

# GOD THE JUDGE

## **Ezekiel 5:13 I have spoken in My jealousy**

The last statement is the key to chapter 5, and perhaps to Ezekiel's prophetic ministry as a whole. Yahweh's announcement of the impending destruction of Jerusalem has been driven by His passion. This is the fire of divine passion, the Lord's enthusiasm for His covenant relationship with Israel. He had not entered into this relationship lightly, and He cannot stand idly by while it is threatened. The intensity of His wrath arises out of His profound love. Because He loves so deeply, He must respond so forcefully. - Darrell Block

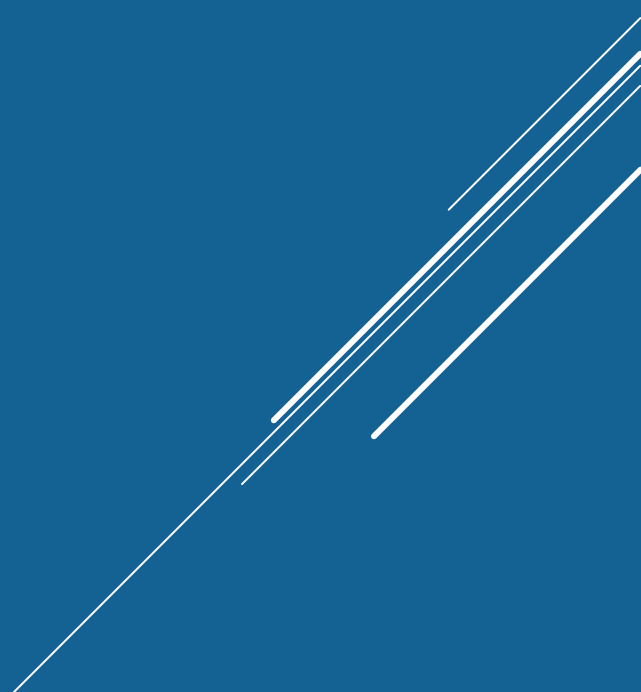
# **GOD THE JUDGE**

**Ezekiel 7:27 ...by your standard of justice, I will judge you**

**Israel's crime – rebellion**

**Verdict - guilty**

**Sentence – death, destruction, exile**



# GOD THE JUDGE

▶ Judgment is the process of **discerning** between right and wrong, and **taking action** as a result.



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Judgment is not an intellectual activity carried out in academic detachment. It is not an exercise in balancing evidence. It is an activity of discernment and vindication. He who judges seeks out the wrongdoer to punish him, and seeks out the righteous to vindicate him. - Leon Morris, The Biblical Doctrine of Judgment

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Judgment is the process of discerning between right and wrong, and taking action as a result.

**Job 34:10-12** Far be it from God to do evil, from the Almighty to do wrong. <sup>11</sup> He repays a man for what he has done; he brings upon him what his conduct deserves. <sup>12</sup> It is unthinkable that God would do wrong, that the Almighty would pervert justice.

# GOD THE JUDGE

## The Characteristics of God the Judge:

1. The judge is a person with authority.

Psalm 99:1 – 4: The Lord reigns! The nations tremble. He sits enthroned above the cherubim, the earth shakes. The Lord is elevated in Zion; he is exalted over all the nations.... The king is strong; he loves justice. You ensure that legal decisions will be made fairly, you promote justice and equity in Jacob.”

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## The Characteristics of God the Judge:

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**Creator    Owner    Lawgiver**

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# GOD THE JUDGE

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**Isaiah 1:17** “Learn to do well; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow.”

**Zechariah 8:16-17** “These are the things you are to do: Speak the truth to each other, and render true and sound judgment in your courts; do not plot evil against your neighbor, and do not love to swear falsely. I hate all this,” declares the LORD.

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**Psalm 11:4-7:** The Lord is in his holy temple; the Lord's throne is in heaven. His eyes watch; his eyes examine all people. The Lord approves of the godly, but he hates the wicked and those who love to do violence. May the Lord rain down burning coals and brimstone on the wicked! A whirlwind is what they deserve!

