

# God's Corrective Judgment

## by Phil Wagner

**From the entire context of the scriptures, the judgment of God can be summed up as the governing of God over his creation according to His character and attributes.**

**Pro 15:3** The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good.

1) All of God's judgments are good and are meant for good for us.

**Psalm 119:160** Thy word is true from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever.

**Psalm 119:175** Let my soul live, and it shall praise thee; and let thy judgments help me.

**Psalm 119:39** Turn away my reproach which I fear: for thy judgments are good.

**Psalm 119:75** I know, O LORD, that thy judgments are right, and that thou in faithfulness hast afflicted me.

Abraham negotiating with God before the destruction of Sodom & Gomorrah: **Genesis 18:25** That be far from thee to do after this manner, to slay the righteous with the wicked: and that the righteous should be as the wicked, that be far from thee: Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?

**Romans 8:35** Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

**Romans 3:5-6** But if our unrighteousness commend the righteousness of God, what shall we say? Is God unrighteous who taketh vengeance? (I speak as a man) (6) God forbid: for then how shall God judge the world?

2) Corrective judgment is necessary because the devil, who is the god of this world, is judged: **John 16:8-11** And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: (9) Of sin, because they believe not on me; (10) Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; (11) **Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.**

**Psalm 119:84** How many are the days of thy servant? when wilt thou execute judgment on them that persecute me?

**Proverbs 19:29** Judgments are prepared for scorners, and stripes for the back of fools.

a) Administered with mercy and slowness to anger: **Psalm 78:50** He made a way to his anger; he spared not their soul from death, but gave their life over to the pestilence;

a) Process of corrective judgment: **Jeremiah 1:10** See, I have this day set thee over the nations and over the kingdoms, to **root out**, and to **pull down**, and to **destroy**, and to **throw down**, to **build**, and to **plant**.

b) Causes of corrective judgment.

1) Transgressions without repentance brings curses: **Isaiah 48:22** There is no peace, saith the LORD, unto the wicked.

(1) Idolatry

(2) Rejection of God and His way

(3) Embracement of the world and its ways

- (4) Chronic and malicious mistreatment of others, especially the poor and defenseless
- (5) Blatant disobedience to God
- (6) Enmity against Israel and God's anointed

**2 Kings 17:12-15** For they served idols, whereof the LORD had said unto them, Ye shall not do this thing. (13) 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. (14) 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. (15) **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.

**Leviticus 26:3-6** **If ye walk in my statutes, and keep my commandments, and do them;** (4) **Then I will give you rain in due season, and the land shall yield her increase, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit.** (5) And your threshing shall reach unto the vintage, and the vintage shall reach unto the sowing time: and **ye shall eat your bread to the full, and dwell in your land safely.** (6) **And I will give peace in the land, and ye shall lie down, and none shall make you afraid: and I will rid evil beasts out of the land, neither shall the sword go through your land.**

**Deu 28:15-68** promises curses for disobedience – 54 verses. 14 verses for blessings for obedience.

- c) Categories of corrective judgment of the curses that man brings on himself and the earth

Just as blessings are multiplied, curses are multiplied.

**Leviticus 26:14-46** **But if ye will not hearken unto me**, and will not do all these commandments; (15) And if ye shall despise my statutes, or if your soul abhor my judgments, so that ye will not do all my commandments, but that ye break my covenant: (16) I also will do this unto you; **I will even appoint over you terror, consumption, and the burning ague, that shall consume the eyes, and cause sorrow of heart: and ye shall sow your seed in vain, for your enemies shall eat it.** (17) **And I will set my face against you**, and ye shall be slain before your enemies: they that hate you shall reign over you; and ye shall flee when none pursueth you. (18) **And if ye will not yet for all this hearken unto me, then I will punish you seven times more for your sins.** (19) And I will break the pride of your power; and I will make your heaven as iron, and your earth as brass: (20) **And your strength shall be spent in vain: for your land shall not yield her increase, neither shall the trees of the land yield their fruits.** (21) And if ye walk contrary unto me, and will not hearken unto me; **I will bring seven times more plagues upon you according to your sins.** (22) **I will also send wild beasts among you**, which shall rob you of your children, and destroy your cattle, and make you few in number; and your high ways shall be desolate. (23) **And if ye will not be reformed by me by these things, but will walk contrary unto me;** (24) **Then will I also walk contrary unto you, and will punish you yet seven times for your sins.** (25) **And I will bring a sword upon you**, that shall avenge the quarrel of my covenant: and when ye are gathered together within your cities, **I will send the pestilence among you;** and ye shall be delivered into the hand of the enemy. (26) And when I have broken the staff of your bread, ten women shall bake your bread in one oven, and they shall deliver you your bread again by weight: and **ye shall eat, and not be satisfied.** (27) And if ye will not for all this hearken unto me, but walk contrary unto me; (28) Then I will walk contrary unto you also in fury; and **I, even I, will chastise you seven times for your sins.** (29) **And ye shall eat the flesh of your sons, and the flesh of your daughters shall ye eat.** (30) And I will

