

JUDGMENTS OF GOD

The Greek words for JUDGMENT:

1. “**krisis**”- Strong’s Concordance # 2920 means: “to make a decision for or against; a tribunal; implied justice (specifically divine law)”; (Vine’s Expository Biblical Words): “denotes a separating, then, a decision, especially of Divine judgment”
2. “**krimo**”- Strong’s # 2917 and “**krino**” # 2919 are similar in meaning: “to distinguish; to decide judicially; punish; the function or the effect for or against crime; to go to law; call into question; a decision passed, a sentence” (Vine’s)
3. “**bema**”- Strong’s # 968 means: “a tribunal; judgment-seat; to set foot on a raised platform, reached by steps: throne” (Vine’s)

Webster’s Dictionary: “the act of judging, deciding; a legal decision, order, decree; a debt or obligation resulting from a court order; power of comparing and deciding; sentence given by a judge; understanding; good sense; Bible justice, right”

The Scriptures Reveal Many Judgments: A “judgment” is a verdict (favorable or unfavorable); the rendering of a judicial decision, sentence; it includes the idea of a **trial**.

1. There is a judgment of BOTH sinners and saints; Genesis 18:25; Ps. 7:8; 1 Peter 4:5
 - a. The “bema” judgment seat is associated with the saints; Rom. 14:10; 2 Cor. 5:10
 - b. The Great White Throne judgment is associated with sinners; Revelation 20:11
2. Our experience in the wilderness of Earth is our “proving ground”; it is a test; Exodus 16:4; 20:20; Deut. 8:2,16; Psalm 26:2. God’s judgments will sift us, determine and **prove our faith, which is on trial** in this earthly realm; 1 Peter 1:7; 4:12.
3. If people ignore God’s warnings, judgments will come; they are God’s **acts of mercy**, designed **to turn men from perishing in their sin** unto God; Ezekiel 33:11; Jonah 1:2
4. There will be a judgment of “sheep and goat” nations; Matthew 25:31-34.
5. Saints will be involved with judging the world and angels; 1 Corinthians 6:2-3
6. Within the scope of divine judgment is a period of time, which includes the dealings of God, the light given by the Spirit, and training and development through correction.
7. None will escape the righteous judgment of God. “Refiner’s Fire” will test every man’s work, and bring to light all the secret things; Malachi 3:2-3; 1 Corinthians 3:13-15

There Are Three Distinct Judgments experienced by every saint, who presses toward the full stature of maturity in Jesus Christ. The judgment of SAINTS are as follows:

1. We are judged AS SINNERS - this judgment is past. Our “debt” as sinners, sin’s penalty, was paid by Jesus at the Cross. When we exercise true faith through repentance and obedience, we are given grace: no more condemnation, and we are no longer under the law of sin and death. Eternal life is a gift; Romans 3:23-24; 6:23; 8:1-2; Eph. 2:8-9.
2. We are judged AS SONS - this judgment is continually present. Through the new birth we are born into God’s Kingdom family and we become “heirs”. Inheritance is a son’s birthright; it is not earned, but given on the basis of relationship with his Heavenly Father. God disciplines and chastens every son; Rom. 8:17; Gal. 4:1-7; Heb. 12:6-7.
3. We are judged AS SERVANTS - this judgment is both present and in the future. Varying degrees of obedience and sacrifice among God’s servants (who are sons), will determine rewards and future roles in God’s Kingdom. A reward is given for service rendered, for work done. A true servant ministers or serves because he is a son (not to earn salvation, which is a gift); Matt. 24:45-46; Luke 19:17; 1 Cor. 9:19; Phil. 2:7.

The Judgments We Experience In This Life Have A Purpose:

1. God's **judgments** are designed to be **redemptive and corrective** in nature; they serve to recover, convert, buy back; Ezekiel 5:8; 11:9; 14:21-23.
2. God's **wrath** on the other hand, is not redemptive; it **is punitive**; it inflicts the penalty of punishment; it is indignation and vengeance. God's sons are not appointed unto wrath; 1 Thessalonians 1:10; 5:9.
3. The majority of the time in Scripture, God's judgments are presented as something **desirable** and **beneficial**; see Psalms 9:7-8; 33:3-5; 97:8; 98:8-9; 101:1; 119:39; Isaiah 26:9; Jeremiah 4:2; Hosea 6:5; Revelation 16:7; 19:24.
4. A saint has the legal position of a "son", but God knows we need a new heart, with new desires; Jeremiah 24:7. Correction through God's judgments (discipline) will bring a change in our desires and conduct. We are told to judge ourselves; 1 Cor. 11:31-32. The Holy Spirit convicts us of sin, of righteousness and of JUDGMENT; John 16:8.
5. Our Father will send a "crisis", a turning point, (from Greek word "krisis"- judgment), which brings pressure or corrective measures upon us, through which He may **reveal Himself** to us; Job 42:5-6. His intent is to separate us **from the old** will or thinking according to the flesh, that He might bring him **into the new** purpose and will of God: one who knows Him, and walks after the spirit.
6. The **purpose** of God's judgments: trials, hardship, tribulation, suffering **is to turn us** from the love of the world and worship of self, to the worship of the true and living God. These things are intended to purify us, produce humility and obedience. "Plagues" were a judgment of God upon the gods that the people worship; Exodus 12:12 (Jesus intends to separate us from our allegiance to idols; He wants a harvest of souls); Ezekiel 14:21.
7. God's sons have waited for His righteous judgments because they are **designed to teach** the inhabitants of the Earth about God's righteousness; Isaiah 26:8-9.
8. Judgment begins in God's own house; 1 Peter 4:17. God's glory shall be revealed (not so much in just forgiving sinners), but in bringing forth sons in His image. Those, who under the most difficult of circumstances, who have chosen to obey their Father in all things, have the promise of Revelation 21:7.
9. God judges in fairness: JUDGMENT, righteousness and justice are the habitation (foundation) of His throne; Psalms 9:7; 89:14; 97:2.
10. Ruling and judging is what kings do; Psalm 2:10; Zech. 6:11-13; 1 Cor. 6:2; Rev. 1:6
11. Jesus said that His judgment is "just"; John 5:30. "For JUDGMENT I am come into this world, that they which see not might see; and that they which see might be made blind"; John 9:39.
12. Jesus said "Judge not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you"; Matthew 7:1-2. This command refers to "unjust judgment" in the sense of condemning. He said: "Judge not according to the appearance, but **judge righteous judgment**; John 7:24. If we know the Lord's ways, we will judge sin; righteous judgment **is** lawful and necessary.
13. The apostle Paul said that we can judge (distinguish) the actions (fruit) of those who are **inside the church**; 1 Corinthians 5:12, but God judges those who are **outside the church**; 1 Corinthians 5:13.
14. The testing for sons of God (Jesus and His Body), is to prepare them for when they bring forth judgment to the Gentiles, and SET JUDGMENT in the Earth; Isaiah 42:1-4.

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