

WHEN GOD CLEANSSES HIS CHURCH

The message which the angel Gabriel brought from God to Daniel foretold of the coming of one called "The Messiah the Prince" Daniel 9:24-27. Among the six things the Messiah would accomplish was "to make **an end of sins**, to make reconciliation for iniquity," and to "bring in everlasting righteousness" verse 24. The "rock" which the true church is built upon is the revelation Peter received that Jesus of Nazareth is "The Messiah the Prince," or "The Christ." Peter said to Jesus, "**Thou art the Christ** (the Messiah), *the Son* (the Prince) *of the living God*" Matthew 16:16. The Apostle John confirmed this as the cornerstone of our salvation, saying, "*Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God*" I John 5:1. The understanding that "**Jesus is the Christ**" is absolutely necessary to salvation. If Jesus is "the Christ (the Messiah the Prince)" it is certain that He must accomplish exactly what He was sent into the world to do; He must "make an end of sins, make reconciliation for iniquity" and "bring in everlasting righteousness." That is exactly what Christ died on the cross to accomplish, and when He said from the cross, "It is finished" John 19:30, everything His Father sent Him to do was accomplished. The Apostle John said "**And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin. Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him**" I John 3:5-6. According to John's words, this was common knowledge in the first century church. Sadly, it has become a mystery to the modern church, an understanding that has been hidden for nineteen centuries. It has been hidden because Satan has so blinded the eyes of the people that they cannot see the truth which is so clearly written in the scriptures (KJV) of both the prophets of God and the Apostles of Jesus Christ.

Cleansed by the Blood of Christ

The blood of Jesus Christ was shed to "cleanse us from all sin" I John 1:7. Jesus is "The lamb of God which **taketh away** the sin of the world" John 1:29. John dedicated his "Book of Revelation" with these words: "Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood..." Revelation 1:5. The prophet Isaiah prophesied of the new Jerusalem when he said, "Thy people also shall be all righteous" Isaiah 60:21, and "They shall call them, **The holy people, The redeemed of the LORD**" Isaiah 62:12.

Sanctified by the Will of God

We know by the scriptures, **the will of God** when He sent Christ into the world was that He would "make an end of sins, make reconciliation for iniquity," and "bring in everlasting righteousness." The Apostle Paul wrote to the Hebrews, "**By the which will we are sanctified by the offering of the body of Jesus Christ**" Hebrews 10:10. Paul wrote to the Thessalonians, "**For this is the will of God**, even your sanctification..." I Thessalonians 4:3. Those who know and believe the truth are sanctified by the offering of Christ's body on the cross.

God's greatest Vengeance

"He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden underfoot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?" Hebrews 10:28-29

Moses commanded that those who despised his law would be stoned to death. What should be the punishment for those who "despise the Spirit of Grace?" Many in the modern church do not understand the "Spirit of Grace." They think "God so loved the world..." that He takes sinners to heaven "by grace." O what a deception. The Spirit of grace is Christ offering His body Hebrews 10:10 and shedding His blood Hebrews 13:12 for our sanctification. Full salvation, which is freely given "through faith...not of works" Ephesians 2:8-9 is the Spirit of grace. Those who "despise (unconcerned, indifferent) the Spirit of grace" have "trodden underfoot the Son of God." They count the blood of Jesus to be no better than the animal blood which was offered under the Law of Moses to "cover sin." They have insulted the Spirit of grace, and according to the scriptures, the greatest of God's judgment awaits them. For these, "there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful looking for of **judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries**" Hebrews 10:26-27. Those who have refused the Spirit of grace will certainly receive the spirit of judgment and burning.

