

30 AMAZING BIBLE STORIES YOU MAY NOT KNOW

#16 The Beginning of Judgment | 1 Peter 4:17

THE MEANING OF 1 PETER 4:17

- Verses 7-11 – Peter declares that **the end of all things is at hand**, and gives some instruction for living in end times.
 - If Peter wrote almost 2,000 years ago, was he mistaken?
 - When *rightly dividing the word of truth* (2 Tim. 2:15), we recognize that the rapture belongs to the Body of Christ (the church), and the prophetic program belongs to Israel. From reading about the prophetic program, we learn that *as long as Israel exists as an entity able to make a spiritual decision, then the prophetic program is in effect, even if God is also offering an individual salvation along with an individual salvation*.
 - So, Peter was not mistaken about **the end of all things**, he was only unaware that God was going to destroy the Jewish nation and bring it back after the rapture of the church, at which time the prophetic program would be renewed.
- Verses 12-16 – Peter warns about the **fiery trial** about to come. This is the tribulation.
- Verse 17 – Peter says that **judgment must begin at the house of God**.
 - The term **house of God** is used 81 times in the Scripture. It always means *Temple or dwelling place* of God, or in a larger sense of *the people of Israel*. It *never* means the church.
 - Peter says that when judgment begins, it is centered around the Temple and the nation of Israel, for this is the only **house of God** of which the Scripture speaks.

WE MUST DEBUNK A FEW MYTHS ABOUT GOD'S JUDGMENT

- God's judgment begins with you. But if you are *in Christ* you are complete in Him. His righteousness dwells in you. There is nothing to judge! (2 Cor. 5:17-21).
- God's judgment begins in the church. The church lives *in grace* and operates out of grace. What judgment could be given?
- God's judgment begins in the United States of America. Because some have replaced Israel with the USA, they take passages of judgment on Israel and apply them to the USA.

- Every Bad Thing is God's Direct Judgment. Sometimes it is easier to blame God than our own actions.

HOW TO INTERPRET JUDGMENT PASSAGES

- Passages of judgment may be *historical*.
 - Biblically recorded history is not to be taken as cyclical.
 - While *history may repeat itself*, it is only in the broadest forms.
- Passages of judgment may be *doctrinal*.
 - Prophetic messages teach truth about the future and are thus doctrinal in nature.
 - All prophetic messages in the Bible *are about Israel* or those directly involved with Israel.
 - The books by Jonathan Cahn make the mistake of taking passages about Israel and applying them to the USA.
 - They are popular because *we long for God's intervention*, even if it means judgment.

THERE IS A JUDGMENT THAT IS ALWAYS BEING DELIVERED

- Just because God is not judging the world directly today, doesn't mean that there is no judgment.
- Galatians 6:7-8 speaks about *sowing and reaping*. The "laws of nature and nature's God" are still in effect.

HOW TO LIVE IN A WORLD THAT GOD IS NOT YET JUDGING

- Do not jump to every prophecy teacher or book that announces impending doom.
- Live in *faith* and not in *fear*.
 - Faith in the Gospel's glorious message.
 - Faith in a coming rapture.
- Do *not* place faith where it doesn't belong.
 - Never place faith that mankind will do the right thing.
 - Never have faith that the truth will always come out.
 - Never place faith in the instruments of human achievement.
 - The government, its financial systems, or its military might.
 - The church, its leaders, or its ultimate victory.
- Develop a family and a circle of friends that give encouragement in the tough times.
- Spend your days finding ways to share the Gospel by teaching the Word.