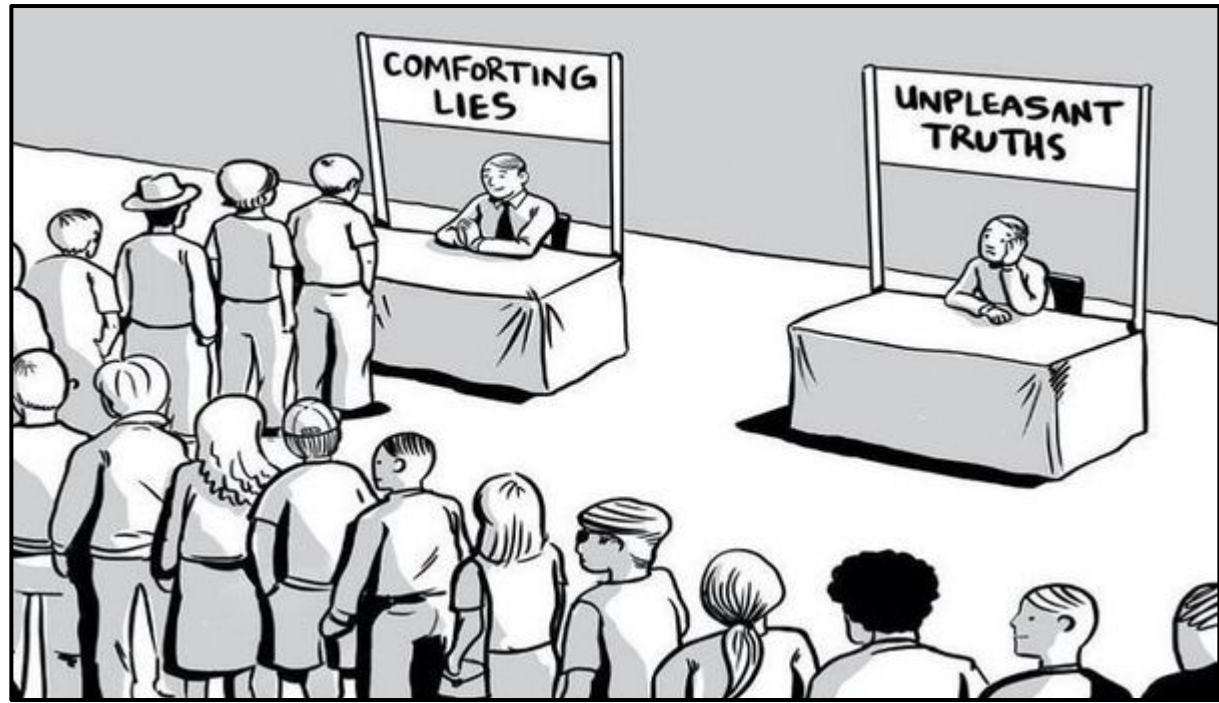


Must Love the Truth To Survive in the Last Days

2 Thessalonians 2:9-12 - The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders, ¹⁰ and with all **wicked deception** for those who are perishing, because they refused to **love the truth** and so be saved. ¹¹ Therefore God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false, ¹² in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had **pleasure in unrighteousness**.



2. Theological Foundations: 5. Judgment





Lovers of Pleasure in the Last Days

2 Timothy 3:1-5 - But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. ² For people will be **lovers of self, lovers of money**, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, ³ heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, ⁴ treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, **lovers of pleasure** rather than lovers of God, ⁵ having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people.

Knowing What Our Heavenly Father is Like



Do we know Father God or Father Christmas?

May Christians in the West have a profound misunderstanding of what God is like. We must be zealous for the truth about God.



God's Character: Love and Judgment

Exodus 34:4-7 - So Moses cut two tablets of stone like the first. And he rose early in the morning and went up on Mount Sinai, as the LORD had commanded him, and took in his hand two tablets of stone. ⁵The LORD descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD. ⁶The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, **“The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, ⁷keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children’s children, to the third and the fourth generation.”**



2. Theological Foundations: 5. Judgment

*God is more loving than He is wrathful, but indeed He is wrathful.
Understanding His true character is essential for one's walk with
God.*



The Godly Need For Judgment

- **Family** - If children believed their parents were there to bless them with food, comfort, encouragement, medical care and more, but that parents were never to introduce anything negative into their lives when they were disobedient, what kind of family would it be?
- **Society** - If citizens believed government was only to provide public services, education, and protection, but that there were no negative consequences for any types of bad behaviors, what kind of society would there be?
- **Church** - If Christians believed that heaven is secure and that God brings no judgment or punishment into their lives when they disobey, what would the church be like?



Theological Foundations: Judgment

1. God's Negative Emotions of Anger and Wrath
2. God's Negative Actions: Judgment, Discipline, and Punishment
3. Blessings and Curses
4. Sins and Judgments of the Corinthians
5. Sins and Judgments of Revelation Churches
6. More New Testament Judgment
7. Corporate Judgment
8. Additional Doctrines on Judgment



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2. Theological Foundations: 5. Judgment

Throughout the Bible, God's negative emotions of anger, fury, indignation, wrath and displeasure are everywhere on display. In what ways should this part of God's nature affect the modern Christian's life?



Hundreds of Passages of God's Negative Emotions

Psalm 2:4, 5 - He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision.

⁵ Then he will speak to them in his **wrath, and terrify them in his fury,**

Isaiah 66:15 - For behold, the LORD will come in **fire**, and his chariots like the whirlwind, to render his **anger** in **fury**, and his rebuke with flames of **fire**.

Jeremiah 21:5 - I myself will fight against you with outstretched hand and strong arm, **in anger and in fury and in great wrath.**



Hundreds of Passages of God's Negative Emotions

Ezekiel 16:42 - So will I satisfy my **wrath** on you, and my jealousy shall depart from you. I will be calm and will no more be **angry**.

Mark 3:5 - And he looked around at them with **anger**, grieved at their hardness of heart, and said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He stretched it out, and his hand was restored.



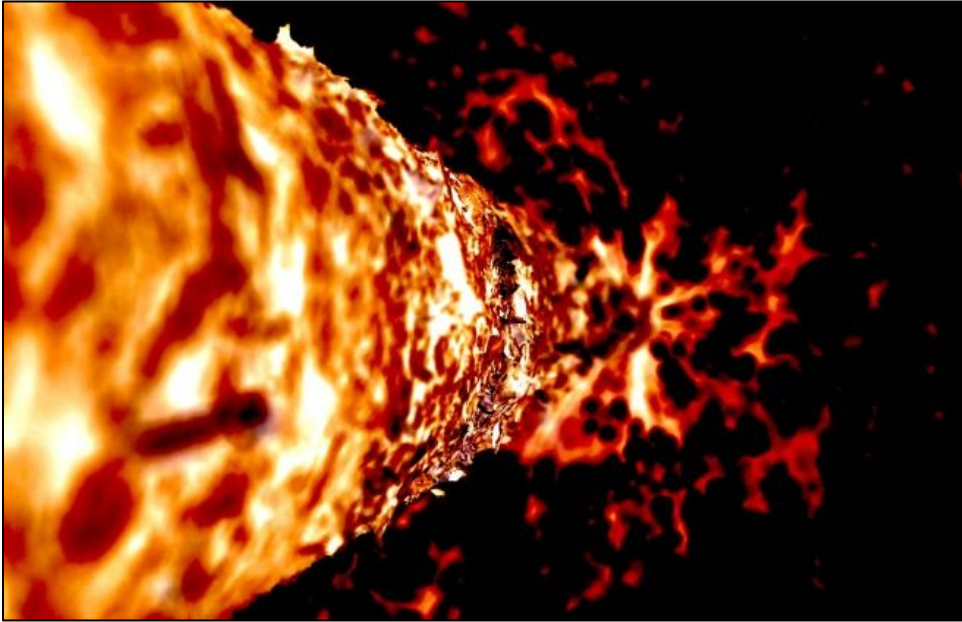
Hundreds of Passages of God's Negative Emotions

Mark 10:13, 14 - And they were bringing children to him that he might touch them, and the disciples rebuked them. ¹⁴ But when Jesus saw it, **he was indignant** and said to them, “Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God.”

