

CHRISTIANITY IN TROUBLED TIMES

“God’s Breaking Point”

Scripture Reading: ROMANS 11:33-36

-) **SLIDE 7.** Scripture reading.
-) **SLIDE 8.** Today’s message is titled, “*God’s Breaking Point.*”
-) When you were growing up as a child, how much patience did your mother or father have with you when you misbehaved? What was their breaking point? When did they say, “*enough is enough*” and then take some kind of disciplinary action?
-) It was obvious that my father was the disciplinarian in our family. I could get away with a lot with my mother. My father had some patience, but you didn’t want to push that envelope too far. If you did, there would be a price to pay.
-) One day, when I was a senior in high school, I pushed that envelope too far. My dad took my drivers license away from me for a month. That was tough. I learned a valuable lesson from that experience. Don’t ever get caught again.
-) Does God ever get to His breaking point when He says, “*enough is enough*” and, if so, how and when does that happen? How far can an individual or the church or a nation push that envelope before God enforces His discipline?
-) **SLIDE 9.** We know this. PSALM 103:8: “*The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in lovingkindness.*” But there comes a time when His compassion and His grace has reached its breaking point. And His anger can rest no longer.
-) This morning I want to give you four instances in God’s Word when God’s breaking point was reached. Let’s look at what evil was done, and the consequences God enforced.

-) Example #1. The nation of Israel began when God called Abram out of the land of Ur of the Chaldeans. Abram was the father of God's own nation of Israel. That was around the year 2000 BC.
-) Later on, after the exodus out of Egypt, God gave Moses the TC around 1440 BC. Between that time and around 739 BC (700 years), the nation Israel had settled in the promised land. They had judges and they had kings. Some good, some bad. And during that time the nation split into two—the Northern Kingdom of Israel and the Southern Kingdom of Judea.
-) **SLIDE 10.** What made God reach His breaking point with Israel after 700 years in the Promised Land? At least 63x in these 700 years, the Word of God tells us that “*They did evil in the sight of the Lord*” or “*He did evil in the sight of the Lord.*”
-) Last Sunday I delivered a message from ISAIAH 5 about how God had spoken through the prophet Isaiah and pronounced four woes on the nation Israel. God's own people, the nation Israel, were being warned that their continued evil behavior would result in divine consequences.
-) **SLIDE 11.** What were the consequences of their evil actions? The Northern Kingdom of Israel was exiled to Assyria (2KINGS 17:1-23) in 722 BC. And about 150 years later the Southern Kingdom of Judea was exiled to Babylon (2KINGS 24:10 – 25:21).
-) **SLIDE 12.** Explain chart.
-) **SLIDE 13.** Example #2. In 2SAMUEL 11, King David finds himself acting more like a man than a man of God. It begins with lust over a woman named Bathsheba. Lust turns into coveting, and coveting turns into adultery (2SAM 11:4). Good times turn sour when David finds out she is pregnant with his child. So, he has her husband, Uriah, placed in the front lines of battle so he can be killed. Let's end this with murder. ID.

-) **SLIDE 14.** What made God reach His breaking point with King David? It might have something to do with the lust and the coveting and the adultery and the murder. *“But the thing that David had done was evil in the sight of the Lord.”*
-) **SLIDE 15.** And what were the consequences for King David? He suffered two punishments. The sword will never depart his house and his child will die. Read.
-) **SLIDE 16.** Explain chart.
-) You might be thinking that this punishment of was a little harsh. People lust and covet and have affairs all the time. True. But you and I are not the determiners of God’s breaking point and how and when and to whom He carries out His justice and wants to show His mercy.
-) Example #3. There’s an interesting story in the book of 2SAMUEL 6 about a man named Uzzah. This man was at the wrong place at the wrong time but with the right intentions.
-) **SLIDE 17.** In the Book of NUMBERS 4:15, specific instructions were given by God to Moses as how to handle the furnishings of the Tabernacle. The Ark of the Covenant was never to be touched, but instead, carried by inserting poles into the rings which were mounted on both sides of the Ark.
-) In 2SAMUEL 6, King David was bringing the Ark of the Covenant home to Jerusalem from the Philistines. It was on a cart. The ox stumbled and nearly upset the cart. Uzzah only wanted to protect the Ark. He thought he had the right intentions. Read.
-) **SLIDE 18.** What were the consequences of his evil actions? You were told not to touch the ark. And Uzzah, you touched the ark. Uzzah died on the spot.
-) And one conclusion we must arrive at here is that people can do disobedient things with all the right intentions. But their disobedience may or will result in divine consequences.

-) **SLIDE 19.** Explain chart.
-) Well, that wasn't fair. First of all, nowhere in the Bible does it say that God is or has to be fair. And second, who am I or who are you to tell God what is or what is not fair? God makes the rules and He determines the discipline. Do we really want fair? Then we all deserve hell. That's fair.
-) **SLIDE 20.** Our final example. GENESIS 6:5-7. Read. 1,656 years after Adam was created, God came to His breaking point with mankind. That's a long time. Longsuffering. What made God reach His breaking point? *"That every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually."*
-) **SLIDE 21.** What were the consequences of their evil actions? GENESIS 7:21-23. Read.
-) **SLIDE 22.** Explain chart.
-) These are four examples of when the longsuffering of God reaches its breaking point. Sometimes it's centuries. And sometimes it may be immediate. It appears God does not follow a formula for His time of judgment and invoking His discipline. He doesn't have to.
-) **SLIDE 23.** And that's why I read the Scripture from ROMANS 11 earlier. *"How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways! For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who became His counselor?"* We know He judges, His judgments are always righteous, and His consequences are always on time. Be they immediate or over centuries.
-) BGCC, the United States of America has strayed FAR from the Word of God. Is God at His breaking point for our nation? Is God at His breaking point for the church? Me? You?
-) Evil will have its consequences. God's judgment will happen. It may be sooner, and it may be later. But it will happen because it must happen. That is God's nature. Is God's judgment what we are seeing in America today?

-) **SLIDE 24.** One last Scripture verse. HEBREWS 10:30-31:
*“For we know Him who said, ‘Vengeance is Mine, I will repay.’
And again, ‘The Lord will judge His people.’ It is a terrifying
thing to fall into the hands of the living God.”*
-) Come back next week as we look closer at God’s Word and the
condition of our country. We’ll look at the good (if we can find
any), the bad (just turn on the news), and what happens when
things get ugly.

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