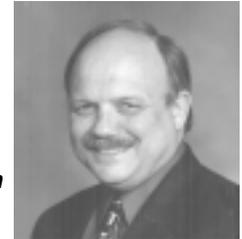




The Science of Judgment Part V

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As explained in my previous articles on “The Science of Judgment” God makes his desires for our lifestyles, choices, morals, behaviors and attitudes very clearly known throughout the Scriptures. When we violate those clearly defined standards God rebukes and finally chastises the offender/s. Chastisement could include punishment even though repentance has taken place.

Judges 2: 1-23: “And an angel of the LORD came up from Gilgal to Bochim, and said, I made you to go up out of Egypt, and have brought you unto the land which I swear unto your fathers; and I said, I will never break my covenant with you. And ye shall make no league with the inhabitants of this land; ye shall throw down their altars: but ye have not obeyed my voice: why have ye done this? Wherefore I also said, I will not drive them out from before you; but they shall be as thorns in your sides, and their gods shall be a snare unto you. And it came to pass, when the angel of the LORD spake these words unto all the children of Israel, that the people lifted up their voice, and wept. And they called the name of that place Bochim: and they sacrificed there unto the LORD. And when Joshua had let the people go, the children of Israel went every man unto his inheritance to possess the land. **And the people served the LORD all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders that outlived Joshua,** who had seen all the great works of the LORD, that he did for Israel. And Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the LORD, died, being an hundred and ten years old. And they buried him in the border of his inheritance in Timnathheres, in the mount of Ephraim,

on the north side of the hill Gaash. And also all that generation were gathered unto their fathers: and **there arose another generation after them, which knew not the LORD, nor yet the works which he had done for Israel. And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and served Baalim:** And they forsook the LORD God of their fathers, which brought them out of the land of Egypt, and followed other gods, of the gods of the people that were round about them, and bowed themselves unto them, and provoked the LORD to anger. And they forsook the LORD, and served Baal and Ashtaroth. **And the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel, and he delivered them into the hands of spoilers that spoiled them, and he sold them into the hands of their enemies round about,** so that they could not any longer stand before their enemies. **Whithersoever they went out, the hand of the LORD was against them for evil,** as the LORD had said, and as the LORD had sworn unto them: and they were greatly distressed. Nevertheless the LORD raised up judges, which delivered them out of the hand of those that spoiled them. And yet they would not hearken unto their judges, but they went a whoring after other gods, and bowed themselves unto them: they turned quickly out of the way which their fathers walked in, obeying the commandments of the LORD; but they did not so. **And when the LORD raised them up judges, then the LORD was with the judge, and delivered them out of the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge:** for it repented the LORD because of their groanings by reason of them that oppressed them and vexed them. **And it came to pass, when the judge was dead, that they returned, and corrupted**

themselves more than their fathers, in following other gods to serve them, and to bow down unto them; they ceased not from their own doings, nor from their stubborn way. **And the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel;** and he said, Because that this people hath transgressed my covenant which I commanded their fathers, and have not hearkened unto my voice; I also will not henceforth drive out any from before them of the nations which Joshua left when he died: That through them I may prove Israel, whether they will keep the way of the LORD to walk therein, as their fathers did keep it, or not. Therefore the LORD left those nations, without driving them out hastily; neither delivered he them into the hand of Joshua.”

We see how God blessed and honored his promises to Israel while Joshua was alive. It is a good example of the influence of Godly leadership including the importance of Godly parental leadership. When the leadership died off, then the nation of Israel violated the clearly establish covenant with God and God chastened them. When the people cried out to God in repentance, God forgave them and rescued them. Israel continued to go through this process of sinning and being chastised, then repenting after much suffering, and finally God lifts his punishment and brings them peace again only for them to repeat the process.

Let us now read how God uses other nations to test Israel because in the same way, God uses people, situations, and circumstance to test our faith.