Colossians 3:6 - On account of these the **wrath** of God is coming.

1 Thessalonians 2:16 - by hindering us from speaking to the Gentiles that they might be saved— so as always to fill up the measure of their sins. But **wrath** has come upon them at last!

Hundreds of Passages of God's Negative Emotions



Hebrews 12:29 - for our God is
a **consuming fire**.

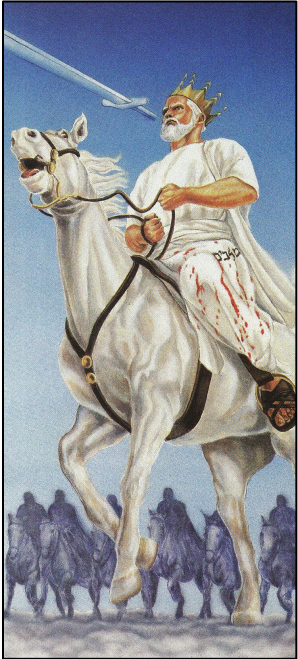


Hundreds of Passages of God's Negative Emotions

Revelation 6:16, 17 - calling to the mountains and rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who is seated on the throne, and from the **wrath** of the Lamb, for the great day of their **wrath** has come, and who can stand?”

Revelation 14:10 - he also will drink the wine of God's **wrath**, poured full strength into the cup of his **anger**, and he will be tormented with **fire** and sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb.

Hundreds of Passages of God's Negative Emotions



Revelation 19:15 - From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the **fury** of the **wrath** of God the Almighty.



Anger Preceding Revival in Five Key Passages

- Psalm 80: 4-7 and 18, 19 (NIV)
- Psalm 85:1-7
- Isaiah 57: 14-17
- Hosea 6:1-3
- Habakkuk 3:2



Anger Preceding Revival in Psalm 80:4-7, 18, 19

Psalm 80:4-7 - How long, Lord God Almighty, will **your anger** smolder against the prayers of your people? You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have made them drink tears by the bowlful. You have made us an object of derision to our neighbors, and our enemies mock us. Restore us, God Almighty; make your face shine on us, that we may be saved...

Psalm 80:18, 19: Then we will not turn away from you; **revive us**, and we will call on your name. Restore us, Lord God Almighty; make your face shine on us, that we may be saved.



Anger Preceding Revival in Psalm 85

Psalm 85:1-7 - LORD, you were favorable to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob. ² You forgave the iniquity of your people; you covered all their sin. Selah ³ You withdrew all your **wrath**; you turned from your **hot anger**. ⁴ Restore us again, O God of our salvation, and put away your **indignation** toward us! ⁵ Will you be **angry** with us forever? Will you prolong your **anger** to all generations? ⁶ Will you not **revive** us again, that your people may rejoice in you? ⁷ Show us your steadfast love, O LORD, and grant us your salvation.



Anger Preceding Revival in Isaiah 57

Isaiah 57:14-17 - “Build up, build up, prepare the way, remove every obstruction from my people’s way.” ¹⁵ For thus says the One who is high and lifted up, who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: “I dwell in the high and holy place, and also with him who is of a contrite and lowly spirit, to **revive** the spirit of the lowly, and to **revive** the heart of the contrite. ¹⁶ For I will not **contend** forever, nor will I always be **angry**; for the spirit would grow faint before me, and the breath of life that I made. ¹⁷ Because of the iniquity of his unjust gain I was **angry**, I struck him; I hid my face and was **angry**, but he went on backsliding in the way of his own heart.”



Anger Preceding Revival in Hosea

Hosea 6:1-3 - “Come, let us return to the LORD; for he has torn us, that he may heal us; **he has struck us down**, and he will bind us up.² After two days he will **revive** us; on the third day he will raise us up, that we may live before him.³ Let us know; let us press on to know the LORD; his going out is sure as the dawn; he will come to us as the showers, as the spring rains that water the earth.”



Anger Preceding Revival in Habakkuk

Habakkuk 3:2 - O LORD, I have heard the report of you, and your work, O LORD, do I fear. In the midst of the years **revive** it; in the midst of the years make it known; in **wrath** remember mercy.



2. Theological Foundations: 5. Judgment

*If we are seeking revival, then by definition
we are in a place where God is angry with us.*

Is God's anger just an Old Testament phenomenon?

Modern Marcionites



Marcion of Sinope taught heretical doctrines leading to his expulsion from the church in 144 A.D.

The Apostle John and Marcion of Sinope, c. 1100
Unknown Author

Modern Marcionites



- *He taught that the Old Testament God is about justice and the New Testament God is about goodness.*
- *He and his followers only accepted as Scripture the Pauline Epistles and parts of the Gospel of Luke.*

The Apostle John and Marcion of Sinope, c. 1100
Unknown Author



The Object of Jesus' Anger in the New Testament

As recorded in the New Testament, is Jesus' anger mostly targeted toward religious leaders?

No, this is a false understanding. His anger is targeted in many directions.



Jesus' Anger in the Gospels

- **The Hypocritical Religious Leaders** - Jesus angry because Pharisees did not want Him to heal on the Sabbath (Mark 3:1-6).
- **The Greedy** - Jesus angry at merchants in the temple. He turned over tables (Matthew 21:12-13; Mark 11:15-18; John 2:13-22).
- **The Unfruitful** - Jesus cursed the fig tree because it did not bear fruit (Matthew 21:18-22; Mark 11:12-25).



Jesus' Anger in the Gospels

- **The Abusers of Children** - Better to have millstone around one's neck (causing to sin, teaching unbelief, abortion, divorce, fatherlessness, neglect, abuse) (Matthew 18:1-6; Mark 9:42; Luke 17:2).
- **Disciples' Lack of Faith** - They couldn't cast out demon and heal a boy (Luke 9:37-43; Matthew 17:14-21;) and Jesus was angered when they wanted to call fire down from heaven (Luke 9:51-56), and rebuked them for not believing those who saw Him after he had risen (Mark 16:14).



Jesus' Anger in the Gospels

- **Whole Cities** - Jesus angrily denounced Chorazin, Bethsaida, and Capernaum because they did not repent after seeing miracles (Matthew 11:20-24).
- **Churches** - Five of the seven churches drew Jesus' anger and threat of judgment (Revelation chapters two and three: Ephesus, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, and Laodicea (not Smyrna or Philadelphia)).
- **Final Judgment** - (Matthew 25:31-46).



Merriam-Webster Definition of *Wrath*

1 : strong vengeful anger or indignation

2 : retributory punishment for an offense or a crime : divine chastisement



God's Temporal and Final Wrath

God may get angry with Christians in the New Covenant, but we know that His wrath has been satisfied on the cross and does not apply to Christians.

