

A LOOK INTO ENDTIME EVENTS

2 Thessalonians 1:6-12

In the midst of all the suffering that the church of Thessalonica was going through, it was on the very heart of Paul to let them know that all their suffering was not in vain. In truth, there was coming, and is coming a time when the Lord Jesus the righteous Judge shall judge the quick and the dead. When we are walking through difficult times, and undergoing abuse by those that are wicked, and ungodly, it is on the very heart of God, that we understand that judgment is coming, and He will see to it that judgment is served. Irregardless of the fact that the masses desire not to think about the judgment doesn't alter the reality of it one iota. God has declared it, and Jesus Christ, the Son of the Most High God shall execute judgment.

1. THERE IS A PURPOSE IN JUDGMENT (v.6). It is in the very heart of God to rectify and deal with all injustices that have occurred on the face of the earth. These precious saints had suffered ungodly attacks, malicious encounters, all because they simply named the name of Christ and desired to walk godly. Their fellow citizens wanted nothing to do with Christ, or the life that was found in Christ. In reality those citizens desired to stamp out Christianity. The fact that persecution of Christians had increased is clearly indicated in the book of Acts.

Acts 17:5-8 But the Jews who believed not, moved with envy, took unto them certain wicked fellows of the rabble, and gathered a company, and set all the city in an uproar, and assaulted the house of Jason, and sought to bring them out to the people. And when they found them not, they drew Jason and certain brethren unto the rulers of the city, crying, These that have turned the world upside down are come here also; Whom Jason has received: and these all do contrary to the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is another king, one Jesus. And they troubled the people and the rulers of the city, when they heard these things.

When believers undergo suffering, persecution, it is vitally important that they be reminded that there will come a time of judgment, to encourage them on in faithful devotion.

It was also necessary that those that were doing the persecuting be warned, for God is going to make right all the injustices that has taken place in this world. The sobering, swift judgment of God is going to fall on every person that has mistreated another person, and they will fall under the judgment of God. God the Son will deal in judgment on all the: killing, ridiculing, mocking, abusing, fighting, and much more that has gone on in this earth since the beginning of time, and He will do it with absolute precision and righteousness.

All the injustices of all the world, one day will be dealt with and corrected. For Jesus not to judge or to leave one thing unjudged would mean that one wicked matter could prevail, and that cannot happen before a Holy God. It was and is a sobering truth, that God is now preparing a day of judgment toward those that hurt His precious ones, who do not respond to Him in repentance, and confession of sin. Notice how v.6 is translated in various versions.

“For after all it is only just for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you.” (1:6 NAS)

“Indeed, it is right for God to repay with crushing sorrow those who cause you these crushing sorrows.” (1:6 Williams)

“It is a fair decision since it is a righteous thing with God to repay with distress and affliction those who distress and afflict you.” (1:6 Amplified)

Our Heavenly Father yearns that we understand that no injustice shall go unnoticed, and especially undealt with by His divine plan.

2. THE EXECUTOR OF JUDGMENT SHALL BE JESUS CHRIST (vv.7-8). When Jesus comes, He is coming to give rest to the saint of God, and also He will come to bring His judgment to the world. In executing judgment, He is going to return to earth to do so.

First, His return in judgment shall be majestically revealed. There is literally going to be a day in which Jesus Christ shall rent the heavens and return to earth in complete judgment. It has been rightfully said, that *“He will come in all the pomp and power of the upper world.”* *When Jesus comes, He will be revealed as the Supreme Majesty, and Mighty Judge of the entire worlds. One thing needs to be noted, the Father will do NO judging but rather has given all judgment into the hands of the Son. “For the Father judgeth no man, but has committed all judgment unto the Son.” (Jn. 5:22)*

Second, His return will be with the angels of His power. The angels will add to the majestic glory of His person. They will carry out His orders and execute His justice and mercy. They will serve as reapers at the end of time. *“...The harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels.” (Mt. 13:39)*

Third, His return shall be in a flaming fire. This is a reference to brilliance, glory and the holiness of His appearance and to the fact of His coming judgment toward mankind. So brilliant will be his coming, that it will be as a flaming fire of God’s pure holiness

“Whosoever shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when HE COMETH IN THE GLORY OF HIS FATHER WITH THE HOLY ANGELS.” (Mk. 8:38)

3. THOSE TO BE JUDGED SHALL BE SEPARATED INTO TWO CLASSES. (v.8)

All who do not know God shall be judged. There are those who sin against natural revelation. In other words they see and look at the creation of God, and all His handiwork and fail to see Him in His world. It is totally possible for man to know God, in their thoughts, reasonings, and conscience by looking and beholding the mighty and wonderful work of God. It is God that has programmed each of us with a “God-awareness” and “God-consciousness”. Since God is the creator of every living person, He would create no one without an awareness of who He is, and a worship for Him. Even the heathen have God’s imprint in their heart. Paul put it this way, *“The heathen, which show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another.” (Rom. 2:15)*

Also, men can know God outside of themselves; in creation and nature, earth and outer space. God has placed in man the instinct to be aware and to know the Living God. The Living Bible puts it this way, *“For the truth about God is known to them instinctively, God has put this knowledge in their hearts.” (Rom. 1:19)* In truth, man knows by His inner programming of the reality of God, and man knows by the outer world of the reality of God...therefore all mankind is without excuse. *“The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth his handywork. (Ps.19:1)*

Jesus shall deal His judgment on all who have chosen not to know Him. Who will they be? 1) All who have heard the gospel and rejected it. 2) All who have professed the gospel but by life do not obey the commandments of the gospel. 3) All who have been baptized but do not obey the gospel. 4) All that have joined the church but by life reveal a life alien to Christ by rebellion and disobedience. The point is clear, true salvation is evident by a life and lifestyle, not based only on a profession, baptism, or membership.

4. THE PENALTY OF JUDGMENT SHALL BE HORRIBLE. (v.9) Jesus makes it clear the punishment awaiting all that do not know Him. While the human mind and imagination cannot fathom the awfulness of the terrible place called hell. The fact remains it is nonetheless real. Notice three facts about the penalty and punishment.

First, it is a deserved punishment. Persons who find their way into this fiery, eternal pit are deserving of it. Those entering hell are not getting something that is unjust, but rather something that is totally just and totally right.

Second, it is a payment for sins. The phrase, “shall suffer punishment” means to pay the penalty. The fact is, those in hell did sin’s work, and now they receive sin’s pay. The liar who lived his life by lying, is now receiving lying’s pay. The adulterer, murderer, and all ungodly who enjoyed sinning while on earth will now receive sin’s paycheck, and it will be a daily paycheck for all eternity.

Third, it is a righteous payment. This simply means that the punishment of hell is the exact amount of punishment that he had worked while on earth. Those that desire to know not God will have the proper degree of punishment in hell designed just for them. The person that hates Christians and attempts to stamp out Christianity, will have the proper degree of punishment awaiting him or her in hell. The point is plainly seen, hell is a real place, and it is a place for all who have chosen to live their lives in sin, and refuse the goodness of God through Jesus Christ. But for all the redeemed...we have passed from death into life eternal.