



Truth For These Times



44. THE GREAT JUDGMENT DAY

Perhaps the most awe-inspiring event the human mind could ever contemplate is The Judgment: where the great God Himself dispenses the eternal awards of divine justice. In the judgment a person's destiny is determined. The decisions reached are final – the consequences eternal. Can we possibly stand un-condemned in the judgment? Does the Bible show how we can be right with God? The Word of God assures us that the consecrated Christian need not fear the judgment, but those who refuse to confess their sins face condemnation. How can we be sure to stand confidently in the judgment? Let us examine the revelation of God's word.

Daniel 7:9,10 I watched till thrones were put in place, and the Ancient of Days was seated; His garment *was* white as snow, and the hair of His head *was* like pure wool. His throne *was* a fiery flame, its wheels a burning fire; a fiery stream issued and came forth from before Him. A thousand thousands ministered to Him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him. **THE COURT WAS SEATED, AND THE BOOKS WERE OPENED.**

Here is pictured the judgment scene. The “Ancient of Days” (i.e. God the Father) is the Judge, and the books are opened for investigation. Here the characters and lives of people pass in review before the Judge of all the earth.

Daniel 7:13 I was watching in the night visions, and behold, *One* like THE SON OF MAN, coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the ANCIENT OF DAYS, and they brought Him near before Him.

The Son of man (i.e. Jesus Christ) is also present at the judgment. He is not there to condemn, but he is an intercessor or lawyer on the believer's part. “And if anyone sins we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous” (1 John 2:1).



Jesus begins the judgment.

Every man's life record is entered in the books of heaven. No detail is overlooked. All secret sin is exposed. All unconfessed sin is revealed. All motives are laid bare. Sins may have been hidden from fellow human beings, but nothing is hidden from God. The books of heaven contain a true and accurate record.

THE INVESTIGATIVE JUDGMENT

Daniel 8:13,14 Then I heard a holy one speaking; and *another* holy one said to that certain *one* who was speaking, “How long *will* the vision *be*, concerning the daily *sacrifices* and the transgression of desolation, the giving of both the sanctuary and the host to be trampled under foot?” And he said to me, “**FOR TWO THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED DAYS; THEN THE SANCTUARY SHALL BE CLEANSED.**”

The word “cleansed” can also be translated, “justified”. To bring about justification, some form of judgment is required. In our study of the 2300 prophetic days, we saw how the first part of the prophecy was fulfilled so accurately. Even though the predictions were made almost 500 years before, nevertheless, Christ was baptised on time and was crucified in the exact year stated by the prophecy. The remaining part of the prophecy brought us to the date 1844, the beginning of the “Investigative Judgment”.

Leviticus 23:27 Also the tenth *day* of this seventh month *shall be* the DAY OF ATONEMENT. It shall be a holy convocation for you; you shall afflict your souls, and offer an offering made by fire to the LORD.

The reason for using the term “cleansing of the sanctuary” is understood more clearly when we understand the meaning of the Old Testament sanctuary and its services. There were daily sacrifices for sins, but once each year they celebrated the “DAY OF ATONEMENT.”



The cleansing of the Hebrew sanctuary was a symbol of the judgment that commenced in 1844.

On this day the people were commanded to “afflict their souls” (i.e. to examine themselves thoroughly to see if there was any unconfessed sin, or anything that would separate them from God). The Day of Atonement was also a day of judgment to the people. Any unconfessed sin on this day would render the sinner guilty, and he would bear the punishment of his own sin. On this vital day, the sanctuary itself was figuratively cleansed.

Revelation 14:6,7 Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth—to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people—saying with a loud voice, “Fear God and give glory to Him, FOR THE HOUR OF HIS JUDGMENT HAS COME; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water.”

Here we notice a special message from God sounding forth – the hour of His judgment HAS COME – not coming. Early Bible writers spoke of judgment TO COME (Acts 24:25) but here is a special message that judgment is here. The INVESTIGATIVE JUDGMENT commences at the conclusion of the 2300 years – 1844, which is the cleansing of the heavenly sanctuary (Heb. 8:1,2). The Day of Atonement for the Jews was a day of judgment. 1844 commenced the judgment in heaven – similar in principle to a judgment in a court of law. The “EXECUTIVE JUDGMENT”, when sinners are destroyed, takes place at the end of the world. This can be paralleled to a man facing the death sentence for his crime. He has been tried, (investigation), found guilty, (sentenced) and put to death (punishment).



Judgment involves professed Christians only.

1 Peter 4:17 For the time *has come* for JUDGMENT TO BEGIN AT THE HOUSE OF GOD; and if *it begins* with us first, what will *be* the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God?

Psalm 1:5 Therefore THE UNGODLY SHALL NOT STAND IN THE JUDGMENT, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.

The investigative judgment is for the professed Christian only. "The house of God" refers to believers. The ungodly, or wicked must face another judgment separate from the investigation of God's professed people. The judgment has been in progress since 1844, and at this moment the work is being carried out. It will continue until this earth's probation has closed, when the destiny of all is sealed for eternity.

