

JUDGMENT ON MAN & GOD

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These notes are based on a taped lecture given by Dr. Ernest L. Martin, Ph.D., formerly the head of Theology for the Worldwide Church of God, he resigned in January 1974 because of unresolved doctrinal issues with the administration. Sadly Dr. Martin died in January 2002, a great loss to the world and to those who seek Biblical truth.

It might seem strange to suggest judgment on God, but who would judge God? God actively creates both good and evil and uses both every day in the pursuit of His Plan and Purpose.

When natural disasters occur, is it because God is angry with humans? Perhaps, but perhaps not. All humans sin and do wrong, but not all seem to fall prey to natural disasters. So why do things happen to some and not to others? Bad things happen to 'good' people it seems. Good things also seem to happen to bad people who prosper.

Even if God does not cause disasters to strike, He certainly allows them to happen. Are they judgments on human kind?

What about man's inhumanity to man? Men and women both commit heinous acts against other people. Genocide and ethnic cleansing are quite common in different parts of the world in our era. Why does God allow this all to happen? It is his prerogative to allow whatever He allows to occur on this earth of ours, or rather His earth!!

Many are puzzled about events recorded in the Bible, for instance where YHWH told Joshua to kill the Canaanites, men, women, and little children and not to leave one person alive, clearly genocide!

That was the Old Testament times, but what about New Testament times? YHWH became Christ, and Christ wrote the book of Revelation, in which He tells of pouring out His wrath upon the whole earth and killing millions. He tells us of this event thousands of years in advance, that it is going to happen, and it will. Is God or Christ guilty of crimes?

If a man saw a child being swept along the river towards Niagara falls, and had a rose, and could have thrown it to the boy when he came close to the bank, but did not, would he be guilty of any crime? If a minister allowed a building to be built on church property and rented it out to a brothel, would he be guilty of a crime? At least one would think poorly of the man, clearly a hypocrite!

Yet this very situation exists in many areas in big cities like London and New York where the 'church' owns property where all sorts of criminal activities go on unchecked and unheeded to this day. The minister may be responsible for what happens on the church property, and who actually owns the land, the whole earth? Why God and Christ do of course.

Deuteronomy 2:24 Rise ye up, take your journey, and pass over the river Arnon: behold, I have given into thine hand Sihon the Amorite, king of Heshbon, and his land: begin to possess it, and contend with him in battle. 25 This day will I begin to put the dread of thee and the fear of thee upon the nations that are under the whole heaven, who shall hear report of thee, and shall tremble, and be in anguish because of thee. 26 And I sent messengers out of the wilderness of Kedemoth unto Sihon king of Heshbon with words of peace, saying, 27 Let me pass through thy land: I will go along by the high way, I will neither turn unto the right hand nor to the left. 28 Thou shalt sell me meat for money, that I may eat; and give me water for money, that I may drink: only I will pass through on my feet; 29 (As the children of Esau which dwell in Seir, and the Moabites which dwell in Ar, did unto me;) until I shall pass over Jordan into the land which the Lord our God giveth us.

Canaanites had many horrendous practices, including murdering their own children, causing them to be burned alive in ritual worship of the god Molech. YHWH says, "I will put the dread of you in their hearts and minds. Go to war with them, and kill every man, woman and all the little children as well."

Deuteronomy 2:30 But Sihon king of Heshbon would not let us pass by him: for the Lord thy God hardened his spirit, and made his heart obstinate, that he might deliver him into thy hand, as appeareth this day. 31 And the Lord said unto me, Behold, I have begun to give Sihon and his land before thee: begin to possess, that thou mayest inherit his land. 32 Then Sihon came out against us, he and all his people, to fight at Jahaz. 33 And the Lord our God delivered him before us; and we smote him, and his sons, and all his people. 34 And we took all his cities at that time, and utterly destroyed the men, and the women, and the little ones, of every city, we left none to remain: 35 Only the cattle we took for a prey unto ourselves, and the spoil of the cities which we took.

Sihon the king of the Canaanites refused Israel right of passage, why? Because God hardened his heart. Joshua 10 talks about the destruction of

Jericho where the population was decimated as instructed by God. In 1 Samuel 15: 3 God tells them to destroy the Amalakites completely.

Nowadays, Joshua and Moses, and others would be taken to the world court and convicted of war crimes and the modern euphemism of 'ethnic cleansing'. But clearly according to God's Word, God and YHWH take full responsibility for it all.

Religious people make up stories to "excuse" God, and make out that there was some reason for the children being killed, maybe they were all ill. Not so, it certainly does not say so in the Bible.

In Abraham's time, he reasons, even argues with God about the judgment His about to wreak on Sodom and Gomorrah. Will you kill the righteous and the sinner? He wants to save his relatives. How about if there were 50 righteous, would you destroy the cities? God says "No". Abraham says, what about 50, then 45, then 40, then 30, then 20? God says no. But there was only one, and that was Lot. So the whole city was destroyed.

Pharaoh wanted to let the children of Israel go well before he actually did, but God hardened his heart, again for His own purposes.

God got totally fed up with his human children at the time of the flood, and allowed all but eight people to drown, so that He could start again, working with the one righteous man on earth, Noah. It was not long before humans multiplied, and as soon as they did, they drifted away from God so quickly, that God had to confuse the languages at Babel to slow down their progress in the wrong direction away from God.

God has done all these things in the ancient past, and He allows or causes evil things, natural disasters, wars, disease, pedophilia, and so on in our era. So can God be judged for these occurrences? People do tend judge and blame God. They say how can there possibly be a God of love that allows all the terrible things to happen on this earth, implying He must be a monster, and should be brought to book!

