Acts 17:10,11 And the brethren immediately sent away Paul and Silas by night unto Berea: ... These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

God’s people do not just simply ignore information from the Bible with a dismissive wave of their hand; but rather they listen carefully and then check out the things they are hearing in the Bible to see if they are true or not.

THE BIBLE RECORDS ANOTHER MAJOR SPIRITUAL JUDGMENT

But those two judgments of God aren’t all, there’s also another judgment for us to consider: The judgment of God upon the New Testament churches:

1 Peter 4:17 For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?

God has provided us great amounts of information in His Word pointing to His end time plan to bring to pass judgment on the world’s congregations. As we have all seen, this continues to unfold as revealed in the scriptures.

Jeremiah 25:15-18 For thus saith the LORD... Take the wine cup of fury out of the mouth of the LORD, and make all the nations drink thereof: to whomsoever it shall come, they shall drink; and they shall drink, and be moved, and be mad, because of the sword that I will send among them. Then took I the cup at the LORD’S hand, and made all the nations to drink, unto whom the LORD had sent me: To wit, Jerusalem, and the cities of Judah...

God first gives the cup to Jerusalem (a figure of the churches) and then to the rest of the nations (pointing to the world).

Jeremiah 25:29 For, lo, I begin to bring evil on the city which is called by my name, and should ye be utterly unperturbed? Ye shall not be unperturbed: for I will call for a sword upon all the inhabitants of the earth, saith the LORD of hosts.

By God’s goodness and grace, He has revealed to us that the church age ended. Judgment began on the churches in the year 1988. God’s Spirit came out of the midst of the New Testament corporate church during the period of the Testimony. God first gives the cup to Jerusalem (a figure of the New Testament corporate church during the period of the Testimony). And also we wonder how it is that God’s elect people are still living and remaining upon the earth during this time. We will seek to answer these questions and many more in the next installment of our tract series, Living in the Day of Judgment.

Of course this terrible truth leaves us with many questions concerning the character of this present period of judgment.

And also we wonder how it is that God’s elect people are still living and remaining upon the earth during this time. We will seek to answer these questions and many more in the next installment of our tract series, Living in the Day of Judgment that the world has ever seen. It was the day of the great tribulation.

As a matter of fact, it would be impossible to name a judgment in the Bible more important than these three. That leads us back to our main question: does the Bible teach spiritual judgments? After searching the Bible we can say with assurance, that yes it does! The Bible does indeed teach that God brings spiritual (unseen to the naked eye) judgments to pass upon mankind due to their sin.

But the big question for us all in the world today is: did God bring to pass a spiritual judgment beginning on May 21, 2011? The Bible’s response is: Yes! There is a good deal of Biblical justification for saying that a spiritual judgment began on that day and continues up until this present time.

In fact, the Biblical evidence is so strong that we really need to ask ourselves: how could it be that we have never previously considered a spiritual judgment as even a possibility for the final judgment? We should note however, that the Bible does teach us that God will physically and very literally destroy this world on the last day of earth’s existence. We wholeheartedly agree with this sound Biblical teaching. But the Bible is also teaching that May 21, 2011, began a period of time known as Judgment Day in a spiritual way.

This spiritual judgment will continue for a set number of days and then finally, on the very last day of this period of time God’s wrath will physically manifested itself and utterly destroy this entire creation with every unsaved person along with it. The Bible reveals that every living person alive today has entered into the period of time the Bible identifies as Judgment Day. At this time we are all living in the Day of Judgment. Terribly, the following Scripture is now being fulfilled:

Isaiah 24:17 Fear, and the pit, and the snare, are upon thee, O inhabitant of the earth.

Of course this terrible truth leaves us with many questions concerning the character of this present period of judgment.

And also we wonder how it is that God’s elect people are still living and remaining upon the earth during this time. We will seek to answer these questions and many more in the next installment of our tract series, Living in the Day of Judgment.

The date May 21, 2011 was the most publicized date for the Day of Judgment that the world has ever seen. It was publicized on billboards, and advertised on buses. The message was seen on cars, bumper stickers, t-shirts, literature, magazines and newspapers. The news media all over the world also trumpeted the warning message of the gospel that that date would be JUDGMENT DAY!

Much of the world was, in a sense, holding its collective breath in anticipation of the final judgment of God. And yet, (seemingly) nothing happened. Things did not transpire as thought. There was no worldwide earthquake and awful circumstances that accompanied the date of May 21, 2011. Instead that day came and went like any other day. Nothing outwardly visible happened at all. Many in the world, quite relieved, ridiculed the whole idea. “See,” they said, “it was all foolishness.” And they were not alone, those in the churches likewise rejoiced: “We told you no one can know the day or the hour!”

However, what the world and the church failed to take into account was God’s propensity towards bringing spiritual judgments to pass. A spiritual judgment, like anything spiritual, cannot be seen. By definition something spiritual is invisible to the human eye. For example, the Bible declares that God is Spirit:

John 4:24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

The Bible tells us that God is a Spiritual Being. But since the world cannot see Him, and since the world cannot touch Him, and since God keeps Him hidden from the world, therefore according to the world’s reasoning God does not exist. Spiritual things are simply nonexistent to the world. But of course God does exist. Despite the fact that He cannot be seen with the natural eye, He is still very real. God’s people understand this. We also understand that the Bible is a spiritual book. It is God’s book, and therefore if we are not surprised at all that the Bible is full of spiritual truth. God’s people believe through the eyes of faith which makes spiritual (invisible) things visible to the believer.
Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Since much of the world denies God exists because they cannot see Him, we see that faith is a very direct, unequivocal statement. God is not a spiritual, or invisible, or spiritual judgment of God is ridiculous to them. And yet, as believers of the Bible we really aren’t interested or concerned at all with what the world finds ridiculous or foolish. Our very book the Bible, our very Savior Jesus Christ is thought foolish by the world: proving beyond doubt to the child of God that the world is extremely short sighted, and ignorant, concerning spiritual things. We do not take our leading or direction from the world in spiritual matters whatsoever. The world’s opinion of us and our beliefs is of absolutely no importance to the child of God. No. As a child of God our only concern is what does the Bible say.