Revelation 22:11,12 HE WHO IS UNJUST, LET HIM BE UNJUST STILL; he who is filthy, let him be filthy still; HE WHO IS RIGHTEOUS, LET HIM BE RIGHTEOUS STILL; he who is holy, let him be holy still. And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work.

Here is the close of human probation. When the heavenly judgment is completed it will be too late to change. There will be no second chances. "And as it is appointed for men to die ONCE, but after this THE JUDGMENT". Heb 9:27.

All names which have been written in the book of life, (i.e. any person who at any time professed to follow Jesus) will have their names come up for review before the heavenly tribunal. Every name is called, and every name closely investigated. When the judgment of the dead is completed, the judgment of the living will commence and each case will be sealed either at death or at the close of human probation, whichever comes first.



All names written in the Book of Life come up for review.

THE EXECUTIVE JUDGMENT

Bible writers have frequently mentioned how God will enter into judgment with the inhabitants of the earth. Enoch gave a graphic picture of the Lord executing judgment. (See Jude 14,15). Isaiah described God as coming with fire to execute judgment. (Isa 66:15,16). Jeremiah the prophet pictured the awesome time when "the Lord will roar from on high" and "enter into judgment with all flesh". (Jer 25:30,31). Joel prophesied that God would "sit to judge all the surrounding nations". (Joel 3:12). Jesus too, frequently referred to the final judgment. (Matt 10:11,14,15; Luke 10:13-15; Matt 12:36 etc.).

Acts 17:31 ...because HE HAS APPOINTED A DAY ON WHICH HE WILL JUDGE THE WORLD in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.



Only those holding tightly to Christ's righteousness will pass the judgment.

God has it all planned. There will come a final day when a final decision will be made. God will execute His judgment fairly, in the light that His Son has made provision to save all who accept him.

2 Corinthians 5:10 FOR WE MUST ALL APPEAR BEFORE THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST, that each one may receive the things *done* in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

Every soul must answer for himself in the judgment. Each will be judged according to his own record. There are only two classes of people on this final day – the righteous, who receive the reward of everlasting life; and the wicked

who will be destroyed in the lake of fire. Since the judgment is certain, and we cannot avoid it, the only wise thing to do is to prepare for it.

2 Peter 2:4,9

For if God did not spare THE ANGELS WHO SINNED, but cast *them* down to hell and delivered *them* into chains of darkness, to be RESERVED FOR JUDGMENT; *then* the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to RESERVE THE UNJUST UNDER PUNISHMENT FOR THE DAY OF JUDGMENT.



During the 1000 years the righteous will judge angels and men who rejected Christ.

The fallen angels or demons, as well as evil men and women face condemnation in the judgment. If we would be prepared for the judgment, we must repent of every sin. Sin is the only thing that will condemn us on that great and final day. Unconfessed and unforsaken sin will prevent us from being prepared to meet our God. There is only one way to get rid of sin, and that is to accept Jesus Christ as our personal Saviour. “The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from ALL sin”. 1 John 1:7. The soul who accepts Jesus Christ “shall not come into judgment, but is passed from death into life”. John 5:24. Our hope in the judgment is to be hid in Christ – clothed with His righteousness – cleansed by His blood.

Matthew 19:28

So Jesus said to them, “Assuredly I say to you, that in the regeneration, when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.”

The disciples were assured that one day they would be given the responsibility of judging.

1 Corinthians 6:2,3

Do you not know that THE SAINTS WILL JUDGE THE WORLD? And if the world will be judged by you, are you unworthy to judge the smallest matters? Do you not know that WE SHALL JUDGE ANGELS? How much more, things that pertain to this life?

In judging the wicked, the saints (i.e. believers in Christ) will sit upon thrones to share with Jesus His authority and power to judge and execute judgment. The righteous ascend with Christ at His Second Coming (see 1 Thessalonians 4:16,17) but the wicked are not raised for judgment until the end of the 1000 years. (See Rev 20:5). During the 1000 years the saints sit in judgment. (See Rev 20:4). These points are explained in detail in the Bible Study on “The Millennium”.



Wicked executed at the end of the millennium.

Not only will the saints judge wicked men, but also fallen angels. We might say that the 1000 years is the “investigative judgment for the wicked.” The investigation into the lives of men and women is not to satisfy God. All is clear with Him but the unfallen angels, human beings, and the inhabitants of the universe must see that God is just and that His judgments are right. Upon examination of the records the saints will cry out “just and true are Your ways, O King of the saints”. Rev 15:3.

Revelation 20:12-15

And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, AND BOOKS WERE OPENED. And another book was opened, which is *the Book of Life*. And the dead were judged ACCORDING TO THEIR WORKS, by the things which were written in the books. The sea gave up the dead who were in it,

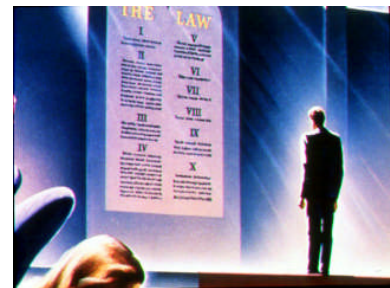
and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And ANYONE NOT FOUND WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF LIFE WAS CAST INTO THE LAKE OF FIRE.

