

The Promise of God's Judgement

Matthew 25:31-46

Our context



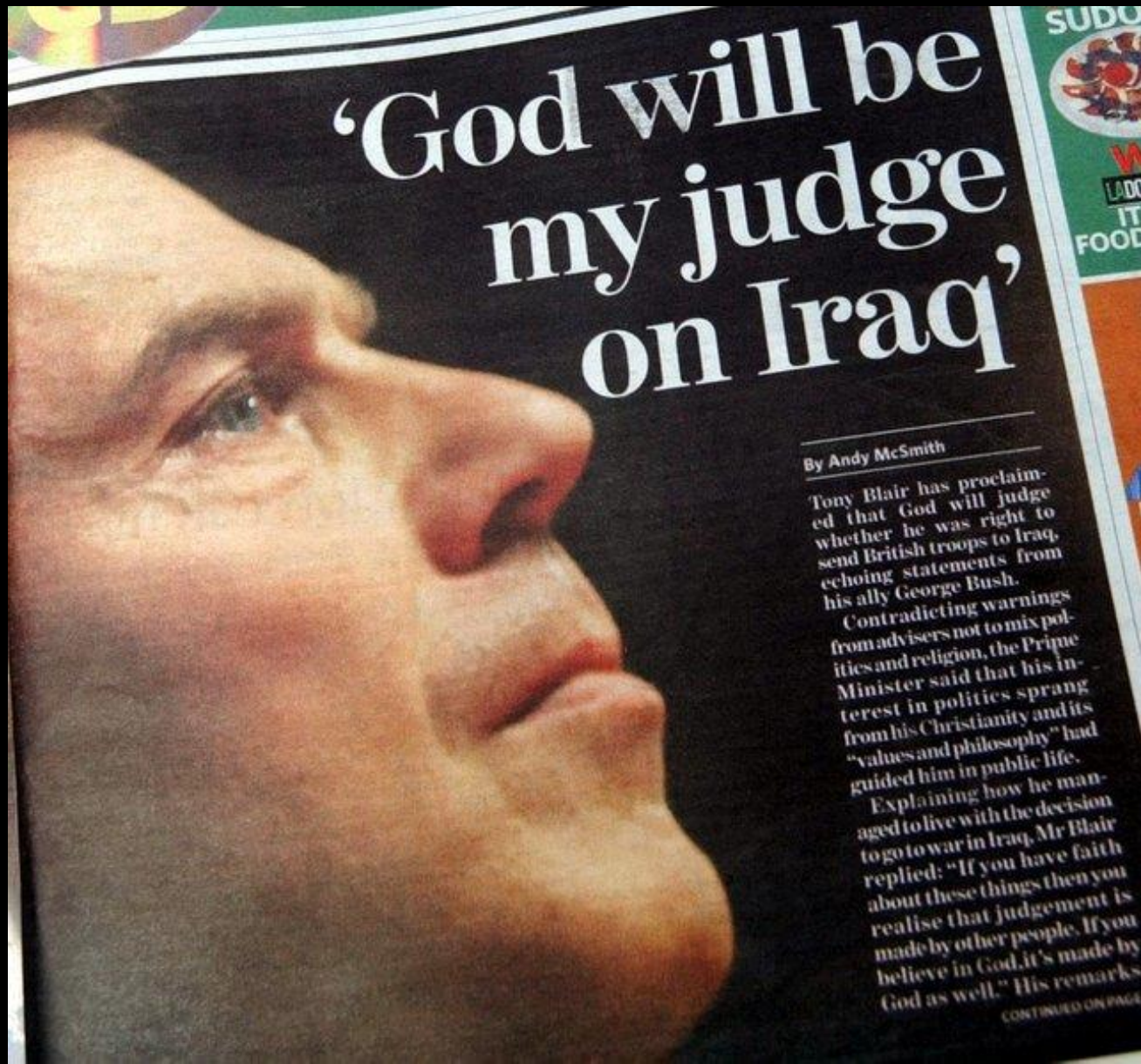


**I just HATE
Judgmental People**

1696
9



**Remember
this?**



'God will be my judge on Iraq'

By Andy McSmith

Tony Blair has proclaimed that God will judge whether he was right to send British troops to Iraq, echoing statements from his ally George Bush.

Contradicting warnings from advisers not to mix politics and religion, the Prime Minister said that his interest in politics sprang from his Christianity and its "values and philosophy" had guided him in public life.

Explaining how he managed to live with the decision to go to war in Iraq, Mr Blair replied: "If you have faith about these things then you realise that judgement is made by other people. If you believe in God, it's made by God as well." His remarks

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Nobody wants to be
judged

But everybody wants
to judge others

Daniel = God is my judge

Who has the right to judge?



Luke 6:37-40

³⁷ “Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven; ³⁸ give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.”