Well, let’s ask that question. What does the Bible say about the idea of a spiritual Judgment Day? Is it possible? Is there any Biblical precedent for this kind of thing? We believe it is a very important question to ask, and important, concerning spiritual things. We do not take our leading or direction from the world in spiritual matters whatsoever. The world’s opinion of us and our beliefs is of absolutely no importance to the child of God. No. As a child of God our only concern is what does the Bible say.

Genesis 2:16-17 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

A great many people, many even not all that familiar with the Bible, no doubt, have heard of this first and only law given to newly created man. God clearly told man not to eat of the fruit of that one particular tree. And God also told man that in the day that ate of that tree he would surely die. It was a very direct, unequivocal statement. Certainly if you or I had been present at that time and had heard that command coming from God, we would have understood perfectly. Eat of that tree—and you die! And any outward observer in the Garden of Eden would have known that God lied. No. Neither of these things is an option: God is never wrong and it is impossible for Him to lie. How then could it be that man lived for hundreds of years, and begat a son … and called his name Seth: and the days of Adam after he had begotten Seth were eight hundred years:

Genesis 3:3-4 And Adam lived an hundred and thirty years, and begat a son … and called his name Seth: and the days of Adam after he had begotten Seth were eight hundred years:

Ephesians 2:1 And ye hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins:

Colossians 2:13 And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;

Through these verses we learn that man died in his sins. The Bible reveals that mankind died in his soul existence. Before they fell into sin man was alive in both body and soul. He had communion with God. An intimate relationship existed between God and mankind. But once man sinned that spiritual connection between God and man was broken; he died that very day in his soul. This is why when God saved people during the day of salvation that it was necessary that they became born again in their soul. Salvation was the re-generation of the sinner’s dead soul. The important point for our study is that God simply said: “In the day you eat thereof you will die.” God said this without specifying what type of death man would die. He did not reveal in advance that he meant death in soul and not death in the physical body.

The question before us right now is: Is it possible that God could bring about a spiritual Day of Judgment? Is it possible the Bible might report spiritual judgments? Is it possible that God did bring a spiritual Day of Judgment upon Adam and Eve: but that doesn’t mean that May 21, 2011 was a spiritual judgment. Yes, that’s true, but at this time we’re not trying to prove May 21, 2011, was the beginning of Judgment Day.

The question before us right now is: Is it possible that God could bring about the spiritual Day of Judgment? From all that we have learned concerning spiritual judgments, those judgments do not happen in the same way a physical judgment does. Physical judgments may turn again to the Bible and see if we can discover anything further regarding spiritual judgments.

The figure of a cup

The Bible often refers to God’s wrath by using the figure of a cup:

Psalm 11:6 Upon the wicked he shall rain snares, fire and brimstone, and an horrible tempest: this shall be the portion of their cup.

Notice that along with fire and brimstone God intends to rain “snares.” The word “snares” does not mean it’s a physical judgment. Perhaps you can envision literal fire and brimstone falling upon unsaved mankind in the awful Day of Judgment, but snares? That’s traps. Does anyone really believe that traps or cages are going to fall down from the sky all over the earth? Of course not! God added this word “snares” in order to assist us in understanding that the cup of wrath given to all the unsaved people of the world will be a spiritual cup. It’s not literal, but spiritual judgment. This is why the Bible also says the whole world will be snared at the time of the end:

Luke 21:34,35 And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth.

On May 21, 2011, as the world rejoiced and exclaimed (the church along with them) “nothing happened.” At that very time God ensnared all of the unsaved people of the earth (in and out of the churches) and began to give them the cup of His fury to drink.

SECOND SPIRITUAL JUDGMENT: CHRIST DRINKS FROM CUP OF GOD’S WRATH

The Bible also reveals to us that Jesus Christ took upon Himself the sins of His people, and that God poured out His wrath upon Christ: punishing Him in their place. The Lord Jesus came to demonstrate the judgment race in which we believe Christ came to demonstrate and show forth His glorious atoning work. While in the Garden of Gethsemane He began to experience God’s wrath while making His demonstration.

Matthew 26:39,42 And He went a little further, and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt. He was again in the garden in Gethsemane, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me, except I drink it, why will I be done. Jesus drank the cup of the wrath of God; but what did this mean? Did fire bolts come down from heaven to destroy Him? No. There was nothing like it. Actually, any outward observer in the Garden of Gethsemane would have only seen a sorrowful and grieved Jesus, nothing else. There were no outward indications of God’s wrath. We said in the earlier verses that Christ’s drinking of the cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, why will I be done.

This means then, that now two important Biblical judgments may be mentioned in the Bible. The first judgment upon Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, and the judgment of God upon Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane. These two judgments by themselves cannot prove May 21, 2011 was anything but the Day of Judgment occurring in a spiritual way; at least the existence of these Biblical precedents ought to move us to move the sincere child of God to honestly investigate this as a genuine possibility. The Bible refers to those that honestly search for truth concerning the things they hear coming forth from the Word of God as Bereans.