True or False?



God's Final Wrath

God's wrath is spoken of in the New Testament, often referring to His Final Wrath which does not apply to Christians because of the sacrifice of Jesus.

- **Romans 5:9** - Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the **wrath** of God.
- **Ephesians 2:3** - among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of **wrath**, like the rest of mankind.
- **1 Thessalonians 1:10** - and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the **wrath** to come.



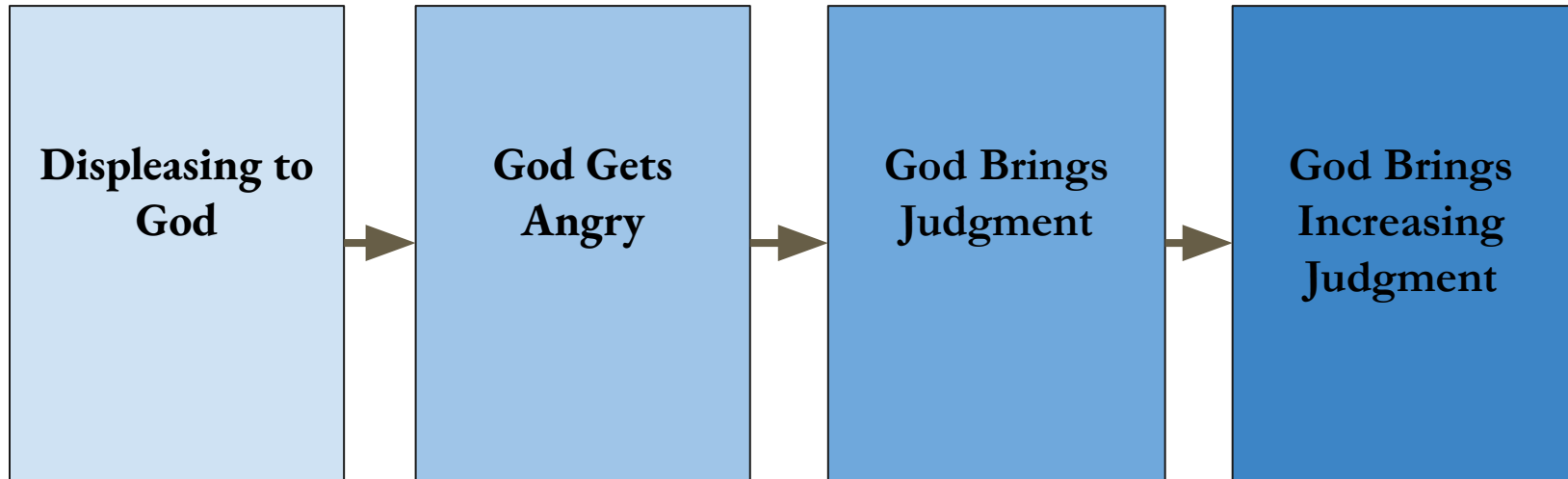
God's Temporal Wrath

That Christians are spared God's Final Wrath does not mean wrath is not sometimes poured out on Christians in this life.

- **Hebrews 4:3** - For we who have believed enter that rest, as he has said, "As I swore in my **wrath**, 'They shall not enter my rest,'" although his works were finished from the foundation of the world.
- **Romans 13:4, 5** - for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's **wrath** on the wrongdoer. Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's **wrath** but also for the sake of conscience.



God is Slow to Anger and Judgment





Is God Angry With America?

- How would Christians know?
- Is He angry with the church of America?
- Is He angry with Christian leadership?
- Is He angry with you personally?
- What is to be done about it?



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God's Plan in Judgment



“God’s judgment is rooted in His love for mankind.”

Charles H. Mason (1866-1961)
Founder and First Senior Bishop of the Church of God in Christ



Definitions

- **Discipline** - a negative or difficult experience whether because of wrongful conduct, or because like Job, God has other purposes. In the former case, repentance is needed (Jn 5:1-14). In the latter case, it could be to show the works of God (John 9:1-3) prevent pride (2 Cor. 12:1-10), for general maturity development (Hebrews 12:1-17), or more. Endurance and perspective are needed.
- **Punishment** - negative or difficult experience brought by God because of bad behavior. **Curses** from God are a type of punishment.
- **Judgment** - assessment of whether good or bad. It is so often associated with negative assessment and negative consequences that it sometimes means punishment.



The Law is to be Valued and Obeyed

Matthew 5:17-20 - “**Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.** ¹⁸ **For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished.** ¹⁹ **Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.** ²⁰ **For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.**”



Punishment From God

Final Punishment - Christians do not endure the final punishment or wrath of God.

Temporal Punishment - Does God bring negative consequences to Christians for bad behavior? If so, then this meets the definition of punishment. God **punishes** Christians while on earth in various ways.

Temporal Punishment vs. Final Punishment



2 **Thessalonians 1:9** - They will suffer the **punishment of eternal destruction**, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might,

The Last Judgment, 1541
Michelangelo



Fear and God's Final Punishment

1 John 4:15-19 - Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. ¹⁶ So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. ¹⁷ By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because ^cas he is so also are we in this world. ¹⁸ **There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love.** ¹⁹ We love because he first loved us.

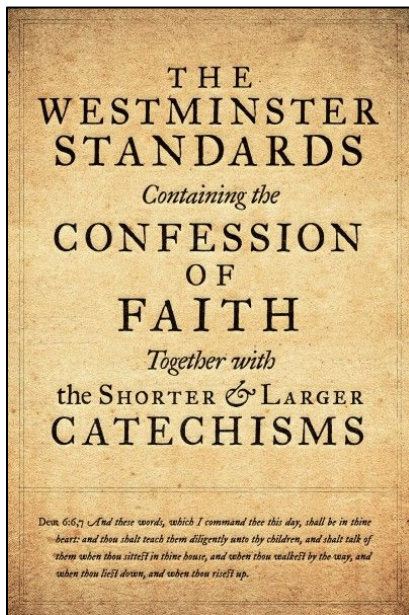


Temporal Punishments

God punishes Christians temporally as examples in this teaching lesson will show.

True or False: “God is for you and not against you.”

Christians Can Receive Temporal Judgments



Westminster Confession of Faith of 1647 (Chp. XVII, Section 3): Nevertheless, they may, through the temptations of Satan and of the world, the prevalency of corruption remaining in them, and the neglect of the means of their preservation, fall into grievous sins; and, for a time, continue therein: whereby they incur God's displeasure, and grieve His Holy Spirit, come to be deprived of some measure of their graces and comforts, have their hearts hardened, and their consciences wounded; hurt and scandalize others, and **bring temporal judgments upon themselves.**

Temporal Punishments



The Puritans saw nearly every setback as a potential judgment of God. Today, we see setbacks almost never as a potential judgment of God.

A Pilgrims Grace, 1897
Henry Mosler



False Theologies Blind Western Christians

“There’s nothing a Christian can do to make God more **pleased** than He is already.”

“God doesn’t get **angry** with Christians anymore because His **wrath** was poured out on the cross. Thank God for the ‘finished work of the cross.’”

“God doesn’t **judge** people in the church age, that’s just for the end of the end times.”



Does God Judge in the New Covenant?

