

UNDERSTANDING GOD'S JUDGMENT

Ezekiel 14, 22

Awareness

Before listening, reflect:

- How do you define judgment? What is its purpose?
- What do you think are some of your culture's modern-day idols?

Many of the prophet Ezekiel's messages speak about God's judgment on Israel. These passages are not always easy, but studying them helps us see God's grief and remember his just and holy character. When we understand that God's judgment is necessary and not spiteful or angry, we can begin to comprehend where God's judgment comes from and how it's also a means of grace in our lives.

Listen: [*Understanding God's Judgment*](#)

Reflection

After listening, consider:

- In segment 1, hosts Scott Hozzee and Darrell Delaney discuss Israel's notable idolatry. Darrell observes that "All of us have made idols in our hearts that we need to confess to God." Scott brings up the Heidelberg Catechism and references [Lord's Day 34, Q&A 95](#) which defines idolatry as "having or inventing something in which to put our trust instead of, or in addition to, the only true God who has revealed himself in his Word." Examine your own heart as you spend some time reflecting on both quotes. What kinds of things have been idols in your life in the past? Do you still struggle with those idols or are there new things that tempt you to trust someone or something instead of or in addition to God?
- What other stories in Scripture move from grief to grace like Ezekiel's prophecies and the story of Noah and the flood?
- As segment 3 begins, Darrell and Scott reflect on the necessity of God's judgment, noting that because of God's holy and just character he cannot and will not avoid dealing with sin. And yet, even as God declares his judgment in Ezekiel, there's grace as he also promises restoration. How can this truth about God's character encourage us as we seek justice today?
- God's righteous judgment flows from his holy and just character. As we've seen in Ezekiel, his judgment is always fair, and, because of his love for us, accompanied by hope and promises of restoration. How or when have you experienced God's fair and righteous judgment in your own life? Was this judgment also a source of grace for you? Why or why not? In what ways did you also experience, or in what ways are you also experiencing, hope and restoration?

Related Passages

- **Exodus 20:1-23**

- **James 3:1**
- **Deuteronomy 28**

Conclusion

What did today's conversation teach you or remind you about God's judgment and grace? How can you help yourself remember that everything is a gift from God and that God's judgment is also a source of grace?

<https://groundworkonline.com/episodes/understanding-gods-judgment>

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