

# ESCAPING THE JUDGEMENT OF GOD

Preached by Rev. Ezekiel A. Oshobowale  
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This evening, we have another opportunity to go into the word of God. What we are going to consider from the word of God is, what many in the world are not willing to hear. Many have declared that it is impossible. Many think that whatsoever happens, they can still straighten things in their own wisdom. Many try to improve on it. Improve on what - The judgement of God? Many according to man's wisdom try by means of native medicine to avert God's judgement by washing, but there is no soap strong enough to remove the condemnation and the judgement God. There is no means whereby man can remove the condemnation and the judgement of God brought about as the result of sin.

God is not thinking about the judgement only; He also has prepared a way of escape from the judgement. God is so kind and merciful. He has no delight in the death of sinners He often sends His Spirit to plead with sinners. But unfortunately not many heed the voice of His Spirit. But when the judgement comes some do call on God while some remain adamant in their sins. Let us go into the word of God. '

**"How long, ye simple ones, will ye love simplicity? And the scorers delight in their scorning, and fools hate knowledge? Turn ye at my reproof: behold, I will pour out my spirit unto you, I will make known my words unto you. Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded; but ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof". (Proverbs 1:22-25)**

God in his infinite mercy and boundless love is here calling the simple ones, and He is pleading with them. **"How long will ye love simplicity? And the scorers delight in their scorning and fools hate knowledge?"** He promised them that if they turn from their evil ways He will pour out His Spirit unto them and make his words known to them.

It is the same Spirit that is obtainable in our time today. The Spirit of God is going about and He is speaking, pleading earnestly in that still small voice to the hearts of people. When they go astray He alerts them. Yet the heart of man continues in its wickedness. Man does not want to forsake his wicked ways. Because many so called ministers of God today dare not declare to their congregation the judgement of God so that their wages might not be reduced.

I remember a time when we had a land at Tapa Street. We went there for service one day and saw one young man who seemed to be concerned, about his soul. I went nearer to him and asked him, are you in need of something? He said yes. He said he loved our sermons but he was thinking that we were driving people away from God, because we said that God is going to bring judgement upon sinners. God is so good and merciful, how do you think He will bring judgement

and send people to hell? He is one of the false prophets. There are many also who claim to be witnessing for God, they are not, but rather witnessing for devil.

People are going away from God.

**"Because I have called and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded but ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof: I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh: When your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish cometh upon you. Then shall they call upon, but I will not answer: they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me: For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the Lord: They would none of my counsel: they despised all my reproof. Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices. For the turning away of the simple shall slay them, and, the prosperity of fools shall destroy them" (Proverbs 1:24-32)**

What God said here was what happened in the olden days. This kind of things had happened during the time of Noah: Noah the preacher of righteousness. This people were given sufficient time to repent. But they did not repent. Noah preached to them but they did not listen. And God decided to destroy them when they fail to repent of their evil deeds. God asked Noah to enter the Ark that had been built by Him. God asked Noah to replace human beings with animals to fill the Ark. And God Himself locked it up. And when it was locked the people began to call upon God. He did not listen to them, because when He had called they did not listen. When Noah was also calling they did not listen. They thought it was impossible that people should be destroyed if they refuse to repent. So these people were destroyed in their iniquities.

The same thing is true with the people who lived during the time of Lot. He went to his sons-in-law and his daughters, and told them that God has said that He was going to destroy their City with fire, and he asked them to follow him. But he looked like a fool to them. They said, "Do you think God is going to destroy this City and these beautiful things around us?" They refused to go with Lot. Because Lot did not want to come out of this City in time, the Angel of God took him out and God rained fire and brimstone until they perished.

**'For the turning away of the simple shall slay them, and the prosperity of fools shall destroy them" (Proverbs 1:32)**

There is another set of people different from those that we have just mentioned. God sent judgement on certain people by sending rain to destroy them. But there are other sets of people who contend that since God's judgement is not instantaneous, they are at liberty to continue in their iniquities.