If we were told by God to commit genocide nowadays, what would our answer be? Well, the law has changed since Christ's sacrifice and His changes in the law, so we would quote the New Commandment, the 'Golden Rule', of "Do unto others as you would have them do to you", and refuse, and you would be right to do so.

What about the 'Platinum Rule' of "Do unto God as He would have you do to Him!" And what about the 'Diamond Rule'? If I were God, how would I treat God if He were a human being on this earth committing all these heinous 'crimes'?

Jahweh ordered genocide, and He became Christ, and He is going to commit genocide again in the future at the end of the age during the time of the second advent. We need to understand that God and Christ are completely immune to any JUDGMENT. Neither God nor Christ can sin, They cannot be held GUILTY of anything, NEVER, EVER.

God can do absolutely anything with His creation. Humans might say, "Well that is most unfair!" But can the clay really say to the Potter, "Why have you made me thus, and why do you do or allow these things to be done?" No, that is not our prerogative!

It is only God's prerogative to pursue His purpose as He thinks fit, and not the way humans think it should be done.

Isaiah 55:8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. 9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

We are here on earth to learn in the kindergarten of this life a little about how God thinks, to experience how God works, so that when we are resurrected and changed, we will have had a glimpse of how the Father and the Son work.

God is THE judge, and He can and does whatever He pleases with no guilt, or sin, or shade of 'wrongdoing' whatsoever. It is impossible for God to sin.

The book of Job shows very clearly in the first couple of chapters that God is in total charge of Satan, who is powerless to do anything unless he is specifically allowed to by God as is shown by the examples of the Divine Councils in Heaven.

God was considered by Job to be righteous, just and good, so he was puzzled what the reasons were that he was going through such trials. His three 'comforters' were convinced that Job had some secret sins, and that he had clearly done wrong, or he would not be suffering. Elihu, (God's name on a younger man, and he had some wisdom for Job) explained Job's position, but Job did not embrace his words.

When we get to Job 38, we see that at no time did God accuse Job of any sin whatsoever, he only asks Job questions he cannot possibly answer, so he can realize the vastness of God's power. Once upon a time, our world had rings of ice around it in its atmosphere like some other planets, and when this ice melted, it caused worldwide flooding at the time of the Noachian flood. Job's 'repentance' was not based on sin, but as he says, "I had heard of God, now I SEE your power. That 'repentance' was rewarded with twice the blessings that Job had enjoyed previously.

God determined to hate one twin child and to love and promote the other, the Potter can fashion us as He pleases for the glory of His purpose.

Romans 9:12 It was said unto her, The elder shall serve the younger. 13 As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated. 14 What shall we say then? Is there unrighteousness with God? God forbid.

We can think God is unfair, but we are unwise so to think. We need to look more at the BIG picture from God's point of view, rather than our own pathetically limited view.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. 17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

God sent part of Himself to earth, to actually become sin, and suffer the most awful death a human can experience. They planned this incredible situation before the foundation of the world, so that they could bring their 'children' to glory with them. Just imagine that scenario, and having to live with the prospect for aeons. That was a truly awe inspiring sacrifice on God's and the Word's part.

Romans 5:6 For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. 8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.

Hebrews 2:10 For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

The Godhead must really have wanted very badly to have a 'family', and thus to extend their rulership of the Universe.

Isaiah 9:7 Of the increase of His government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

God was willing to sacrifice His Son, and YHWH was willing to relinquish His Godhead, and become a mere man to suffer and die a horrible death. But Jesus Christ was Emmanuel – God with us, and so in a very real sense, God has been punished for sin although he never sinned. How fair is that?

Colossians 2:6 As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: 7 Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving. 8 Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. 9 For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. 10 And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power: 11 In whom also ye are **circumcised with the circumcision made without hands**, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ: 12 **Buried with him in baptism**, wherein also ye **are risen with him through the faith** of the operation of God, who hath **raised him from the dead**. 13 And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he **quickened together with him**, having **forgiven you all trespasses**; 14 Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;

Everyone has to go before the Judgment Seat of God to be judged. But here again, Christ did that for us too, so we would not have to. So we appear as sinless as He did as far as the Father is concerned.

2 Corinthians 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

Jesus Christ lived His life as a substitute for us to save us from our having to go through what He went through. He did it all for us, He took my place in all He did. When He was circumcised, we were; when he was buried in baptism, we were; when He was killed and died, we were; when He was resurrected, we were; when He was judged guiltless at the Judgement Seat

of God, we were; when He sat down on the Right Hand of God the Father, so did we!

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. 18 And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; 19 To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. 20 Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, **be ye reconciled to God**. 21 For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

But if anyone wants to lay the apparent wrongdoing of God on Him, and think that He ought to have paid the penalty for all the acts people consider 'awful', 'cruel', or 'sinful', well the answer is, that He did by watching his sinless Son become sin, and die!!! So painful was that experience that God at that moment had to turn His back on His dearly beloved Son. Jesus Christ knew that moment had arrived and felt abandoned.

Matthew 27:46 And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?

God reconciled us to Him while we were His enemies, it is also our responsibility to reconcile ourselves to God, and forgive Him for all the imagined faults we have allowed to enter into our minds. Yes, we need to forgive God. That is what we would do if we were God, and He was a human being, which he was!!

We need to appreciate the LOVE of God, His LONG-SUFFERING KINDNESS, His incredible ENDLESS MERCY towards recalcitrant humans, all the time wanting the best for them. What an amazing PLAN! How thankful should we be?