

The Enduring Judge

“Your name, O LORD, endures forever, Your fame, O LORD throughout all generations. For the LORD will judge His people, and He will have compassion on His servants” (Psalm 135:13-14)

Creatures appear, live and die. Some rise to power and fame, but soon fade, disappear and are forgotten. False gods are also created, endowed by their worshippers with attributes. But they are impotent mirrors of their makers. Like them, they also pass into oblivion.

Our God is the living God. He is the eternal I Am, the Constant that never changes. He is never forgotten, and in a thousand generations His fame will be unchanged from the first to the last.

The living God cannot, must not, be forgotten for He is judge of all the earth. He is not only a transcendent God: He is also immanent. He is ever active in and among His creatures. His oversight must be taken into every consideration by those who know Him. We cannot afford to leave Him out of any consideration, thought or action. The Lord will judge His people.

Peter tells us that judgment must begin at the house of God, and if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the sinner and ungodly appear? The writer of Hebrews quotes from this Psalm and from Deut. 32:36. The Lord shall judge His people. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God (Heb. 10:31) The fear of the Lord is the beginning of all wisdom.

But the wonderful thing about all this is that God’s judgment of His people is not a thing of terror to His people, but one of great comfort. Our text tells us immediately, *“He will have compassion on His servants”*.

God’s judgment takes three forms: Penal, administrative, and didactic. For unbelievers, penal judgment waits for the last day and the resurrection of the wicked. They shall be cast into a lake of fire. But penal judgment for God’s people is past. Jesus Christ became a curse for us, bore our sins on the Cross and paid the utmost penalty for our sins. There is no future penal judgment for us...ever! But God does watch over us in administrative judgment every day and in every way. This is a matter of great comfort and assurance to us. He also administers didactic judgment, chastisement, child training in this present life. As any good parent, our heavenly Father keeps short accounts of our trespasses. He does not permit our immaturity and carnality to linger, but immediately applies the rod, driving the foolishness from our hearts. This scourging is not a sign of wrath or displeasure, but proof of His love and pleasure. (I Cor. 11:31, Heb. 12: 5-11)

Such is the fame, the name of our great and glorious God. From generation to generation, He is always the same. So when the time comes when we can no longer look after our children, we may lie down and take our rest in peace knowing that all He has been to us, He shall be to them.

- C. M.