

CHURCH IN REGINA

Jer. 32:39 And I will give them one heart and one way, to fear Me all the days, for their own good and for the good of their children after them.

HWMR Week 11—The Intrinsic Significance of Fearing the Lord in the Economy of God

The Creating God and the Judging God

The progression of the revelation of God in the Bible is very significant. First, the Bible presents the **creating God** (Gen. 1:1) and then the **redeeming God** (3:21). In addition, the Bible says that He is the **living God** (2 Sam. 22:47), the **righteous God** (Psa. 7:9), and the **God of lovingkindness** (Neh. 9:32). He is **light** (1 John 1:5), He is **power** (2 Cor. 13:4), and He is the **God who hides Himself** (Isa. 45:15). He is the **God of resurrection** (2 Cor. 1:9). He is also the **God of grace** (Heb. 4:16), and He gives His rich grace to man by giving man all that He is, all that He has, and all that He has done. He also gives man His fullness, His life, and His might. The Bible further reveals that He is a **judging God** (Rev. 19:11; 2 Tim. 4:1). **The beginning of the Bible speaks of creation, showing that God is the creating God, and the end of the Bible speaks of God's judgment, showing that He is a judging God.**

The creating God speaks not only of the work of creation but also that God is a person who creates. He is the **creating God** not only at the beginning of time; **He has not ceased His work of creation.** Sometimes He creates a new environment for us, and at other times He creates a new mood. Everything about us was created by God for us. This shows that our God is a creating God.

The Bible also says that God is a **judging God**. This does not mean He is waiting until the end of the age in order to execute His judgment. **He has been the judging God since the first fall of man.** In Genesis 3 God judged the serpent for seducing man, and He judged Adam and Eve for acting contrary to His command. In chapter 4 God judged Cain for rejecting His salvation. Chapter 5 shows that under God's judgment, the destiny of fallen man is death. In chapter 6 the wickedness of man was so great in the earth that his iniquities reached the heavens; hence, God came to judge man. Except for Noah and his family, God judged all mankind with the flood (chs. 7—8). In chapter 11 the descendants of Noah rebelled at Babel, and God judged them by confounding their language and scattering them over the surface of the earth. In the rest of the Old Testament God judges His elect, Israel, in the wilderness and in Canaan and also in their desolation, captivity, return, and restoration. When God walks among His people, He blesses and keeps them and also judges them. Even the Gentile nations are judged by God (Dan. 5). He is a judging God. Hence, in Romans 3:19 the apostle Paul says that all the world, including Jews and Gentiles, is under the judgment of God.

In the New Testament, the church age, the Bible further reveals that **whenever something goes wrong in the church, God comes in to judge**, such as in the case of Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:1-11). In the beginning of Acts the church was blessed, but this couple had crooked hearts, deceived the Holy Spirit, and were immediately judged by God. **God continues to judge the church.** When the church became desolate, the apostles wrote the Epistles with a judging tone. For instance, Hebrews 12 says that we have come forward to God, the Judge of all (vv. 22-23), that God is a consuming fire (v. 29), and that He will shake not only the earth but also heaven (v. 26). God's shaking is His judging. **Anything that is incompatible with His nature will not last and will be shaken, destroyed by fire. Only that which is of God is compatible with His nature and will not be shaken but will remain.**

Church Meetings:

Lord's Table Meeting

Lord's Day
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Prayer Meeting

Tuesdays
7:00 - 8:00 PM

College Meeting

Fridays
7:00 - 8:30 PM

Small Group Meeting

Fridays
7:00 - 8:30 PM

Young Peoples' Meeting

Saturdays
7:00 - 8:30 PM

Conferences & Trainings:

July Semiannual Training

July 5-10, 2021

October International Training for Elders & Responsible Ones

October 7-9, 2021

International Thanksgiving Weekend Conference

November 25-28, 2021

Contact Information:

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NEW LANGUAGE

Christ was the
last Adam
causing the **old**
man to be
crucified.

Experiencing the Creating God and the Judging God

God is the creating God and the judging God not only to human beings in general but also in the **personal experience of the believers**. In every believer He is first the creating God. He created the situation for us to hear and to obey the gospel and to be saved by grace. After we are saved by grace, He continues to work in us and in our environment so that **our hearts would incline toward Him and love Him**, thereby enabling us to set our hearts to follow Him and to fully offer ourselves to Him. **The creating God initiates and creates every detail in the process of His giving us grace.**

After giving us initial grace, He goes on to reveal, to manifest, the various aspects of His person so that we can receive grace according to the various aspects of what He is. He wants us to know Him as the mighty God, whose power transcends all things. He wants us to know Him as the living God; hence, **we should not follow doctrine, but we should experience and express Him as the living God**. He wants us to know Him as the **God who hides Himself**. He seems to turn a deaf ear to the corruption and evil on earth and to the things that contradict and offend Him, but He tries those who fear Him. He wants us to know Him as **the living God who makes all things manifest in time**. He manifests His light so that we may know Him as the God of light. He manifests His holiness so that we may experience Him as the holy God. He makes His various attributes known to us, such as His lovingkindness and His long-suffering. He also makes Himself known to us as **the God of resurrection**. It was not possible for death to hold Him, Hades could not overcome Him, and He destroyed the devil, who has the might of death (Heb. 2:14). As the God of resurrection, He wants to live in us as resurrection (John 14:19-20) and be mingled with us. Finally, God wants us to know Him as the **judging God** who executes judgment in the church and in the individual believers. After we are saved, we will gradually begin to know and experience God according to His characteristics, His attributes.

