

## LESSON 10—LEARNING ABOUT: GOD'S JUDGMENT

**Judgment** is a powerful word and concept in the scriptures. We tend to ignore it, like we tend to ignore taxes and trips to the dentist. These are things that will come due in the future but we'd rather not think about them now. However, it is interesting to note how often the judgment day is referred to in scripture. In his earthly ministry, Jesus too, constantly made reference to the judgment day. The main purpose of the Doctrine and Covenants, according to Section 1, the preface of the book, is to provide a voice of warning to the world so they may prepare for judgment day. Matthew 16:27 says, "For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works." Every man (and woman) is accountable for what they do in this life. We have agency—the precious right to choose. With this right comes accountability for the choices we have made. Being accountable means that ultimately there will be an actual *accounting*, as there is in a court of law. Jesus said, "I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment." (Matthew 12:36) Those of us who are wise will heed the warning and take stock, preparing personally for this future event. This study will look at judgment as presented in the Doctrine & Covenants, with some references to the Old and New Testaments for fuller understanding.

### Read D&C 1

1.           A. What phrases from Section 1 best represent to you why the inhabitants of the earth need a "voice of warning"?
  - B. Why is "the anger of the Lord kindled"? What does He have against the people of the earth?
  
2. Verse 6 refers to the Book of Commandments, or what we now call the Doctrine and Covenants. What prophetic promise is made in verse 7 that makes our study this year so important?
  
3. What is the standard by which people will be judged according to verse 10? Please put this in your own words.
  
4. Read D&C 133:37-52 and Isaiah 63:1-5
  - a. When the Lord appears in his glory, will the inhabitants of the earth know who he is (at first)? Cite verses.
  - b. What color clothes will the Lord be wearing at his coming, and why?
  - c. THOUGHT QUESTION: Why does the Lord say, "none were with me"?
  - d. What are the two groups of people mentioned and what are their different reactions to the second coming?
  
5. Read Jeremiah 25:15-18 & 26-33.
  - a. What is in the cup that the Lord gives the nations of the earth to drink?
  - b. What happens to the people described in verse 33?

- c. Verse 29 says, the nations “shall not be unpunished.” What would God be punishing them for?
- d. According to Romans 6:23, the “wages of [all] sin is” what? \_\_\_\_\_
- e. What is the wage due to you for your own sins? \_\_\_\_\_
- g. Read D&C 19:16-19. How does Christ make it possible for his disciples to avoid the bitter cup of punishment for their sins?

6. What are purposes of the Second Coming of the Lord to the earth—a day known in scripture as the Great and Terrible Day of the Lord—from each of the following verses:

D&C 45:16 \_\_\_\_\_

D&C 45:47-50 \_\_\_\_\_

D&C 45:51-53 \_\_\_\_\_

D&C 45:55 \_\_\_\_\_

D&C 90:10-11 \_\_\_\_\_

D&C 99:5 \_\_\_\_\_

7. Read D&C 35:20-21 and D&C 38:8-10 and D&C 133:63-64.

- a. What do you think it means to “abide the day”? What can you do now to ensure that you “abide the day.”
- b. The first time the Lord judged the whole earth for its wickedness, he did it by water. What will he use next time?

8. Read Revelation 16:19, and Revelation 18, the whole chapter. (Skim, if you want)

- a. What things characterize Babylon in her “heyday”? What are her sins?
- b. What is God going to do to Babylon?
- c. What should a Latter-day Saint woman learn from the scriptures about Babylon that will help her make choices in her present life.
- d. What is the lament of the merchants after Babylon falls?

**OUR GREAT JUDGE**

9. Earth life is like a battle for possession of the earth between two great cities and kings, each one claiming to be the ruler. The two cities are Zion and Babylon. Christ and Satan both claim to be the rightful king. Keep this in mind as you answer the following questions:

- a. Read D&C 19:1-3, & 18-19 and John 19:30. How, when and where did Jesus Christ win the victory over Satan?

- b. Read 1 Peter 1:18-19. Could Jesus have been the Savior if he had given in to Satan's temptations in the wilderness? Why not?
10. Read John 5:21-23&26-27, John 10:30-33&36-38. Who is the judge of mankind? And how is he uniquely qualified to do this job?
11. Read 1 Samuel 16:7, D&C 10: 37 and D&C 6:16. From these scriptures, why can't God delegate our final judgment to a mortal man?

### **BEING READY**

12. Read D&C 88:86. What do you think the two phrases mean: "let your hands be clean" before the Lord and "entangle not yourselves in sin"? How do they represent different ways to protect yourself from the effects of sin?
13. Read D&C 137:9. This scripture says that we are judged according to "the desires of our hearts." Do you think the desires of our hearts are fixed or can we change them if we decide to change them? And if so, how?
14. PERSONAL: Have you ever had a "change of heart" about a person, thing or situation that you attribute to the workings of the Holy Spirit in your life? Tell how this affected your life.

### **GOD'S LOVE**

15. Read D&C 43:17-20, 23-31
- a. What are some of the means the Lord has used to call upon the inhabitants of the earth to repent?
- b. What evidence do you see in this passage for the love the Lord has for mankind?
- c. What is the task of the Latter-day Saints according to these verses? How often do you remember that you have a responsibility to warn the inhabitants of the earth?

### **THE SAINTS AT HIS COMING**

16. Read D&C 88:95-98.
- a. What part shall the righteous have in the actual second coming of the Lord to the earth?
- b. Do you have to be living on the earth at his coming to have this opportunity? Cite verse.

### **JUDGE A RIGHTEOUS JUDGMENT**

17. a. John 7:24 says, "Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment." Tell about some earthly roles in which people are required to be judges?

b. Read D&C 11:12 and D&C 3:13. How should a person who must make judgments in their appointed role, do so in righteousness?

18. Read Mosiah 4:16-19 and then Matthew 5:7 and James 2:13. Why is the judgment that the person of Mosiah 14:17 makes upon the beggar a spiritually harmful thing to do? What must we all 'beg' for?

19. Read Luke 6:31-38. Remember, a "judgment" is a sentence handed down by a judge, usually a punishment. So you could translate verse 37, "do not *take it upon yourself* to punish others for their sins, so that punishment will not be meted out to you for your own sins."

a. What are some of the ways we 'punish' others for their sins, even subtle ways.

b. If you *knew* that a person was guilty—perhaps a person in your ward or family admitted a serious sin and was excommunicated—how could you still "not judge" that person?

20. "God sends his rain on the just and the unjust,"(Matt 5:45) and "he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil." (Luke 6:35) This means that God has the same standard of behavior to everyone. His nature doesn't change depending on the person he is interacting with. Even when he is stern he loves. We too should "act, not react." *Acting* is choosing your standard of behavior according to God's laws of love and kindness, no matter what others are doing. *Reacting* is returning to others that they have done to you. In each hypothetical situation, give an example of both:

a. Situation: A cousin of yours believes that you spoke ill of her, even though you didn't. She does everything she can to hurt your reputation. You will see her at the upcoming family reunion.

How you would re-act:

How you would act:

b. You are living in a foreign country that has a very different culture than yours. Your neighbors treat you coldly.

How you would re-act:

How you would act:

21. Read Matthew 25:31-46. At the final judgment bar of God, what will be the criteria of judgment according to this statement of Jesus? Put this in your own words in terms that make sense for your life.

22. What have you learned about the subject of judgment that was useful to you, or that you hope to remember?