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## The Characteristics of God the Judge:

4. The judge is a person of ***power to execute sentence.***

**Lawgiver**

**Judge**

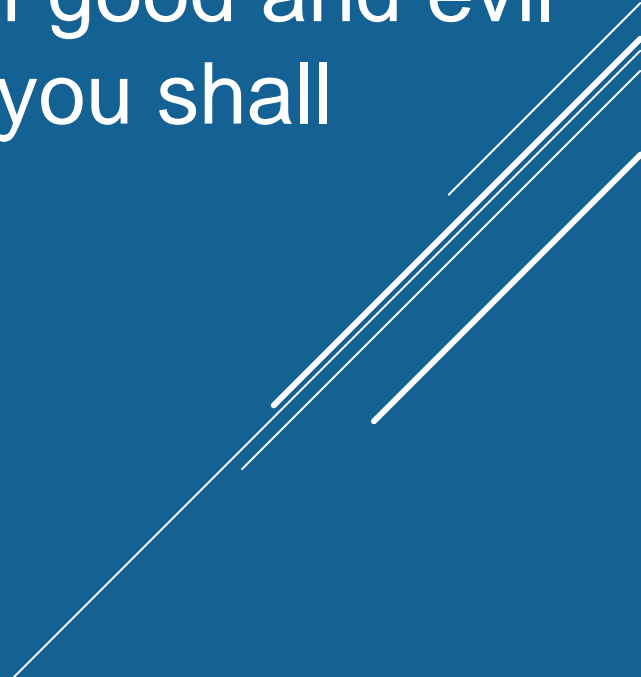
**Enforcer**

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**GOD THE JUDGE**

**THE WAGES OF SIN IS DEATH**

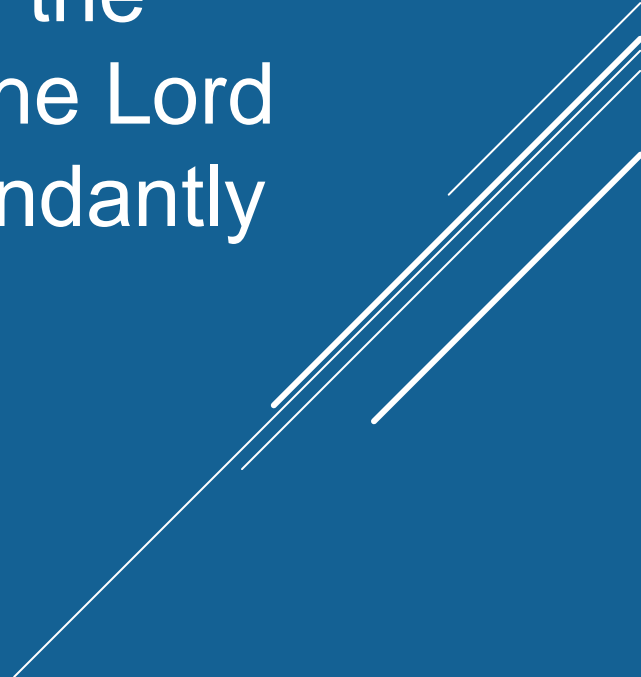
Genesis 2:17 “but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”



# GOD THE JUDGE

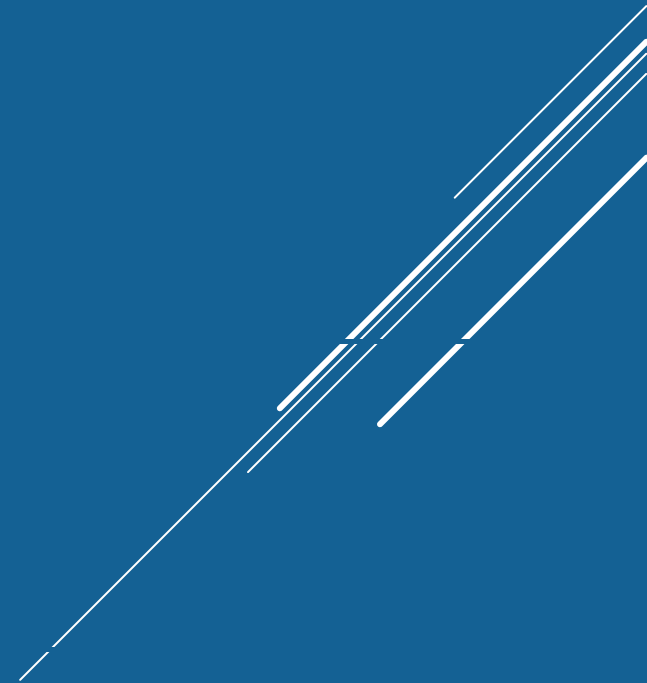
**Mercy – not getting what you deserve**

**Isaiah 55:7** Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: let him return to the Lord and He will have mercy on him... for He will abundantly pardon.

