

All verses are copied from <https://biblehub.com/> in King James.

September 20,2020

God desires and expects those who love Him to walk in obedience. And when they refuse to do so, He has always brought judgment; to His Own first. There is sin both inside the Church and outside the Church, God has always expects more from those who love Him. Both for the Jews and for the New Testament Church.

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? [18](#)And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear? [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.

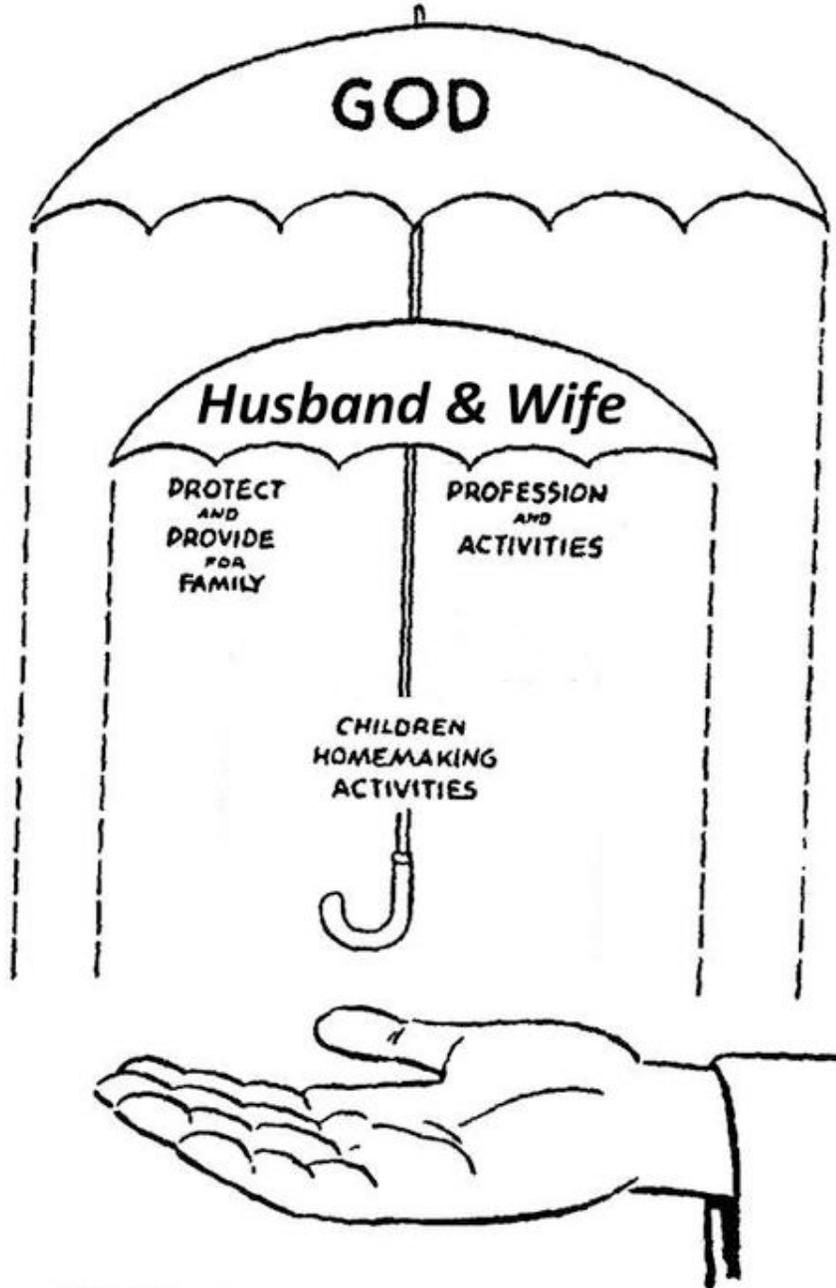
The point Peter is making is that Judgment comes upon the Church and the unsaved, but it always begins with the Church. The Church, those who love Jesus and fall to sin, make it harder for those outside the church to see the benefit of being Christians unless they listen long enough to get to how believers are still sinners and are forgiven.

