

"Bar-None; Judgment & Repentance"

Deuteronomy 4: 25 - 31

October 31, 2010

"Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come." (1 Corinthians 10: 11)

- Bar-None; There Is None Other Who Will Judge Rebellion With A Righteous Judgment, (vs. 25 – 28)
 - God's righteous judgment toward rebellion will be swift & complete once enacted, (vs. 26): "Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay everyone for what he has done." (Revelation 22:12)
 - 1. God's righteous judgment toward rebellion will be unquestioned, (vs. 26a); "HEAR, O heavens, and GIVE EAR, O earth; for the Lord has SPOKEN:
 - a. God's care in support & instruction will be unquestioned; "Children have I REARED and BROUGHT up, but they have REBELLED against me. The ox KNOWS its OWNER, and the donkey its master's crib, but Israel does not KNOW, my people do not UNDERSTAND,"
 - b. The intentional habits of rebellion will be unquestioned; Ah, SINFUL nation, a people laden with iniquity, offspring of EVILDOERS, children who deal CORRUPTLY!
 - c. The totality of utter estrangement will be unquestioned; They have FORSAKEN the Lord, they have DESPISED the Holy One of Israel, they are utterly ESTRANGED," (Isaiah 1:2-4)

"Hear the word of the Lord, O children of Israel, for the Lord has a controversy with the inhabitants of the land. There is no faithfulness or steadfast love, and no knowledge of God in the land;" (Hosea 4:1)
 - 2. God's righteous judgment toward rebellion will be as certain as the blessings that precede it, (vs. 26b);
 - a. God will destroy the places of protection & identity that He provides; "And I will LAY your cities WASTE
 - b. God will destroy the places of worship & the communion that He provided; and will make your sanctuaries DESOLATE, and I will not SMELL your pleasing aromas.
 - c. God will destroy the actual land that He provided; And I myself will DEVASTATE the land, so that your ENEMIES who SETTLE in it shall be APPALLED at it.
 - d. God will destroy the divine refuge & blessing He provided; And I will SCATTER you among the nations, and I will UNSHEATH the sword after you, and your land shall BE A DESOLATION, and your cities shall BE A WASTE." (Leviticus 26:31-33)
 - 3. God's righteous judgment toward rebellion will be swift & complete resulting in certain destruction, (vs. 26c);
 - a. God's righteous judgment will be seen & understood by those who listen; "But when you see Jerusalem SURROUNDED by armies, then know that its desolation has come NEAR.
 - b. God's righteous judgment will be avoided by those who listen; Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, and let those who are inside the city depart, and let not those who are out in the country enter it, for these are days of vengeance, to fulfill all that is WRITTEN.
 - c. God's righteous judgment will be without mercy for all who do not listen; Alas for WOMEN WHO ARE PREGNANT and for those who are NURSING infants in those days! For there will be great distress upon the earth and wrath against this people. They will fall by the edge of the sword and be led captive among all nations,
 - d. God's righteous judgment will be enacted as part of God's ordination; and Jerusalem will be TRAMPLED underfoot by the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled." (Luke 21:20-24)
 - *Accordingly, when Cestius Gallus came against Jerusalem, and unexpectedly raised the siege, JOSEPHUS states, that many of the noble Jews departed out of the city, as out of a sinking ship; and when Vespasian afterwards drew towards it, a great multitude fled to the mountains. And we learn from EUSEBIUS, and EPIPHANIUS, that at this juncture, all who believed in Christ left Jerusalem, and removed to Pella, and other places beyond Jordan; and so escaped the general shipwreck of their country, that we do not read of one who perished in Jerusalem. Canne, J., Browne, Blayney, B., Scott, T., & Torrey, R. (2009). The Treasury of Scripture knowledge*
 - *"He will render to each one according to his works: to those who by patience in well-doing SEEK for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life; but for those who are self-seeking and do not OBEY the truth, but OBEY unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury. There will be tribulation and distress for every human being who DOES evil, the Jew first and also the Greek, but glory and honor and peace for everyone who DOES good, the Jew first and also the Greek. For God shows no partiality." (Romans 2:6-11, ESV)*

- God's righteous judgment toward rebellion may seem like "blessing" to those who have forgotten God, (vs. 27 - 28)
 1. Those who have no knowledge of God are not bothered by "living" in the midst of the pagan world, (vs. 27a)
 2. Those who have no knowledge of God will assimilate themselves into the pagan world out of necessity, (vs. 27b)
 3. Those who have no knowledge of God do not recognize that God has "driven" them there as punishment, (vs. 27c)
 4. Those who have no knowledge of God will continue to worship the temporal & not the eternal, (vs. 28a)
 5. Those who have no knowledge of God will continue to exalt themselves & not submit to God, (vs. 28b)
 6. Those who have no knowledge of God will persist in trusting in what has no ability to provide, (vs. 28c)

- Bar-None; There Is None Other Who Will Bring Conviction Leading To Genuine Repentance, (vs. 29 - 31)
 - God's conviction falls when you least expect it & when you are not looking for it, (vs. 29)
 1. God's conviction confronts your rebellion right where you are & shatters the self-centered mold, (vs. 29a)
 2. God's conviction drives you to a material knowledge of who God is & who you are not, (vs. 29b)
 3. God's conviction irrevocably changes your motives & attitudes, (vs. 29c)

 - God's conviction opens your eyes to the reality of your circumstances, (vs. 30)
 1. God's conviction reveals that tribulation has come for God's ordained purpose & not by chance, (vs. 30a)
 2. God's conviction reveals that you are in fact powerless to change anything about your circumstances, (vs. 30b)
 3. God's conviction reveals that any hope of salvation is only found in complete submission to God, (vs. 30c)

 - God's conviction draws those who hear into genuine, life giving repentance, (vs. 31)
 1. Genuine repentance accepts that God saves because of His mercy alone & because of nothing else, (vs. 31a)
 2. Genuine repentance accepts the promise of God that He has not & will not abandon you, (vs. 31b)
 3. Genuine repentance accepts the reality that God has not destroyed you although He could, (vs. 31c)
 4. Genuine repentance accepts the absolute truth that God's offer of salvation is for His glory; not ours, (vs. 31d)