Judges 3:1-15: “Now these are the

nations which the LORD left, to prove Israel by them, even as many of Israel as had not known all the wars of Canaan; Only that the generations of the children of Israel might know, to teach them war, at the least such as before knew nothing thereof; Namely, five lords of the **Philistines**, and all the **Canaanites**, and the **Sidonians**, and the **Hivites** that dwelt in mount Lebanon, from mount Baalhermon unto the entering in of Hamath. And they were to prove Israel by them, to know whether they would hearken unto the commandments of the LORD, which he commanded their fathers by the hand of Moses. And the children of Israel dwelt among the **Canaanites**, **Hittites**, and **Amorites**, and **Perizzites**, and **Hivites**, and **Jebusites**: And they took their daughters to be their wives, and gave their daughters to their sons, and served their gods. **And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD**, and forgot the LORD their God, and served Baalim and the groves. **Therefore the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel**, and he sold them into the hand of **Chushanrishathaim** king of Mesopotamia: and the children of Israel served Chushanrishathaim eight years. And when the children of Israel cried unto the LORD, the LORD raised up a deliverer to the children of Israel, who delivered them, even Othniel the son of Kenaz, Caleb's younger brother. And the Spirit of the LORD came upon him, and he judged Israel, and went out to war: and the LORD delivered Chushanrishathaim king of Mesopotamia into his hand; and his hand prevailed against Chushanrishathaim. And the land had rest forty years. And Othniel the son of Kenaz died. **And the children of Israel did evil again in the sight of the LORD: and the LORD strengthened Eglon the king of Moab against Israel, because they had done evil in the sight of the LORD.** And he gathered unto him the children of Ammon and Amalek, and went and smote Israel, and possessed the city of palm trees. So the children of Israel served Eglon the king of Moab eighteen years. But when the children of Israel cried unto the LORD, the LORD raised them up a deliverer, Ehud the son of Gera, a Benjamite, a man lefthanded: and by him the children of Israel sent present unto Eglon the king of Moab.” **Do you see a consistent pattern why and how God used different nations and**

kings to judge the people of Israel?

Now let us take a closer look at a king of Judah named Manasseh and study how he brought judgment on the children of Israel!

2 Kings 21:1-16: “Manasseh was twelve years old when he began to reign, and reigned fifty and five years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Hephzibah. **And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD**, after the abominations of the heathen, whom the LORD cast out before the children of Israel. For he built up again the high places which Hezekiah his father had destroyed; and he reared up altars for Baal, and made a grove, as did Ahab king of Israel; and worshipped all the host of heaven, and served them. And he built altars in the house of the LORD, of which the LORD said, In Jerusalem will I put my name. And he built altars for all the host of heaven in the two courts of the house of the LORD. And he made his son pass through the fire, and observed times, and used enchantments, and dealt with familiar spirits and wizards: he wrought much wickedness in the sight of the LORD, to provoke him to anger. And he set a graven image of the grove that he had made in the house, of which the LORD said to David, and to Solomon his son, In this house, and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen out of all tribes of Israel, will I put my name for ever: Neither will I make the feet of Israel move any more out of the land which I gave their fathers; only if they will observe to do according to all that I have commanded them, and according to all the law that my servant Moses commanded them. But they hearkened not: and **Manasseh seduced them to do more evil than did the nations whom the LORD destroyed** before the children of Israel. And the LORD spake by his servants the prophets, saying, **Because Manasseh king of Judah hath done these abominations, and hath done wickedly above all that the Amorites did**, which were before him, and hath made Judah also to sin with his idols: Therefore thus saith the LORD God of Israel, **Behold, I am bringing such evil upon Jerusalem and Judah, that whosoever heareth of it, both his ears shall tingle.** And I will stretch over Jerusalem the line of Samaria, and the plummet of the house of Ahab: and I will wipe Jerusalem as a man wipeth a

dish, wiping it, and turning it upside down. **And I will forsake the remnant of mine inheritance, and deliver them into the hand of their enemies; and they shall become a prey and a spoil to all their enemies;** Because they have done that which was evil in my sight, **and have provoked me to anger, since the day their fathers came forth out of Egypt, even unto this day.** Moreover Manasseh shed innocent blood very much, till he had filled Jerusalem from one end to another; beside his sin wherewith he made Judah to sin, in doing that which was evil in the sight of the LORD.”

