

ROMANS 2 & THE RIGHTEOUS JUDGMENT OF GOD

The following study demonstrates that the judgment of Romans 2:3-8, 2 Peter 3:7-13 and Mathew 16:27-28 all refer to the same day of judgment and destruction at the coming of the Lord and the passing away of heaven and earth in the first century. We will begin with a comparison of Mathew 16:27-28 and Romans 2:5-8.

Mathew 16:27

For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and **will then repay every man according to his deeds**. Truly I say to you, **there are some of those who are standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom**.

Romans 2:5-6

But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in **the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, who will render to each person according to his deeds**.

To demonstrate this is more than just similarity of language, consider the following chart:

ROMANS 2:5-8	MATHEW 16:27-28
The revelation of judgment through Jesus Christ (2:16)	The coming of the Son of Man in judgment (16:27-28)
To render to each person according to his deeds (2:6)	To repay every man according to his deeds (16:27)
To establish eternal life (2:7)	To establish the Kingdom (16:28)
	Fulfilled in the lifetime of Jesus' first century disciples (16:28)

Remembering that all judgment had been given to the Son by the Father (John 5:22), consider the following argument based on the above chart:

-The judgment of "each person" in Romans 2:5-8 = the judgment of "all men" in at the coming of the Son of Man in Mathew 16:27-28

-But, the judgment of all men at the coming of the Son of Man in Mathew 16:27 was fulfilled in the lifetime of Jesus' first century disciples.

-Therefore, the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgement of God, to render to each person according to their deeds in Romans 2:5-8 was fulfilled at the coming of the Son of Man in the lifetime of Jesus' first century disciples.

This being established, we will now compare Romans 2:3-8 with 2 Peter 3:7-13.

Romans 2:3-7

But do you suppose this, O man, when you pass judgment on those who practice such things and do the same yourself that you will escape **the judgment of God**? Or do you think lightly of the riches of **His kindness and tolerance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance**? But because of **your stubbornness and unrepentant heart** you are storing up wrath for yourself in **the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God**, who will render to each person according to his deeds. To those who by perseverance in doing good **seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life.**

2 Peter 3:7-13

But by His word the present heavens and earth are being reserved for fire, kept for the **day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men**. But do not let this one fact escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day. **The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance....** Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be **in holy conduct and godliness....** But according to His promise **we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.**

Once again, a comparative chart will help to better express these parallels:

Romans 2:3-8	2 Peter 3:7-13
Your stubbornness and unrepentant heart (2:5)	Mockers following their own lusts (3:3)
Day of judgment and wrath (2:5)	Day of judgment and destruction (3:7)
Judgment of each person according to his deeds at the coming of the Lord (2:6) (See chart and argument #1 above)	Judgment of ungodly men at the coming of the Lord (3:4,7,9,13)
Patience of the Lord leading to repentance (2:4)	Patience of the Lord leading to repentance (3:9)
By perseverance in doing good they seek for glory and honor and immortality (2:7)	In holy conduct and godliness, they look for a new heaven and a new earth (3:11,13)
Eternal life established (2:7)	Righteousness established (3:13)

Based on what we have established above, consider the following argument:

-The judgment of "each person" in Romans 2:5-8 = the judgment of "every man" at the coming of the Son of Man in the lifetime of Jesus' first century disciples in Mathew 16:27-28 (conclusion of the previous argument).

-But, the judgment of each person in Romans 2:5-8 = the judgment of ungodly men at the coming of the Lord to destroy heaven and earth in 2 Peter 3:7-13.

-Therefore, the coming of the Lord to destroy heaven and earth in the judgment of ungodly men was fulfilled at the coming of the Son of Man to “judge of every man”, in the lifetime of Jesus’ first century disciples.

This being true, consider what follows:

-The coming of the Lord to destroy heaven and earth in the judgment of ungodly men was fulfilled at the coming of the Son of Man to “judge of every man”, in the lifetime of Jesus’ first century disciples.

-But, the destruction of heaven and earth takes place at the arrival of the new heaven and new earth, the “world” where righteousness dwells. (2 Peter 3:9-13)

-Therefore, the new heavens and new earth arrived at the coming of the Son of Man to judge every man according to their deeds, in the lifetime of Jesus’ first century disciples,

One final chart will confirm and illustrate what we have said above:

MATHEW 16:27-28	Romans 2:3-8	2 Peter 3:7-13
The coming of the Son of Man in judgment (16:27-28)	The coming of the Lord in judgment (2:5-6)	The coming of the Lord in judgment (3:7,10)
To repay every man according to his deeds (16:27)	Judgment of each person according to his deeds (2:6)	Judgment and destruction of ungodly men (3:7)
Those who take up their cross will find life (16:24-25)	Those who do good will find glory, honor, peace (2:10)	Those found in peace, spotless, and blameless will inherit righteousness (3:13-14)
To establish the Kingdom (16:28)	To establish eternal life (2:7)	To establish the new heaven and a new earth (3:11,13)
Fulfilled in the lifetime of Jesus’ first century disciples (16:28)		

According to what we have seen above, we must understand the coming of the Son of Man (Jesus) in the lifetime of his contemporary disciples (Mathew 16:27-28), as his coming to judge and remove the Old Covenant world (heaven and earth) of Judaism along with its ungodly citizens, and to fully establish the New Covenant-Kingdom “world” (the new heaven and earth) of righteousness, in which its citizens received eternal life.

*“Embracing the Finished Work of Jesus Christ through the Fulfillment of All Prophecy”
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