

# God's Righteous Judgment

## Revelation 9

**Big Idea:** God's judgment is precise and certain. The wrath we see in Revelation 9 is the same wrath Christ bore on the cross for believers. Today, share the gospel boldly—both the hard truth of coming judgment and the good news of salvation through Christ alone.

### Main Points

- 1. God's Justice is Precise:** God's judgment is perfect, exact, and precise—there has never been nor will there ever be a victim of God's injustice.
- 2. The Severity of Coming Judgment:** Revelation 9 describes horrific judgments that are difficult to read but necessary to understand.
- 3. Christ Bore Our Wrath:** Believers should be amazed that Christ took the wrath we deserved upon Himself at the cross.
- 4. The Unrepentant Will Face Judgment:** Despite severe judgments, some will refuse to repent, demonstrating total depravity apart from God's grace.
- 5. We Are Called to Proclaim:** We are commanded to "thunder out" both God's coming wrath AND the good news of salvation through Christ.

### Scriptures:

- Revelation 8:13
- Hosea 8:1
- Revelation 4:8
- Luke 10:18
- Isaiah 14:12-15
- 2 Peter 2:4
- Deuteronomy 32:39
- Psalm 78:49
- Romans 2:4-5
- Acts 10:42-43
- 2 Timothy 3:1-5

### Opening Question:

What's the most difficult truth you've ever had to share with someone you cared about? How did you approach it?

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### Discussion Questions:

How does understanding God's holiness (the "Trisagion" - Holy, Holy, Holy) help us better comprehend why judgment is necessary?

The sermon mentioned that God's justice is "precise." What does this mean practically? How does this comfort or challenge you?

How do we balance understanding God's love with understanding His wrath? Are these contradictory attributes?

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What details from Revelation 9 stood out to you most? Why do you think Scripture includes such vivid, disturbing imagery?

In verses 20-21, people refuse to repent despite experiencing horrific judgments. What does this teach us about human nature and sin's power?

Mark mentioned that Martin Luther would spend 5-6 hours in confession because of his hatred of sin. Do we take sin seriously enough? How can we cultivate a deeper awareness of our own sin without falling into unhealthy guilt?

Read Romans 2:4 together: "The kindness of God leads you to repentance." How have you experienced God's kindness leading you to repentance in your own life?

The sermon emphasized living in "constant confession and repentance." What would this look like practically in your daily life?

Mark said we should be "thunderous in our proclaiming of the gospel." What holds us back from boldly sharing both the reality of judgment and the hope of salvation?

Who in your life is "storing up wrath" by living without Christ? How can this group pray for and support you in reaching them? How can we speak about hell and judgment in a way that is both truthful and loving?

#### Practical Applications:

1. **PERSONAL REPENTANCE:** Set aside 15 minutes each day for confession and repentance. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal sins you may have overlooked or minimized. Journal about areas where you need to experience "visible reform" (as Thomas Watson described repentance).
2. **INTERCESSORY PRAYER:** Create a list of 3-5 people you know who don't know Christ. Commit to praying for them daily, asking God to draw them to Himself. Pray specifically that God would soften their hearts and give you opportunities to share the gospel.
3. **BOLD WITNESS:** Identify one person with whom you can have a gospel conversation this week. Pray for boldness and the right words. Practice sharing your testimony with the group, including both the reality of judgment you've been saved from and the grace you've received.
4. **SCRIPTURE MEDITATION:** Memorize 2 Peter 3:9: "The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not willing for any to perish, but for all to come to repentance." Reflect on how God's patience should motivate our evangelism.

#### Closing Thought/Prayer:

Lord, help us feel the weight of Your righteous judgment so deeply that we cling to Christ in repentance and boldly share the hope of the gospel with those still far from You.