

Doctrine of Grace Before Judgment

1. God does not administer acts of judgment or divine discipline without first giving individuals or a nation an opportunity to escape judgment by gospel repentance.
 - The Noahic Generation Genesis 6:1-22
 - The Exodus Generation. Leviticus 26:14-46
 - Nineveh Jonah 3:3-4
 - Jerusalem Matthew 23:37-39
 - Church in Corinth 1 Corinthians 5:1-13
 - Churches in Asia Minor Revelation 1:1-3: 22

2. The grace of God will always precede the judgment of God.
 - *Psalms 89:1 Mas'-chil of E'-than the Ez'-ra-hite. I will sing of the mercies of the Lord for ever: with my mouth will I make known thy faithfulness to all generations.*

3. For an individual under the judgment of God, cursing can turn to blessing through regeneration, gospel repentance and confessing all known sin.
 - Regeneration. *John 3:7 Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.*
 - Repentance. *Psalms 51:1 To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet came unto him, after he had gone in to Bath-she'-ba 51 Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy loving-kindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. 2 Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.*
 - Confession. *1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

4. When a nation, including the Jewish nation, go under the five phases of divine discipline as outlined in Leviticus 26:14-46, judgment can be renewed and mercies received so that cursing is turned to blessing.

5. While every person is born under the curse imposed by Adam's sin, grace has found a way to save individuals and that is by grace through faith in the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - *Romans 5:12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:*
 - *Galatians 3:10 For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them.*
 - *Ephesians 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.*

6. From 516 BC to AD 70 the Jews were blessed by God as they enjoyed the Word of God which was disseminated typically and symbolically through the sacrifices offered by the Levitical priesthood, and then taught exegetically by the scribes, the Pharisees, the prophets, by Christ, and by the apostles. Therefore the Jews had ample opportunity to repent of sin. Grace preceded their judgment in AD 70.

- God's Word was taught typically and symbolically. *Hebrews 9:1 Then verily the first covenant had also ordinances of divine service, and a worldly sanctuary.2 For there was a tabernacle made; the first, wherein was the candlestick, and the table, and the shewbread; which is called the sanctuary.3 And after the second veil, the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of all;4 Which had the golden censer, and the ark of the covenant overlaid round about with gold, wherein was the golden pot that had manna, and Aaron's rod that budded, and the tables of the covenant;5 And over it the cherubims of glory shadowing the mercy seat; of which we cannot now speak particularly.6 Now when these things were thus ordained, the priests went always into the first tabernacle, accomplishing the service of God.7 But into the second went the high priest alone once every year, not without blood, which he offered for himself, and for the errors of the people:8 The Holy Ghost this signifying, that the way into the holiest of all was not yet made manifest, while as the first tabernacle was yet standing:9 Which was a figure for the time then present, in which were offered both gifts and sacrifices, that could not make him that did the service perfect, as pertaining to the conscience;10 Which stood only in meats and drinks, and divers washings, and carnal ordinances, imposed on them until the time of reformation.11 But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building;12 Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.*
- God's Word was taught by the prophets. *Zechariah 11:4 Thus saith the Lord my God; Feed the flock of the slaughter;*
- God's Word was taught by Christ. *Luke 4:18 The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, 19 To preach the acceptable year of the Lord. 20 And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him. 21 And he began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears. 22 And all bare him witness, and wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of his mouth. And they said, Is not this Joseph's son?*
- God's Word was taught by the apostles. *John 21:15 So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs. 16 He saith to him again the second time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep. 17 He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep.*

In all of this, grace preceded judgment.

7. The rejection of the gospel testifies to the truth that grace precedes judgment. The prophets foretold that the Messiah would be rejected. But the prophets first told that the Messiah would be born of a virgin, would be arrested, and treated in a cruel manner. Christ endure the horrors He faced in order to establish the principle that grace precedes judgment.
- *Isaiah 7:14 Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.*
 - *Isaiah 53:1 Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the Lord revealed? 2 For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him. 3 He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. 4 Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. 5 But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. 6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned everyone to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. 7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth. 8 He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? For he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken. 9 And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth. 10 Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in his hand. 11 He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities.*
8. Judgment will finally be administered to an individual and to a nation that rejects the Lord Jesus Christ, but not without warning.
- Individuals receive judgment. *Hebrews 10:28 He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses:*
 - Nations are judged, including Israel (AD 70). *Luke 21:22 For these be the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled.*
9. There is no need for a individual to know the harshness of divine judgment or the pains of eternal hell. There is no need for a nation to have to go through fives phases of divine discipline.
- *1 Corinthians 11:31 For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged.*
 - *2 Chronicles 7:14 If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.*