

# **The Righteous Judgment Of God**

By Mark Mayberry  
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## **Introduction**

Sacred Scripture repeatedly speaks of the wrath of God being poured out upon the wicked (Rom. 1:18-20; 2 Pet. 2:1-9). Some question the goodness of God, saying “How could a loving God destroy so many innocent people?” The obvious response is, “Such individuals were not innocent.” Modern values stress diversity and tolerance, but God emphasizes the need for righteousness (Prov. 14:34; Psa. 107:33-34). In this lesson, let us consider various examples of divine wrath, divine mercy, and divine judgment.

## **The Antediluvian World**

God’s wrath was directed at the antediluvian world because of sin (Gen. 6:1-7, 11-13). As a sign of divine mercy, men were given 120 years to repent (Gen. 6:3; 1 Pet. 3:20; 2 Pet. 2:5). However, when divine judgment was meted out, the world was destroyed by a universal flood (Gen. 7:17-24; 2 Pet. 3:5-7).

## **The Cities of Sodom & Gomorrah**

God’s wrath was directed at Sodom and Gomorrah because of sin (Gen. 13:13; 18:20-21; 19:4-9). As a sign of divine mercy, the Lord agreed to spare the cities if ten righteous persons could be found (Gen. 18:23-33). However, when divine judgment was meted out, the cities of the plain were destroyed by fire and brimstone (Gen. 19:24-25).

## **The Inhabitants of Canaan**

God’s wrath was directed at the inhabitants of Canaan because of sin (Deut. 7:1-6; 18:9-14). As a sign of divine mercy, the Lord long delayed the execution of this sentence (Gen. 15:12-16). However, when divine judgment was meted out, the Canaanites were utterly destroyed (Lev. 18:24-30; Deut. 20:16-18).

## **The City of Nineveh**

God’s wrath was directed at the city of Nineveh because of sin (Jonah 1:1-3). As a sign of divine mercy, the Lord gave them forty days to repent (Jonah 3:1-10). While the city was spared because the people repented, it was later destroyed because of renewed wickedness (Nah. 1:1-3; 2:8-13; 3:1-7).

## **The Nation of Israel**

God’s wrath was directed at the nation of Israel because of sin (Matt. 11:20-24; 12:38-42). As a sign of divine mercy, the Lord provided countless opportunities for repentance (Matt. 23:37-39). However, when divine judgment was meted out, Jerusalem and Judea were utterly destroyed by the Roman armies in A.D. 70 (Luke 19:41-44).

## **The Roman Empire**

God’s wrath was directed at the Roman Empire because of sin (Rev. 18:4-5). As a sign of divine mercy, the Lord sounded warning trumpets, but the people refused to repent (Rev. 8:7-12; 9:13-21). However, when divine judgment was meted out, the Roman Empire fell to the barbarian hordes in the 5<sup>th</sup> century (Rev. 19:11-21).

## **Conclusion**

Have you incurred God’s wrath because of sin (Rom. 3:9-18)? Do you recognize His many expressions of mercy (John 3:16-21, 36)? Are you prepared to face the righteous judgment of God (2 Pet. 3:1-13)?