“They [prophetic people] herald these and actually declare these kind of events like a coronavirus as God’s judgment or that God wanted this. And I want to say first of all that in the New Testament, we don’t need Jesus to die on the cross again. **He already took all judgments. He already took all cursing on the cross. The only cursing and judgment that’s left is end-time eschatalogical prophecies in the New Testament. There’s no other judgment or cursing that needs to happen.** That’s the only precedence in the New Testament for judgments to happen. So coronavirus is not a judgment from God. It’s actually something God doesn’t want. It’s not His story for humanity right now.” - [Coronavirus Ep 125 - Your Prophetic Journey with Shawn Bolz YouTube Video \(12:24\)](#) - (see around 0:40 mark)



The Temptation of Vain Hopes

Jeremiah 23:16-17 - Thus says the LORD of hosts: “Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you, filling you with **vain hopes**. They speak visions of their own minds, not from the mouth of the LORD. ¹⁷ They say continually to those who despise the word of the LORD, It shall be well with you’; and **to everyone who stubbornly follows his own heart, they say, ‘No disaster shall come upon you.’**”



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Blessings and Curses

Deuteronomy 11:26-28: “See, I am setting before you today a **blessing and a curse**: the **blessing**, if you obey the commandments of the LORD your God, which I command you today, and the **curse**, if you do not obey the commandments of the LORD your God, but turn aside from the way that I am commanding you today, to go after other gods that you have not known.”

Blessing - An invisible spiritual force that brings favor and benefits to a person's life.

Curse - An invisible spiritual force that brings frustration and setbacks to a person's life.



Majority of Curses on Your Life Come From Where?

1. God
2. Satan
3. Yourself
4. Witches
5. Fast Food



God Indeed Curses People

It is not the case that while God allows curses and judgments, He doesn't enact them directly.

Genesis 12:1-3 - Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. ² And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and **him who dishonors you I will curse**, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”



God Indeed Curses People

Deuteronomy 21:23 - his body shall not remain all night on the tree, but you shall bury him the same day, **for a hanged man is cursed by God**. You shall not defile your land that the LORD your God is giving you for an inheritance.

Deuteronomy 28:20 - **“The LORD will send on you curses**, confusion, and frustration in all that you undertake to do, until you are destroyed and perish quickly on account of the evil of your deeds, because you have forsaken me.”

Breaking Generational Curses



An excellent teaching on “[Breaking Generational Curses](#)” by Derek Prince on YouTube (1:00:34).

Derek Prince (1915-2003)
Cambridge-Educated Bible Teacher and Pastor



Types of Blessings and Curses in Deuteronomy 28

Seven Types of Blessings

- Exaltation
- Reproductiveness
- Health
- Prosperity
- Victory
- Authority (Head)
- Above (Strength)

Seven Types of Curses

- Humiliation
- Barrenness
- Sickness and Death
- Poverty or Failure
- Defeat
- Helplessness (Tail)
- Beneath (Weakness)

Blessings and curses persist in the New Covenant, but also persecution (Mark 10:28-31).



Curses of Deuteronomy 28:15-68

“But if you will not obey the voice of the LORD your God or be careful to do all his commandments and his statutes that I command you today, then all these **curses** shall come upon you and overtake you. ¹⁶ Cursed shall you be **in the city**, and cursed shall you be **in the field**. ¹⁷ Cursed shall be **your basket** and your **kneading bowl**. ¹⁸ Cursed shall be the **fruit of your womb** and the **fruit of your ground**, the increase of your **herds** and the young of your **flock**. ¹⁹ Cursed shall you be when you **come in**, and cursed shall you be when you **go out**.



Curses of Deuteronomy 28:15-68 (cont'd)

²⁰ “The LORD will send on you curses, **confusion**, and **frustration** in all that you undertake to do, until you are **destroyed** and **perish quickly** on account of the evil of your deeds, because you have forsaken me. ²¹ The LORD will make the **pestilence** stick to you until he has consumed you off the land that you are entering to take possession of it. ²² The LORD will **strike you with wasting disease** and with **fever, inflammation and fiery heat, and with drought and with blight and with mildew**. They shall pursue you until you perish. ²³ And the heavens over your head **shall be bronze**, and the earth under you **shall be iron**. ²⁴ The LORD will make the rain of your land **powder**. From heaven **dust** shall come down on you until you are destroyed.



Curses of Deuteronomy 28:15-68 (cont'd)

²⁵ “The LORD will cause you to be **defeated** before your enemies. You shall go out one way against them and flee seven ways before them. And you shall **be a horror to all the kingdoms** of the earth. ²⁶ And your **dead body shall be food for all birds** of the air and for the beasts of the earth, and there shall be no one to frighten them away. ²⁷ The LORD will strike you with the **boils of Egypt**, and with **tumors and scabs and itch**, of which you **cannot be healed**. ²⁸ The LORD will strike you with **madness and blindness and confusion of mind**, ²⁹ and you shall grope at noonday, as the blind grope in darkness, and you **shall not prosper** in your ways. And you shall be only **oppressed and robbed continually**, and there shall be **no one to help you**.



Curses of Deuteronomy 28:15-68 (cont'd)

³⁰ You shall betroth a wife, but **another man shall ravish her**. You shall build a house, but you **shall not dwell in it**. You shall plant a vineyard, but you **shall not enjoy its fruit**. ³¹ Your ox shall be slaughtered before your eyes, but you **shall not eat any of it**. Your donkey shall be seized before your face, but **shall not be restored to you**. Your sheep shall be given to your enemies, but there shall be **no one to help you**. ³² Your **sons and your daughters shall be given to another** people, while your eyes look on and fail with **longing for them all day long, but you shall be helpless**. ³³ “A nation that you have not known shall eat up the fruit of your ground and of all your labors, and you shall be only **oppressed and crushed continually**,



Curses of Deuteronomy 28:15-68 (cont'd)

³⁴ so that you are **driven mad** by the sights that your eyes see. ³⁵ The LORD will strike you on the knees and on the legs with **grievous boils** of which you **cannot be healed**, from the sole of your foot to the crown of your head. ³⁶ “The LORD will bring you and your king whom you set over you to a nation that neither you nor your fathers have known. And there you shall serve other gods of wood and stone. ³⁷ And you shall **become a horror**, a proverb, and a byword among all the peoples where the LORD will lead you away. ³⁸ You shall carry much seed into the field and **shall gather in little**, for the locust shall consume it.



Curses of Deuteronomy 28:15-68 (cont'd)

³⁹ You shall plant vineyards and dress them, but you **shall neither drink of the wine nor gather the grapes**, for the worm shall eat them. ⁴⁰ You shall have olive trees throughout all your territory, but you shall not anoint yourself with the oil, for **your olives shall drop off**. ⁴¹ You shall father sons and daughters, but they shall not be yours, for they **shall go into captivity**. ⁴² The cricket shall possess all your trees and the fruit of your ground. ⁴³ The sojourner who is among you shall rise higher and higher above you, and you **shall come down lower and lower**. ⁴⁴ He shall lend to you, and you shall not lend to him. He shall be the head, and **you shall be the tail**.



Curses of Deuteronomy 28:15-68 (cont'd)

⁴⁵ “All these curses shall come upon you and pursue you and overtake you till you are **destroyed**, because you did not obey the voice of the LORD your God, to keep his commandments and his statutes that he commanded you. ⁴⁶ They shall be a sign and a wonder against you and your offspring forever. ⁴⁷ Because you did not serve the LORD your God with joyfulness and gladness of heart, because of the abundance of all things, ⁴⁸ therefore you shall serve your enemies whom the LORD will send against you, **in hunger and thirst, in nakedness, and lacking everything**. And he will put a **yoke of iron** on your neck until he has **destroyed you**.



