

For the week of September 24, 2017
Preacher: Scott Grant

The End

Third week in the series: *Knowing the God of Justice and Hope*

Ezekiel 7:1-9

The land, which the Israelites have occupied as a gift from the Lord, has become polluted by their idolatry. The Lord is sending his anger upon the land of Israel and is judging the people for their "abominations." How can we know God in his wrath, in his judgment of evil?

Discussion Questions:

1. Describe your reaction to this definition of sin by scholar Richard Lovelace: "In its biblical definition, sin cannot be limited to isolated instances or patterns of wrongdoing. It is something much more akin to the psychological term complex: an organic network of compulsive attitudes, beliefs and behavior deeply rooted in our alienation from God." [Richard F. Lovelace, *Dynamics of Spiritual Life* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, 1979), 88.]
2. What do you think of Mike Wallace's contention that Adolf Eichmann, the mastermind of the Holocaust, "is in all of us"?
3. Describe your appreciation for Christ, as he is portrayed by the prophet Isaiah in Isaiah 53:4-6:
"Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows;
yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.
But he was pierced for our transgressions;
he was crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,
and with his wounds we are healed."

All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have turned—every one—to his own way;
and the Lord has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.”

4. How do you think we can know God in his wrath, in his judgment of evil?