Our works will commend or condemn us in the Day of Judgment. In the book of life is recorded the names of those who have accepted the service of God. Other records mentioned in the Scripture are “The book of remembrance” (Mal 3:16) which is a record of the good deeds of the saints. Then there is a record of the sins of men. Jer. 17:1; 2:22; Rom 2:5,6. “Behold, it is written before Me: Your iniquities and the iniquities of your fathers together, says the LORD.” Isa 65:6,7. Every word, every act and every thought is recorded in the books of heaven. We may close our memory to escape a guilty conscience, but rest assured that in the judgment, the books will be opened. Unless our sins have been cancelled by the blood of Christ, they will testify against us. Those who endure to the end, those whose names have been recorded in the book of life will be saved from the fires of eternal destruction. A very sad aspect of the judgment is that many whose names were once entered into the book of life will not be ready. They started well, but fell away into sin. Their unfaithfulness will cost them the reward of everlasting life. Jesus said “But he who endures to the end shall be saved.” (Matt 24:13)

THE STANDARD OF THE JUDGMENT

James 2:10-12

For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one *point*, he is guilty of all. For HE WHO SAID, “DO NOT COMMIT ADULTERY,” also said, “Do not murder.” Now if you do not commit adultery, but you do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. So speak and so do as those who WILL BE JUDGED BY THE LAW OF LIBERTY.



The law is the standard in the judgment.

The portion of the law here quoted (adultery and murder) comes from the ten commandment law. Verse 12 makes it clear that this law is the standard by which we will be judged. It is not possible for us to obey this law unless the divine precepts are written upon the heart by the Holy Spirit. Only as we call upon divine power and co-operate with God can we find strength to keep God’s law. Nevertheless, the 10 commandments are heaven’s balances of justice and righteousness, in which the Judge will weigh the life of each person. We may belong to a church, but this will not avail in the judgment day. The question that decides the destinies for eternity is, “Have you by the grace of Christ done the will of the Father – have you kept His word? In Matt 7:21-23 Christ said that those who do the “Will of my Father,” would enter the kingdom of heaven. In other words; those who keep His commandments. Ecclesiastes 12:13,14: “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments: For this is man’s all. For God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, Whether good or evil.” HOW WILL YOU STAND IN THE JUDGMENT?

Revelation 3:5

He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I WILL CONFESS HIS NAME BEFORE MY FATHER and before His angels.

If our lives are hid in our Saviour, we have no need to fear the judgment. We are His special children, and He will uphold us before the Father. Our names are in the Lamb’s book of life.

1 John 2:1

My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, **WE HAVE AN ADVOCATE WITH THE FATHER, JESUS CHRIST** the righteous.



Praise God Jesus is our Advocate.

Our sins may be many, but thank God they can all be forgiven if we only confess and forsake them. Jesus is our Advocate. He will stand in our place and plead, “My blood” which cleanses us from all sin.

How solemn is the judgment? It brings eternal life or eternal loss. Which will it be? My judgment bound friend, is Jesus your Advocate? Have you placed your case fully in His hands? Jesus will plead for you on the great Day of Judgment if only you accept Him today. He is your only hope.

Review Sheet – The Great Judgment Day

ASSIGNMENT: Read the Bible study carefully before answering the following questions.

1. How does the book of Daniel picture the awesomeness of the judgment? Daniel 7:8-10
stood before Him _____
2. When did the “investigation judgment” begin? Daniel 8:14
For _____; _____
_____.
3. How does the book of Revelation show that judgment is in progress before the end of the world? Revelation 14:6,7
The hour of _____.
4. Who are judged first? 1 Peter 4:17
Judgment to _____.
5. At the close of human probation, will there be a second chance? Revelation 22:11,12
He who is unjust, _____
He who is righteous, _____
6. What is the meaning of: (a) Investigative Judgment? (b) Executive Judgment?
Answer: _____

7. How many will escape the judgment? 2 Corinthians 5:10
For _____
8. What two groups will stand condemned in the judgment? 2 Peter 2:4,9
Answer: (a) _____ (b) _____
9. What responsibility will be given to the saved? 1 Corinthians 6:2,3
The saints _____
Do you not know that _____
10. According to what measure is mankind judged? Revelation 20:12-15
They were judged each one _____
What happens to those whose names are not in the book of life?
“--- not found written in the Book of Life _____
11. What is God’s standard in the Day of Judgment? James 2:10-12
As those who _____
NOTE: In context, this is the Ten Commandment law. (Explain why)
12. He who overcomes sin by the power of Jesus is given what wonderful promise? Revelation 3:5
I will confess _____.

Are you preparing for the judgment? YES _____ NO _____

Is Jesus your Advocate? YES _____ NO _____