

STUDY PACK 8

THE JUDGMENT OF GOD UPON THE NATIONS

One of the most important issues in the study of history _____
_____. The most dangerous thing about governments is that the evil actions of government can place nations in position to be judged by God.

Many of the United States early leaders warned that the failure of the government to deal with the issue of slavery would lead to judgment. George Mason warned, “As nations cannot be rewarded or punished in the next world, _____ ... Providence punished national sins by national calamities.” Thomas Jefferson warned, “God who gave us life gave us liberty. Can the liberties of a nation be secure when we have removed the conviction that these liberties are the gift of God? Indeed I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just, that His justice cannot sleep forever.”

Abraham Lincoln came to believe that the American Civil War was a judgment of God upon the U.S. for national sins.

“It is the duty of nations as well as of men to own their dependence upon the overruling power of God; to confess their sins and transgressions in humble sorrow, yet with assured hope that genuine repentance will lead to mercy and pardon; and to recognize the sublime truth, announced in the Holy Scriptures and proven by all history, _____
_____.

We know that by His divine law, _____, _____ are subjected to punishments and chastisements in this world. May we not justly fear that the awful calamity of civil war which now desolates the land may be a punishment inflicted upon us _____
_____, to the needful end of our national reformation as a whole people?

We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of heaven; we have been preserved these many years in peace and prosperity; we have grown in numbers, wealth and power as no other nation has ever grown.

But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us, and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings _____
_____. Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us.”

I. THE BIBLE DOCTRINE OF THE JUDGMENT OF GOD UPON NATIONS

- A. God judges nations because _____,
I Timothy 6:15-16; Psalms 22:28; Daniel 4:34-35; Psalms 115:3; I Chronicles 29:11.

- B. Before God divided the world into nations _____, Genesis 6:5-8; II Peter 3:5-6.
- C. After the tower of Babel, God divided the world into nations (Genesis 11:1-11). God continues to hold nations accountable for the actions of the national government and the actions of the people.

Some Bible teachers have claimed that God only judged Israel because Israel was a nation that had a special covenant with God. This is easily refuted from Scripture. The Canaanite nations had no special covenant with God but God judged them. Sodom and Gomorrah _____.

Nineveh had no special covenant relationship with God but God judged Nineveh. Psalms 9:17.

The nation of Babylon was clearly judged by God. God declared to Belshazzar and Babylon, "Thou are weighed in the balances and are found wanting." Next judgment was pronounced. "Thy kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and Persians." What appears to historians as an issue of military conquest is in reality the judgment of God upon Babylon for the sins of the Babylonian government and people.

It should be noted that there are two types of judgments that God sends against nations. First, God sends "_____." These judgments are designed to get a nation's attention. When a nation repents of wickedness God delivers them from judgment (see Judges 2 and the book of Jonah). When a nation continues in rebellion against God, there comes a day when God sends _____. This judgment destroys a nation once and for all. The Canaanite's nations, Babylon and Nineveh are all examples of nations that experienced "annihilative judgment."

II. HOW DOES GOD JUDGE NATIONS?

The Bible lists several examples of ways that God judges nations.

- A. God sends _____ to some nations as He did to Sodom and Gomorrah and Sennacherib and the Assyrians (II Kings 19).
- B. God uses _____.
1. Hail — Job 8:22-23.
 2. Droughts — Jeremiah 50:38; Amos 4:7-8.
 3. Tempest — Isaiah 29:6

4. Earthquakes — Psalms 18:7; Matthew 24:&.
5. Lightning and rain — Jeremiah 10:13; Job 38:34-35.
6. Snow — Psalms 148:7-8.
7. Floods — Isaiah 28:17; Matthew 24:6-7.
8. Famine — Leviticus 26:26; Amos 4:9; Deuteronomy 28:39-42.
9. Wild animals — Deuteronomy 32:24; Jeremiah 15:3; Leviticus 16:22.

Many property and casualty insurance policies refer to natural disasters as “Acts of God.” This terminology is a throwback to the days when American culture was permeated with Christian concepts.