Judgement is expression of God's Love

- Judgement is the application of God's justice
- God's justice is based on God's character
- Most important characteristic of God = Love

Context of passage

5 “sermons”

- a sermon on the kingdom in the present (Matthew 5-7: Sermon on the Mount). It belongs to the poor in spirit and those persecuted for the cause of justice (5.3 and 10)
- b. sermon on the mission of the disciples (10). To preach the nearness of the kingdom (10:7) and mention of the “little ones” (10:42)
 - c. sermon on the kingdom is like... (13:1-52) and note the parable of the weeds (10:24-30, 36-43) and parable of the net (10:47-50)
- b. sermon on the life of the community of the kingdom (18.1-21) The greatest in the kingdom is the little one (18:1-6)
- a. sermon on the kingdom in the future (24-25). The treatment of poor criteria of judgement (25.31-46)

Key verses

- Matthew 24:44 - Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.
- Matthew 25:14 - Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

Four Parables

- 24:45-51 – The good and wicked servants – do what you are supposed to be doing
- 25:1-13 – The wise and silly girls – be prepared for the Son of Man
- 25:14-30 – The three servants – be active
- 25:31-46 – The sheep and the goats – this is what to do

Here comes the judge!

Daniel 7:13-14

Son of Man given
dominion over the
nations.



William Blake
Ancient of Days

Universal Judgement

All the Nations

The Great Commission



The great divide



Criteria for judgement

Caring for the hungry, thirsty, stranger, naked, sick, prisoner



Status not important



Not serving the least one

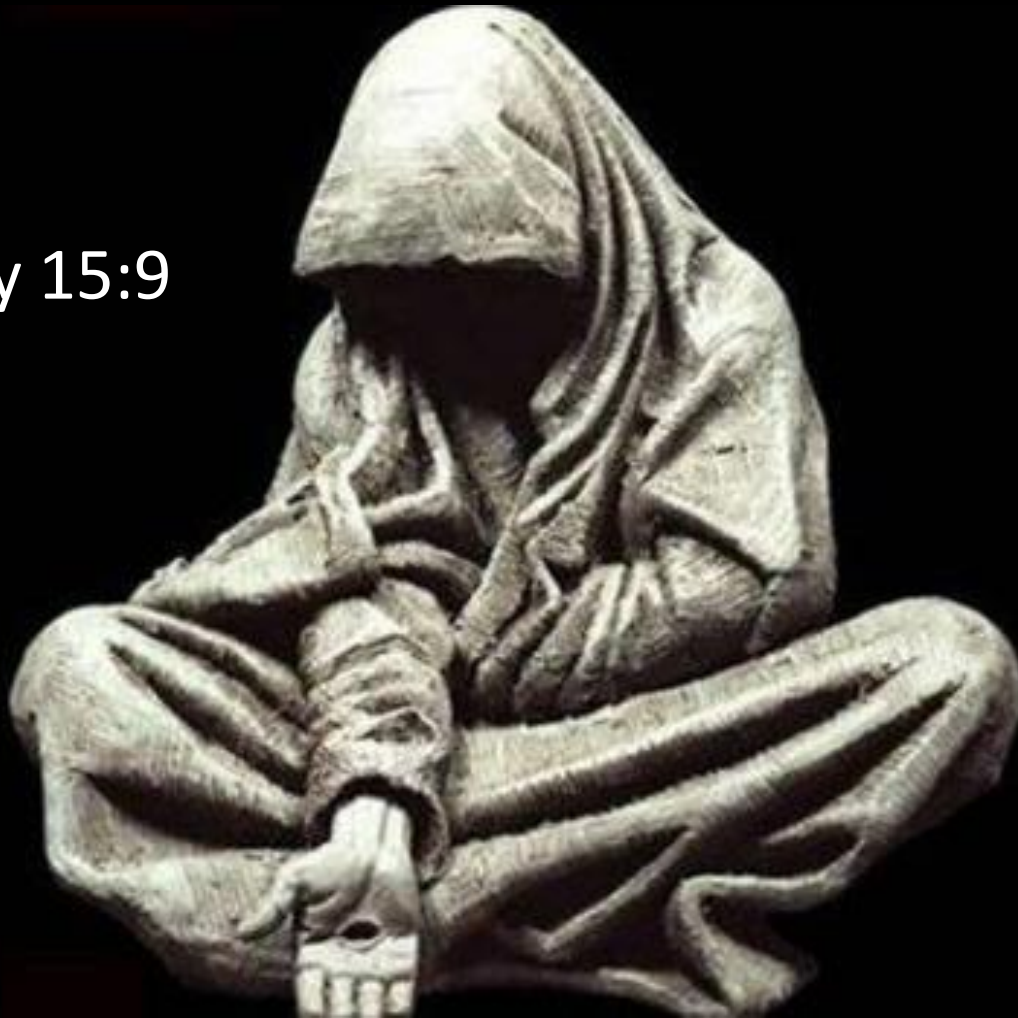
Bad servant
Silly girls
Lazy servant



Jesus and the least one

Deuteronomy 15:9

Daniel 4:27



So?

- Jesus the judge
- Universality and certainty of Judgement
- How we treat the little ones is the measure of how we love God
- How do we treat the little ones?

***God's judgement is an expression of
his love***



God's love is cross-shaped