Reverence and Godliness

God creates, gives grace, and judges so that His people can serve Him in **reverence** and **godliness**, according to His pleasure. **Reverence is the fear of offending God, that is, of having anything that offends, opposes, or provokes God, such as sin, the world, the flesh, pride, and the will of man**. **Godliness is to be mingled with God in our daily life and in our service so that God is lived out of us**. Reverence and godliness are two aspects of a life that every believer should have. Reverence rejects anything other than God, and godliness is God mingling with every part of our being so that we may be filled with God and be like God in order to express God. **God's plan in the universe can be accomplished only by our living a life of reverence and godliness.**

Our problem is that in our daily living we do not revere God nor do we express godliness. We are often loose, without restraint; we let the world usurp God's place within us, and we live by the flesh and the self. We often set God aside; hence, we are short of being mingled with God, and we cut off the way to receive grace. This is the reason that God judges us. **God's judging is a purging that removes our irreverence and ungodliness.** His judging also shakes everything that can be shaken within us, including the world, the flesh, the self, and the natural man.

God uses various means to judge and purge His people. Sometimes He allows us to suffer from sickness or poor health. Sometimes He lets our business fail, or He may allow troubles to arise in our family. Examples of God's judging are beyond enumeration. Before God stretches forth His hand of judgment, we live in peace and security, seemingly serving God, but in reality there is not much reverence and dependence on Him. Although we are for Him, we also are full of the self. **Once His judging hand comes upon us, all our excuses and wrong concepts fall away.** When we are subdued under His hand, we will abhor the self..

Only a person who has fallen short of God's grace and has been judged by God knows the meaning of reverence and godliness. Such a person does not have excuses or wrong concepts. Those who have not been judged do not know reverence or godliness and have many wrong concepts. A believer who is full of arguments, murmurings, excuses, and wrong concepts does not know reverence or godliness. He has not passed through God's judging hand, and he is short of grace. If God has mercy on him, he will be judged by God. God shakes everything that is incompatible with His nature so that His children can serve Him with reverence and godliness (The Living God and the God of Resurrection, Ch. 5).

Announcements:

1. Sisters' Meeting on June 6 at 2pm.
2. The July Semiannual Training will be held online and will be on the Crystallization-study of Joshua, Judges and Ruth. Local registration deadline is on June 19, 2021. Please check your email and sign up through the shared Google sheet.
3. The electronic edition of The Holy Bible Recovery Version (with outlines, footnotes, and charts) is now available for purchase through Google Play Store for Android users and through App Store for iOS users.

Prayer Burdens:

1. Lord, help us develop a healthy fear of God. May we give You the proper reverence and consideration and regard You in everything. Grant us knowledge, wisdom and understanding in Christ through our fear of God.
2. Lord, we trust in You with all our hearts. Make us like trees absorbing all Your riches. Gain the proper reverence from us and make us those who express You through godly living.
3. Lord, we honor You and subject ourselves to You. Give us a fearful heart fearing any kind of mixture of self-element. As we honor You, we also put ourselves under Your Headship.
4. Lord, continue to have mercy on us. We want to know You as the judging God who is not mocked. Remind and deliver us from walking in the ways of death. Supply us with fresh grace to walk on the path of life, fearing, trusting, and taking refuge in You.
5. Lord, give us one heart and one way, to fear You all our days and never to turn away from You. Thank You for forgiving us and giving us Your eternal covenant. We pay the price to forget the things behind, pursue You and love You even more today.
6. Lord, make us those who conduct ourselves like a reigning king and a worthy woman. As a king, cause us to be fully under your restriction. As a worthy woman, cause us to be capable of caring for Your household.

Other Burdens:

1. Pray for the upcoming term of the FTTA mid-August 2021 (tentative start date). Burden the college graduates to consecrate two years to be built up in Christ in the growth of His life, to be equipped in the realization of the divine truths and to be raised up, nourished, perfected for the building up of the local churches.

Church in Regina:

1. Goal of 50 meeting ones by end of 2021. Synchronized prayer for our contacts every day.
2. Strengthen and preserve our families. We thank You, Lord for You are the reality of the manna. Thank You for making Yourself good for us to eat. Lord, continue to make us hungry for You that You can become our special portion, even the hidden manna to reconstitute us.
3. Pray for Aitong Liu's immigration application. Select them in Your time that they may also come here, be saved, see the church and be Your testimony.
4. Pray for Sister Estela Miranda's upcoming shoulder surgery (rotator cuff repair) and complete recovery.