

THE SEVERITY & GOODNESS OF GOD

The Purpose Of Judgment

- I. **God is slow to anger, very gracious, patient NOT quick to get angry or to judgment-Ex34:6**-The Lord passed by before him and proclaimed The Lord, The Lord God, merciful...gracious...longsuffering-Nm14:18-The Lord is longsuffering-Ps86:15-A God full of compassion...longsuffering-Ne9:17-You are a God ready to pardon...slow to anger-Na1:3,Ps145:8,103:8,Jo2:13-The Lord is slow to anger
- A. Anytime we see anyone experiencing His severity we know they have refused to repent for a very long time-This didn't happen overnight
- II. **The primary purpose of judgment is repentance NOT destruction-Ha2:17**-I smote you with blasting and with mildew and with hail in all the labors of your hands; YET YE TURNED NOT TO ME, saith the Lord-Is9:11-THEREFORE the Lord shall set up...Syrians...Philistines...they shall devour Israel...ALL THIS HIS ANGER is not turned away, but his hand IS STRETCHED OUT STILL.¹³**FOR** the people turneth not unto him that smites them-Zep3:5-CEV-The LORD does right and is always fair. With the dawn of each day, God brings about justice.⁶The LORD wiped out nations and left fortresses crumbling in the dirt. Their streets and towns were reduced to ruins and emptied of people.⁷God felt certain that Jerusalem would learn to respect and obey him...But everyone there was eager to start sinning again. (^{7KJ}I said, Surely thou wilt fear me, thou wilt receive instruction)
- A. They won't listen to correction so God resorts to judgment-Wake them up
- B. Turning to God is for the good of the man-That's what God is after
- C. All God has to do for judgment to come is just lift His hand off you
- III. **Judgment is God's last resort; He'd rather us repent when corrected-Ne9:17**-Refused to obey...HARDENED THEIR NECKS and in their rebellion...but you are a God ready to pardon, gracious and merciful, slow to anger and of great kindness and forsook them not...²³...brought them into the land...²⁶Nevertheless they were disobedient and rebelled against you and cast thy law behind their backs and slew thy prophets WHICH TESTIFIED AGAINST THEM TO TURN THEM TO THEE...²⁷THEREFORE you delivered them into the hand of their enemies...when they cried unto you, you heard them from heaven; and according to thy manifold mercies...saved them...²⁸...after they had rest, they did evil again...THEREFORE leftest thou them in the land of their enemies so that they had the dominion over them: yet WHEN THEY RETURNED and cried unto you, you heard them from heaven; and MANY TIMES did you deliver them according to thy mercies;²⁹And testified against them (warned) THAT YOU MIGHT BRING THEM AGAIN UNTO THY LAW: yet they dealt proudly and hearkened not unto thy commandments...and WITHDREW THE SHOULDER AND HARDENED THEIR NECK AND WOULD NOT HEAR.³⁰Yet MANY YEARS DID YOU FORBEAR THEM and TESTIFIED AGAINST THEM BY THY SPIRIT IN THY PROPHETS: YET WOULD THEY NOT GIVE EAR: THEREFORE, you gave them into the hand of the people of the lands.³¹Nevertheless FOR THY GREAT MERCIES' SAKE YOU DID NOT UTTERLY CONSUME THEM, nor forsake them; for you are a gracious and merciful God...³³Howbeit you are just in all that is brought upon us; for you have done right but we have done wickedly
- A. They were corrected MANY TIMES-But they would not listen
- B. You did not consume them-There's mercy in the early stages of judgment
- C. A refusal to repent NOT their mistakes caused them to see His severity