The Spirit of Judgment and Burning

*"In that day shall the branch of the LORD be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the earth shall be excellent and comely for them that are escaped of Israel. And it shall come to pass, that **he that is left in Zion, and he that remaineth in Jerusalem, shall be called holy, even every one that is written among the living in Jerusalem: When the Lord shall have washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion, and shall have purged the blood of Jerusalem from the midst thereof by the spirit of judgment, and by the spirit of burning.**"* Isaiah 4:2-4

This is without question a prophecy of the New Jerusalem, which the Apostle Paul called "Jerusalem which is above..." Galatians 4:26, and refers to the church of Jesus Christ. Paul said Christ will present it unto Himself a "glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing" Ephesians 5:27. John saw the glorious church as "a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues" Revelation 7:9, who have "washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb" Revelation 7:14. Sadly, they can hardly be seen on this earth because of so many "tares" which have been sown in their midst. Jesus explains the end of this in His parable of the tares and wheat.

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"As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world. The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear." Matthew 13:40-42

The spirit of judgment and burning will soon come to those who have refused the sacrifice of the body and blood of Jesus Christ which was offered for their entire sanctification. Christ, the same one who "loved us, and gave Himself for us" Galatians 2:20, will also "gather out of His kingdom (the church) all things (people) that offend and do iniquity, and cast them into a furnace of fire." This is the spirit of judgment and burning which awaits those who refuse the Spirit of grace. Isaiah spoke of this time, saying, "The sinners in Zion (the church) are afraid; fearfulness hath surprised the hypocrites. Who among us shall dwell with the devouring fire? who among us shall dwell with everlasting burnings?" Isaiah 33:14.

The Righteous Judgment of God

"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? And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear? 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." I Peter 4:17:19

When God sent the destroying angels to destroy Jerusalem, He commanded them, "Slay utterly old and young, both maids, and little children, and women: but come not near any man upon whom is the mark; and begin at my sanctuary" Ezekiel 9:6. The first ones to be slaughtered were the seventy elders of Israel. Their destruction was not because they were holy men of God, but because they worshiped other gods "in the chambers of their imagery" Ezekiel 8:12, which according to the Hebrew text refers to their "imaginings." They worshiped a wrong image of God which they held in their hearts. My heart is heavy as I write this message. Hatred has divided our nation. Hatred has set fire to numerous cities, destroyed and looted many businesses, and murdered our policemen. With all that is happening in our nation, some are prophesying God's judgment against America. The truth of this matter is, these things are God's judgment against America, which has come upon us because of the American church. It is in the church that the glory of the incorruptible God has been changed into a corruptible image Romans 1:23-24. It is in the church that the truth of God has been changed for a lie Romans 1:25-26. When God's judgment comes to America, it must begin at the house of God.

In January, 1986 I received a vision of three years of God's judgment against the church in America, which was fulfilled

in the years 1987-89. According to the vision, judgment would begin with television ministries. In April 1987, the largest television ministry in the world fell due to a sex and money scandal. Ten months later, in February 1988 the remaining largest TV ministry fell to a sex scandal. In that same year, and in the same denomination as both these ministers, 285 pastors of large churches also fell through scandals. What a horrible time it was for the church, but what an opportunity at the same time for the church to repent and turn. Sadly, it did not. Instead, when several famous preachers of the day which were chosen to represent the church were interviewed by Ted Koppel on his Nightline broadcast, their only defense was "We are all sinners; we sin every day." Only D. James Kennedy, the pastor of Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church in Florida, gave a righteous response to Ted Koppel's questioning. All the others on the panel also denied the right of the world to judge the church. Thus was a seed planted which has contributed to the degeneration of the modern church.

"Mine heart within me is broken because of the prophets; all my bones shake; I am like a drunken man, and like a man whom wine hath overcome, because of the LORD, and because of the words of his holiness." Jeremiah 23:9

A generation ago the judgment of the church began with the evangelists and pastors. God is even now beginning to judge the church again; this time His judgment will begin with the many "prophets" who have "learned how" to prophesy during this generation. The veil of secrecy which has covered them will be pulled back, and many, perhaps millions who have been under their spell will go free. Even their most staunch supporters will find it necessary to either separate from them or perish with them. It will seem like a hard time for the church to endure, but when it is finished, the righteous "shall shine forth as the sun," and the last day harvest will begin.



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