

## LESSON

### **THE JUDGEMENT**

#### **Introduction.**

In the Bible, the process of deciding what will happen to us after our life here on earth is called the **judgement**. One of the Biblical truths is this of judgement. God does this to honour our freedom of choice by examining our hearts, setting apart those who choose Him from those who do not.

#### **DESCRIPTION OF THE JUDGEMENT**

##### **In the judgement, who is presiding?**

“I watched till the 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....ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him. The court was seated ,and the books were opened”(Dan 7:9-10).

##### **Who is the officiating judge?**

The officiating judge is Jesus Christ since the father has committed all the judgement unto the son (John 5:22). This is also evident in the following verses;

“...in the day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my gospel”(Rom.2:16).

“...because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in the righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead”(Acts17:31).

“And He commanded us to preach to the people, and to testify that it is He who was ordained by God to be judge of the living and the dead”(Acts10:42).

##### **Standard of Judgement.**

God uses two standards that are actually one: our response to Jesus' offer of salvation, and His Law. Jesus was the embodiment of the law of God.

So God will use His law to “*judge the world in righteousness*”(Psalms9:8).

“So speak and so do as those who will be judged by the law of liberty...”(James2:12)

“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 judgement ,including every secret thing, whether good or evil”(Eccles 12:13-14).

##### **Who will be judged.**

One of the essential characteristics of the final judgement is its universality. All creatures of the universe are involved in this event. Unfallen beings will comprehend Satan's deceit and the outcome of his evil. The Bible writes clearly that we must all appear before the court.

*“...for we must all appear before the judgement seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad” (2 Cor.5:10).*

*“Today, in the spirit and power of Elias and of John the Baptist, messengers of God’s appointment are calling the attention of a judgement-bound world to the solemn events soon to take place in connection with the closing hours of probation and the appearance of Christ Jesus as King of kings and Lord of lords. Soon every man is to be judged for the deeds done in the body.” PK716.1.*

*“I said in my heart, “God shall judge the righteous and the wicked, for there is a time there for every purpose and for every work”” (Eccles 3:17).*

For everything everything will be brought to judgement and nothing will be hidden.

*“God will not break His covenant, nor alter the things that have come out of His lips. His word will stand forever as unalterable as His throne. At the judgement this covenant will be brought forth, plainly written with the fingers of the God, and the world will be arraigned before the bar of Infinite Justice to receive sentence.” PK187.1 .*

*“For God will bring every work into judgement, including every secret thing, whether good or evil” (Eccles.12:14).*

*“...for there is nothing covered that will not be revealed, nor hidden that will not be known” (Luke 12:2)*

Our words as well will be brought into judgement.

*“But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgement...” (Matt 12:36,37).*

*“...We are forbidden by God to engage in trifling, foolish conversation, in jesting, joking, or speaking any idle words. We must give an account of what we say to God. We will be brought to judgement for our hasty words, that do no good to the speaker or hearer. Then let us all speak words that will tend to edification. Allow no cheap, foolish talk or wrong principles to compose your Christian experience.” FE458.1*

## **THE PHASES OF JUDGEMENT**

### **1. The Pre-Advent Judgement**

It is also known as the *Investigative judgement*. The investigative judgement began in 1844 when “thrones were put in place. ... The court was seated, and the books were opened” (Dan. 7:9,10) to the close of probation. It is the judgement of the righteous prior to the second coming of the Christ. As the great High Priest, Jesus entered the Most Holy Place on October 22, 1844, to investigate each case. All have sinned, but Jesus offers forgiveness to those who repent.

*“At the time appointed for the judgement- the close of the 2300 days, in 1844- begun the work of investigation and blotting out of sins. All who have ever taken upon themselves the name of Christ must pass its searching scrutiny. Both the living and the dead are to be judged” out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.” GC486.1*

The book of Daniel helps us to understand both the time and the nature of the judgement. At the end of the 2,300 symbolic days – in 1844 – the heavenly sanctuary would be cleansed (Dan.8:14) and the pre-advent investigative judgement would begin (Dan.7:9-14), two different ways of expressing the same event. And the judgement is “in favour of the saints of the Most High” (Dan.7:22).

In **Matthew 22:1-14** Jesus spoke of an investigation of the wedding guests before the wedding feast actually started.

In the book of Revelation, the pre-advent investigative judgement is announced **“the hour of His judgement has come” Rev 14:6,7**

*“While the investigative judgement is going forward in heaven, while the sins of the penitent believers are being removed from the sanctuary, there is to be a special work of purification, of putting away of sin, among God’s people upon the earth.” The Great Controversy, 425.*

Once His atonement is completed, Jesus will say, *“He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still.” Rev 22:11*

## 2. The Millennial Judgement

The millennial judgement will start after the saints are taken to heaven and sit on thrones, and the judgement is committed to them. Then once more, the heavenly books are opened, and the dead are “judged according to their works, by the things which are written in the books” (Rev.20:4,12).

*“In the typical service only those who had come before God with confession and repentance, and whose sins, through the blood of the sin offering, were transferred to the Day of Atonement. So in the great day of the final atonement and the investigative judgement the only case considered are those of the professed people of God. The judgement of the wicked is a distinct and separate work, and takes place at a later period.” Judgement must begin at the house of God: and if it begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel?” 1 Peter 4:12. GC480.1*

During the millennial judgement of the wicked and the fallen angels, the saints themselves will also participate.

**“Do you know that the saints shall judge the world? and if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matter? Know ye not that we shall judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life?” 1 Cor. 6:2,3**

*“And the angels which kept not their first, but left their own habitation he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgement of the great day.” Jude 1:6.*

*“Satan also and evil angels are judged by Christ and His people. Says Paul: “Know ye not that we shall judge angels?” Verse 3. And Jude declares that “the angels which kept not their own habitation, He hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgement of the great day.” Jude 6. GC661.1*

This process provides an opportunity for the saints to evaluate the heavenly records and to see God’s fair treatment in all cases. He not only rewards all human beings according to what they deserve based on their own decisions, but also explain to them why He does so.

### 3.The Executive Judgement.

The executive judgement is God's final and irreversible punitive intervention in human history. After the 1,000 years is over, then the Lord and His people in the New Jerusalem descend from heaven and the execution of the sentences will be carried out.

*“And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.” Rev.20:12.*

Limited punitive judgements occurred, for example, in the casting out of satan and his rebellious angels from **(Rev.12:7-12)**, the driving out of Adam and Eve from the garden of Eden (Gen.3), the Great Flood (Gen.6-8), the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah (Gen.19, Jude 7), the death of the firstborn in Egypt (Exodus 11-12), and the death of Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:1-11). So it is no surprise that there will be an executive judgement of the wicked also at the end of human history.

### The Second Death.

God's is leading human history towards its end-time climax. At the end of the millennium all the wicked dead are raised from their grave to receive their final punitive sentences **(Rev.20:5,11-15)**. Then, when the whole judging process is completed and nothing else can be added to it, the wicked will acknowledge God's justice. This is how effective the second death will be:

*“But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.” Rev.21:8*

*“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.” Rev.20:14,15.*

The second death confirms that sin had a beginning and will have an end. Then the whole universe will return to its original perfection, before sin, evil and disobedience arose mysteriously and without any justification.