Curses of Deuteronomy 28:15-68 (cont'd)

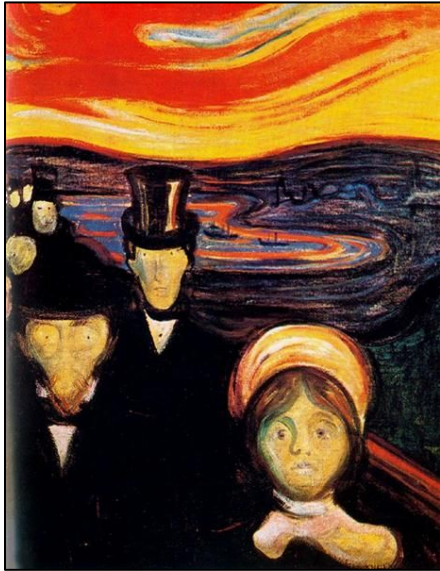
⁴⁹ The LORD will bring a **nation against you** from far away, from the end of the earth, swooping down like the eagle, a nation whose language you do not understand, ⁵⁰ a hard-faced nation who shall not respect the old or show mercy to the young. ⁵¹ It shall eat the offspring of your cattle and the fruit of your ground, until **you are destroyed**; it also shall not leave you grain, wine, or oil, the increase of your herds or the young of your flock, until they have **caused you to perish**.



Curses of Deuteronomy 28:15-68 (cont'd)

⁵² “They shall **besiege you** in all your towns, until your high and fortified walls, in which you trusted, come down throughout all your land. And they shall **besiege you** in all your towns throughout all your land, which the LORD your God has given you. ⁵³ And you shall **eat the fruit of your womb**, the flesh of your sons and daughters, whom the LORD your God has given you, in the siege and in the distress with which your enemies shall distress you. ⁵⁴ The man who is the most tender and refined among you will begrudge food to his brother, to the wife he embraces, and to the last of the children whom he has left,

Curses of Deuteronomy 28:15-68 (cont'd)



⁵⁵ so that he will not give to any of them any of the flesh of his children whom he is eating, because he has nothing else left, in the siege **and in the distress with which your enemy shall distress you in all your towns.** ⁵⁶ The most tender and refined woman among you, who would not venture to set the sole of her foot on the ground because she is so delicate and tender, will begrudge to the husband she embraces, to her son and to her daughter,

Anxiety, 1894
Edvard Munch



Curses of Deuteronomy 28:15-68 (cont'd)

⁵⁷ her afterbirth that comes out from between her feet and her children whom she bears, because lacking everything **she will eat them secretly**, in the siege and in the distress with which your enemy shall distress you in your towns. ⁵⁸ “If you are not careful to do all the words of this law that are written in this book, that you may fear this glorious and awesome name, the LORD your God, ⁵⁹ then the LORD will bring on you and your offspring extraordinary **afflictions, afflictions severe and lasting, and sicknesses grievous and lasting**. ⁶⁰ And he will bring upon you again all the **diseases** of Egypt, of which you were afraid, and they shall cling to you.



Curses of Deuteronomy 28:15-68 (cont'd)

⁶¹ Every **sickness** also and every **affliction** that is not recorded in the book of this law, the LORD will bring upon you, until you are **destroyed**. ⁶² Whereas you were as numerous as the stars of heaven, you shall be left few in number, because you did not obey the voice of the LORD your God. ⁶³ And as the LORD took delight in doing you good and multiplying you, so the LORD will take delight in **bringing ruin** upon you and destroying you. And you shall be plucked off the land that you are entering to take possession of it.



Curses of Deuteronomy 28:15-68 (cont'd)

⁶⁴“And the LORD will **scatter you** among all peoples, from one end of the earth to the other, and there you shall serve other gods of wood and stone, which neither you nor your fathers have known. ⁶⁵ And among these nations you shall **find no respite**, and there shall be **no resting** place for the sole of your foot, but the LORD will give you there a **trembling heart** and **failing eyes and a languishing soul**.



Curses of Deuteronomy 28:15-68 (cont'd)

⁶⁶Your life shall hang in doubt before you. Night and day you shall be in dread and have no assurance of your life. ⁶⁷In the morning you shall say, 'If only it were evening!' and at evening you shall say, 'If only it were morning!' **because of the dread** that your heart shall feel, and the sights that your eyes shall see. ⁶⁸And the LORD will bring you back in ships to Egypt, a journey that I promised that you should never make again; and there you shall offer yourselves for sale to your enemies as male and female slaves, but **there will be no buyer.**"



Operative Curses in the United States

- In your view, are Deuteronomy 28 curses operative today for Christians or non-Christians or both or neither?
- In your view, which of the curses in Deuteronomy 28 currently afflict America in significant ways (if any)?
- In your view, are there any other judgments on America?



Theological Foundations: Judgment

1. God's Negative Emotions of Anger and Wrath
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8. Additional Doctrines on Judgment



Carnal Christianity?

1 Corinthians 3:1-4 - But I, brothers, could not address you as spiritual people, but as **people of the flesh** [**“carnal”**], as infants in Christ. ²I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it. And even now you are not yet ready, ³for you are still **of the flesh**. For while there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not **of the flesh** and behaving only in a human way? ⁴For when one says, “I follow Paul,” and another, “I follow Apollos,” are you not being merely human?

Is carnal Christianity real?



Four Sins of 1 Corinthians 10:6-11

⁶ Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did.
⁷ **Do not be idolaters** as some of them were; as it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play.” ⁸ We must **not indulge in sexual immorality** as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. ⁹ We must **not put Christ to the test**, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, ¹⁰ **nor grumble**, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. ¹¹ Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come.

Sin 1 - Worshipping Idols



1 Corinthians 10:7 - Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play.” -
 (Reference: Exodus 32:1-35)

The Adoration of the Golden Calf, 1634
 Nicolas Poussin



Sin 2 - Indulging in Sexual Immorality

1 Corinthians 10:8 - We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day.

Reference: Numbers 25:1-18

Sin 3 - Putting Christ to the Test



1 Corinthians 10:9 - We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents

Reference: Numbers 21:4-9; Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 78:18

Moses and the Serpent of Brass, c. 1750
Giuseppe Angeli

Sin 4 - Grumbling Against God and Human Leadership



1 Corinthians 10:10 - Nor grumble as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer

Reference: Numbers chapters 11, 14 or other

The Gathering of Manna, 1742
Giovanni Battista Tiepolo

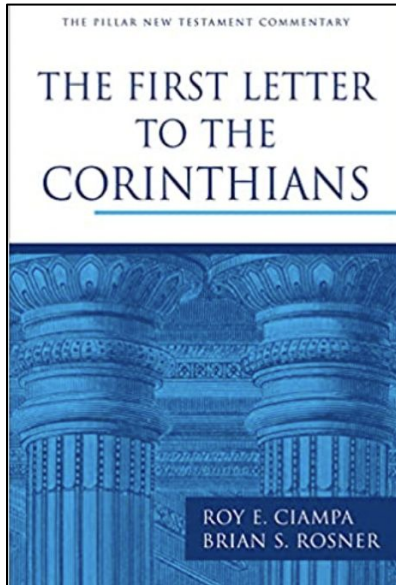


Four Sins Summary of 1 Corinthians 10:1-12

- Sin 1: 1 Corinthians 10:7 - Idolatry
- Sin 2: 1 Corinthians 10:8 - Sexual Immorality
- Sin 3: 1 Corinthians 10:9 - Putting Christ to the Test
- Sin 4: 1 Corinthians 10:10 - Grumbling Against God and Human Leadership



Commentary on 1 Corinthians 10:1-12



“Some of the Corinthians, at least, clearly thought of themselves as possessing an unassailable spiritual security based on their knowledge and spiritual experiences. They thought that they had nothing to fear...Paul’s warnings throughout this passage are intended to help them see that their behavior suggests that they are not nearly as secure as they suppose and that reconsideration of their present attitudes and practices is a matter of great urgency.”

