

## **IS COVID-19 JUDGMENT FROM GOD?**

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**TEXT: Romans 11:33 Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways! 34 For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, OR WHO BECAME HIS COUNSELOR? 35 Or WHO HAS FIRST GIVEN TO HIM THAT IT MIGHT BE PAID BACK TO HIM AGAIN? 36 For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen.**

INTRO: Paul wrote Romans, his magnum opus (most important work) near the end of his life. For me, the Gospel of John and the book of Romans are the two most important theological books in the New Testament. What Paul is saying in Romans 11:33-36 is that even though he has done his best to explain theological truths in his letter to the Roman Christians, he realizes that the wisdom and knowledge of God is so unsearchable and unfathomable, that it is ultimately way beyond his comprehension (although Paul was a genius).

Specifically, God's judgments are a mystery. So, too, in the same way, I want to confess that the subject of judgment is so vast and beyond total understanding for me. This keeps me humble and not dogmatic. The more I study, the more I realize how much I don't know.

But that doesn't mean that God doesn't want us to understand His ways. I believe that it is for "kings to search out a matter" (Proverbs 25:2). "It is the glory of God to conceal a matter, but the glory of kings is to search out a matter." And the Bible teaches that eternal judgment is foundational to the Christian faith (Hebrews 6:1-2). So, I want to do my best to share my take on the doctrine of judgment in the light of COVID-19, asking the question that I have heard people ask and talk about: "Is COVID-19 judgment from God?"

### TEN FOUNDATIONAL TRUTHS TO BETTER UNDERSTAND THE SUBJECT OF JUDGMENT

#### **I. GOD IS GOOD**

**A. Mark 10:18 And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good except God alone."**

1. God is love (1 John 4:8,16).
2. God loves the world and **"God desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth." (1 Timothy 2:4)**

**II. GOD IS JUST**

**A. Psalm 84:14 Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne.**

**B. Psalm 19:9 The judgments of the LORD are true; they are righteous altogether.**

**1. Genesis 2:17 “but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die.”**

**III. MAN IS A SINNER AND HAS A PROPENSITY FOR CHOOSING EVIL**

**A. Genesis 6:5 Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. 6 The LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. 7 The LORD said, “I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, from man to animals to creeping things and to birds of the sky; for I am sorry that I have made them.” 8 But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD.**

**1. Romans 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.**

**2. Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death...**

**3. Ezekiel 18:20 The person who sins will die...**

**4. Galatians 6:7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap.**

**5. You look at the genocides that took place in the last century: 6 million Jews were murdered; Ukraine was wiped out by Stalin; Mao’s mass starvation of the Chinese people; the Turkish genocide of the Armenians. 100 million were murdered in total. But it wasn’t just the Hitlers and Stalins but the millions of average citizens who supported the genocide! Most were intellectual elites.**

**6. If God said that He will wipe out the problem of evil by 12:00 midnight tonight, how many of us will be alive at 12:01 a.m.?**

**IV. WE LIVE ON A BROKEN PLANET**

**A. Romans 8:21 That the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now.**

**1. The reason why we have tornadoes, earthquakes, hurricanes, and other natural disasters is because we live on a broken planet.**

**V. SATAN IS A MURDERER**

**A. John 8:44 “You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he**

speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies.”

1. John 10:10 “The thief comes only to steal, kill, and destroy...”

#### **VI. GOD’S JUDGMENT IN THE OLD TESTAMENT**

**A. 2 Chronicles 7:13** “If I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or if I command the locust to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among My people, 14 and My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin and will heal their land.”

1. If you obey God and His Word, you will be blessed. If you disobey, you will be cursed. (Deuteronomy 28)

#### **VII. THE DEATH AND RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHANGED EVERYTHING**

**A. Luke 16:16** “The Law and the Prophets were proclaimed until John; since that time the gospel of the kingdom of God has been preached, and everyone is forcing his way into it.”