destroy your high places, and cut down your images, and cast your carcasses upon the carcasses of your idols, and my soul shall abhor you. (31) And **I will make your cities waste**, and bring your sanctuaries unto desolation, and I will not smell the savour of your sweet odours. (32) **And I will bring the land into desolation**: and your enemies which dwell therein shall be astonished at it. (33) And **I will scatter you among the heathen**, and **will draw out a sword after you**: and your land shall be desolate, and your cities waste. (34) **Then shall the land enjoy her sabbaths**, as long as it lieth desolate, and ye be in your enemies' land; even then shall the land rest, and enjoy her sabbaths. (35) As long as it lieth desolate it shall rest; because it did not rest in your sabbaths, when ye dwelt upon it. (36) And upon them that are left alive of you I will send a faintness into their hearts in the lands of their enemies; and the sound of a shaken leaf shall chase them; and they shall flee, as fleeing from a sword; and they shall fall when none pursueth. (37) And they shall fall one upon another, as it were before a sword, when none pursueth: and ye shall have no power to stand before your enemies. (38) **And ye shall perish among the heathen**, and the land of your enemies shall eat you up. (39) And they that are left of you shall pine away in their iniquity in your enemies' lands; and also in the iniquities of their fathers shall they pine away with them. (40) **If they shall confess their iniquity, and the iniquity of their fathers, with their trespass which they trespassed against me, and that also they have walked contrary unto me; (41) And that I also have walked contrary unto them, and have brought them into the land of their enemies; if then their uncircumcised hearts be humbled, and they then accept of the punishment of their iniquity: (42) Then will I remember my covenant with Jacob, and also my covenant with Isaac, and also my covenant with Abraham will I remember; and I will remember the land.** (43) The land also shall be left of them, and shall enjoy her sabbaths, while she lieth desolate without them: and they shall accept of the punishment of their iniquity: because, even because they despised my judgments, and because their soul abhorred my statutes. (44) And yet for all that, when they be in the land of their enemies, I will not cast them away, neither will I abhor them, to destroy them utterly, and to break my covenant with them: for I am the LORD their God. (45) But I will for their sakes remember the covenant of their ancestors, whom I brought forth out of the land of Egypt in the sight of the heathen, that I might be their God: I am the LORD. (46) These are the statutes and judgments and laws, which the LORD made between him and the children of Israel in mount Sinai by the hand of Moses.

Read Zephaniah chapter 1.

- 1) Famine
- 2) Famine of Word of God:
- 3) Financial meltdown, loss of wealth, severe inflation
- 4) Drought, Crop failure, lack of food, forced cannibalism
- 5) Lack of water

**Jeremiah 3:1-3** They say, If a man put away his wife, and she go from him, and become another man's, shall he return unto her again? shall not that land be greatly polluted? but thou hast played the harlot with many lovers; yet return again to me, saith the LORD. (2) Lift up thine eyes unto the high places, and see where thou hast not been lien with. In the ways hast thou sat for them, as the Arabian in the wilderness; and thou hast polluted the land with thy whoredoms and with thy wickedness. (3) Therefore the showers have been withholden, and there hath been no latter rain; and thou hadst a whore's forehead, thou refusedst to be ashamed.

**2 Kings 6:24-29** And it came to pass after this, that Benhadad king of Syria gathered all his host, and went up, and besieged Samaria. (25) And there was a great famine in Samaria: and, behold, they besieged it, until an ass's head was sold for fourscore pieces of silver, and the fourth part of a cab of dove's dung for five pieces of silver. (26) And as the king of Israel was passing by upon the wall, there cried a woman unto him, saying, Help, my lord, O king.

(27) And he said, If the LORD do not help thee, whence shall I help thee? out of the barn-floor, or out of the winepress? (28) And the king said unto her, What aileth thee? And she answered, This woman said unto me, Give thy son, that we may eat him to day, and we will eat my son to morrow. (29) So we boiled my son, and did eat him: and I said unto her on the next day, Give thy son, that we may eat him: and she hath hid her son.

