

Briefing Document: Fall of the World Lesson 13

PM Message – May 24, 2026

Executive Summary

The following briefing outlines the biblical foundations and characteristics of the coming judgment of the nations. Central to this study is the role of Jesus Christ, who acts not only as the Savior but also as the final Judge. A key distinction is made between Christ's titles: He is the "Son of God" in the context of the miraculous resurrection, but the "Son of Man" in the context of judgment. This distinction highlights that judgment is the natural, non-miraculous consequence of human sin—a harvest of what has been sown.

The document explores the transition from Christ's first coming as a "bridegroom" for the Church to His second coming as a "warrior king" and judge. Through various prophetic texts from the Old and New Testaments, the nature of this judgment is described as certain, severe, and righteous. The briefing concludes with the timing of these events, which coincide with the return of Christ in glory to establish His kingdom and the end of the "Time of the Gentiles."

The Identity and Role of the Judge

The judgment of the nations is a legal and moral necessity where God addresses "unfinished business." All judgment has been committed to Jesus Christ. His authority to judge is tied specifically to His identity as the Son of Man.

The Son of God vs. The Son of Man

In the Gospel of John, two different titles are used for Jesus to describe different actions:

- **The Son of God:** This title is used in relation to the resurrection. As seen in John 5:25, *"Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live."* Resurrection is a miracle requiring the direct intervention of deity.
- **The Son of Man:** This title is used in relation to judgment. John 5:27 explains that God has given Him authority to execute judgment because He is the Son of Man.

Judgment as a Natural Law

Unlike resurrection, judgment is not described as a miracle. It is the inevitable result of moral laws, much like gravity is a physical law. If a person jumps from a building, God does not have to "kill" them; the law of gravity takes over. Similarly, when a person violates moral laws and rejects Christ, they bring the consequences upon themselves.

- **The Principle of Sowing and Reaping:** Judgment is simply receiving what one deserves. As the scripture states, *"The soul who sins shall die"* (Ezekiel 18:20).
- **The Verdict Pronouncer:** In this role, Christ does not act as an "active deity" performing a miracle to punish. Instead, He pronounces the verdict that man has already brought upon himself through sin.

The Two Comings of Christ

The return of Jesus Christ happens in two distinct phases with two different purposes:

1. **The Rapture:** Christ returns as a "bridegroom" to gather His "bride," which is the Church. This is a message of love and rescue (1 Thessalonians 4).
2. **The Second Coming:** Christ returns as a "judge" for those who are not part of the Church. This return is characterized by "flaming judgment" for those who do not know God.

Prophetic Evidence of Judgment

The theme of judgment is woven throughout the Bible, beginning with the earliest prophecies.

The Prophecy of Enoch

The first direct prophecy recorded in the Bible (outside of Genesis) was given by Enoch. As recorded in Jude 14–15, Enoch prophesied: *“Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him.”* This prophecy emphasizes the focus of judgment on the "ungodly."

The Imagery of the Winepress

Isaiah 63 provides a fearful description of the Lord returning from judgment. He is pictured with red garments, like one who has been treading grapes in a winepress.

- *“I have trodden the winepress alone, and from the peoples no one was with me. For I have trodden them in My anger, and trampled them in My fury; their blood is sprinkled upon My garments, and I have stained all My robes”* (Isaiah 63:3).
- This imagery signifies the "day of vengeance" and the strength of the Lord's "own arm" bringing salvation and judgment.

The Destruction of World Empires

In Daniel 2, the Gentile world is symbolized by a great image of different metals. A "stone cut without hands"—representing Jesus Christ—strikes the image and crushes it until no trace remains. The stone then becomes a great mountain that fills the whole earth, symbolizing Christ's kingdom.

The Warrior King: Revelation 19

The most detailed description of the coming Judge is found in Revelation 19. This passage describes the opening of heaven for Christ's second coming.

- **The White Horse:** In Roman history, a conquering general returned from battle riding a white horse. Christ is portrayed this way as the ultimate Conqueror.
- **The Titles:** He is called "Faithful and True" because He keeps His promises and speaks the truth. He is also called the "Word of God" and "King of Kings."
- **The Appearance:** His eyes are like a "flame of fire," representing His ability to probe the deepest parts of the human heart. He wears many crowns and a robe dipped in blood—the blood of His enemies.

- **The Sword:** A sharp sword proceeds from His mouth. This is His spoken word, which He uses to strike the nations^[^1].

The Timing and Grace of God

The judgment occurs when the Son of Man comes in His glory at the end of the "Time of the Gentiles." This is the consummation of human history when the nations attempt to unite against God.

The Foolishness of Rebellion

Psalm 2 describes the nations and kings of the earth plotting against the Lord and His Anointed (Christ). They attempt to break free from God's authority.

- **God's Reaction:** *"He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; the Lord shall hold them in derision"* (Psalm 2:4). God views the rebellion of man as foolishness.
- **The Established King:** Despite human resistance, God declares, *"Yet I have set My King on My holy hill of Zion"* (Psalm 2:6).

A Final Call to Mercy

Even in a message of judgment, God remains gracious. Psalm 2 ends with a warning and an invitation to avoid the coming wrath: *"Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, and you perish in the way, when His wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him"* (Psalm 2:12).

Key Terminology

Word	Phonetic Pronunciation	Definition
Ethne ^[^1]	eth-nay	A Greek term meaning nations, ethnicities, or all the people groups of the world.

[^1]: The term "nations" used in Revelation and the Book of Isaiah is derived from the Greek word *ethne*, which refers to all the people of the world rather than just political states.