

Bible Study: The Character of God

X. God of Judgment, a Consuming Fire

Passages to read:

Deuteronomy 4:23-24; Psalm 97:1-5; Isaiah 30:18; Matthew 10:28; Romans 2:1-6

Related passages for personal study:

Job 37:23, Jeremiah 10:24; John 5:22-30, 9:39, 16:8; Romans 14:10-13;
1Corinthians 4:3,6:1-8; 2Timothy 4:8; Hebrews 9:27-28, 10:26-27, 12:23; 2Peter 2:9

Description of judgment:

- * Decision given concerning justice or injustice, right or wrong
- * Determination of truth (Revelation 16:7)
- * Sentence of condemnation (Romans 2:2)
- * Another word translated “judge”= to examine, discern

Aspects To Consider:

- * In a Negative Sense:
 - Sinfulness punished (unbelievers, 2Peter 2:9)
 - The fire of God: (Sodom and Gomorrah Gen. 19, Israelites at Taberah Numb. 11, Those that offered incense – Korah, Dathan, & Abiram Numb. 16, etc.)
- * In a Positive Sense:
 - Faithfulness to His covenant
 - Righteousness rewarded & upheld (2Timothy 4:8)
- * The Judgment Seat vs. the Great White Throne
- * Chastening vs. Judgment vs. Punishment

How should God’s judgment affect me?

- * Helps us understand the seriousness of sin/how God sees it
- * Gives us a heart for the lost
- * Encourages us to get matters settled before death

Questions for Discussion:

- * Is God’s judgment done in wrath, without pity or feeling?
- * What is the meaning of the word judgment used in John 9:39, since verses like John 3:17 show that He did not come to condemn the world?
- * What motivates or causes God’s judgment?
- * Are Christians supposed to judge others, ourselves?
 - If so, in what way should our judgment be like God’s?
- * Why is judgment delivered to the Son (John 5:22)?
- * Why did God judge Ananias and Sapphira with death?
- * What is the future role of the Church in relation to judgment?