R.E. Ciampa, Bible Commentator



Judgment of Christians in Corinth

1 Corinthians 11:27-32 - Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. ²⁸ **Let a person examine himself**, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. ²⁹ For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks **judgment** on himself. ³⁰ That is why many of you are **weak and ill, and some have died**. ³¹ But if we **judged** ourselves truly, we would not **be judged**. ³² But when **we are judged by the Lord**, we are **disciplined** so that we may not be condemned along with the world.



Sin and Temporal Punishment of Christians

Reference	Sin	Judgment
1 Cor 10:7	Idolatry	Sword, plague (death)
1 Cor 10:8	Sexual immorality	Plague (23,000 dead)
1 Cor 10:9	Putting Christ to test	Sickness and Death
1 Cor 10:10	Grumbling against leadership, and God	Sickness and Death
1 Cor 11:32-37	Wrong taking of Lord's supper	Sickness and Death



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Five of Seven Churches of Revelation Warned of Punishment



Jesus rebukes five of the seven churches addressed in Revelation chapters two and three, warning them of impending punishment if they do not repent.

Church of Ephesus



Amphitheater in Ephesus

Revelation 2:1-7 - “To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: ‘The words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand, who walks among the seven golden lampstands.’² “I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance, and how you cannot bear with those who are evil, but have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and found them to be false.



Church of Ephesus

Revelation 2:1-7 (cont'd) - ³ I know you are enduring patiently and bearing up for my name's sake, and you have not grown weary. ⁴ **“But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. ⁵ Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent. ⁶ Yet this you have: you hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. ⁷ He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.”**

Church of Pergamum



Pergamum Altar
Temple of Zeus, Throne of Satan

Revelation 2:12-17 - “And to the angel of the church in Pergamum write: ‘The words of him who has the sharp two-edged sword. ¹³ “I know where you dwell, where Satan’s throne is. Yet you hold fast my name, and you did not deny my faith even in the days of Antipas my faithful witness, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells.



Church of Pergamum

Revelation 2:12-17 (cont'd) - ¹⁴ But I have a few things against you: you have **some there who hold the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, so that they might eat food sacrificed to idols and practice sexual immorality.** ¹⁵ So also you have some who hold the teaching of the Nicolaitans. ¹⁶ Therefore repent. If not, I will come to you soon and war against them with the sword of my mouth. ¹⁷ “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, with a new name written on the stone that no one knows except the one who receives it.”



Church of Thyatira: Revelation 2:18-29

¹⁸“And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write: ‘The words of the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and whose feet are like burnished bronze. ¹⁹“I know your works, your love and faith and service and patient endurance, and that your latter works exceed the first. ²⁰ **But I have this against you, that you tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess and is teaching and seducing my servants to practice sexual immorality and to eat food sacrificed to idols. ²¹ I gave her time to repent, but she refuses to repent of her sexual immorality. ²² Behold, I will throw her onto a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her I will throw into great tribulation, unless they repent of her works,**



Church of Thyatira: Revelation 2:18-29 (cont'd)

²³“and I will strike her children dead. And all the churches will know that I am he who searches mind and heart, and I will give to each of you according to your works.” ²⁴“But to the rest of you in Thyatira, who do not hold this teaching, who have not learned what some call the deep things of Satan, to you I say, I do not lay on you any other burden. ²⁵ Only hold fast what you have until I come. ²⁶ The one who conquers and who keeps my works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations, ²⁷ and he will rule them with a rod of iron, as when earthen pots are broken in pieces, even as I myself have received authority from my Father. ²⁸ And I will give him the morning star. ²⁹ He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”



Church of Sardis: Revelation 3:1-6

“And to the angel of the church in Sardis write: ‘The words of him who has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars. I know your works. **You have the reputation of being alive, but you are dead.** ² **Wake up, and strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your works complete in the sight of my God.** ³ **Remember, then, what you received and heard. Keep it, and repent. If you will not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come against you.**”



Church of Sardis: Revelation 3:1-6 (cont'd)

⁴“Yet you have still a few names in Sardis, people who have not soiled their garments, and they will walk with me in white, for they are worthy. ⁵The one who conquers will be clothed thus in white garments, and I will never blot his name out of the book of life. I will confess his name before my Father and before his angels. ⁶He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

Church of Laodicea: Revelation 3:14-22



Ancient Ruins of Laodicea

“And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: ‘The words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God’s creation.’¹⁵ **“I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot!”¹⁶ So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth.**



Church of Laodicea: Revelation 3:14-22 (cont'd)

¹⁷ For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. ¹⁸ I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see. ¹⁹ Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent. ²⁰ Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me. ²¹ The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne. ²² He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”””



Sin and Temporal Punishment of Christians

Revelation Churches:

<u>Reference</u>	<u>Sin</u>	<u>Judgment</u>
Ephesus	Lost first love	Lampstand removal
Pergamum	Embrace false teaching	Sword of Jesus' mouth
Thyatira	Tolerating Jezebel	Sickness, tribulation and death
Sardis	Incomplete works	Jesus come like a thief
Laodicea	Lukewarm	Jesus reproves and disciplines

Judgments on Revelation Churches



Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 29; 3:6, 13, 22 - “**He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.**”

This phrase is mentioned by Jesus to all seven churches.
What does it mean?

Saint John at Patmos, 1619
Diego Velazquez



Judgments on Revelation Churches

Jeremiah 10:21 - **For the shepherds are stupid and do not inquire of the LORD;** therefore they have not prospered, and all their flock is scattered.

Notice the specific judgment (or punishment) already enacted or threatened for sins of five of the seven churches.

In your view, which of the seven Revelation churches is closest in nature to the current U.S. Church?



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Death as Punishment for Christians Ananias and Sapphira



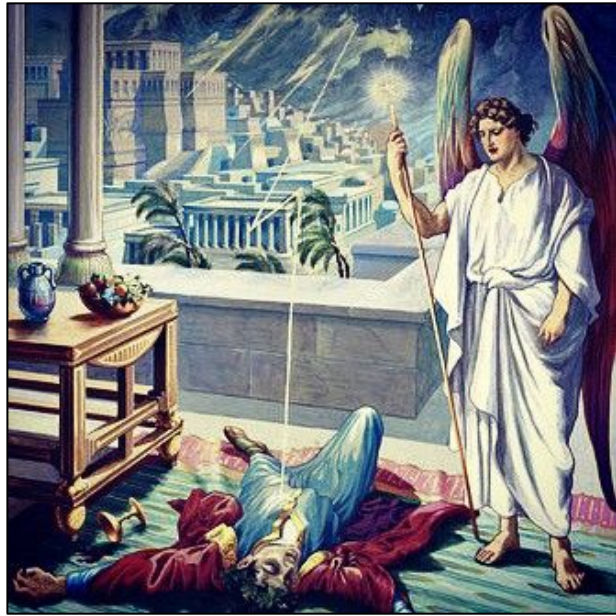
Acts 5:1-5 - But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property, ² and with his wife's knowledge he kept back for himself some of the proceeds and brought only a part of it and laid it at the apostles' feet. ³ But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land?"

