

<Introduction>

“Judgment must begin In the house of God” by Jeremiah

This time, my message is titled, “Judgment must begin at the house of God” as we can see from the scripture below.

1 Peter 4:17 For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?

4:18 And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?

Let's think about it.

<What is judgment?>

The scripture describes that the time will come when judgment begins at the house of God. Now, what does “judgment” originally mean? It is described as “krima” in Greek and this word is also used in the scripture below.

Matthew 23:14 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayer: therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation.

Luke 23:40 But the other answering rebuked him, saying, Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation?

The word, “**Damnation**” and “**condemnation**” are both of the same origin. Therefore, the main thing these scriptures are trying to warn us is that “The day of judgment will come to the church which is the house of God.

<Teachers in this era have turned blind>

So, we need to clearly understand that the Bible says that the Day of Judgment will definitely come to the church in End Times. Unfortunately, teachers in this era are blind and only give messages which sound good to Christians. They teach that Christians will be raised to heaven with glory and never face tribulation or judgment. However, it is not according to the word of the Bible, therefore a misunderstanding. Lord once talked to the people of Capernaum who misunderstood this as we can see from scriptures below.

Matthew 11:23 And thou, Capernaum, which art exalted unto heaven, shalt be brought down to hell: for if the mighty works, which have been done in thee, had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day.

11:24 But I say unto you, That it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for thee.

The people of Capernaum were convinced that they were the righteous people and deserved to be raised to heaven. Lord, however, described about their true nature which is more unrighteous than Sodom and Gomorrah. He said that they were far from

being raised to the heaven but rather deserved to be thrown into Hades. This may also apply to the churches of this era. We will never know exactly how God sees the current churches, but in God's eye, they don't deserve to be raised to the heaven and should be thrown into Hades. That is why there will be judgment upon the churches in End Times and the punishment will be handed. God will not punish humans without reason.

Prisoners receive their punishment for some reasons. They may have stolen, hurt, or done something illegal. What they get is what they deserve. The church is no exception. God doesn't bring punishment for no reason. There are always reasons and processes so we need to know this.

<The churches will commit sin and receive God's punishment>

Once again, the scripture in the Bible clearly implies that the day will come when God will bring the judgment upon the churches. What is the reason for that? My understanding is that it is because of the fall of the church in End Times as it is written below.

2 Thessalonians 2:3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

This part describes that there will be apostasy amongst the churches and as the result, even anti-Christ will be accepted by them. It seems that the fact that there will be betrayal against Christ is closely related to the judgment brought to the house of God in End Times.

<The time of judgment as special time>

The above scripture says **For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God.** We need to understand that "the time" is very specific which is the end of church era when apostasy of the people of the New Testament becomes out of control. This is a prophecy and, for example, it was like a special time when the Lord came down to the earth for the first time.

It was the climax of the history for the people of God in the Old Testament which had been passed on since Abraham and David. The people of that time committed the a sin which the people of Israel never did; killing Messiah.

This never happened in the time of Abraham or David, and was the worst sin ever. Because of this, the people went through severe judgment and received the punishment from God. The city of Jerusalem was surrounded by Rome and they were killed to the last person. It was a big judgment and punishment. And what the Bible is implying is that the similar judgment as when Jesus came to the earth for the first time is about to come to the churches in the future.

<Righteous people will just manage to be saved>

4:18 And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?

Now, in relation to the judgment upon the churches on the day, they describe that the righteous people will be scarcely saved.

We would like to think about what sort of day it will be. It is described as we can see in the scripture reference below.

2 Peter 2:5 And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly;

2:6 And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly;

2:7 And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked:

2:8 (For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds:)

This part describes Noah and others who survived the flood and preached about righteousness, as well as Lot who escaped from the judgment of Sodom and Gomorrha. These people are indeed the righteous people who barely escaped the judgments. It seems that we can understand a bit about **the judgment day of the house of God when the righteous people are barely saved** as described below.

1. The judgment brought to the fallen churches will be as severe as the flood Noah experienced. It is just as hard as the judgment of the fire brought upon Sodom and Gomorrha in time of Lot. There are many people who will be destroyed by the judgment or lose the eternal life.
2. Only a small number of righteous people will live the eternal life through the judgment to the church.