**Amos 8:11-12** Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD: (12) And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the LORD, and shall not find it.

The great famine of Egypt in Joseph's day: **Psalm 105:16** Moreover he called for a famine upon the land: he brake the whole staff of bread.

Throughout the ages, there are many countries where the Bible is outlawed.

## 2) Pestilence

- (1) Plagues, sickness
- (2) Locusts and plant destroying insects
- (3) Torments
- (4) Serpents
- (5) Mildew
- (6) Abnormal weather patterns
- (7) Natural disasters: Floods, tornadoes, hurricanes, earthquakes...
- (8) Unnatural events in the heavens.

**Numbers 21:6** And the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and much people of Israel died.

**Jeremiah 8:17** For, behold, I will send serpents, cockatrices, among you, which will not be charmed, and they shall bite you, saith the LORD.

**2 Samuel 24:14-16** And David said unto Gad, I am in a great strait: let us fall now into the hand of the LORD; for his mercies are great: and let me not fall into the hand of man. (15) So the LORD sent a pestilence upon Israel from the morning even to the time appointed: and there died of the people from Dan even to Beersheba seventy thousand men. (16) And when the angel stretched out his hand upon Jerusalem to destroy it, the LORD repented him of the evil, and said to the angel that destroyed the people, It is enough: stay now thine hand. And the angel of the LORD was by the threshingplace of Araunah the Jebusite.

**Revelation 19:1-11** And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit. (2) And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit. (3) And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth: and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power. (4) And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads. (5) And to them it was given that they should not kill them, but that they should be tormented five months: and their torment was as the torment of a scorpion, when he striketh a man. (6) And in those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them. (7) And the shapes of the locusts were like unto horses prepared unto battle; and on their heads were as it were crowns like gold, and their faces were as the faces of men. (8) And they had hair as the hair of women, and their teeth were as the teeth of lions. (9) And they had breastplates, as it were breastplates of iron; and the sound of their wings was as the sound of chariots of many horses running to battle.

(10) And they had tails like unto scorpions, and there were stings in their tails: and their power was to hurt men five months. (11) And they had a king over them, which is the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in the Hebrew tongue is Abaddon, but in the Greek tongue hath his name Apollyon.

**Revelation 9:17-21** And thus I saw the horses in the vision, and them that sat on them, having breastplates of fire, and of jacinth, and brimstone: and the heads of the horses were as the heads of lions; and out of their mouths issued fire and smoke and brimstone. (18) By these three was the third part of men killed, by the fire, and by the smoke, and by the brimstone, which issued out of their mouths. (19) For their power is in their mouth, and in their tails: for their tails were like unto serpents, and had heads, and with them they do hurt. (20) And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk: (21) Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts.

### 3) The Sword

- (1) Terror
- (2) Besiegement
- (3) Government takeover
- (4) Captivity of man
- (5) Forced migration
- (6) Slavery
- (7) Forced indebtedness
- (8) Torture from the devil allowed by God
- (9) Loss of spouse Isa 47:9
- (10) Loss of children

**Deuteronomy 28:53-58** And he shall besiege thee in all thy gates, until thy high and fenced walls come down, wherein thou trustedst, throughout all thy land: and he shall besiege thee in all thy gates (53) And thou shalt eat the fruit of thine own body, the flesh of thy sons and of thy daughters, which the LORD thy God hath given thee, in the siege, and in the straitness, wherewith thine enemies shall distress thee: (54) So that the man that is tender among you, and very delicate, his eye shall be evil toward his brother, and toward the wife of his bosom, and toward the remnant of his children which he shall leave: (55) So that he will not give to any of them of the flesh of his children whom he shall eat: because he hath nothing left him in the siege, and in the straitness, wherewith thine enemies shall distress thee in all thy gates. (56) The tender and delicate woman among you, which would not adventure to set the sole of her foot upon the ground for delicateness and tenderness, her eye shall be evil toward the husband of her bosom, and toward her son, and toward her daughter, (57) And toward her young one that cometh out from between her feet, and toward her children which she shall bear: for she shall eat them for want of all things secretly in the siege and straitness, wherewith thine enemy shall distress thee in thy gates. (58) If thou wilt not observe to do all the words of this law that are written in this book, that thou mayest fear this glorious and fearful name, THE LORD THY GOD;

**Amos 5:27** Therefore will I cause you to go into captivity beyond Damascus, saith the LORD, whose name is The God of hosts.

