

The Doctrine of Judgments

Introduction

1. The Scriptures anticipate a coming judgment by God on all men. Such was the expectation of the Psalmist as he wrote Psa 96:13.

Psa 96:11 Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; let the sea resound, and all that is in it;

Psa 96:12 let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them. Then all the trees of the forest will sing for joy;

Psa 96:13 they will sing before the LORD, for he comes, he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples in his truth.

2. Paul confirms the same in Acts 17:31. All judgment has been committed to Christ Jesus. (Joh 5:22-24)

Acts 17:31 For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to all men by raising him from the dead."

Joh 5:22 For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son:

Joh 5:23 That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him.

Joh 5:24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

The Subject of Judgment

1. The subject of judgment is a large one and encompasses several specific actions on the part of the Lord Jesus Christ.

- There is a judgment of the cross

Joh 5:24 "I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life."

Rom 5:9 Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him!

Rom 8:1 Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus,
Rom 8:2 because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death.

Gal 3:13 Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree."

Gal 3:14 He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit.

2Co 5:21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Heb 9:26 Then Christ would have had to suffer many times since the creation of the world. But now he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself.

Heb 9:27 Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment,

Heb 9:28 so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.

Heb 10:10 And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

- The judgment of the believer in chastening

1Co 11:31 But if we judged ourselves, we would not come under judgment.

1Co 11:32 When we are judged by the Lord, we are being disciplined so that we will not be condemned with the world.

Heb 12:5 And you have forgotten that word of encouragement that addresses you as sons: "My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you,

Heb 12:6 because the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son."

Heb 12:7 Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father?

Heb 12:8 If you are not disciplined (and everyone undergoes discipline), then you are illegitimate children and not true sons.

Heb 12:9 Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of our spirits and live!

Heb 12:10 Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness.

Heb 12:11 No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

1Jo 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Psa 32:1 Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

Psa 32:2 Blessed is the man whose sin the LORD does not count against him and in whose spirit is no deceit.

Psa 32:3 When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.

Psa 32:4 For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer. Selah

Psa 32:5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD" -- and you forgave the guilt of my sin. Selah

Psa 32:6 Therefore let everyone who is godly pray to you while you may be found; surely when the mighty waters rise, they will not reach him.

Psa 32:7 You are my hiding place; you will protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of deliverance. Selah

Psa 32:8 I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you and watch over you.

Psa 32:9 Do not be like the horse or the mule, which have no understanding but must be controlled by bit and bridle or they will not come to you.

Psa 32:10 Many are the woes of the wicked, but the LORD'S unfailing love surrounds the man who trusts in him.

Psa 32:11 Rejoice in the LORD and be glad, you righteous; sing, all you who are upright in heart!

Psa 51:1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.

Psa 51:2 Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.

Psa 51:3 For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.

Psa 51:4 Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are proved right when you speak and justified when you judge.

Psa 51:5 Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

Psa 51:6 Surely you desire truth in the inner parts; you teach me wisdom in the inmost place.

Psa 51:7 Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

Psa 51:8 Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice.

Psa 51:9 Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity.

Psa 51:10 Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

Psa 51:11 Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me.

Psa 51:12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

Psa 51:13 Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will turn back to you.

- The judgment of the believer's production at the Judgment Seat of Christ

Rom 14:10 You, then, why do you judge your brother? Or why do you look down on your brother? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat.

1Co 4:5 Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait till the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of men's hearts. At that time each will receive his praise from God.

2Co 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.

1Co 3:11 For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.

1Co 3:12 If any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw,

1Co 3:13 his work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man's work.

1Co 3:14 If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward.

1Co 3:15 If it is burned up, he will suffer loss; he himself will be saved, but only as one escaping through the flames.

2. With the exception of the judgment at the Bema, which has been thoroughly taught in our Doctrine of the Bema, all of the above judgments are non-eschatological judgments.

3. It will behoove us to consider the four judgments which have eschatological implications under a single heading.

Eschatological Judgments

- The judgment of the nation Israel

Eze 20:37 I will take note of you as you pass under my rod, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant.

Eze 20:38 I will purge you of those who revolt and rebel against me. Although I will bring them out of the land where they are living, yet they will not enter the land of Israel. Then you will know that I am the LORD.

Zec 13:8 In the whole land," declares the LORD, "two-thirds will be struck down and perish; yet one-third will be left in it.

Zec 13:9 This third I will bring into the fire; I will refine them like silver and test them like gold. They will call on my name and I will answer them; I will say, 'They are my people,' and they will say, 'The LORD is our God.'"

Dan 12:1 "At that time Michael, the great prince who protects your people, will arise. There will be a time of distress such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then. But at that time your people -- everyone whose name is found written in the book -- will be delivered.

Dan 12:2 Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt.

Dan 12:3 Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever.

- The judgment of the nations

Mat 25:31 "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory.

Mat 25:32 All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.

Mat 25:33 He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

Mat 25:34 "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.

Mat 25:35 For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in,

Mat 25:36 I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

Mat 25:37 "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink?

Mat 25:38 When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you?

Mat 25:39 When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'

Mat 25:40 "The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'

Mat 25:41 "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.

Mat 25:42 For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink,

Mat 25:43 I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.'

Mat 25:44 "They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?'

Mat 25:45 "He will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.'

Mat 25:46 "Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."

Isa 34:1 Come near, you nations, and listen; pay attention, you peoples! Let the earth hear, and all that is in it, the world, and all that comes out of it!

Isa 34:2 The LORD is angry with all nations; his wrath is upon all their armies. He will totally destroy them, he will give them over to slaughter.

Joe 3:11 Come quickly, all you nations from every side, and assemble there. Bring down your warriors, O LORD!

Joe 3:12 "Let the nations be roused; let them advance into the Valley of Jehoshaphat, for there I will sit to judge all the nations on every side.

Joe 3:13 Swing the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Come, trample the grapes, for the winepress is full and the vats overflow -- so great is their wickedness!"

Joe 3:14 Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision.

Joe 3:15 The sun and moon will be darkened, and the stars no longer shine.

Joe 3:16 The LORD will roar from Zion and thunder from Jerusalem; the earth and the sky will tremble. But the LORD will be a refuge for his people, a stronghold for the people of Israel.

- The judgment on the fallen angels

Jude 1:6 And the angels who did not keep their positions of authority but abandoned their own home -- these he has kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for judgment on the great Day.

Rev 20:1 And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain.

Rev 20:2 He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years.

Rev 20:3 He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations anymore until the thousand years were ended. After that, he must be set free for a short time.

Rev 20:7 When the thousand years are over, Satan will be released from his prison

Rev 20:8 and will go out to deceive the nations in the four corners of the earth -- Gog and Magog -- to gather them for battle. In number they are like the sand on the seashore.

Rev 20:9 They marched across the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of God's people, the city he loves. But fire came down from heaven and devoured them.

Rev 20:10 And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

- The judgment of all unbelievers at the Great White Throne

Rev 20:11 Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them.

Rev 20:12 And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books.

Rev 20:13 The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done.

Rev 20:14 Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death.

Rev 20:15 If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

4. The eschatological judgments are to determine who will go into the Millennium with King Jesus and who will be placed in Sheol.

Conclusion

1. Clearly, this doctrine is an overview of the subject, therefore, it should be studied in conjunction with the *Doctrine of Sheol* and the *Doctrine of the Bema*.

