

The Terrifying Judgment of Jehovah

Text: Isaiah 5:21-30

Date: 7-12-20 Outdoor Service at Brink's home 10:30 pm

Verse 23: The issue though is that a wicked person, in fact all of us, have no right, no place, and no authority to pronounce someone as righteous.

But, there is One who can and should tell the wicked whether he or she is in right standing as compared to the law: God! Only God who is truth can declare what is truth. He is the only one with the right to determine when the demands of the law have been satisfied. He has clearly determined that when an evil person possesses righteousness through the blood of Jesus Christ, then, and only then can that man have a right standing before God.

God on the other hand pronounces justification based on facts, because the wicked person is justified on the account of Christ's perfect righteousness.

We have already seen that God is well justified in bringing judgment upon the nation of Judah. Isaiah's parable song of the vineyard proved that God had been gracious to His people, only to have them turn in their sinful ways against His holy character.

1. The chastening punishment by God on His people (Isa. 5:24-26).

Isaiah is saying: Here is what God did for the nation (5:1-2). Here now is how God has found the nation (5:3-7). Here are the specifics of how the nation is living (5:8-23). And now here is what God will deliver in the form of specific judgment (5:24-30).

Fire: Isaiah summarizes the nation's sins as being rotten from the root to the fruit. From the core to the blossom, the nation was corrupt and their deeds were but stubble and chaff. Psalm 1:4-7; 35:4-5; Isa 17:13; 29:5ff; Hos. 13:1-4.

Just as the fire will devour the straw and the flame destroys the dry leaves and grass, God will bring His terrifying judgment on the nation.

Quote: The "superficial prosperity and outward glitter is ready for the fire, just like so much stubble and chaff" (Buksbazen 133).

Why? The nation had deliberately committed the sins of abandoning the law and despising the word of the *Holy One of Israel*. They had rejected and abandoned the revealed word of Jehovah. They had directly been given the law by God Himself, and much was expected from them as a nation. The sins are made equal to opposing the Lord of hosts. How dangerous a place to oppose the Lord of the armies!

Nothing fits the judgment narrative like abandonment from God. How dangerous to come to a place where God will abandon His great pleasures upon His people.

They had condemned the word of the Holy One of Israel. His words had become trivial in their eyes. But His word was about to become frightening and fearful. His word would become forceful.

Is there a more dangerous place for us to be than to turn against God so openly that He is compelled to abandon us? I know God will never leave us nor forsake us, but we cannot presume on God's grace and love when we live in habitual and open rebellion. You must check to see if you are described in Matt. 7:23.

Earthquake: The divine punishment of God would be felt in the trembling of the earth. God's judgment would be tectonic-moving in nature.

Jehovah reaches out to smite His own people with such force that the mountains shake. Dead bodies fill the streets. The carcasses would be like garbage in the streets. Yet, His judgment is not complete.

2. The call of the nations to punish God's people (Isa. 5:26-30).

Who is leading the march of these nations against God's people? God is the Commander in Chief!

Nothing will stop the nations from the call of God for them. Nothing will stop the destruction that is to come. The nations, disciplined, prepared, fresh, and strong will be an awesome army that will ruthlessly plunge forward into battle against Israel and Judah. Their mission will be relentless, brutal, and one of seek and destroy.

When God calls these nations, they answer with swiftness and preparedness. Isn't it amazing that the false nations listen to God's bidding, but His own people do not?

Isaiah wrote as if he experienced the attack himself. The swiftness and certainty of the coming judgment was a done deal in Isaiah's mind and words. God's judgment would not be stayed.

"The spoil is the land of Judah, which will be so mastered by the enemy that it will do all that this enemy desires. God could deliver: He is the only one that could do so. God, however, will not deliver, for it is better that Judah should be punished" (Young 229-230).

God was serious about the nation's sins. If they chose to ignore the calls to repentance and reject His pleas for pardoning (1:8), then all that was left for God was to bring His heavy hand of judgment upon His own people.

How does Isaiah 5:21-30 apply to me?

1. God is serious about sin. If we do not repent, then all that is left for God is to bring judgment or severe consequences upon us.
2. God's anger is always aroused for the right reason. We can never say God's anger against our sin is unduly warranted.
3. As serious as the judgment of the Lord is, God's grace, mercy, love and forgiveness when we repent is also serious. When we repent God will fully forgive us of our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

What does this passage reveal about the character and nature of God?

1. God wholly guards His law and word so that no one can mock or disobey without consequences.
2. Yet, God in His mercy desires those who are His followers to humbly cry out in repentance. He will meet them at the place of their sin to forgive them.
3. God, in His providence, uses sinful people to carry out His purposes. The nations must obey God's voice when He calls for them.
4. There are no characteristics of God that He goes half-way in using. God is not a God of half-grace, half-mercy, or half-judgment.

Action Points

1. Each of us must determine if we have truly placed our faith in the perfect Son of God and His work on the cross (Phil 2:9).
2. Repent of our sins
3. What actions do you need to change as a result of this passage?