**"Ah sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evildoers, children that are corrupters: they have forsaken the Lord, they have provoked the Holy One of Israel unto anger, they are gone away backward. Why should ye be stricken any more? Ye will revolt, more and more: the whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint. From the sole of the foot even unto the head there is no soundness in it; but wounds, and bruises, and putrifying sores; they have not been closed, neither bound up, neither mollified with ointment. Your country is desolate, your cities are burned with fire; your land, strangers devour it in your presence, and it is desolate, as overthrown by strangers. And the daughter of Zion is left as a cottage in a vineyard, as a lodge in a garden of cucumbers, as a besieged city. Except**

**the Lord of hosts had left unto us a very small remnant, we should have been as Sodom, and we should have been like unto Gomorrah". (Isaiah 1:4-9)**

In order that these people might forsake their evil ways, God sent mercy unto them in the form of judgement, but in all these, the people did not repent. God was doing this just to bring them nearer to Him, nevertheless, these people did not repent. What God requested of this people, they refused to do. Instead of doing what the Lord had asked them to do, they went in their own way and thought within themselves, let us offer sacrifices unto the Lord, perhaps we might please Him. This is what people are doing today. The Lord is calling many people to repent, but instead of turning from their evil ways: they are going further and farther away from God.

In the world today, there are many diseases that the doctors do not have names for. Some young men of thirty years looks like sixty year old people. From their facial appearance, they do not have rest, no peace in their hearts. Many are seeking to lean upon the arm of flesh instead of turning to the Lord. They go to doctors for help and they find more affliction. The people of the world today are just like the children of Israel of old. Instead of people turning unto the Lord they are drifting farther away. There are many people, instead of trusting the Lord, they seek for help elsewhere.

I remember, when I was going somewhere with a man of God; He saw a woman, and he directed my attention to her in her helpless condition. The Spirit of God was telling me her suffering was the result of the wages of sin. Likewise when a man complains" I am suffering from this and that" often these are result of sin.

**"Except the Lord of hosts had left unto us a very small remnant, we should have been as Sodom, and we should have been like unto Gomorrah". (Isaiah 1:9)**

Do you know what happened to Sodom and Gomorrah? God sent fire upon them. It is just the type of fire that God will send at the end because Peter tells us that this world is reserved unto fire. **"Except the Lord of hosts had left unto us a very' small remnant, we should have been as Sodom, and we should have been like unto Gomorrah".** We know that these people were destroyed with fire.

It is appointed unto men once to die and after death the judgement.

My sinner friend, you can just imagine what has befallen you, what is troubling your heart. These are not caused by anybody; they are the judgement of God. They befell you in order that you might turn to God to seek Him. The Lord in His mercy might let those things happen to you with the hope that you would repent.

**"For the turning away of the simple shall slay them, and the prosperity of fools shall destroy them". (Proverbs 1:32)**

When these people burn sacrifices, God delivered them, God did not leave them. He told them what to do.

**"Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil; learn to do well; seek judgement, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow. Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson,**

**they shall be as wool. If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land". (Isaiah 1:16-19)**

My backslidden friend, just think of it tonight. May be you have trouble or difficulties within you; know that this is the judgement of God. This is a sign. I will tell you; come back to God. May be you have affliction in your soul, God will give you peace when you are saved. You have to go back to God. If you believe He will save you and give you peace, He will remove the curse. Perhaps you have trouble and sorrows and you think somebody else has caused them. No, it is the judgement of God. If you go to God, He will have mercy upon you.

My sinner friend and backslidden friend, God told the Israelites to wash and be clean; and that they should come unto Him and reason together and to put away the evil of their doings and cease to do evil. If you will repent of your evil doings and pray to God, He will forgive and have mercy upon you.

May be you think that this message was perhaps, to the Israelites and in your own case you may be wondering what you can do. The answer is in the word of God.

**"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God: Being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God". (Romans 3:23-25)**

It is only the blood of Jesus Christ that can do it. The word of God tells us that, "all have sinned", it is free. You need not pay anything. You only need to wash your heart. You need to humble yourself. You need to turn from your evil ways. You need to repent and surrender all your life to Him, and say, Oh Lord I surrender myself to you. Think of it tonight. Will you go with that curse? Will you go back with your troubles, worries and sorrows? Will you not decide tonight?

**"If ye be willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land". (Isaiah 1:19)**

How many people are ready to come to God? Come to Him tonight, and He will bless you.