They see judgment fall on unrepentant believers, the world saw the Jews judged time and time again for their failure to repent and

return to God. Their thoughts upon seeing that was; *how can their God allow this to happen to them.* God didn't allow it; He brought the judgment upon His people to chastise them to turn them back to Himself. God will never forsake you or leave you, but He will discipline us for our unrepentant sin. Don't think that because no discipline has fallen on us after we have sinned that discipline will not come. The only way to stop the pending discipline is to repent and turn from our wicked ways.

Think of it in this way; God's protection is like an umbrella. As long as we walk in Righteousness we remain under that umbrella of protection. When we sin, we are willing walk out from the protection of the umbrella and until we repent, we remain outside of God's Protective Umbrella.

GOD'S UMBRELLA OF PROTECTION



THE DIVINE ORDER

Israel as a nation not only sinned but they refused to repent. That may be the difference in why America is allowed to continue, the believers have repeatedly repented of our nation's sinful actions, even though as a Nation our Nation has failed to repent collectively. However, the collective sins of America, will eventually catch up with America and she as a Nation will feel God's Wrath.

As an example, let's take one of the worst sins of America; Abortion. There is the collective sin of allowing or putting into office those who have encouraged abortion, that is a collective sin. But the individual sin such as the politically elected person that promotes or the judges that rule in favor of abortion, we cannot repent of that. They have to repent of their own sin. As well as the mother who allows the abortion to be done and the doctor and nurses who carry out the abortion, we cannot repent of those sins, those sins lay on the individual soul and must be accounted for. There was and maybe still is a movement where people in America were repenting of the sins of American's in the past. Although we can ask God to forgive a Nation for its sins, I see nothing in scripture that says God will forgive the Nation without National repentance. As Nineveh found out National repentance required everyone from the leader to the last person to fall on their knees and repent.

A collective American sin that America corrected was “slavery”. It took a Civil War to settle the recognition of the sin but in the end the North and some from the South did recognize it and as a Nation corrected it legally. As to repenting I am unaware of a National Repentance of slavery.

Israel has collective sin that they as a nation have to repent of, and without the Temple, they have no means of doing so. They as a Nation will not realize the New method of repentance until after the Tribulation is well under way. As individuals under the existing Old Testament Law they can’t even unburden themselves of their personal sin, so the callousness continues to grow on each individual heart and collectively as a nation.

Zephaniah is trying to speak to the house of Israel, and specifically to Jerusalem, but they will not hear him for some time yet to come, but in the end the remnant will hear him. We as eavesdroppers are hearing this condemnation; will we listen?

The Judgment on Jerusalem

1Woe to her that is filthy and polluted, to the oppressing city!

There is a challenge in the interpretation of a word here; and that is “filthy” which may better be rendered “rebellious” according to Pulpit Commentary. The “rebellion” is of course the sin of

rejecting God and His Son. Even though offered, Israel has to this day on the large part not only rejected the offer of Christ and His Blood but rejected the ideals of following the Laws of God from the Old Covenant. They can't sacrifice in the Temple so the vast majority (90+%) of Israel are not practicing Jews. They are new age opportunist that have mistaken their protection as their cunning ability to defeat large national armies.

Let's watch a video about the Israeli Defense Force IDF and see if you see anything that they have missed in their (Secret) to their defenses.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YZ2zclPesrU>

What is missing in their self-analysis of their "SECRET"?

2She obeyed not the voice; she received not correction; she trusted not in the LORD; she drew not near to her God.

She= Jerusalem, now Jerusalem is a city, and a city has buildings and walls and streets but is inanimate; it has no feeling. So, the obvious reference here is that God is speaking of the people who make up the citizens of the city of Jerusalem and it is those people for several thousand years that "obeyed not the voice". The "voice" of course is the "Voice or Word" of God. The people

rejected the discipline or punishment that has fallen on them, out of stubbornness, blindness and calloused hearts.