In the above 16 verses the Lord indites Manasseh for causing Israel to sin more than some other nations that God had already judged. God not only blames King Manasseh, but the people too. He holds the people and their ancestors accountable for filling the ‘cup of iniquity.’ Finally, Judah gets a good king in Josiah.

2 Kings 22:1-2: “Josiah was eight years old when he began to reign, and he reigned thirty and one years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Jedidah, the daughter of Adaiah of Boscath. **And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD**, and walked in all the way of David his father, and turned not aside to the right hand or to the left.”

Please refer to my article “The Science of Judgment Part III.” It records in 2 Kings 22:11-20, that King Josiah repented after hearing the laws of God read to him. After repenting, the prophetess Huldah tells King Josiah that God will not judge Judah during his lifetime. She forewarns however, that after he dies the people will still be judged because they will return to sin, adding to the cup of iniquity from their forefathers’ and Manasseh’s time.

In 2 Kings 23:4-24, King Josiah destroys Baal worship and the priests involved. He destroys sodomite houses and the high places of idolatry, including fire worship to Molech. He removes sun worship and its dedicated horses and chariots. He destroys idolatrous altars. He destroys other idol gods. He destroys Jeroboam’s altar and the high place at Bethel, fulfilling 1

Kings 13:2-3. He destroys high places in all Samaria and kills the idolatrous priests. He restores the Passover (2 Chronicles 35:1-19). He destroys all traffic with demons and household gods.

2 Kings 23:26-27: “Notwithstanding the LORD turned not from the fierceness of his great wrath, wherewith his anger was kindled against Judah, **because of all the provocations that Manasseh had provoked him withal.** And the LORD said, I will remove Judah also out of my sight, as I have removed Israel, and will cast off this city Jerusalem which I have chosen, and the house of which I said, My name shall be there.”

Notice the consistent pattern of God’s constant warnings and chastisements - after the people repent, then God forgives.

1 Chronicles 5:25-26: “And they transgressed against the God of their fathers, and went a whoring after the gods of the people of the land, whom God destroyed before them. And the God of Israel stirred up the spirit of **Pul king of Assyria, and the spirit of Tilgathpilneser king of Assyria,** and he carried them away, even the Reubenites, and the Gadites, and the half tribe of Manasseh, and brought them unto Halah, and Habor, and Hara, and to the river Gozan, unto this day.”

2 Kings 17:13-23: “**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.** **Therefore the LORD was very angry with Israel, and removed them out of his sight:** there was none left but the tribe of Judah only. Also Judah kept not the commandments of the LORD their God, but walked in the statutes of Israel which they made. **And the LORD rejected all the seed of Israel, and afflicted them, and delivered them into the hand of spoilers,** until he had cast them out of his sight. For he rent Israel from the house of David; and they made Jeroboam the son of Nebat king: and Jeroboam drive Israel from following the LORD, and made them sin a great sin. For the children of Israel walked in all the sins of Jeroboam which he did; they departed not from them; Until the LORD removed Israel out of his sight, as he had said by all his servants the prophets. **So was Israel carried away out of their own land to Assyria unto this day.”**

2 Kings 23:36-37: “**Jehoiakim** was twenty and five years old when he began to reign; and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem. And his mother’s name was Zebudah, the daughter of Pedaiiah of Rumah. And **he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD,** according to all that his fathers had done.”