Death as Punishment for Christians Ananias and Sapphira



Acts 5:1-5 (cont'd) - ⁴“While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not at your disposal? Why is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to man but to God.” ⁵ When Ananias heard these words, **he fell down and breathed his last.** And great fear came upon all who heard of it.

Death as Punishment for Non-Christian King Herod



Acts 12:21-24 - On an appointed day Herod put on his royal robes, took his seat upon the throne, and delivered an oration to them. ²² And the people were shouting, “The voice of a god, and not of a man!” ²³ **Immediately an angel of the Lord struck him down, because he did not give God the glory,** and he was eaten by worms and breathed his last. ²⁴ But the word of God increased and multiplied.



Sickness Connected to Sin

James 5:13-20 - Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise. ¹⁴ Is anyone among you **sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.** ¹⁵ **And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.** ¹⁶

Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.



Sickness Connected to Sin

James 5:13-20 (cont'd) - ¹⁷ Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. ¹⁸ Then he prayed again, and heaven gave rain, and the earth bore its fruit. ¹⁹ My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back, ²⁰ let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

Sin Disrupts Prayer



1 Peter 3:7 - Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, **so that your prayers may not be hindered.**

The Arnolfini Portrait, 1434
Jan van Eyck



Sin Disrupts Prayer

James 1:5-8 - If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. ⁶ But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind.

⁷ **For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord;**
⁸ he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

James 4:3, 4 - **You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly**, to spend it on your passions. ⁴ You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.



Old vs. New Covenant Expectations of Obedience

- **Obedience Standards** - For members of the covenant community, are standards of obedience higher in the New Covenant than the Old Covenant?
- **Severity of Punishment** - If a member of the covenant community sinned, could they expect greater judgment in the New Covenant or Old Covenant?

Old vs. New Covenant Expectations of Obedience



Hebrews 2:1-3 - Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. ² **For since the message declared by angels proved to be reliable, and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, ³ how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation?** It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard,



Old vs. New Covenant Expectations of Obedience

Hebrews 10:26-29 - For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, ²⁷ but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries. ²⁸ **Anyone who has set aside the law of Moses dies without mercy on the evidence of two or three witnesses. ²⁹ How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace?**



Old vs. New Covenant Expectations of Obedience

Hebrews 12:25-29 - See that you do not refuse him who is speaking. **For if they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, much less will we escape if we reject him who warns from heaven.** ²⁶ At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, “Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens.” ²⁷ This phrase, “Yet once more,” indicates the removal of things that are shaken—that is, things that have been made—in order that the things that cannot be shaken may remain. ²⁸ Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, ²⁹ **for our God is a consuming fire.**



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Corporate Implications

- **Corporate Destiny** - God cares about and has a destiny for: Individuals, Families, Cities, Nations
- **Corporate Blessings and Curses** - Judgment and blessings for cities and nations (Jesus - Capernaum vs. Sodom, plus examples in Jeremiah and Isaiah)
- **Corporate Moral Responsibility** - Christians have responsibilities for 1) themselves and 2) their families, so there is responsibility for 3) cities and 4) nations (and universities)



Corporate Implications

Job 12:23 - He makes **nations** great, and he destroys them; he enlarges **nations**, and leads them away.

Psalms 22:28 - For kingship belongs to the LORD, and he rules over the **nations**.

Psalms 33:12 - Blessed is the **nation** whose God is the LORD, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage!

Proverbs 14:34 - Righteousness exalts a **nation**, but sin is a reproach to any people.



Corporate Accountability Not Just Centered On Israel

Jeremiah 18:5-12 - Then the word of the LORD came to me: ⁶ “O house of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter has done? declares the LORD. Behold, like the clay in the potter’s hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel. ⁷ **If at any time I declare concerning a nation or a kingdom**, that I will pluck up and break down and destroy it, ⁸ and if that nation, concerning which I have spoken, turns from its evil, I will relent of the disaster that I intended to do to it.



Corporate Accountability Not Just Centered On Israel

Jeremiah 18:5-12 - (cont'd) - ⁹ And if at any time I declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will build and plant it, ¹⁰ and if it does evil in my sight, not listening to my voice, then I will relent of the good that I had intended to do to it.

¹¹Now, therefore, say to the men of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem: ‘Thus says the LORD, Behold, I am shaping disaster against you and devising a plan against you. Return, every one from his evil way, and amend your ways and your deeds.’ ¹²‘But they say, ‘That is in vain! We will follow our own plans, and will every one act according to the stubbornness of his evil heart.’

God Blesses and Judges Humankind Corporately



- As Nations (Ethnic Groups and Political Nations, but not Races)
- As Cities
- As Families
- As Church Distinguished from Non-Church



Corporate Judgment for All Times and All Nations

Pre-Israel:

- All humanity - the Flood
- All humanity - Babel
- Sodom
- Gomorrah
- Egypt



Corporate Judgment for All Times and All Nations

Old Covenant:

- *Book of Isaiah*: Babylon (chps. 13, 21, 46, 47), Moab (15,16), Damascus (17), Cush (18), Egypt (19), Jerusalem (22, 28), Tyre and Sidon (23), the whole earth (24), the nations (34), Cyrus (45)
- *Book of Jeremiah*: Egypt (46), Philistines (47), Moab (48), Ammon (49), Edom (49), Damascus (49), Kedar and Hazor (49), Babylon (50)



Corporate Judgment of Egypt

Isaiah 19:1-15 - An oracle concerning Egypt. Behold, the LORD is riding on a swift cloud and comes to Egypt; and the idols of Egypt will tremble at his presence, and the heart of the Egyptians will melt within them. ² And I will stir up Egyptians against Egyptians, and they will fight, each against another and each against his neighbor, city against city, kingdom against kingdom; ³ and the spirit of the Egyptians within them will be emptied out, and I will confound their counsel; and **they will inquire of the idols and the sorcerers, and the mediums and the necromancers;** ⁴ and I will give over the Egyptians into the hand of a hard master, and a fierce king will rule over them, declares the Lord GOD of hosts. ⁵ And the waters of the sea will be dried up, and the river will be dry and parched,



Corporate Judgment of Egypt

Isaiah 19:1-15 (cont'd) - ⁶ and its canals will become foul, and the branches of Egypt's Nile will diminish and dry up, reeds and rushes will rot away. ⁷ There will be bare places by the Nile, on the brink of the Nile, and all that is sown by the Nile will be parched, will be driven away, and will be no more. ⁸ The fishermen will mourn and lament, all who cast a hook in the Nile; and they will languish who spread nets on the water. ⁹ The workers in combed flax will be in despair, and the weavers of white cotton. ¹⁰ Those who are the pillars of the land will be crushed, and all who work for pay will be grieved. ¹¹ The princes of Zoan are utterly foolish; the wisest counselors of Pharaoh give stupid counsel. How can you say to Pharaoh, "I am a son of the wise, a son of ancient kings"?



