

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

WHY DO I PREACH JUDGMENT?

RLJ-1173

JOHN S. TORELL

FEBRUARY 15, 2009

As I was ready to prepare the next message in the series, *Biblical Truth Concerning the State of Israel*, I received an e-mail from a person in our ministry. Here is an excerpt:

"I have stopped listening to your sermons...I cannot listen to anything you preach...This has to do with my disease. The way you preach and depict God makes me being even more trapped in my inability to relate to God (as a loving father who will grant me healing) than I am anyway...I was trying harder and harder to 'be good enough' and possibly earn the favor of that stern God...And there I am (and probably I am not the only one), struggling to get close to God, to leave behind my earthly father, who caused me fear, being demanding and not loving, and I cannot get there...Most people out there are as deeply hurt as I am (or even more) and they cannot relate to a stern God...Your sermons are for people who are mature in attitude and knowledge and also healed from brokenness. Only such people can digest your sermons, especially because the same tenor is emphasized every week."

This person is a very close friend to my wife and me and did not write this in anger but in sadness over a condition of sickness that the person has not been able to shake loose. I thought about it and asked God what to do about it. Here is what the Holy Spirit told me:

NATIONAL AND GLOBAL JUDGMENTS

God deals with mankind in two ways: as individuals and as a group (cities, regions and nations).

We know that God is love but He is also a God of judgments. He loves sinners but hates sin. If this was not so then God would never had sent Jesus to die on the cross for the sins of mankind. **John 3:16-17**

When God was ready to judge the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, He had concern for individuals as a large group of people was about to be destroyed.

1. God decided not to hide the judgment from Abraham. **Genesis 18:16-21**
2. When Abraham interceded for those who might be righteous, God was willing to spare the cities if there were ten righteous men living in them. **verses 21-33**
3. When the angels came to Sodom, Abraham's nephew was the only man who was righteous. Look at the how the love of God was manifested: ***The angels went out of their way to protect Lot and his family and made sure that***



they made it out safely before the cities were destroyed by fire and brimstone. Genesis 19:1-29

ISRAEL AND EGYPT

When God began judging the government and people of Egypt, He made a distinction between the children of Israel and the Egyptians. While He severely punished the people of Egypt, the children of Israel were saved from the wrath. **Exodus 8:22-24; 9:4-6, 22-26; 10:21-23; 11:7**

THE TRIBULATION TIME

God has promised protection for His people when His wrath is poured out on the earth. Thus we can conclude when God judges on a national or global scale, He will look after His people and *spare them as individuals*. **Revelation 7:1-3; 9:1-4**

THERE WILL ALWAYS BE BROKENHEARTED AND HURT PEOPLE

When God judged the ten northern tribes and later the tribes of Judah and Benjamin, there were still righteous people living among them. There were also those who were bruised, hurt and rejected but God could not wait until all His people had been healed but poured out judgment while He ministered to His people on a one-to-one basis. A prime example of this was Daniel and his three friends. **Daniel 1:17-20**

JUDGMENT IS UPON US

For many years the prosperity preachers in America used the radio and television to lead the masses of Christians into believing that God was in the business of making all Christians rich. Robert Schuller trumpeted that God is love and having a positive attitude would solve all problems. Rick Warren came along with his Purpose Driven Life, a different version of Robert Schuller's New Age teaching. This was followed by the seeker friendly churches led by Bill Hybels. The latest wave in this apostasy is the Emerging Churches.

The tenets of being born again, repentance, hell, judgment, the Lake of Fire, living a holy life, etc. have been relegated to the scrap heap of history and the possibility of judgment from God is not considered politically correct. The hot topic for Rick Warren and his clones are global warming and the need to save the planet instead of saving people from hell.

Pastor David Wilkerson prophesied as early as in 1972 that there would be a global economic crash that would destroy all the prosperity of people.

The crash has come and we are just in the beginning of the global meltdown of the world's economy.

God has called me to be an end time leader in the church and bring the message that there is judgment coming in all areas of life. Believers in Christ need to repent, clean up their lives, and start living a holy life. **1 Peter 4:17-19**

This will be hard for those Christians struggling with issues like rejection, abuse from others, divorce, loss of a loved one, mental illness, self hate, etc.

When World War II broke out September 1, 1939, the masses did not welcome the war; they were sad, scared and wanted nothing to do with it. But the war did not spare anyone in its march around the world as death and destruction wreaked havoc upon nation after nation. When the war was over in 1945, Europe was an ash heap, Russia was devastated, Japan scorched by atomic bombs and more than 80 million people had lost their lives.

We cannot stop the judgment of God but we can hide ourselves in God like Daniel did. **Daniel 6:10-28**

A MESSAGE FOR THE HURT AND BROKENHEARTED

You are forgiven of all your sins if you have been born again and washed in the blood of Jesus. You are a child of the King and He is a Father to you. God will wrap His loving arms around you and gently lead you even in the midst of chaos and judgment. Focus on the His healing power and ask God to heal you quickly so that He can use you in reaching the people in the world before it's too late. Read Psalm 103 in its entirety until the message is embedded in your soul and spirit.

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

DO YOU HAVE AN EAR TO HEAR WITH?

Psalms 103:1-22

<A Psalm of David>

Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases;

Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies; Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's.

The LORD executeth righteousness and judgment for all that are oppressed. He made known his ways unto Moses, his acts unto the children of Israel. The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy. He will not always chide: neither will he keep his anger for ever.

He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him. As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.

Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear him. For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust. As for man, his days are as grass: as a flower of the field, so he flourisheth. For the wind passeth over it, and it is gone; and the place thereof shall know it no more.

But the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children; To such as keep his covenant, and to those that remember his commandments to do them.

The LORD hath prepared his throne in the heavens; and his kingdom ruleth over all. Bless the LORD, ye his angels, that excel in strength, that do his commandments, hearkening unto the voice of his word.

Bless ye the LORD, all ye his hosts; ye ministers of his, that do his pleasure. Bless the LORD, all his works in all places of his dominion: bless the LORD, O my soul.