

# **Title: Judging *for* God's People**

CH: 221 Rejoice, the Lord Is King

**THEME:** You will discover today, that one important aspect of God's judgment is *defense* of His people. This fact is—and has been—a source of GREAT comfort to His struggling faithful.

**WHY IT MATTERS:** In 2014 the idea of God as judge is not a pop-culture favorite. In fact, even as believers we often look at God's work of judgment with fear (and some of should). However, in Revelation 6:9, 10 God's people cry out *FOR* judgment. Why? Can God's judgment actually be something I pray *FOR* rather than run *FROM*?

As a matter of simple fact, **judgment permeates Scripture.**

Genesis 3 (:14-19)

Revelation 22:12

We can look at judgment in Scripture from many different perspectives, but here are **three basic ways that judgment is exercised:**

1. Redemptively (Think judgments against Adam and Eve at the Fall)
2. Defensively (Think Hezekiah and the Assyrians)
3. Punetively (Think seven last plagues)

**Undoubtedly, there is overlap between these three**—in fact, many times all three aspects are at play in single acts of judgment. Think the **plagues of Egypt** (God's fierce acts of judgment led some to awe and repentance; they resulted in the deliverance of God's people; and they punished the hard-hearted Pharaoh and his kingdom.)

We're going to look at the **Psalms for some theology of judgment.**

**Psalm 96 (98): judgment in equity is grounded in God's goodness**

Judgment in these two passages is an affirmation of God's goodness—in fact, of His character of love. Judgment and righteousness go hand in hand as inseparable components of love.

**Revelation 11:17, 18**

Notice at the very end of Scripture this concept of judgment as revelation of God's character comes up.

**Out of this goodness He stands up for, and delivers His people.** It is an affirmation of justice a defense and preservation of right and equity.

**Psalm 7:** is a clear statement of **God's defensive judgment.** David clearly asks God to stand up and, through judgment, defend his cause.

(Psalm 17, 26, 43: Judgment as vindication of the righteous)

**Judgment is an act of declaration and separation of good and bad.**

One of the most exciting **depictions of God's defensive judgment** is found in the story of **Hezekiah and Sennacherib:**

**Isaiah 36-37; 2 Chronicles 32:7, 8 (critical passage)**

**NOTE: Judgment is only a defensive act for those in whom righteousness is found.**

**Psalm 7:1-5**

**1 John 4:16-19: boldness in the day of judgment** for those in whom Christ dwells. Those who are righteous through the gift of salvation—stand boldly by faith in Jesus Christ.

The **beauty of the Gospel** is that it provides BOTH pardon and purity so that when judgment comes the righteous are vindicated and delivered.

**David's life was not without sin—but he was forgiven.** He had sinned on multiple occasions: Bathsheba and taking a census of Israel to name two glaring infractions. Yet, he was forgiven. **Psalm 32:1-5.** He could hold his head high in *righteousness* because he was forgiven.

**Hence, the great need in our lives of repentance and faith in the flawless righteousness of Jesus as a gift to us (the garment in the following passage).** Consider the message to Laodicea(people | judged): **Revelation 3:14+**

**Jeremiah 33:14-16 Lord our righteousness**

**End-time judgment is a vindication and deliverance of God's faithful people**

**During the conflict between good and evil, the righteous don't always seem to come out on top.** **Psalm 73**—then we see the end of the wicked: judgment defends the righteous, establishes equity, and brings the wicked to an end.

**Judgment then, is not simply a good Bible doctrine and Adventist belief, it is grounds for remaining faithful at a time when faithfulness doesn't seem to pay off!!!!**

**Daniel 7, 8:** judgment is **vindication of the faithful and culminates in their deliverance.**  
**Revelation 18, 19, 20: it is Divine judgment that ultimately defends the universe from the presence and power of evil**—paving the way for the return to a sinless universe once again.

**The Biblical perspective on judgment looks like this:**

**God is vindicating the righteous and condemning the wicked.**

**This leads to deliverance for the righteous.**

**As we place our faith in the salvation provided for in Jesus Christ, judgment becomes for us a great hope.**

**Hope that our faithfulness to God will one day be vindicated.**

**Hope that the evil we have stood against will one day come to its timely and just end.**

**Hope that righteousness will one day universally prevail.**

**A hope that grounds our belief in a just and good God.**

**Psalm 98**