

Lamar E. Cooper, Sr.  
Executive Vice President & Provost  
The Criswell College

2 Chron 36:15-21  
Rom 2:1-24

## Seven Principles of Divine Judgment In Ezekiel 9:1-11

The Seven Principles of Judgment found in Ezekiel 9:1-11 closely resemble and are related doctrinally to Romans 2:1-24 where Paul sets forth the basis for God's judgment against sin and those who choose sin.

1. God's Judgment is dispensed only after clear and ample warning. Chapters 1-8 present examples of God's longsuffering and messages warning of impending judgment, v. 1; cf. 2 Chron 36:15.
2. God's Judgment is based on His character including His holiness and justice consistent with His righteousness and our responsibility for sin. Seven men, one in white stood beside the bronze altar awaiting orders, vv. 2-3; 2 Chron 36:16; Rom 2:12-15).
3. God's Judgment is based on His omniscience. He knows all about us and makes His judgments with equity according to what we deserve (vv. 3-4; 1 Sam 16:7; Ps 139:23). The Lord knows all about us and he judges with truth and full knowledge of our circumstance (Rom 2:2-3, 28-29).
4. God's Judgment is tempered with mercy. The innocent are recognized and marked by God, v. 4. The "mark" is the Hebrew *taw*, the final letter of the Hebrew alphabet. Rabbinic sources say it stands for the first letter in the word *tichyeh*, which means "you shall live." The paleo Hebrew script wrote the letter ט (*taw*) as an X, which was the ancient form of the cross. Those spared received the sign of the cross (Rom 2:16; 25-29).
5. God's Judgment is indiscriminate upon the guilty. God is not respecter of persons (Dt. 10:17; Acts 10:34; Rom 2:11). Everyone is judged according to what they deserved (vv. 5-6; Rom 2:6-9; 17-24).

6. God's Judgment of the guilty is unrelenting everyone who does not have the mark was to be slain without any exception without pity or compassion, old, young, male, female, women and children (v. 6; Rom 2:3). God even commanded that the temple be defiled with corpses (v. 7).
7. God's Judgment begins with those most responsible, at "my sanctuary" i.e. the temple with the "elders" religious leaders, v.6-7. The leaders bear greater responsibility (Rom 2:17-24; 1 Pet 4:17).