

# *When Sin Becomes the Judgment of God*

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Proverbs 11:21 Though hand join in hand, the wicked shall not be unpunished: but the seed of the righteous shall be delivered.

Exodus 23:2 Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil; neither shalt thou speak in a cause to decline after many to wrest judgment:

- I. After 6000 years of human history we can observe that there is a cycle of sin as it operates in the human race.
  - A. There is a progression of sin from it's beginning in the individual.
  - B. The overall view is that sin began with one person and has brought death and destruction upon the entire human race.
    1. The grand finale for the human race as a whole has not happened yet, but we can see it coming into view, and the whole world knows it is not far off.
  - C. We can step down from the overall view and look at nations throughout history and we can see the complete cycle in nation after nation.
    1. We can see their beginnings and we can see their endings.
    2. We can see their rise and we can see their fall.
    3. We can observe their moral state in their beginning.
    4. And we can observe their moral state as they approached their end.
  - D. We can step down even further and see the beginning and the end of many churches through the ages, and many in our own lifetime.
    1. Again, we can observe their moral state in their beginning and their moral state in their end.
  - E. We can come on down to the individual level and we can all testify of people we have known who we have see high and then we have seen brought low by sin.
    1. We can also tell of people whose end we have seen, and were not surprised by it.
- II. Sin always begins in the individual – not corporately.
  - A. A church does not sin corporately before the individual members have begun to sin individually.
  - B. A nation does not sin corporately before its individual citizens have begun to sin individually.
  - C. Sin is like cancer, it starts in secret, with one cell, and then it spreads, slowly at first, but faster as it spreads, until it causes the death of the whole body.
  - D. Sin is likened to leaven in the Bible – and a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump.
    1. The whole lump without leaven will not stop the little leaven that finds its way into the lump, but will all be leavened before long, unless that part that contains the leaven is removed.
  - E. But the cry of selfishness is, “It’s nobody’s business what I do,” and “It’s my body and I can do what I want to with it.”
    1. This is how the cancer of sin is spread from individual to individual.

2. This kind of logic, and these kind of selfish opinions are contagious and spread easily among people, especially the young and old fools.
- F. But moral law is all about how it certainly IS everyone else's business when what you do affects others.
- G. Moral law is to protect ourselves from one another.
- H. Cast out the moral law, or make the moral law itself subject to self-centered sinners, and then you have corporate sin.
  1. Sinners have joined hand in hand.

Psalm 2:2-3 The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us.

- I. Corporate sin brings death to a church, to a nation, and eventually to the whole human race on this earth.
  1. The whole thing dies – not just the individuals in it.
  2. The end of that thing is brought about when the cancer has spread through the whole thing, when the whole is leavened.
- J. A nation, or any other group of people may join hand in hand, and they may make an agreement with death and hell, and they may take counsel together, but their end will be sure, because:

James 1:15 ... sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

Psalm 9:17 The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God.

Psalm 7:11-16 God judgeth the righteous, and God is angry with the wicked every day. If he turn not, he will whet his sword; he hath bent his bow, and made it ready. He hath also prepared for him the instruments of death; he ordaineth his arrows against the persecutors. Behold, he travaileth with iniquity, and hath conceived mischief, and brought forth falsehood. He made a pit, and digged it, and is fallen into the ditch which he made. His mischief shall return upon his own head, and his violent dealing shall come down upon his own pate.

- III. This is when evil becomes the judgment of God?
  - A. Most people have the notion that God's judgment on sin involves a supernatural intervention from God to destroy the sinner or sinners.
  - B. God has pronounced his judgment on sin already, so it will automatically happen without his particular intervention.
  - C. Judgment will come without God's intervention – the wicked fall into their own pit.
  - D. Sin is not God's judgment – the end of sin is God's judgment.
  - E. Sin starts in pleasure but ends in death.
  - F. Sin starts as a pleasure ride and ends with a wreck.
  - G. It starts with individuals ignoring, despising, and disobeying the moral law of God, and it ends when they join hands together in it.
    1. The church has Icabod written over it when the worldly, loose-living members vote out the godly pastor who is trying to lead toward holiness.
    2. A nation is doomed from the moment its citizens start agreeing with removing God and his commandments from the education of their children, and when godly morality and civil law cease being the same thing.
    3. An individual is doomed when he rejects God completely and sells himself out to do evil.

4. When conscience is seared and all moral boundaries are erased the judgment of sin is coming to that individual.

Psalm 9:17 The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God.

Psalm 37:38 But the transgressors shall be destroyed together: the end of the wicked shall be cut off.

2 Kings 17:9-17 And the children of Israel did secretly those things that were not right against the LORD their God, and they built them high places in all their cities, from the tower of the watchmen to the fenced city. And they set them up images and groves in every high hill, and under every green tree: And there they burnt incense in all the high places, as did the heathen whom the LORD carried away before them; and wrought wicked things to provoke the LORD to anger: For they served idols, whereof the LORD had said unto them, Ye shall not do this thing. Yet the LORD testified against Israel, and against Judah, by all the prophets, and by all the seers, saying, Turn ye from your evil ways, and keep my commandments and my statutes, according to all the law which I commanded your fathers, and which I sent to you by my servants the prophets. Notwithstanding they would not hear, but hardened their necks, like to the neck of their fathers, that did not believe in the LORD their God. And they rejected his statutes, and his covenant that he made with their fathers, and his testimonies which he testified against them; and they followed vanity, and became vain, and went after the heathen that were round about them, concerning whom the LORD had charged them, that they should not do like them. And they left all the commandments of the LORD their God, and made them molten images, even two calves, and made a grove, and worshipped all the host of heaven, and served Baal. And they caused their sons and their daughters to pass through the fire, and used divination and enchantments, and sold themselves to do evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke him to anger.

5. And their end came soon after this.

H. If we want to know when God's judgment on sin is about to happen just watch for the unity of sinners against God and righteousness.

1. When the Supreme Court, the Congress, the President, all the judges across the land, all the celebrities, the teachers, and the common people support sodomy and abortion and every evil thing, and the people keep voting them in, destruction cannot be far off.
2. When they all join hand in hand against God and against righteousness they will hate his people, also.
3. When they reach out their wicked hands against God's righteous people that is when God will move to destroy them.

Psalm 92:7 When the wicked spring as the grass, and when all the workers of iniquity do flourish; it is that they shall be destroyed for ever:

Psalm 37:1-2 A Psalm of David. Fret not thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity. For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb.

- I. Just take comfort and rejoice in the fact that their part in the cycle is short.
  1. Wickedness is self-destructive – by its very nature it destroys itself.
  2. Then there can be a new beginning.

Proverbs 29:2 When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn.

Psalm 37:35-36 I have seen the wicked in great power, and spreading himself like a green bay tree. Yet he passed away, and, lo, he was not: yea, I sought him, but he could not be found.