

God's Judgment

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Judgment is an unpopular biblical topic these days. Our culture currently prefers to focus on what it calls the more “positive” and “affirming” aspects of the Bible.

This is peculiar because in the Bible God's kindness and God's judgment do not conflict but complement one another.

The greatest act of God's kindness recorded in the Old Testament is the Exodus. God heard the cries of His people. He responded in compassion and grace delivering them from their enslavement in Egypt. Throughout the Old Testament, the Exodus is the act God's people refer to and remember as the pinnacle of God's rescue and salvation. But how did it happen? Through judgment. God unleashed ten plagues including the death of the firstborn on Egypt.

God then decimated Pharaoh and his chariot riding military in the Red Sea. God's people were saved, and they were saved through God's judgment of the people and the false gods of Egypt.

We see God rescue His people by judging those who would keep them from Him throughout Scripture. In the Book of Esther Haman, by casting lots, determined a particular day he would have all the Jews massacred. But God rescued His people. How? By working through Esther and Mordecai to have the enemies of His people destroyed. In Esther chapter nine, we read that not only were Haman and his sons executed, but over 75,000 other enemies of God's people were also put to death.

Such acts of judgment by God usually make us uncomfortable. But the Book of Esther says that God's people were glad and relieved upon the defeat of their enemies. In fact, they feasted and rejoiced creating the holiday Purim to remember God's rescue via His judgment.

My great uncle fought throughout Europe, including the Battle of the Bulge, during World War II. And from my grandfather I learned that in May 1945 he and his family, along with millions like them, were glad and relieved to hear the war in Europe was over; that Hitler and his sadistic minions had been defeated. In fact, they feasted and rejoiced creating the holiday “VE Day” Victory in Europe Day, to remember their rescue via judgment. They celebrated their rescue that came through the judgment of their enemies.

The Bible tells us that there is coming a day when Satan and his minions will be defeated and remain defeated for all time. That is wonderful! Jesus Christ, the humble lamb of God, will return to earth as a lion, as a warrior on a white horse, judging the world in righteousness. This promised judgment is sweet news to all who belong to Jesus Christ.

It tells us that the battles we now fight against evil are not in vain and will not last forever. “VH Day” or Victory in Heaven Day, is on the horizon. May God's people battle on knowing that the war is won; that they are rescued by the righteous judge, Jesus, who having been judged in their place, will soon to return to defeat their enemies forever. Come, Lord Jesus, come.