- C. God sends _____, (Judges 2:11-19; Daniel 5). The Old Testament prophets provide many examples of God using one nation to judge another.
- D. God places _____ over nations as a judgment against them, Daniel 4:17; Psalms 75:5-8; Isaiah 1:21-23.
- E. God sends plagues, diseases and _____ upon rebellious nations.
1. When the Philistines took the sacred ark of God and put it in the temple of Dagon, God struck the entire nation with emerods (internal tumors), I Samuel 5.
 2. God sent a plague among the children of Israel when they turned to pagan immorality, Numbers 16:46-50.
- F. God also _____ the vengeance of the sword, Leviticus 25:16; Isaiah 3:4-12; Amos 4:10; Deuteronomy 28:25-26.

III. RULERS AND NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS BRING JUDGMENT UPON THE PEOPLE OF THE NATION

Pharaoh and his court magicians put Egypt in the place to experience the ten plagues. The ruling lords of the Philistines presented the ark to their people and brought the judgment of God upon the entire nation. The entire nation of Israel suffered a famine because of sin of Saul (II Samuel 21). This famine came long after Saul’s death. The judgment of God came on the entire nation of Israel because of the sin of David, (II Samuel 24).

God expects the people to _____ and He holds the people of a nation _____, Proverbs 14:34.

IV. WHY DOES GOD JUDGE NATIONS?

The Scriptures teach that God judges nations for moral wickedness and for violence (the law of innocent blood).

God commanded the nation of Israel to exterminate the Canaanites (His judgment upon them) for their sins. According to Leviticus 18:24-30, these sins included incest, moral impurity, adultery, child sacrifice, homosexuality and bestiality. Deuteronomy 18:9-14 also lists several occult practices of the Canaanite nations.

God judged Sodom and Gomorrah for the practices of the militant homosexual movement in their community (Genesis chapter 18 and 19). Many modern American theologians and also former President Bill Clinton claim that homosexuality had nothing to do with God's judgment on Sodom and Gomorrah. The Scriptures clearly teach otherwise: "Even as Sodom and Gomorrah, the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire," Jude 7.

God judged the Israelite city of Gibeah when it allowed a militant homosexual movement to take control (Judges 19-22). When the tribe of Benjamin supported the Gibeonites, God virtually destroyed Benjamin. In later generations, when Israel put its stamp of approval on homosexuality, God reminded Israel of Gibeah and warned the nation of judgment (Hosea 9:9-10, 10:9-10).

When Phineas (representing the civil government) judged and _____, Israel was delivered from _____ against immorality, (Numbers 25:6-9).

The Scriptures also teach that God judges nations concerning violence against the innocent.

Violent actions by individuals should be judged by civil government – Genesis 4:10, "And he said, 'What hast thou done? The voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground,'" Genesis 9:6, "Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man."

In the Scriptures God repeatedly declares, "the Law Of Innocent Blood." The Law of Innocent Blood plainly declares that the shedding of innocent blood must be paid for by the shedding of guilty blood (Deuteronomy 19:10-13 and many other passages). It is the job of civil government to see to it that this is done. If civil government fails in its responsibility, God will hold the entire nation responsible (Deuteronomy 21:1-9). This makes the actions of civil government of vital importance to every individual.

When civil government directly sheds innocent blood the nation can expect to be considered guilty, by God and to pay for this sin with the blood of the people of the nation (Jonah 1:2).

V. IAN PAISLEY ON THE JUDGMENT OF GOD

In January of 1999, the British House of Commons was debating lowering the age of consent for homosexual activity from age 18 to age 16. Famed Presbyterian preacher and political leader, Ian Paisley, challenged the representatives about the subject of the judgment of God.

“Those who want to destroy standards and lower safeguards can easily apply the label of morality to their principles, but when they advocate those principles, their real objective is _____. This nation has a soul and a conscience, but it has no eternity. Every person in this Chamber has a soul and a conscience and every person has eternity to face. We shall all give account of ourselves to Almighty God at the end of the day, but nations _____ for their policies, their moralities, their violence, and their crimes.

“What of the great nations of the past – the dominant nations that led the world, controlled the destinies, and became the great empires? What of Babylon? What of Persia? What of the Greek kingdom? What of the Roman empire? What destroyed them? One has only to read the history books to realize the debris that they left _____ and take it down a road that has only ruin at its end. The House very well knows that there is no history book that does not record the ruin of nations because of their departure from morality, truth, and righteousness. Judgment will come in time, but it would be far better for us, as legislators, to try to avert such judgment coming upon the nation.”

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