

# The United States Under Judgment?

October 11, 2020

## The Reality of God's Chastening

What if God grants to this nation all that it has been demanding?

- depraved sexual immorality
- abortion and infanticide - the violent murder of the innocent
- socialism - oppressive dictatorship, destruction of our nation, loss of freedom

How will you and I respond as Christians, His people, living in a nation under judgment?

- God will not waste the judgment of a nation
- His people and His Church will be chastened, purified and transformed in the process

Daniel 1:1-2 ESV

1 In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it.

2 And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with some of the vessels of the house of God. And he brought them to the land of Shinar, to the house of his god, and placed the vessels in the treasury of his god.

Daniel 1:6 ESV

6 Among these were Daniel, Hananiah (Shadrach), Mishael (Meshach), and Azariah (Abednego) of the tribe of Judah.

Hebrews 12:3-6 ESV

3 Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.

4 In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood.

5 And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons? "My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him.

6 For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives."

Lamentations 3:1-5 ESV

1 I am the man who has seen affliction under the rod of his wrath;

2 he has driven and brought me into darkness without any light;

3 surely against me he turns his hand again and again the whole day long.

4 He has made my flesh and my skin waste away; he has broken my bones;

5 he has besieged and enveloped me with bitterness and tribulation;

Hebrews 12:11-14 ESV

11 For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

12 Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees,

13 and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed.

14 Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.

Lamentations 3:19-26 ESV

19 Remember my affliction and my wanderings, the wormwood and the gall!

20 My soul continually remembers it and is bowed down within me.

21 But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope:

22 The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end;

23 they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

24 "The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him."

25 The LORD is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him.

26 It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD.

Galatians 5:4-5 ESV

4 You are severed from Christ, you who would be justified by the law; you have fallen away from grace.

5 For through the Spirit, by faith, we ourselves eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness.

## **God's forgiveness of our sins never eliminates our need for nor God's desire to purge and cleanse us from those very sins.**

- Many times it is very easy to be conflicted in our minds, "If God has forgiven me then why am I suffering consequences?"
- Our confession of and repentance from those sins is what opens the door to God's chastening.
- Many want to be forgiven without being cleansed.
- If I determine not to confess my sins so as to avoid the cleansing, then the chastening turns into judgment.

1 John 1:9 ESV

9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Psalms 51:7-10 ESV

7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

8 Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice.

9 Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

10 Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

## God's chastening, for His child, is never punishment nor judgment in the sense of condemnation.

- It is always God guiding us, compelling us, into holiness and a higher quality of spiritual life.
- Through chastening, God breaks us down to build us up. When God breaks us, it is never for our destruction, but always for our transformation into something new.
- The end of God's chastening is always two-fold:
  - to be free from sin
  - to bear the fruit of godliness.

Romans 8:1 ESV

1 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

*"God never punishes his children in the sense of avenging justice. He chastens as a father does his child, but he never punishes his redeemed as a judge does a criminal. It is unjust to exact punishment from redeemed souls since Christ has been punished in their place. How shall the Lord punish twice for one offense?"*  
—Charles Spurgeon

Hosea 6:1-3 ESV

1 Come, let us return to the LORD; for he has torn us, that he may heal us; he has struck us down, and he will bind us up.

2 After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will raise us up, that we may live before him.

3 Let us know; let us press on to know the LORD; his going out is sure as the dawn; he will come to us as the showers, as the spring rains that water the earth."

*"He remembers our frame and knows that we are dust. He may sometimes chasten us, it is true, but even this He does with a smile, the proud, tender smile of a Father who is bursting with pleasure over an imperfect but promising son who is coming every day to look more and more like the One whose child he is."*  
—A. W. Tozer

Job 5:17-27 ESV

17 Behold, blessed is the one whom God reproves; therefore despise not the discipline of the Almighty.

18 For he wounds, but he binds up; he shatters, but his hands heal.

19 He will deliver you from six troubles; in seven no evil shall touch you.

20 In famine he will redeem you from death, and in war from the power of the sword.

21 You shall be hidden from the lash of the tongue, and shall not fear destruction when it comes.

22 At destruction and famine you shall laugh, and shall not fear the beasts of the earth.

23 For you shall be in league with the stones of the field, and the beasts of the field shall be at peace with you.

24 You shall know that your tent is at peace, and you shall inspect your fold and miss nothing.

25 You shall know also that your offspring shall be many, and your descendants as the grass of the earth.

26 You shall come to your grave in ripe old age, like a sheaf gathered up in its season.

27 Behold, this we have searched out; it is true. Hear, and know it for your good."