2 Kings 24:1-4: “In his days **Nebuchadnezzar** king of **Babylon** came up, and Jehoiakim became his servant three years: then he turned and rebelled against him. And the LORD sent against him bands of the **Chaldees,** and bands of the **Syrians,** and bands of the **Moabites,** and bands of the children of **Ammon,** and **sent them against Judah to destroy it,** according to the word of the LORD, which he spake by his servants the prophets. Surely at the commandment of the LORD came this upon Judah, to remove them out of his sight, **for the sins of Manasseh,** according to all that he did; And also for the innocent blood that he shed: for he filled Jerusalem with innocent blood; which the LORD would not pardon. Jehoiachin was eighteen years old when he began to reign, and he reigned in Jerusalem three months. And his mother’s name was Nehushta, the daughter of Elnathan of Jerusalem. And he did that

which was evil in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father had done. At that time the servants of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up against Jerusalem, and the city was besieged. And Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came against the city, and his servants did besiege it. And Jehoiachin the king of Judah went out to the king of Babylon, he, and his mother, and his servants, and his princes, and his officers: and the king of Babylon took him in the eighth year of his reign. And he carried out thence all the treasures of the house of the LORD, and the treasures of the king’s house, and cut in pieces all the vessels of gold which Solomon king of Israel had made in the temple of the LORD, as the LORD had said. And he carried away all Jerusalem, and all the princes, and all the mighty men of valor, even ten thousand captives, and all the craftsmen and smiths: none remained, save the poorest sort of the people of the land. And he carried away Jehoiachin to Babylon, and the king’s mother, and the king’s wives, and his officers, and the mighty of the land, those carried he into captivity from Jerusalem to Babylon. And all the men of might, even seven thousand, and craftsmen and smiths a thousand, all that were strong and apt for war, even them the king of Babylon brought captive to Babylon.”

2 Chronicles 36:15-21: “And the LORD God of their fathers sent to them by his messengers, rising up betimes, and sending; because he had compassion on his people, and on his dwelling place: But they mocked the messengers of God, and despised his words, and misused his prophets, until the wrath of the LORD arose against his people, till there was no remedy. Therefore he brought upon them the **king of the Chaldees,** who slew their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary, and had no compassion upon young man or maiden, old man, or him that stooped for age: he gave them all into his hand. And all the vessels of the house of God, great and small, and the treasures of the house of the LORD, and the treasures of the king, and of his princes; all these he brought to Babylon. **And they burnt the house of God,** and brake down the wall of Jerusalem, and burnt all the palaces thereof with fire, and destroyed all the goodly vessels thereof.

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And them that had escaped from the sword carried he away to Babylon; where they were servants to him and his sons until the reign of the kingdom of Persia: To fulfill the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed her sabbaths: for as long as she lay desolate she kept sabbath, to fulfill threescore and ten years.”

Remember dear saints, this continued to happen to a once godly nation and it will happen to any nation. God is no respecter of people or nations; He has no favorites. The ‘cup of iniquity principle’ always happens because it is scientific. God will continue to deal with nations and people until they are beyond remedy.

God allowed Judah to completely go down and suffer despair and bitter shame as there was no remedy for them without this type of judgment. This pathetic condition continued 70 years, and the land enjoyed her sabbaths (2 Chronicles 36:21; Jeremiah 25:9-12; Daniel 9:2).

Do you see any correlation between Israel and the United States of America? How about the church in America? Is the church in America the separate, pure and holy bride of Christ, representing the values, beliefs, and morals of Jesus and heaven? Or, are the believers in The United States living a compromised lifestyle where they have adapted to America’s culture and pander Satan’s false religions and rebellious life choices? Is the church in America salt and light bringing challenge and change to our society’s attitudes, or is the culture actually affecting the people attending churches so that our families look, act, talk, and behave as the rest of Americans who are not ‘born again’? Who is affecting and changing who?

The September 11, 2001 attack on America was no coincidence. Neither was the December 26, 2004 Tsunami Crisis that struck 12 nations leaving up to three hundred ten thousand people dead and missing.

Idolatry, immorality, killing the innocent and dividing the land of Israel brings judgment on a nation. America is guilty of all four sins, causing God to deal with this nation first for redemptive purposes and then for destruction.

The very nations that were victims of the December 26, 2004, Tsunami Crisis are also guilty of these very four sins. They are guilty of killing innocent Christians, which always brings judgment. Please read Revelation 6:9-11. I will continue with this series on “The Science of Judgment-part VI”. May God richly bless you. Please support this ministry in prayers and with your finances.