

Understanding God's Judgment

Judgment and consequences can feel unfair. They can even feel mean, especially when we don't understand why they're occurring. The prophet Ezekiel received many messages of judgment for Israel—so many that, at times, when reading the book of Ezekiel it can feel like God's judgment is relentless. But by studying these judgments, we can learn about the character of God and better understand where God's judgment comes from, what it means, why it's necessary, and why it's also a source of grace.

AWARENESS Before listening reflect on what you already know or understand about topics we'll cover in the episode.

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



LISTEN TO THE EPISODE: [Understanding God's Judgment](#)

READ [Ezekiel 14, 22](#)

REFLECTION After listening, consider the following questions:

- In segment 1, hosts Scott Hoezee 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 for further study

[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>

Printed on February 22, 2025

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