Psalms 87:8 And might not be as their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation; a generation that set not their heart aright, and whose spirit was not stedfast with God.

This stubbornness is not a new phenomenon with Israel and Judah, it was handed down from their father's century after century. There have been interludes just like in America where it seemed like they and we were turning back to God. Each of those occasions came from their leadership, their Godly Kings and Godly Priests and Godly Judges, these rulers whose heart was after God, would not tolerate evil to flourish in their nation. The same can be said about America or other free nations. When the leadership is God fearing and obedient to God and His Word; the nation prospers.

3Her princes within her are roaring lions; her judges are evening wolves; they gnaw not the bones till the morrow.

Leadership is the key; a leader that is sensitive to God and His leading makes a great leader. But even as these great leaders were developed, they were resisted by Satan and Satan would bring enmity toward them. Here in America it comes in many forms from news, to Hollywood, to governors, senators, representatives, mayors, council members and county

commissioners and all government positions above and below those named. The same holds true for Israel and specifically Jerusalem.

The reference to “judges”

“...her judges are evening wolves; they gnaw not the bones till the morrow.”

Wolves kill and move on, they seldom take the time to gnaw on the bones until the next day. The point is that the judges that are evil, destroy Godly doctrine without regard to time and impact, they just move onto destroy more and more.

4Her prophets are light and treacherous persons: her priests have polluted the sanctuary, they have done violence to the law.

Evil false prophets that would take money for prophesying good for evil kings.

Jeremiah 23:11 "For both prophet and priest are ungodly; even in My house I have found their wickedness," declares the LORD.

Jeremiah 32:32 Because of all the evil of the children of Israel and of the children of Judah, which they have done to provoke me to anger, they, their kings, their princes, their priests, and their prophets, and the men of Judah, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

*Matthew 7:15 **15**Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.*

5The just LORD is in the midst thereof; he will not do iniquity: every morning doth he bring his judgment to light, he faileth not; but the unjust knoweth no shame.

It does not mean that God every morning hands out justice, it means that God's Moral law is evident at all times and that no sin goes unnoticed by God. One of two things happen when we sin, it is recorded on our record for as long as it takes us to repent or it is extinguished from our record as soon as we repent. Many times, we commit sin and fail to repent so we have this yoke of conviction hanging around our necks. It can manifest itself in anger with those we love out of disgust for ourselves. Our own self-loathing usually brings out the worst in us to our family and friends. When we realize all, we have to do is repent and that yoke or burden of sin is lifted from us.

For tentative believers; those not fully committed to Jesus, they fail to repent, and their hearts become calloused and if they continue in that sin their hearts they will be unable to hear the voice of the Holy Spirit. They are like the seed that Jesus spoken of that fell on rocky ground, it sprouted up quickly but then died out.

“The unjust knoweth no shame” means exactly that, if you commit sin and refuse to repent then you do not know God and Jesus as your Savior. You have no conscience; you have no guilt and so the penalty of sin will lay upon your soul awaiting judgment day unless you surrender and asked Christ to save you. But you must first rightly determine that you are a sinner and need a Savior. Then you must repent of your sins to Jesus, all of them.

6I have cut off the nations: their towers are desolate; I made their streets waste, that none passeth by: their cities are destroyed, so that there is no man, that there is none inhabitant.

The Omniscient God has brought down nations that refused His Mercy and Grace and in those nations millions of people who did as their nation did; rejected God. God is Omni powerful and Omnipresent and no one and no nation is beyond His reach.

7I said, Surely thou wilt fear me, thou wilt receive instruction; so their dwelling should not be cut off, howsoever I punished them: but they rose early, *and* corrupted all their doings.

God describes how He reached out to the nation Israel and the people of that land; His Own were given opportunity after opportunity and continued to reject Him from the Kings and Priests to the common man. They set their hearts on sin instead

of pleasing God every day, they would wake up with evil in their hearts and minds.