As you can see, the Bible implies that the very harsh day will come in relation to the judgment to the churches which is opposite to our idea or hope.

<Preaching righteousness>

So, what should we do to have eternal life through the judgment on the churches? It seems that we can find a clue in the description about Noah.

“saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness,”

It describes Noah and others who survived the judgment of the flood as **“a preacher of righteousness”**, so this teaches us that if we also want to have the eternal life through up-coming judgment, we need to take a look at **“preaching righteousness”**.

What it actually means to preach righteousness is described as we can see in the scripture reference below.

Genesis 6:7 And the Lord said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them.

6:8 But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.

6:9 These are the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God.

6:10 And Noah begat three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

6:11 The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence.

6:12 And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth.

Noah's era was the fallen era but Noah and others stayed on the right track and preached righteousness. They warned that the judgment of God will come, they will be destroyed by the flood, and encouraged people to get back on the right track. This resulted to saving their own life as well.

<Lord Jesus also preached righteousness>

The Lord Jesus also preached righteousness in the era. He didn't hesitate to give a warning to the Pharisees who were hypocrites. Jesus told them that the judgment of God will come upon them as below.

Matthew 23:33 Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?

23:34 Wherefore, behold, I send unto you prophets, and wise men, and scribes: and some of them ye shall kill and crucify; and some of them shall ye scourge in your synagogues, and persecute them from city to city:

23:35 That upon you may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel unto the blood of Zacharias son of Barachias, whom ye slew between the temple and the altar.

23:36 Verily I say unto you, All these things shall come upon this generation.

In this way, Lord talked about God's righteousness to hypocritical rabbis and Pharisees. He clearly warned them about the judgment of God which was to come. He also mentioned about the judgment which was coming to this era.

These Lord's warnings were not meaningless and indeed came upon them later as predicted. That is how Jerusalem was defeated by Rome and destroyed.

<The importance of preaching righteousness in End Times>

By the way, looking at how those people preached righteousness makes us presume it is related to the End Times as well. This means it is important to warn about the judgment of God. So, what is needed is not to tell the story which sounds sweet in our ears but rather warnings about falling of churches and the judgment upon the house of God.

<Righteous Christians will face hardship on the day>

Now, the Bible talks about Lot who lived in Sodom but "the righteous scarcely be saved" as following.

(For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds:)

Although Lot lived in Sodom which was a city of homosexual, he didn't follow them and felt sorry for them. This may be an important point in End Days because the fallen churches then will become just like "a city called Sodom and Egypt". It is described as below.

Revelation 11:8 And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified.

I guess the churches will start accepting homosexuality and be seen like Sodom in God's eye. What is important for us is to stay righteous like Lot without compromising. Because only righteous people can be saved.

But the Bible implies that the hardship will come upon Christians who try to stay righteous. In fact, before and after the scripture we look at this time imply that there is an impending disaster as we can see in the scripture reference below.

1Peter 4:16 Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.

4:19 Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator.

These scriptures describe that righteous Christians will face hardship because they follow God's will.

That is what we can see from these scriptures. So, where does the hardship come from? We can presume that it comes from fallen churches and Christians. The Bible tells us that the family of God's house will sue and hand over to the death of each other by using a parable. It is shown as below.

Matthew 10:21 And the brother shall deliver up the brother to death, and the father the child: and the children shall rise up against their parents, and cause them to be put to death.

10:22 And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.

Christ will be recognized as a cheater and liar at the fallen churches. And anyone who would follow Him no matter what, will be hated, sued, and handed to death. Christ will be denied and an anti-Christ will be worshipped instead.

It just repeats the old day; when people called Christ a liar and accepted a murderer in the person of Barabbas.

Matthew 27:21 The governor answered and said unto them, Whether of the twain will ye that I release unto you? They said, Barabbas.

27:22 Pilate saith unto them, What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ? They all say unto him, Let him be crucified.

As you can see, the people of Jerusalem who rejected Christ and handed him to death later faced the judgment. They were destroyed by Romans. And the same thing is expected to happen again at the fallen churches in End Times. The fallen churches will then call Christ a cheater and try to sue faithful people. The main scripture we look at this time says **“judgment must begin at the house of God”**. We need to understand these properly and get well prepared for the End Times.



