

"Bar-None; Judgment & Repentance"

Deuteronomy 4: 25 - 31

October 17, 2010

"Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come." (1 Corinthians 10: 11)

- Bar-None; There Is None Other Who Will Judge Rebellion With A Righteous Judgment, (vs. 25 – 28)
 - God's righteous judgment toward rebellion may not happen immediately, (vs. 25); 2 Peter 3:9 "The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance."
 1. God's patience with rebellion may last for multiple generations, (vs. 25a); *"And Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the LORD, died at the age of 110 years... And all that generation also were gathered to their fathers. And there arose another generation after them who did not know the LORD or the work that he had done for Israel..." (Judges 2: 8 – 12)*
 2. God's patience with rebellion may be demonstrated in "good health" & "security," (vs. 25b); *"... So Moses the servant of the Lord died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the Lord, and he buried him in the valley in the land of Moab opposite Beth-peor; but no one knows the place of his burial to this day. Moses was 120 years old when he died. His eye was undimmed, and his vigor unabated." (Deuteronomy 34:4-7)*
 3. God's patience with rebellion may "forebear" the intentional abandonment of His covenant relationship, (vs. 25c); *The prophet is considered a fool – the inspired man is viewed as a madman – because of the multitude of your sins and your intense animosity. The prophet is a watchman over Ephraim on behalf of God, yet traps are laid for him along all of his paths; animosity rages against him in the land of his God." (Hosea 9: 7 – 9)*
 4. God's patience with rebellion may "endure" the great offense of malicious disobedience, (vs. 25d); *"And they BURNED their sons and their daughters as offerings and USED divination and OMENS and SOLD themselves to do evil in the sight of the Lord, provoking him to anger." (2 Kings 17:17-18)*
 5. God's patience with rebellion will not stem the flood of vengeful wrath of God's anger, (vs. 25e); *"He did what was evil in the sight of the Lord his God. He did not humble himself before Jeremiah the prophet, who spoke from the mouth of the Lord. He also rebelled against King Nebuchadnezzar, who had made him swear by God. He stiffened his neck and hardened his heart against turning to the Lord, the God of Israel. All the officers of the priests and the people likewise were exceedingly unfaithful, following all the abominations of the nations. And they polluted the house of the Lord that he had made holy in Jerusalem. The Lord, the God of their fathers, sent persistently to them by his messengers, because he had compassion on his people and on his dwelling place. But they kept mocking the messengers of God, despising his words and scoffing at his prophets, until the wrath of the Lord rose against his people, until there was no remedy." (2 Chronicles 36:12-16)*
 - God's righteous judgment toward rebellion will be swift & complete once enacted, (vs. 26)
 1. God's righteous judgment toward rebellion will be unquestioned, (vs. 26a); *"HEAR, O heavens, and GIVE EAR, O earth; for the Lord has SPOKEN: "Children have I REARED and BROUGHT up, but they have REBELLED against me. The ox KNOWS its OWNER, and the donkey its master's crib, but Israel does not KNOW, my people do not UNDERSTAND." Ah, SINFUL nation, a people laden with iniquity, offspring of EVILDOERS, children who deal CORRUPTLY! They have FORSAKEN the Lord, they have DESPISED the Holy One of Israel, they are utterly ESTRANGED." (Isaiah 1:2-4)*

"Hear the word of the Lord, O children of Israel, for the Lord has a controversy with the inhabitants of the land. There is no faithfulness or steadfast love, and no knowledge of God in the land;" (Hosea 4:1)
 2. God's righteous judgment toward rebellion will be as certain as the blessings that precede it, (vs. 26b); *"And I will LAY your cities WASTE and will make your sanctuaries DESOLATE, and I will not SMELL your pleasing aromas. And I myself will DEVASTATE the land, so that your ENEMIES who SETTLE in it shall be APPALLED at it. And I will SCATTER you among the nations, and I will UNSHEATHE the sword after you, and your land shall BE A DESOLATION, and your cities shall BE A WASTE." (Leviticus 26:31-33)*
 3. God's righteous judgment toward rebellion will be swift & complete resulting in certain destruction, (vs. 26c); *"But when you see Jerusalem SURROUNDED by armies, then know that its desolation has come NEAR. Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, and let those who are inside the city depart, and let not those who are out in the country enter it, for these are days of vengeance, to fulfill all that is WRITTEN. Alas for WOMEN WHO ARE PREGNANT and for those who are NURSING infants in those days! For there will be great distress upon the earth and wrath against this people. They will fall by the edge of the sword and be led captive among all nations, and Jerusalem will be TRAMPLED underfoot by the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled." (Luke 21:20-24)*
 - Accordingly, when Cestius Gallus came against Jerusalem, and unexpectedly raised the siege, JOSEPHUS states, that many of the noble Jews departed out of the city, as out of a sinking ship; and when Vespasian afterwards drew towards it, a great multitude fled to the mountains. And we learn from EUSEBIUS, and EPIPHANIUS, that at this juncture, all who believed in Christ left Jerusalem, and removed to Pella, and other places beyond Jordan; and so escaped the general shipwreck of their country, that we do not read of one who perished in Jerusalem. Canne, J., Browne, Blayney, B., Scott, T., & Torrey, R. (2009). *The Treasury of Scripture knowledge*

- God's righteous judgment toward rebellion may seem like "blessing" to those who have forgotten God, (vs. 27 - 28)
 1. Those who have no knowledge of God are not bothered by "living" in the midst of the pagan world, (vs. 27a)
 2. Those who have no knowledge of God will assimilate themselves into the pagan world out of necessity, (vs. 27b)
 3. Those who have no knowledge of God do not recognize that God has "driven" them there as punishment, (vs. 27c)
 4. Those who have no knowledge of God will continue to worship the temporal & not the eternal, (vs. 28a)
 5. Those who have no knowledge of God will continue to exalt themselves & not submit to God, (vs. 28b)
 6. Those who have no knowledge of God will persist in trusting in what has no ability to provide, (vs. 28c)

- Bar-None; There Is None Other Who Will Bring Conviction Leading To Genuine Repentance, (vs. 29 - 31)
 - God's conviction falls when you least expect it & when you are not looking for it, (vs. 29)
 1. God's conviction confronts your rebellion right where you are & shatters the self-centered mold, (vs. 29a)
 2. God's conviction drives you to a material knowledge of who God is & who you are not, (vs. 29b)
 3. God's conviction irrevocably changes your motives & attitudes, (vs. 29c)

 - God's conviction opens your eyes to the reality of your circumstances, (vs. 30)
 1. God's conviction reveals that tribulation has come for God's ordained purpose & not by chance, (vs. 30a)
 2. God's conviction reveals that you are in fact powerless to change anything about your circumstances, (vs. 30b)
 3. God's conviction reveals that any hope of salvation is only found in complete submission to God, (vs. 30c)

 - God's conviction draws those who hear into genuine, life giving repentance, (vs. 31)
 1. Genuine repentance accepts that God saves because of His mercy alone & because of nothing else, (vs. 31a)
 2. Genuine repentance accepts the promise of God that He has not & will not abandon you, (vs. 31b)
 3. Genuine repentance accepts the reality that God has not destroyed you although He could, (vs. 31c)
 4. Genuine repentance accepts the absolute truth that God's offer of salvation is for His glory; not ours, (vs. 31d)