

The Timing of God's Judgment

"And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually...And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth..." Genesis 6:5, 7

The Bible narrates the human race's continuous sin and rebellion, tempting God to bring judgment upon them. Numerous times throughout Israel's history they provoked God, giving Him cause to destroy them. But judgment always came when God was ready; it was never determined by the iniquity of man. When God told Abraham that His people would return from Egypt, He said, "And they shall come back here in the fourth generation; for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete."¹ God, not the Amorites, determined when their iniquity was "complete."

So too, God set aside the Mosaic system when it fulfilled His purpose, not in response to the behavior of His people. Thus, Paul writes to the Galatians: "But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law."² In like manner, Christ will return when He is ready, not when we have faithfully executed the Great Commission, or accomplished any other task. Solomon reminds us "He has made everything beautiful in its time."³ Note that Solomon uses the past tense: "He has made." God has completed His work, it is "beautiful," and your behavior does not alter it. The only thing your behavior alters is how God will judge you "in His time."

Peter reminds his readers, "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up."⁴ The important question that only you can answer is, "Are you ready to meet Him in Judgment?"

¹ Genesis 15:16 ² Galatians 4:4 ³ Ecclesiastes 3:11 ⁴ II Peter 3:10