8Therefore wait ye upon me, saith the LORD, until the day that I rise up to the prey: for my determination *is* to gather the nations, that I may assemble the kingdoms, to pour upon them mine indignation, *even* all my fierce anger: for all the earth shall be devoured with the fire of my jealousy.

Even though God had chosen Israel as His Own People, all the world was given ample examples of His Righteousness and Power and the world rejected Him. You might say how would the tribes in deepest Africa have known about God and His Power;

Romans 1:20 20 For ^othe invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, ^ebeing understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; ^lso that they are ^gwithout excuse:

Psalms 19:11 The ^aheavens declare the glory of God;
And the firmament sheweth his handywork.

2 Day unto day ^{aa}uttereth speech,

And night unto night ^bsheweth knowledge.

3 There is no speech nor language,

^{ll}Where their voice is not heard.

4 ^{cl}Their ^dline is gone out through all the earth,
And their words to the end of the world.

In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun,

There are two types of knowledge of God, “general knowledge” and “specific knowledge”. All mankind has been blessed with the “general knowledge” of God through creation. There are some

that are blessed with “specific knowledge” of God and that is through His Word. His Word has been spread throughout the world, only a few places and tribes do not have this specific knowledge so they will be judged on their general knowledge of God. The rest of the world will be judged on Specific Knowledge of God, the Word is that Specific Knowledge. What about churches that do not teach this specific knowledge and prefer to teach a social gospel; one that tickles the ears of men and does not attach to their heart? These will be judged on Specific Knowledge as it is the responsibility of each person to search out the Scriptures daily.

2 Timothy 2:15 ¹⁵ Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

Q. Who is that written to? Us

Q. Are you an exception to this command? No, we will be judged on specific knowledge because it was at our fingertips and we chose to obey or not obey.

Purification of the Nations

9For then will I turn to the people a pure language, that they may all call upon the name of the LORD, to serve him with one consent.

There is a moment in time that is yet to come when Jesus actually physically and spiritually assumes the role that He was destined to fulfill and that is King Jesus, the High Priest the Savior of the World all in One God. In that moment the burden of Babel will be lifted from the world and a singular pure language will be enacted among all who call on the name of Jesus. That event can be recognized by the blowing of the seventh trumpet;

Revelation 11:15 And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.

10From beyond the rivers of Ethiopia my supplants, even the daughter of my dispersed, shall bring mine offering.

This verse is similar to the use of cardinal directions used in Zephaniah 2:5. We learned from the use of areas within Israel that the intent was to give cardinal directions;

**Quoted from Bible Pulpit commentary on
Zephania 3:10**

“Thus the four quarters of the world are virtually specified: the Philistines representing the west,, the Moabites and Ammonites (vers. 8-10) the east, the Cushites (vers. 11, 12) the south, and the Assyrians (vers. 13-15) the north.”

A similar use is employed here by saying; “beyond the rivers of Ethiopia” indicates from distant lands.

Suppliant are similar to “suitors”, those wanting a relationship with Israel and the “even the daughters” meaning the offspring of those who were dispersed around the world. The idea here is that a sacrificial offering will be brought back to Israel; really meaning those offspring of the dispersed will come back to Israel and the Gentile Nations will aid them in returning as if they were offering; an offering of flesh to God.

11In that day shalt thou not be ashamed for all thy doings, wherein thou hast transgressed against me: for then I will take away out of the midst of thee them that rejoice in thy pride, and thou shalt no more be haughty because of my holy mountain.

In the Day in which Jesus assumes His eminent role as King/Priest of the Church and of the earth, the gentiles and the Jews will no longer have to be ashamed of their rejection of Jesus and all the other sins they have committed. At that time God removes the pride of the Jews and Gentiles, thinking that all the successes have been due to our abilities instead of the truth in that God blesses all of us with Blessings we do not deserve.

Remember, God is recommending to us to fall to our knees and seek His Face, repent of our ego's and haughty pride. God is seeking a Contrite and Humble Spirit in His Church.