Judgment must begin at the house of God

“Bearing the fruit of the Spirit” by E3

I learn many things from the message every week. The other day, I learned the importance of “Bearing the fruit of the Spirit” from 1 Peter Chapter 3. Because I thought it may be important factor as a guideline of the judgment we face after death, I am going to mention that here. Some of you may have already heard the voice message version, but I will talk about the same thing for those who are hearing this for the first time.

Pastor Jeremiah gave a message from the scripture reference below.

1 Peter 3:3 Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel;

3:4 But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.

3:5 For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands:

These parts describes putting an effort inwardly instead of only outwardly. On one hand, this means it is not good to worry about how we look outwardly. But there is another meaning as a parable in this, so I would like us to take a look at it.

First of all, there is “outward” and “inward”. The Bible mentions about “wearing gold” and “gold” is a parable of “faith” which means “wearing gold” indicates “having an amazing faith”. However, this is only the outward aspect. Also, as for “plaiting the hair”, this fundamentally relates to “crown of thorn” which Jesus wore when He was

crucified. It could mean experiencing the hardship Christ went through or fasting. These “wearing gold” and “plaiting the hair” are both outwardly aspects. They may be fantastic stuff, but they are different from “in the sight of God of great price” as described in verse 4.

One example is “Spirit”. Gentle or peaceful spirit is not going to die, so let’s have a look at the word “incorruptible”.

1 Corinthians 15:52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

“Incorruptible” equals “resurrection” which also means “eternal life”. This is the same as “not corruptible” in 1st Peter we just had a look. So, you can see that “the fruits of Spirit” is led to “the eternal life”. Therefore it depends on whether you have “the fruits of Spirit” to obtain the eternal life. Yes, having “fruits of Spirit” is what is worthy in God’s eye. I will jot down some major points below.

1: There is a difference between what God sees important and what humans focus on.

2: A kind of Spirit we are led by is what is important in God’s eye.

3: God is the one who judges us, so we need to think about what God sees important and move towards that.

As we understand this way, we will come to the conclusion that “gentle Spirit” = “having fruits of Spirit”, and it may lead us into “the resurrected life” (the eternal life). Also, what is important to God may not appear important for humans, but we should still focus on what God says important.

That was what Pastor Jeremiah was talking and I actually couldn’t agree more. He also mentioned about an example when you can’t get “the fruits of Spirit”, so I would like to talk about it as well. Pastor Jeremiah shared his message from the scripture below.

Matthew 4:26 And he said, So is the kingdom of God, as if a man should cast seed into the ground;

4:27 And should sleep, and rise night and day, and the seed should spring and grow up, he knoweth not how.

4:28 For the earth bringeth forth fruit of herself; first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear.

4:29 But when the fruit is brought forth, immediately he putteth in the sickle, because the harvest is come.

The important point here is “putteth in the sickle” and this is described in Revelation as well. This is actually pointing at “Rapture”. What we need to focus is that “blade” and “ear” are not going to be harvested but “the fruit (of Spirit)” will be. So, we can see here again that what God sees important is “the fruits of Spirit”. This teaches us it all comes down to where you put your focus on. So, I think we should not look only

“outside” but rather focus on living by “Spirit” because anyone who doesn’t get “the fruits of Spirit” will not be harvested.

I am not sure what kind of view point Christians around me have, but I personally thought “Hang on, this sounds very important”. I used to think like if you go to Sunday service to serve people, go through training, or have some sort of gift, you could almost certainly go to heaven. However, I came to realize that isn’t necessarily the case as I listened to messages or the word of God. Of course serving people and going through training are great, and in fact, they are encouraged in the Bible, so they are important things. But as the message taught us, what is important to go into the kingdom of heaven is to have “fruits of Spirit”, so I decided to put that into practice. As you may already know, fruits of Spirits are love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, and faith.

Well, simply because as Pastor Jeremiah was saying, I won’t be taken into heaven without bearing the fruits of Spirit, so I thought I should definitely avoid going to hell (a.k.a the lake of fire).

As I said in the beginning, I wanted to share with as many people as I can because I thought this was really important. I hope you understand this. May the name of God who always teaches me important things be glorified.