

# Salvation and Judgment

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## Is 34:8 NIV

- <sup>8</sup> For the LORD has a day of vengeance, a year of retribution, to uphold Zion's cause.
- God's judgment does not only punish Edom's oppression of Israel, it ends Edom's oppression of Israel.
  - What Edom experiences as judgment (34:12), Israel experiences as salvation (35:1-4).

## introduction

- Today I don't want to give you a detailed exegesis, but rather a big-picture theological theme.
- God's salvation is an act of judgment and God's judgment is an act of salvation (Is 34:8, 35:4).
- Examples: Noah – 'In [the ark] only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water...' (1 Pet 3:20b); Lot – 2 Pet 2:7-8;

## Examples of salvation and judgment

- Deut 20:<sup>4</sup> for the LORD your God is He who goes with you, to fight for you against your enemies, to save you.'
- Psalms 3:<sup>7</sup> Arise, O LORD; Save me, O my God! For You have struck all my enemies on the cheekbone; You have broken the teeth of the ungodly.
- Psalms 138:<sup>7</sup> Though I walk in the midst of trouble, You will revive me; You will stretch out Your hand Against the wrath of my enemies, And Your right hand will save me.

## Is 35:3-4 NIV

- <sup>3</sup>Strengthen the feeble hands, steady the knees that give way; <sup>4</sup> say to those with fearful hearts, "Be strong, do not fear; your God will come, he will come with vengeance; with divine retribution he will come to save you." (Isa 35:3-4 NIV)
- There is one act of God which Edom experiences as judgment and Israel experiences as salvation – one act, two groups.
  - Which group are you in?

## Salvation from the Penalty of sin

Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. <sup>5</sup> But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. <sup>6</sup> We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. (Isa 53:4-6 NIV)

## Salvation from the Penalty of sin

Yet it was the LORD's will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the LORD makes his life a guilt offering, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the LORD will prosper in his hand. (Isa 53:10 NIV)

- The Cross of Christ is the ultimate example of salvation through judgment.
- There is one act of God which Jesus experiences as judgment and His disciples experience as salvation.
- Note how many people get saved in a time of suffering and judgment.

## Salvation from the Power of sin

<sup>10</sup>Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness. <sup>11</sup>No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it. <sup>12</sup>Therefore, strengthen your feeble arms and weak knees. (Heb 12:10-12 NIV)

- God's judgment of His 'true sons' is the salvation that allows them to 'share in His holiness'.

## Salvation from the Power of sin

But if we judged ourselves, we would not come under judgment. <sup>32</sup>When we are judged by the Lord, we are being disciplined so that we will not be condemned with the world. (1Co 11:31 NIV)

- The judgment that saves us from the Power of sin can either be done by us or by God.
- Note that sons experience God's judgment as salvation while sinners experience it as condemnation.

## Salvation from the Power of sin

**Psalms 119:**<sup>67</sup> Before I was afflicted I went astray,  
But now I keep Your word.

Gary's deliverance from addiction.

## Salvation from the Presence of sin

<sup>5</sup> This is evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are also suffering---<sup>6</sup>since indeed God considers it just to repay with affliction those who afflict you,<sup>7</sup> and to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels<sup>8</sup> in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus ( 2 Thess 1:5-8 ESV).

## Salvation from the Presence of sin

He said to me: "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life. <sup>7</sup> He who overcomes will inherit all this, and I will be his God and he will be my son. <sup>8</sup> But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars--their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death." (Rev 21:6-8 NIV)

- There can be no heaven without hell!

## Conclusion

The eschatological 'day of the LORD' is both a day of great salvation and great judgment.

God's judgment of Jesus saves us from the Penalty of sin,  
God's judgment of us saves us from the Power of sin,  
and God's judgment of unbelievers saves us from the Presence of sin.

- Are you part of the group that experiences God's judgment as salvation or not?
- As a child of God you'll never again experience the judgment of God – except in salvation.
- Whenever you see judgment you can know God is saving