

PROJECT TITLE: HOPE AFTER DEATH
PROGRAM TITLE: THE JUDGMENT
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TRANSCRIPT

In case you hadn't noticed, things are pretty bad out there. Out there, abuse and exploitation run rampant. Out there, greed, tyranny and corruption rule.

If you're not an emotional ice cube, you're probably outraged at the atrocities, the brutality, that victimizes the helpless and the innocent. You see man's inhumanity to his fellow man — and your heart cries out, **SOMEBODY SHOULD DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS!**

It's not like no one's opposing evil. Millions have died fighting the forces of darkness. We cheer at occasional victories of right over wrong. Sometimes we even think we're making progress toward a better world. Small steps, I understand. Then something happens to remind us that evil persists. It even seems to grow stronger. Yes, **SOMEBODY SHOULD DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS!**

I find hope in the word of God. It assures me that someday someone **WILL** do something. God Himself will set things right. A time for justice is coming. The Bible calls it **THE JUDGMENT**.

Justice. Will. Prevail.

Jesus told this story about a farmer. He sent his servants out to plant wheat. During the night an enemy came and planted weeds in his field. And when the grain sprouted, so did the weeds. Now, the farmer didn't send his men out to pull up the weeds. No! He said, "Leave it until the harvest. Then the reapers will collect the weeds, burn them, and gather the wheat into the barn."

Jesus explained the parable this way:

"The field is the world, and the good seed is the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels..." Matthew 13:38-40 NKJV

Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the end of the age." Matthew 13:38-40 NKJV

He goes on:

"The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin, all law-breakers, and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father" (Matthew 13:41-43 ESV).

So, there will come a time of Judgment — it's called the harvest. Everybody ends up in one of two classes. One group goes into God's kingdom. The other is consumed in the fire.

The Bible is clear. The harvest is at the end of the age. No one takes his last breath and goes whoosh directly to his reward or punishment. That has to wait until the end of the age, as the parable says. So what's the end of the age? Paul puts it this way:

“For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord” (1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17 NKJV).

This is the second coming of Christ. The Apocalypse. The end of the world as we know it. God rescues His children who've survived until that day, and He raises to life His redeemed people from every age of earth's history. Jesus called this the resurrection of the just.

What happens to everybody else? According to the prophet, a thousand years go by before their resurrection. A thousand years. That's the famous millennium, when Satan himself is bound to this ruined planet.

John wrote, “The rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished” (Revelation 20:5 NKJV).

So there's another resurrection, and then the final judgment.

I'm quoting now, “Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books” (Revelation 20:11, 12 NKJV).

This Judgment ends with total annihilation of the condemned in the lake of fire. The prophet calls it “the second death” (Revelation 21:8 NKJV).

There will never be another awakening. Just oblivion.

This final act of God against sin and evil is not an uncontrolled outburst of divine temper. No. It's the natural response of His holy love against every form of evil that has assaulted His children. It is His promised response to every outrage, every iniquity, every crime against His creation. He will cleanse planet Earth and recreate a perfect new world.

The prophet tells us about it:

“Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. There shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away. Then He who sat on the throne said, “Behold, I make all things

new” (Revelation 20:1, 4, 5 NKJV).

The Judgment will do away with all that’s evil. No more injustice or exploitation. No more tyranny and oppression. No more pain or sorrow. The conflict between good and evil – between God and Satan – will be over. For good.

The words of Jesus will become eternal reality as all who are saved will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father.

So the story ends well. Love triumphs. Yes, there are dark chapters for sure. Things are pretty bad out there. But the God of love sees it all. And HE DOES SOMETHING ABOUT IT.