



# **'THE JESUS APPRENTICESHIP'**

## 2023

### **Session 3:**

'Does it matter that God is our Judge?'

### **Questions:**

1. What is the role of a judge?
2. What is your perception of God as Judge? Why do you think you have that view?
3. Read Isaiah 33:22 – “For the Lord is our judge, the Lord is our lawgiver, the Lord is our king; He will save us”. What are your thoughts on this?
4. What are some of the criteria God uses to judge? (e.g. righteousness, truth, equity and faithfulness) What do these mean?
5. Do you believe God’s judgments are always fair? Perhaps give examples of when you thought His judgment was fair and when it did not seem to be.
6. From the video and your knowledge of the Bible who and what does God judge?
7. How does this relate to us judging others and what, if anything, do we need to adjust in our attitude to others?
8. What are the personal questions that arise (or have been stirred up) in your heart regarding this teaching? Please share and learn from each other.

## Notes:

**Isaiah 33:22** KJV – “For the Lord is our judge, the Lord is our lawgiver, the Lord is our king; He will save us.”

**Psalms 50:6** KJV – “And the heavens shall declare his righteousness: for God is judge himself.”

The role of a judge is to make judgments

- God is both Lord and King, which makes Him Ruler.
- All authority belongs to Him.
- God makes the laws and reserves the right to make judgment.
- God is also the one who testifies.

We observe this in scriptures such as:

- **Deuteronomy 32:35** KJV – “To me belongeth vengeance, and recompence; their foot shall slide in due time: for the day of their calamity is at hand, and the things that shall come upon them make haste.”
- **Hebrews 10:30-31** KJV – “For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people. [31] It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.”
- **Psalms 94:1-2** KJV – “O Lord God, to whom vengeance belongeth; O God, to whom vengeance belongeth, shew thyself. [2] Lift up thyself, thou judge of the earth: render a reward to the proud.”

When judgments are made, there could be beneficiaries as well as consequences or losses..... (see later)

God as lawgiver

The attribute of God as Lawgiver and Judge is observed throughout the Bible in several examples:

- Right from the first few chapters of the Bible
- God instructs Adam not to eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil

**Genesis 2:16-17** KJV – “And the Lord God commanded the man,

saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: [17] But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.”

- Adam and his wife eve disobey God and God judges them

**Genesis 3:14-19** KJV – “And the Lord God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: [15] And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel. [16] Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee. [17] And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; [18] Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; [19] In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art , and unto dust shalt thou return.”

**Exodus 34:6-7** KJV – “And the Lord passed by before him, and proclaimed, The Lord , The Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, [7] Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty ; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth generation.”

**Hebrews 10:27-31** KJV – “But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries. [28] He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: [29] Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace? [30] For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people. [31] It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.”

What are the criteria God uses as Judge?

- **God judges in righteousness, truth, equity and faithfulness.**

**Psalm 96:13** KJV – “Before the Lord: for he cometh, for he cometh to judge the earth: he shall judge the world with righteousness, and the people with his truth.”

**James 1:17** AMP – “Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.”

- **God is Just** - there is no injustice in God

**Psalm 89:14** KJV

Justice and judgment are the habitation of thy throne: mercy and truth shall go before thy face.

- **God is Holy and cannot tolerate evil or wrongdoing**

**Psalm 98:9** KJV – “Before the Lord; for he cometh to judge the earth: with righteousness shall he judge the world, and the people with equity.”

**Isaiah 11:2-5** KJV – “And the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord ; [3] And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the Lord : and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears: [4] But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked. [5] And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins.”

**Leviticus 19:15** KJV – “Ye shall do no unrighteousness in judgment: thou shalt not respect the person of the poor, nor honour the person of the mighty: but in righteousness shalt thou judge thy neighbour.”

**Deuteronomy 32:4** KJV – “He is the Rock, His work is perfect: for all His ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is He.”

**Habakkuk 1:13a** - “Your eyes are too pure to look on evil; you cannot

tolerate wrongdoing.”

Who does God judge?

- **God is Judge of all**

**Hebrews 12:22-24** KJV – “But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, [23] To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, [24] And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.”

- **God judges the living and the dead**

**2 Timothy 4:1** – “I solemnly urge you in the presence of God and Christ Jesus, who will someday judge the living and the dead when he comes to set up his Kingdom”

- **God judges the righteous and wicked**

**Psalms 7:11** KJV – “God judgeth the righteous, and God is angry with the wicked every day.”

**Genesis 18:25** KJV – “That be far from thee to do after this manner, to slay the righteous with the wicked: and that the righteous should be as the wicked, that be far from thee: Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?”

- **God judges His people**

**Hebrews 10:30-31** KJV – “For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people. [31] It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.”

- **God judges the earth, world and His people**

**Psalms 96:13** – “Let all creation rejoice before the Lord, for he comes, he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples in his faithfulness.”

## What does God judge?

- **He judges the thoughts and intentions of the heart** to give every man according to His works

**Romans 2:16** KJV – “In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel.”

This is very significant and examples of this are from:

**1 Samuel 16:7** KJV – “But the Lord said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart.”

**1 Corinthians 4:3-5** KJV – “But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged of you, or of man's judgment: yea, I judge not mine own self. [4] For I know nothing by myself; yet am I not hereby justified: but he that judgeth me is the Lord. [5] Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God.”

- **God's judgment can be in the form of rewards or consequences**

**2 Corinthians 5:10** – “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.”

**Revelation 20:12-15** KJV – “And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. [13] And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. [14] And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. [15] And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.”

**Revelation 22:12** KJV – “And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.”

- **God prefers mercy to judgment**

**James 2:13** (NIV) “Because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment.”

- God seeks that people repent when they have done wrong but unfortunately God will not ignore wrongdoing; otherwise He becomes unjust.
- However, if people repent and accept the price paid by Jesus as He laid down His life, then they are forgiven of their wrongdoing.
- The blood of Jesus pays the consequences.
- The blood is available every moment to cleanse everyone who comes for cleansing 1John 1.....

The Bible informs of various pending judgments

- **Eternal judgments**

**Revelation 20:12-15** KJV – “And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. [13] And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. [14] And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. [15] And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.”

**Act 17:30-31** – “In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. 31 For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead.”

**2 Peter 2:9** KJV – “The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished.”

**2 Thessalonians 1:9** KJV – “Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power.”

**Hebrews 10:26-31** KJV – “For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, [27] But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries. [28] He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: [29] Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace? [30] For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people. [31] It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.”

**Hebrews 6:2** KJV – “Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.”

- **Judgment of works**

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