**Isaiah 47:9-10** But these two things shall come to thee in a moment in one day, the loss of children, and widowhood: they shall come upon thee in their perfection for the multitude of thy sorceries, and for the great abundance of thine enchantments. (10) For thou hast trusted

in thy wickedness: thou hast said, None seeth me. Thy wisdom and thy knowledge, it hath perverted thee; and thou hast said in thine heart, I am, and none else beside me.

- 4) Wild beasts that destroy and devour men, children and cattle
  - (1) Dogs
  - (2) Lions

**2 Kings 9:36-37** Wherefore they came again, and told him. And he said, This is the word of the LORD, which he spake by his servant Elijah the Tishbite, saying, In the portion of Jezreel shall dogs eat the flesh of Jezebel: (37) And the carcase of Jezebel shall be as dung upon the face of the field in the portion of Jezreel; so that they shall not say, This is Jezebel.

When wild animals eat a person that person is denied a burial in which his dust returns to the earth. Instead, he returns to the earth as dung.

**2 Kings 17:25** And so it was at the beginning of their dwelling there, that they feared not the LORD: therefore the LORD sent lions among them, which slew some of them.

**1 Peter 5:8** Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

- d) God's desired outcome of corrective judgment:
  - 1) Repentance.
  - 2) Knowledge of God
  - 3) Purging of sin
  - 4) Revelation

**2 Chronicles 7:13-14** If I shut up heaven that there be no rain, or if I command the locusts to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among my people; (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.

**Hosea 6:1** Come, and let us return unto the LORD: for he hath torn, and he will heal us; he hath smitten, and he will bind us up.

**Zephaniah 2:3** Seek ye the LORD, all ye meek of the earth, which have wrought his judgment; seek righteousness, seek meekness: it may be ye shall be hid in the day of the LORD'S anger.

**Exodus 14:4** And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, that he shall follow after them; and I will be honoured upon Pharaoh, and upon all his host; **that the Egyptians may know that I am the LORD.** And they did so.

**Ezekiel 12:16** But I will leave a few men of them from the sword, from the famine, and from the pestilence; that they may declare all their abominations among the heathen whither they come; and they shall know that I am the LORD.

**Psalms 33:17-19** An horse is a vain thing for safety: neither shall he deliver any by his great strength. (18) **Behold, the eye of the LORD is upon them that fear him, upon them that hope in his mercy;** (19) **To deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in famine.**

**Ezekiel 38:19-23** For in my jealousy and in the fire of my wrath have I spoken, Surely in that day there shall be a great shaking in the land of Israel; (20) So that the fishes of the sea, and the fowls of the heaven, and the beasts of the field, and all creeping things that creep upon the earth, and all the men that are upon the face of the earth, shall shake at my presence, and the mountains shall be thrown down, and the steep places shall fall, and every wall shall fall to the ground. (21) And I will call for a sword against him throughout all my mountains, saith the Lord GOD: every man's sword shall be against his brother. (22) And I will plead against him with pestilence and with blood; and I will rain upon him, and upon his bands, and upon the many people that are with

him, an overflowing rain, and great hailstones, fire, and brimstone. (23) Thus will I magnify myself, and sanctify myself; and I will be known in the eyes of many nations, and they shall know that I am the LORD.

**1 Kings 8:35-39** When heaven is shut up, and there is no rain, because they have sinned against thee; if they pray toward this place, and confess thy name, and turn from their sin, when thou afflictest them: (36) Then hear thou in heaven, and forgive the sin of thy servants, and of thy people Israel, that thou teach them the good way wherein they should walk, and give rain upon thy land, which thou hast given to thy people for an inheritance. (37) If there be in the land famine, if there be pestilence, blasting, mildew, locust, or if there be caterpillar; if their enemy besiege them in the land of their cities; whatsoever plague, whatsoever sickness there be; (38) What prayer and supplication soever be made by any man, or by all thy people Israel, which shall know every man the plague of his own heart, and spread forth his hands toward this house: (39) Then hear thou in heaven thy dwelling place, and forgive, and do, and give to every man according to his ways, whose heart thou knowest; (for thou, even thou only, knowest the hearts of all the children of men;)

- e) The hard hearted don't repent but become more resolved in their rebellion.

**Revelation 9:20-21** And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk: (21) Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts.