

## Isaiah 6:9-13

### *The Judgment of God*

February 6, 2022

**INTRO:** In this passage we are introduced to the holiness of God. There are concepts asserted that seem foreign to our understanding of God's nature. We prefer to think of Him as only a loving heavenly Father who always desires our best; and that is true of Him. But we tend to neglect His holiness, His righteousness, His wrath, and His hatred for sin. In this passage we are introduced to the latter.

#### I. **A Sad Duty for the Prophet**

- A. Isaiah is told that his ministry will be largely unproductive, that very few people will pay him heed.
- B. The net effect will be the hardening of the people's heart toward God and their intensified disobedience.
- C. As Isaiah understands the call to which he has been appointed, God leaves him under no illusions—it will be a difficult and thankless ministry.

#### II. **Why Would God Desire the Hardening of the People's Heart?**

- A. The simple and most direct answer is that He wouldn't. The Scripture states clearly that God "desires all men [people] to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth." (1 Timothy 2:4)
- B. God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. (John 3:16)
- C. Jesus describes His mission on earth when He says, "For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost." (Luke 19:10)
- D. God does not harden people's heart so that they cannot believe, but He does give them a choice and turns away from those who repeatedly reject Him and His offer of salvation. As God withdraws His Spirit, the hearts of resistant unbelievers' become more and more hardened. For example:

#### III. **The Consequence of Rejecting God's Message of Redemption**

- A. "He, that being often reprov'd hardens his heart, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy." (Proverbs 29:1)
- B. Pharaoh resisted Moses and only increased the labor of the Israelites, but after a season, God hardened Pharaoh's heart in order to display His power and glory to the Egyptians. (Ex 7:1-5). Pharaoh first hardened his own heart, then God withdrew His Spirit as Pharaoh deserved.
- C. The degradation of humanity described in Romans 1:18ff is God allowing rebellious people to have their own way.

#### IV. **God Allows People the Choice to Reject His Message and Suffer the Consequences**

- A. God is a God of love, patience, grace and kindness, and willing to forgive
- B. God is also a God of Holiness, Righteousness, Justice, and Wrath Who will not tolerate sin and rebellion. "It is a fearful (terrifying) thing to fall into the hands of the living God." (Hebrews 10:31)
- C. "And they said to the mountains and to the rocks, 'Fall on us and hide us from the presence of Him Who sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb; for the great day of Their wrath has come, and who is able to stand?'" (Rev 6:16-17)
- D. "And in as much as it is appointed to men [people] to die once and after this comes judgment, . . ." (Hebrews 9:27)

**CONC:** "Do not harden your hearts as at Meribah, as in the day of Massah in the wilderness when your father's tested Me, though they had seen My work. . . . For forty years I loathed that generation, . . . Therefore I swore in My anger, truly they shall not enter My rest." (Psalms 95:8-11; Hebrews 4:7.). Do not harden your heart, be open and accept the love of God and His message of redemption; for if you harden your own heart and ignore His love, the day may come when you can no longer believe and when your time will come to die and you will be cut off without a remedy and only hell and separation from God awaits you. It is not His desire, don't let it be yours. "Today is the day of salvation, now is the appointed time." (Hebrews 3:13-15)