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# GOD THE JUDGE

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But it was *nothing....*

*compared to the wrath of God that was poured out on His beloved Son on the cross.*

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*Pain*

*suffering*

*fear*

*famine*

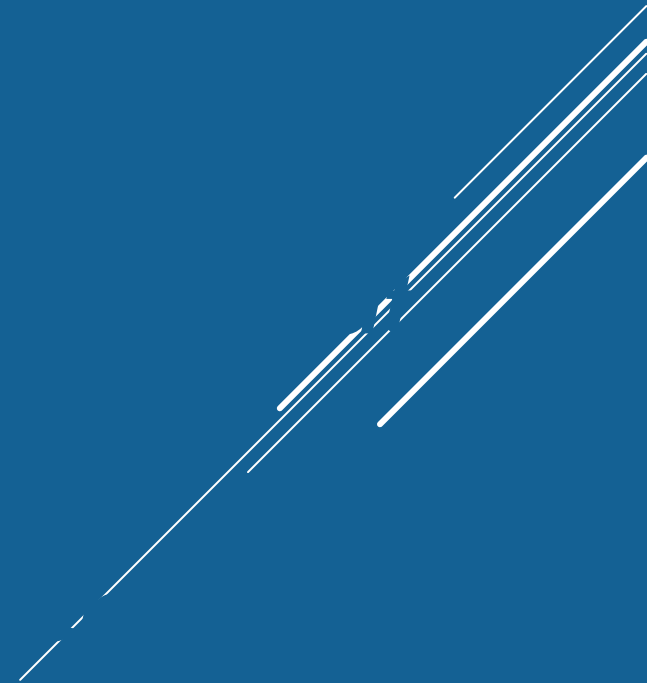
*reproach*

*God turned His face away*

# GOD THE JUDGE

The Lord exhausted His rage on Christ

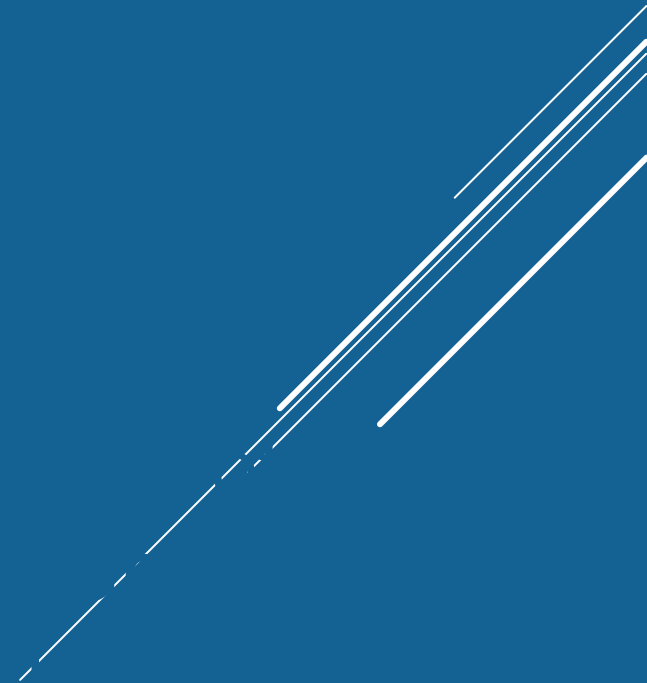
And was *more than appeased* at His sacrificial death.



# GOD THE JUDGE

The Good News of God's Judgment:

God set forth Christ as a *propitiation.*



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## The Good News of God's Judgment:

God set forth Christ as a propitiation.

This is the act of offering an appropriate sacrifice to turn away the wrath of God.

turn away – remove it – be done with it

**Hebrews 2:17** Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.

# GOD THE JUDGE

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turn away – remove it – be done with it

This act of God the Judge *demonstrated* His justice and also *satisfied His requirement* for justice.

# GOD THE JUDGE

## 3 options regarding sinners:

#1: God can condemn them to eternal separation from Himself

#2: God can compromise His own righteousness to receive them in Heaven as they are

#3: God can change them into righteous people – able to be in His presence

# GOD THE JUDGE

*legally declares us...*

*on the basis of the blood of Christ...*

**RIGHTEOUS!**

**JUSTIFIED!**

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*legally declares us...*

*on the basis of the blood of Christ...*

**RIGHTEOUS!**

*This is **justification**, the instantaneous legal act of God in which He thinks of our **sins as forgiven** and **Christ's righteousness** as belonging to us, and declares us to be righteous in His sight.*



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**Romans 3:21-26** <sup>21</sup> But now apart from the Law the righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, <sup>22</sup> even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction; <sup>23</sup> for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup> being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; <sup>25</sup> whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. This was to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed; <sup>26</sup> for the demonstration, I say, of His righteousness at the present time, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.


#3: God can change them into righteous people – able

# GOD THE JUDGE

Our JUST God – makes us JUST like Christ.... He gives us the righteousness of Christ.

We receive this by faith

**Romans 4:5:** to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is reckoned as righteousness,



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The Judge carried out the death sentence  
on the One *who was NOT guilty,*

and the guilty were *set free!*

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