Is God Just in His Judgment?

Genesis 18:16–33

Introduction

There is a day coming when God will judge the world because of man’s sin.

- “We will all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.” II Corinthians 5:10
- “Each of us will give an account of our life to God.” Romans 14:12
- “Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and come out – those who have done good will rise to live, and those who have done evil will rise to be condemned.” John 5:28-29

There is nothing more offensive to many people than the idea of God’s judgment and eternal punishment.

This is a passage that can help answer some of our questions.

What does this passage tell us about God’s judgment?

I. The Lord is just in his judgment.

Genesis 18:16-21

“Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do?”

There are three reasons why God told Abraham what he was about to do.

- Through Abraham all the nations on earth will be blessed.
- Abraham is to be a teacher of righteousness to his children and his descendents after him. Here is the duty of Christian parents in nutshell.
- God wanted Abraham to understand why Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed.

To say it in another way:

- God will provide a way of salvation.
- God will show us how we should live and we are to share that message with others.
- God wants us to know his judgment is just.
The outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah was great and their sin was very grievous.

Who is crying out?

“The Lord said to Cain, ‘What have you done? Listen. Your brother’s blood cries out to me from the ground.”

Genesis 4:10

God hears every cry. God sees every action.

**II. The Lord’s Judgment is based on full and accurate information.**

Genesis 18:21

“I will go down and see.”

The same expression is used in Genesis 11:5 concerning the tower of Babel.

This statement is made for our sake. God is a judge who knows all the facts. He needs no witnesses. He even knows the motives of our heart.

“Nothing in all creation is hidden from his sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.” Hebrews 4:13

The sin of Sodom was so great that God would act in judgment now.

Where is the line? When is a nation’s sin so great that God must act in judgment?

**III. The Lord responds to the prayers of the righteous.** Genesis 18:22-33

Abraham stood before the Lord.
Abraham interceded for Lot and the people of Sodom and Gomorrah. Only a believer can do that.

“And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.” John 14:13-14

“Will you sweep away the righteous with the wicked? Far be it from you! Will not the judge of all the earth do right?”

God would not destroy the city for 50 righteous people.

God would not destroy the city for 10 righteous people.

Lot’s witness was so ineffective and the city of Sodom so wicked there were not 10 righteous people to be found.

Little does the world realize how precious are God’s people.

“As the righteous minority goes, so goes the nation.” Walter Kaiser

Conclusion

Why will God judge the world? It is because of man’s sin and rebellion.

Has God provided a way of salvation? Yes. It is through faith in his Son Jesus Christ.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son.” John 3:16-18

Have you received this wonderful gift?