

## Episode #642 The Why Question 27: When Christ Ends Iniquity

I. One of the most difficult questions we must ask ourselves regarding God, life, and the world is the “why” question. We who believe that there is a God Who is all-good and all-loving and Who made the world must answer why then this world is such a terrible place and in such a mess.

II. One of the most prevalent problems on earth is the iniquity and wickedness of human beings. As inevitable as this seems to be, we have seen from many Bible passages that God is going to cause all this to cease. Iniquity will come to an end.

III. The End of Iniquity and the Second Coming of Christ.

- A. Matthew 12:18. Repeating what Isaiah spoke first. Declare = *apangelo*, like in “gospelize” (*euangelo*). Judgment to the nations, not Gentiles. He will openly declare judgment to all nations. There is a world-wide scarcity of this valuable asset, as the nations do not know what it is best to do. All will know what they must do to do the will of God.
- B. Matthew 12:19. This does not have to do with His first coming, for when Jesus was on earth, He did cry out, John 11:43, and He was a street preacher so you could hear His voice in the streets. Nor does this have to do with His second coming, for He shall descend with a shout, I Thessalonians 4:15-16. This deals with Him coming in His government, just as the French saw Hitler coming in his government when he invaded France, though they did not yet see Hitler himself. Usually when governments change there is a lot of strife and confusion. The voice of the people is certainly heard in the streets. Not with this change of government!
- C. Matthew 12:20. Many people die normally when governments change, but this One will not hurt anyone until He sends forth judgment to victory. This is only until He gets the victory. After this He will deal with the rebellious.
  1. This certainly does not fit with His second coming, II Thessalonians 1:7-10, at which time many people are utterly destroyed and most definitely hurt.
  2. If the Lord came back today, the majority of people on earth would be punished with outflowing destruction. Would this be fair? Have they all heard? Have they all had good opportunities?
  3. If the Lord did to all the Jews what He did to Paul on the road to Damascus, how many of them would follow Christ like Paul did?
  4. Christ’s second coming begins the millennium. Yet Matthew 12:18-21 begins the kingdom of God. Iniquity will be destroyed before Christ’s second coming. Then, there will be a test in which some will turn back to iniquity before the second coming of Jesus Christ.
- D. Matthew 12:21. This is a beautiful prediction that presents a wonderful picture of the nations trusting in Jesus Christ.
- E. This prophecy is very neglected by the expositors. These things did not happen at His first coming, and they have not happened at any point in history yet. This remains unfulfilled, and it is neglected because it cannot be fitted into and contradicts all current prophetic schemes of fulfillment. It fits, however, with the idea that the next act in God's prophetic calendar is the Divine assumption of sovereignty bringing God's kingdom to earth. May God speed the day when this is fulfilled!

IV. The Period in Which We Live Ends with the End of Iniquity.

- A. II Timothy 3:1-9. The first eight verses have to do with the character of men in the last days. We have here described the character of men as we see them today, which would seem to indicate that we are in the last days of the dispensation of grace. God has for nearly two thousand years demonstrated His kindness to the unthankful and wicked. The result is men like this.
- B. Verse 1. Perilous = dangerously violent.
- C. Verse 2. *Esontai* = shall be, future when Paul wrote. Self-lovers, lovers of money, empty pretenders, haughty, calumniators, stubborn toward parents (or in obstinate opposition. There is no social condition quite as prominent and conspicuous in the world today, almost unheard of in former times.), without grace (or thankfulness), unbenign (malignant).
- D. Verse 3. Hardened in feeling (like in abortion and child abuse), implacable, devils (slanderers), without restraint (uncontrollable), brutal, despisers of good (loving the evil).
- E. Verse 4. Traitors (used of Judas), headstrong, conceited, lovers of pleasure.
- F. Verse 5. Yet all the time they take on more religion while denying its power.
- G. Verses 6-8. The Jannes and Jambres character: counterfeiting the Lord's work and miracles.
- H. Verse 9. What happens next? They are stopped right in their tracks. This is the end of iniquity! What stops them? The second coming of Christ? No! Their dementia will be obvious to all, like Jannes and Jambres' was. When God turns on the light, the iniquity of the wicked will be revealed. One reason most prophetic teachers do not touch on this passage to show it is a sign we are living in the last days is that it doesn't end like they want it to end. It ends with the end of iniquity.

V. Conclusion: Many of the tragedies of this world are caused by the wickedness of wicked men. Yet God is not going to allow this situation to continue forever. Without violence and without strife Christ is going to act to get the victory and cause all nations to trust in His government. We live in a time when the character of mankind is wicked and ungodly. Yet God is going to stop all this in its tracks. This end is not with the second coming of Christ, but with Christ acting to bring in His government and to bring an end to iniquity. May this day come soon!