Corporate Judgment of Egypt

Isaiah 19:1-15 (cont'd) - ¹² Where then are your wise men? Let them tell you that they might know what the LORD of hosts has purposed against Egypt. ¹³ The princes of Zoan have become fools, and the princes of Memphis are deluded; those who are the cornerstones of her tribes have made Egypt stagger. ¹⁴ The LORD has mingled within her a spirit of confusion, and they will make Egypt **stagger in all its deeds**, as a drunken man staggers in his vomit. ¹⁵ And there will be nothing for Egypt that head or tail, palm branch or reed, may do.

Corporate Judgment of Moab (1/3)



Jeremiah 48:4-10 - **Moab** is destroyed; her little ones have made a cry. ⁵ For at the ascent of Luhith they go up weeping; for at the descent of Horonaim they have heard the distressed cry of destruction. ⁶ Flee! Save yourselves! You will be like a juniper in the desert!

Corporate Judgment of Moab (2/3)



Jeremiah 48:1-10 (cont'd) - ⁷ **For, because you trusted in your works and your treasures, you also shall be taken;** and Chemosh shall go into exile with his priests and his officials. ⁸ The destroyer shall come upon every city, and no city shall escape; the valley shall perish, and the plain shall be destroyed, as the LORD has spoken.

Corporate Judgment of Moab (3/3)



Jeremiah 48:1-10 (cont'd) - ⁹ Give wings to **Moab**, for she would fly away; her cities shall become a desolation, with no inhabitant in them. ¹⁰ “Cursed is he who does the work of the LORD with slackness, and cursed is he who keeps back his sword from bloodshed.



Corporate Judgment for All Times and All Nations

New Covenant:

- **Nations in Heaven.** The book of Revelation confirms that nations exist in heaven and are a permanent part of creation. Interestingly, there is no marriage in heaven, but nations continue.
- **City Churches.** Seven churches in Revelation are blessed or judged corporately.



Corporate Identity

Acts 17:26 - And he made from one man every **nation** of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place

Revelation 22:1, 2 - Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the **nations**.



Corporate Identity

- **Does God have a special love for America? Is America Exceptional?**
Yes, and all nations are. God has a special love for America, for Canada, Mexico and all nations.
- **God Has Destiny and Purpose for All Nations.** What's His destiny and purpose for America? Uganda was to be a testimony for the nations.
- **America Is Possibly the Most Christian-Centric Nation Ever Founded.**
 - What are the implications of this?
 - What ways has America in the past played a role for God's worldwide Kingdom purposes? That's a hint of God's purposes for the nation.



Survivors of Corporate Judgment Not Necessarily Innocent

Luke 13:1-5 - There were some present at that very time who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. ² And he answered them, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way? ³ No, I tell you; **but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.** ⁴ Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? ⁵ No, I tell you; **but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.**”



Theological Foundations: Judgment

1. God's Negative Emotions of Anger and Wrath
2. God's Negative Actions: Judgment, Discipline, and Punishment
3. Blessings and Curses
4. Sins and Judgments of the Corinthians
5. Sins and Judgments of Revelation Churches
6. More New Testament Judgment
7. Corporate Judgment
- 8. Additional Doctrines on Judgment**

Negative Situations Not Always Because of Judgment



John 9:2-7 - ² And his disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³ Jesus answered, “**It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him.**” ⁴ “We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work.

Christ Healing the Blind, 1653
Bartholomeus Breenbergh

Negative Situations Not Always Because of Judgment



John 9:2-7 (cont'd) - ⁵ As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” ⁶ Having said these things, he spit on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man’s eyes with the mud ⁷ and said to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam.” So he went and washed and came back seeing.

Christ Healing the Blind, 1653
Bartholomeus Breenbergh



Purpose of Punishment is Restoration

Isaiah 26:9-10 - My soul yearns for you in the night; my spirit within me earnestly seeks you. For **when your judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world learn righteousness.** ¹⁰ **If favor is shown to the wicked, he does not learn righteousness;** in the land of uprightness he deals corruptly and does not see the majesty of the LORD.

Jeremiah 2:30 - **“In vain have I struck your children; they took no correction; your own sword devoured your prophets like a ravaging lion.”**



Purpose of Punishment is Restoration

Ezekiel 18:30-32 - “Therefore, I will judge each of you, O people of Israel, according to your actions says the Sovereign LORD. Repent and turn from your sins. Don’t let them destroy you! ³¹ Put all your rebellion behind you, and find yourselves a new heart and a new spirit. For why should you die O people of Israel? ³² **I don’t want you to die, says the Sovereign LORD, repent and live!”**

Amos 4:6 - “I brought hunger to every city, and famine to every town. **But still you would not return to me.”**



He Punishes and Disciplines Those He Loves

Hebrews 12:3-11 - Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted. ⁴In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. ⁵ And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons? “My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. ⁶ **For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives.**” ⁷ It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline?



He Punishes and Disciplines Those He Loves

Hebrews 12:3-11 (cont'd) - ⁸ If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. ⁹ Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? ¹⁰ For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, **but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness.** ¹¹ For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

He Punishes and Disciplines Those He Loves



Revelation 3:19 - Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent.



Why Do Bad Things Happen to Good People?

Much has been written on this classic question, and God gives us the answer.

- **Sins** - Sometimes bad things happen because of our sins (or sins of our ancestors, family members, fellow citizens or fellow Christians). We need to repent.
- **God's Good Purposes** - Sometimes bad things happen because of sin committed in the Garden of Eden, but God uses hard circumstances for His good purposes - Perhaps to show His glory, preserve us from sin, or for our own maturity and development. This is most fully explained in the Book of Job.



God Punishes Christians

- **Bad Behavior** - He punishes for bad behavior, so that people repent and return to Him wholeheartedly.
- **God Blesses** - Of course, He also frequently blesses, for His love is greater than His anger.
- **He Punishes Corporately** - He punishes individuals, but also cities, churches, and nations.



Theological Foundations: Judgment

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Leading for Revival

1. **Discontent** - Leaders are to be discontent with the status quo, motivated, desperate and hungry to make drastic changes.
2. **Mindset Change** - Leaders need a radical shift in their minds about who God is and the nature of the spiritual world.
3. **Behavioral Change** - Leaders are to make dramatic changes in their behavior, meeting the conditions of 2 Chronicles 7:14.
4. **New Direction** - Leaders are to disciple fellow Christians to seek God wholeheartedly, and not just as is comfortable or familiar.



Examining U.S. History

In your view,

- Was the Civil War a judgment of God?
- World Wars?
- 9/11 attack on the World Trade Center?
- Coronavirus?

In the days of the Puritans, virtually everything was seen as a judgment of God, whereas now, virtually nothing is. Who's right and what's the basis of your view?



2. Theological Foundations: 5. Judgment

Understanding the judgment of God brings balance to our understanding of Him and helps us seek Him wholeheartedly as He requires, bringing His presence and advancing the kingdom of light.



We live in the church age, and it's our role to hasten the day of Christ's return by deepening and expanding the kingdom of God.

As Christians seek God wholeheartedly, He gives grace, power and direction to be used as His instruments in our families, communities and nation.

**Help America Return to God by Becoming a Cornerstone Partner
with Christian Union: christianunion.org/cornerstone**

Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord,
the people whom he has chosen as his heritage!

Psalm 33:12



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