
Candid Camera!

Thrones were set in place and the Ancient of Days took his seat. His clothing was as white as snow; the hair of his head was white like wool. His throne was flaming with fire. A river of fire was flowing, coming out from before him. Thousands upon thousands attended him, ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him. The court was seated, and the books were opened.” Daniel 7:9, 10. The Son of man came “with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days. He was given authority, glory and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve Him: His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which will not pass away.” Daniel 7:13, 14, KJV.

This pictures the Son of man coming to the Ancient of Days in heaven to receive a kingdom, given Him at the close of His work as a mediator. The judgment of those who claim to know Christ and the judgment of the wicked are two separate events, at two separate times. God will only judge those who claim to know Christ now. “It is time for judgment to begin with the family of God; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel?” 1 Peter 4:17.

The Book of Life

God has “video tapes” (books) of every word and deed of our lives. God

is now judging those who died claiming Christ as their Saviour. Soon God will judge the living who claim Christ as their Saviour. The Judgment is going on now. God will compare the video tapes of our lives with His holy Ten Commandment law. “The judgment was set, and the books were opened.” John, the writer of Revelation, describing the same scene, adds: “Another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books.” “Rejoice that your names are written in heaven.” Daniel 7:10, KJV; Revelation 20:12; Luke 10:20.

The Book of Remembrance

Those who serve Christ have their “names . . . in the book of life.” Philippians 4:3. Those who enter the city of God are those whose names “are written in the lamb’s book of life.” Revelation 21:27. Angels of God write the good deeds of those “that feared the Lord, and that thought on His name” “in a book of remembrance.” Malachi 3:16. “Remember me, O my God, . . . and do not wipe out what I have so faithfully done for the house of my God.” Nehemiah 13:14. “You know my wanderings: put my tears into Your bottle: are they not in your book?” Psalm 56:8, NKJV.

God brings everything we do into this time of judgment—even the things we think nobody knows. “For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good, or evil.” “For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned.” Ecclesiastes 12:14; Matthew 12:36, 37. God “will bring to light what is hidden in darkness, and will expose the motives of men’s hearts.” 1 Corinthians 4:5. “See, it stands written before me . . . both your sins, and the sins of your fathers, says the Lord.” Isaiah 65:6, 7.

Have you been living a holy life lately? Have your deeds been holy? Have you been speaking holy words and thinking holy thoughts? If not, there is hope for you. The good news is that Jesus “is able to save completely those who come to God through Him, because He always lives to intercede for them.” Hebrews 7:25.

Christ Blots Out Your Sins or Your Name

In the Judgment, before Christ comes the second time to Planet Earth, God will erase, or blot out, the sins of those who have allowed Christ to put His law in their hearts. And He will erase, or blot out, the names of those who have not asked for forgiveness and have not turned from their sins. God accepts names and rejects names. God will either blot out your name, or your sins, from the Book of Life and the Book of God’s Remembrance.

“Whoever has sinned against me, I will blot out of my book.” Exodus 32:33. “If a righteous man turns away from righteousness, and commits sin and does the same detestable things the wicked man does, will he live? None of the righteous things he has done will be remembered. But if a wicked man turns away from the wickedness he has committed and does what is just and right, he will save his life.” Ezekiel 18:24.

Those whose lives have been brought into harmony with God’s law will have their sins blotted out. In the Judgment before the second coming of Christ, God will blot out either our sins or our names. “I, even I, am He that blots out your transgressions for My own sake, and will not remember your sins.” Isaiah 43:25.

The promise is to the person who overcomes sin. “He who overcomes will be dressed in white. I will never blot out his name from the book of life, but will acknowledge his name before my Father and his angels.” Are you ashamed of Christ? Are you ashamed to speak His name and tell others of your Saviour and Lord, Jesus Christ? “Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven. But whoever disowns me before men, I will disown him before my Father in heaven.” Revelation 3:5; Matthew 10:32, 33.

The truth of the Judgment may surprise you, reader, but don’t be discouraged. There is great hope for you! God says, “I will forgive their wickedness, and I will remember their sins no more.” “In those days at that time, declares the Lord, search will be made for Israel’s guilt but there will be none, and for the sins of Judah, but none will be found.” Isn’t that wonderful news? Jesus Christ will erase yours sins from His record books and even from His mind. When He looks at you throughout eternity, He won’t even remember your sins. Jeremiah 31:34; 50:20.

God will blot out sins before the second coming of the Lord. The Judgment—the work of investigation and blotting out of sins—began in 1844. God will judge the living and the dead “according to what they had done as recorded in the books.” Revelation 20:12.

