

Can a Loving God Still Judge?
Joel 3
May 12, 2024

Why does injustice stir our anger?

Can a loving, gracious God still judge sin?

What is the Day of the Lord? Joel 2:31

It is the temporal presence and power of the just and merciful God.

When is the Day of the Lord?

All God's judgments in time foreshadow his final judgment.

They are examples, warnings, wake up calls.

Where is the Valley of Jehoshaphat?

Jehoshaphat means God is a judge, or God has judged.

It is the inevitable fact of judgment that is emphasized. Zephaniah 3:8

What is the Basis for Judgment here?

How they have treated me and my people. Joel 3:2-6

"How dare you interfere with me and mine!!" v 4

Who is the apple of God's eye? Deuteronomy 32:10; Zechariah 2:8

A Loving God Must Judge because He is Just

God is constitutionally bound to do the right thing.

What is Lex talionis? Leviticus 24:19-21; Exodus 21:22-25; Deuteronomy 19:16-21

God's justice is justice!!

God punishes sin and evil. There is always a reason. The wages are fully earned.

Why are the nations punished?

We all have an instinctive sense of justice.

Every story you have ever heard is about justice.

"Hell is not evil; it's a place where evil gets punished."

A Loving God Must Judge, because He Hates Sin

When sin is committed, it is an attack upon God.

What are you to me? Are you trying to pay me back for something?

For God to punish sin is an act of self-defense; an act of absolute necessity.

A Loving God Must Punish Sin because He Must Defend His Kingdom v 9-12

God was encouraging the nations to do their worst. Psalm 2:4

A Loving God Must Judge because He Loves His People.

God will defend and vindicate Himself and his people.

Injustice is noted by God. Written in his book with indelible ink.

A Loving God Must Judge because He is Just

I used to fear God's holiness, justice, righteousness, because I had sinned.

God hates sin. Does that thought comfort you, or frighten you?

God loves his people