1. The Gospel of the Kingdom is that Jesus died for our sins and those who believe are saved from being eternally damned.
2. **Romans 8:1** Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.
3. **Galatians 3:13** Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us — for it is written, “**CURSED IS EVERYONE WHO HANGS ON A TREE.**”
4. We are no longer under the curse.

#### **VIII. GOD JUDGES UNBELIEVERS IN THE NEW COVENANT BY GIVING THEM OVER TO THEIR SINS**

**A. Romans 1:18** For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness.

1. **Romans 1:24** *Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them... 26 For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural, 27 and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another, men with men committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error. 28 And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper.*

2. COVID-19 and the spirit of death were released in China and specifically New York. Why does NY have almost half of the COVID-19 deaths in America? Is it possible that when Governor Cuomo passed a state legislation that legalized late-term abortion until the last day of the nine-month pregnancy and all the people who stood behind him as he signed that abominable law, that the legal right for Satan to kill was unleashed on NY? God was saying, “You want death? I will give you death.” In my mind, He gave them over to that spirit of death.

#### **B. WHAT ABOUT ANANIAS AND SAPPHIRA?**

1. **Acts 5:1** But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property, **2** and kept back some of the price for himself, with his wife’s full knowledge, and bringing a portion of it, he laid it at the apostles’ feet. **3** But Peter said, “Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back some of the price of the land? **4** While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not under your control? Why is it that you have conceived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God.” **5** And as he heard these words, Ananias fell down and breathed his last; and great fear came over all who heard of it. **6** The young men got up and covered him up, and after carrying him out, they buried him.
2. **Acts 5:7** Now there elapsed an interval of about three hours, and his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. **8** And Peter responded to her, “Tell me whether you sold the land for such and such a price?” And she said, “Yes, that was the price.” **9** Then Peter said to her, “Why is it that you have agreed together to put the Spirit of the Lord to the test? Behold, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out as well.”

#### **C. THREE TRUTHS**

1. Satan had filled Ananias’ heart to lie to the Holy Spirit (verse 3). I don’t believe that Ananias and Sapphira were saved.
2. They gave a legal right for Satan to murder them. When God “gives them over to their sins,” they come out of God’s protection and they are legally opened to Satan’s attacks, including death.
3. Peter does not curse them; he prophesies to them, “Behold, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out as well.”

### **IX. GOD WILL SHAKE THE NATIONS**

- A. Haggai 2:7** “‘I will shake all the nations; and they will come with the wealth of all nations, and I will fill this house with glory,’ says the

**LORD of hosts. 8 ‘The silver is Mine and the gold is Mine,’ declares the LORD of hosts. 9 ‘The latter glory of this house will be greater than the former,’ says the LORD of hosts, ‘and in this place I will give peace,’ declares the LORD of hosts.”**

**B. Hebrews 12:25 See to it that you do not refuse Him who is speaking. For if those did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, much less will we escape who turn away from Him who warns from heaven. 26 And His voice shook the earth then, but now He has promised, saying, “YET ONCE MORE I WILL SHAKE NOT ONLY THE EARTH, BUT ALSO THE HEAVEN.” 27 This expression, “Yet once more,” denotes the removing of those things which can be shaken, as of created things, so that those things which cannot be shaken may remain. 28 Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe; 29 for our God is a consuming fire.**

**C. GOD WILL WORK ALL THINGS TOGETHER FOR GOOD**

- 1. Romans 8:28 And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.**
- 2. Redemptive Discipline: “All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.” (Hebrews 12:11)**

**X. THE DOCTRINE OF END-TIME JUDGMENT**

**A. THE GREAT DAY OF JUDGMENT**

- 1. Matthew 25:31 “But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. 32 All the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats; 33 and He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left.”**
- 2. Matthew 25:41 “Then He will also say to those on His left, ‘Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels.’”**
- 3. Revelation 20:11-14: The Great White Throne Judgment.**

**B. THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST**

- 1. 2 Corinthians 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.**

CONCLUSION