Life Record

God has an accurate record of your life. A person may have sinned in broad daylight or in the darkness of the darkest night. God and the angels of God see each action and hear each word as clearly at night as during the day. Angels of God see each sin and record it in living video. People may hide their sins or lie about them and cover them up. Dad and mom and your husband or wife may not know. Your children and your friends may not

know. You might be the only one on earth, humanly speaking, who knows. But the angels of heaven clearly see it. You can't even hide one thought from God. He knows your inner life. You can never erase words that you have spoken or deeds you have done.

Candid Camera

Smile, you are on candid camera. Every word you speak and every thing you do is accurately video taped in the heavenly record books. If we could see what is really happening in the invisible world around us, we would see an angel recording everything we say and do. Those video books will be carefully examined in the judgment. If we could see into the invisible world of the angels all around us, many of our unkind words would not be spoken. Many of our unkind thoughts would never be acted on. Instead, we would be pleading with Jesus to help us think good thoughts and perform good actions. Why not help someone today? The angels also record the kind deeds performed in honor of Jesus. Our lives will be investigated not only for the bad thoughts, words, and actions, but also for our good thoughts, words, and actions. God will judge us by what we do to help others and by what we could have done to help another person in need.

In the judgment, God will inspect the use we have made of every ability He has given us. How have we used our time, our abilities, our voice, our money, and our influence? What have we done for the poor, the disadvantaged, the orphan, or the widow? See the story Jesus tells about the sheep and the goats in the twenty-fifth chapter of Matthew.

Time is like money. We have twenty-four hours in a day. How are you spending it? Are you spending it on pleasure, dressing in flashy clothing, and on building a financial empire? Our future and the future of those we associate with is dependent on taking the time to search God's Word earnestly and prayerfully.

A crisis is soon to break upon our world! We must understand for ourselves the position and work of our great High Priest. Otherwise, we will utterly fail in meeting this crisis successfully. Each must meet the great Judge face to face. It is extremely important that everyone often meditates on the solemn scene when the Judgment begins and God opens the video book of your life.

The Rest of the Story!

God's plan has two divisions. Most have only heard of the first division.

Most have heard of Christ's death on the cross nearly 2,000 years ago, but very few understand the rest of the story. What is Christ doing today in the heavenly sanctuary?

1. What He Has Done

2. What He Is Doing

Christ's present work in the sanctuary is as necessary to the plan of salvation as was His death upon the cross. We must, by faith, follow Him in His work in the most holy apartment of the heavenly sanctuary. This is "where Jesus went before us." Hebrews 6:20. He wants us to follow Him there by faith. "He who covers his sins will not prosper: but whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy." Proverbs 28:13, NKJV. "My grace is sufficient for you." 2 Corinthians 12:9. "Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me; for I am gentle and humble in heart: and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light." Matthew 11:29, 30. Let none, then, regard their weaknesses as hopeless. God will give faith and grace to overcome them.

Surprise! The Judgment Has Come as "A Thief in the Night" Experience

It is necessary that Christians solemnly prepare to meet Jesus. Get serious with God! Invest your time in searching the Holy Bible as though your very life depended on it. It does!. We are not saved by the knowledge of the "religious experts" we trust. We must be saved individually. You must know God now, personally, if you want God to know you as His child when He returns in glory. The hour of God's judgment has come like a thief in the night, and most of those who claim to follow Christ do not even know it!

The Judgment soon—none know how soon—will begin with those who are now living and claim to be Christians. Your case will come before the King of the universe. Your King, Jesus Christ, wants you to be ready! "Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come." Mark 13:33. "Wake up! . . . repent. But if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what time I will come to you." Revelation 3:3.

God will have decided whether you are saved or lost, before our Lord appears the second time in the clouds of heaven. When Jesus finishes His work of judgment, He will say, "Let him who does wrong continue to do wrong; let him who is vile continue to be vile; let him who does right con-

tinue to do right; and let him who is holy continue to be holy. Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done.”

Judges always give out the sentence—the reward—after the judgment. When Jesus comes, He will say, “My reward is with me”—again showing that the decision part of the judgment is over. The rewarding, or sentencing part of the judgment is the part of the judgment that takes place when He comes. Revelation 22:11, 12.

Planet Earth is on probation. God will soon judge the living. Won’t you accept His mercy now? Soon the Judgment will be over. When the Judgment is over, probation will also be over. Soon it will be too late! Silently, unnoticed as the midnight thief, will come the last call of mercy. Mercy’s offer to guilty sinners will be withdrawn. Then “a time of trouble such as never was” will burst on Planet Earth as an overwhelming surprise! Daniel 12:1, KJV. Angels will protect those who have chosen to follow Christ in His work and let Him write His law in their minds.

When “He comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping.” Mark 13:36. Prepare so that you will not be “weighed in the balances, and found wanting.” Daniel 5:27, NKJV.