12I will also leave in the midst of thee an afflicted and poor people, and they shall trust in the name of the LORD.

James 2:5 Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?

This “poor people” are believers who finally recognize that they owe their salvation and eternal lives to the Blood of Jesus. That knowledge will lead them to Trust in the Lord alone, and nothing else.

13The remnant of Israel shall not do iniquity, nor speak lies; neither shall a deceitful tongue be found in their mouth: for they shall feed and lie down, and none shall make *them* afraid.

Man has searched for what some heathens call “Nirvana” all the time God was offering the very essence of what they sought; Heaven. It will be far more amazing than what man has thought it would be, far more than we can imagine. We will finally have Peace; no evil, Just Jesus.

Israel's Restoration

Romans 11: [25](#) For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.

To get a clear understanding of this phrase, “fulness of the Gentiles be come in.” we need to search that out. It is one of the pivot points we will see happen and it has immense implications worldwide. Even though the exact phrase is not found in the Old Testament we find hints about it there.

The “times of the Gentiles” began with Nebuchadnezzars conquering of Israel and taking Jerusalem.

Luke 21:24 And they shall fall by ^cthe edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be ^dtrodden down of the Gentiles, ^euntil the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.

Keep in mind the “times of the Gentiles” would become a blessing to we Gentiles that accepted the Free Gift of Life from Christ through His Blood.

From the time of Babylon’s capturing Judah until Christ came was approximately 600 years.

The curse side of the “times of the Gentiles” is a curse that will come to fruition once again in Judah.

Revelation 11:2 But ^cthe ^dcourt which is without the temple ⁱleave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto ^ethe Gentiles: and ^fthe holy city shall they ^etread under foot ^gforty and two months.

We see from Revelation 11:2 that the Times of the Gentiles on the curse side has continued into Tribulation to actually the midpoint of Tribulation when the Anti-Christ enters the Holy of Holies in the 3rd Temple. Indications are that the actual curse of the “times of the Gentiles will actually continue until Jesus returns to earth to establish His Kingdom at the end of Tribulation.

26And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob:

27For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins.

28As concerning the gospel, they are enemies for your sakes: but as touching the election, they are beloved for the fathers' sakes. 29For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance. 30For as ye in times past have not believed God, yet have now obtained mercy through their unbelief: 31Even so have these also now not believed, that through your mercy they also may obtain mercy. 32For God hath concluded them all in unbelief, that he might have mercy upon all.

14Sing, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel; be glad and rejoice with all the heart, O daughter of Jerusalem.

15The LORD hath taken away thy judgments, he hath cast out thine enemy: the king of Israel, even the LORD, is in the midst of thee: thou shalt not see evil any more.

16In that day it shall be said to Jerusalem, Fear thou not: *and to Zion, Let not thine hands be slack.*

17The LORD thy God in the midst of thee *is* mighty; he will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy; he will rest in his love, he will joy over thee with singing.

Perhaps we seldom if ever consider God's reaction to this pivotal event when evil is restrained and life with Jesus begins. For a thousand years we will see the benefits of what life with Jesus can be with evil restrained.

18I will gather *them that are* sorrowful for the solemn assembly, *who are of thee, to whom* the reproach of it *was* a burden.

We have each felt that lifting of a burden from our souls when we finally surrendered to Jesus; He took our burden upon Himself; we had to learn to let it go.

19Behold, at that time I will undo all that afflict thee: and I will save her that halteth, and gather her that was driven out; and I will get them praise and fame in every land where they have been put to shame.

Those who suffered at the hand of man around the world will see what it is like to have the opposite in this new life.

20At that time will I bring you *again*, even in the time that I gather you: for I will make you a name and a praise among all people of the earth, when I turn back your captivity before your eyes, saith the LORD.

Speaking specifically of Israel in her return not only to her land but to her High Priest and King; Jesus Christ. Israel will become a “praise” to all the earth. Going from captivity; meaning captivity to sin, just like all believes, they will turn their back on that captivity in light of the Blood of Christ.

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