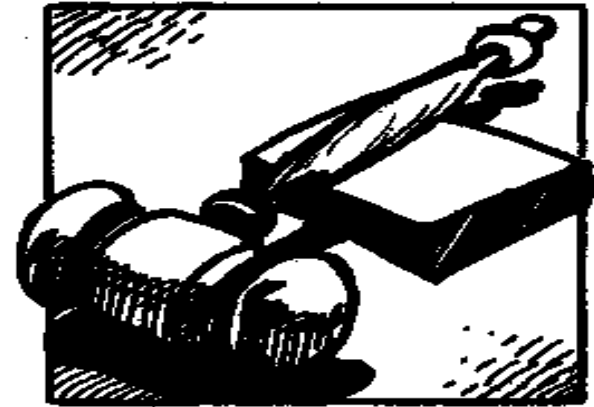


THE SEVEN JUDGMENTS OF GOD



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before the Great White Throne Judgment will be there because they are condemned already (Jn. 3:18). What they will be judged for is not whether they go to Heaven or the Lake of Fire, but how severe a punishment they will receive in the Lake of Fire. Some will receive a more sore punishment (Lk.12:47, Heb. 10:29). The names of these people were not found in the Book of Life because they did not believe on Christ and are already condemned (Jn. 3:18).

Death and Hell will be cast into the Lake of Fire; that is, all lost unbelieving mankind of all ages who are physically dead and have been in Hell (Hades - the place of temporary punishment for the lost) will be cast into the Lake of Fire. So everyone, who *“was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire”* (Rev. 20:15). Hell appears 53 times in the Bible: 31 times in the Old Testament (sheol) and 22 times in the New Testament (11 times *Hades*, 10 times *Gehenna*, and 1 time *Tartarus*). The phrase *Lake of Fire* appears 5 times in the Bible and only in the book of Revelation 19:20; 20:10, 14, 15; 21:8. The flames of this place are real flames. They are brimstone or sulfur, which is a yellowish crystal that is very flammable. Sulfur melts at 240 degrees, turns red at 482 degrees, and boils at 842 degrees with a dark flame. This is the Great White Throne Judgment of Almighty God.

What about you? Do you know for sure all your sins are forgiven? Is your name written in God’s Book of Life? If not call on Him today (Rom. 3:23; 6:23; 10:9-10, 13). If you are a Christian, are you busy warning others of the Lake of Fire and directing them to trust Christ? Which Judgment will you be a part of? Will you be found standing before the Judgment Seat of Christ or the Great White Throne Judgment?

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It is at this time that the old heavens and old earth are destroyed. Revelation 20:11 says, *“I saw a great white throne, and Him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.”* Then, go to II Peter 3:10-13 where the heavens are said to *“pass away [or dissolve] with a great noise [rushing noise with a crash], and the elements [water, air, earth] shall melt [loose] with a fervent heat [set on fire], the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.”* II Peter 3:13 mentions that after this judgment that we are to *“look for new heavens and a new earth.”* Revelation 21:1 speaks of the arrival of the new heaven and new earth right after the Great White Throne Judgment. So between Revelation 20:7 and Revelation 21:1 Satan and all fallen angels are cast into the Lake of Fire, and the Great White Throne Judgment takes place as well as the destruction of the old heavens and old earth and the making of the new heavens and new earth. This Great White Throne seems to be located in the heavens *“from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away”* (Rev. 20:11).

Who will Jesus Christ judge at the Great White Throne Judgment? Revelation 20:12-15 says *“the dead, small and great”* stood before God to be judged, these dead ones are the unbelieving of all ages, whose names are not found in the Book of Life. II Thessalonians 1:7-9 teaches that when Christ returns He will take *“vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction.”* (Also look at Dan. 12:2, Jn. 3:18-20; 5:29, Acts 24:15.) The people who do not know Christ as their Savior and have not believed that Christ died, was buried, and rose again from the dead, will go into the Lake of Fire. To know God is not to know only about God, or that He exists, but to personally know Him as the Savior, by submitting to Him, and laying down ones arms of rebellion. To know God is to obey God (Jn. 14:15).

Revelation 20:12 says that the Lord Jesus will look into the “Books” which are the Divine record of ones works and also the Book of Life will be opened, which is the roll book of those who have been saved and have eternal live. Those who stand

of the pit” (Isa. 14:15). In Revelation 20:1-3 Satan will be cast into the bottomless pit for 1,000 years during Christ’s earthly 1,000-year reign. Then at the end of the 1,000 years he will be loosed for a season or a short time (Rev. 20:7-9), then cast into the Lake of Fire forever (Rev. 20:10).

Satan will be judged as well as other fallen angels. In Revelation 12:3-4 we learn that the great red dragon (the devil) influenced one-third part of the stars (angels) of heaven to follow him in his rebellion against God (Rev. 12:9; 20:2). This one-third of fallen angels will be condemned along with the Devil (Matt. 25:41). Some fallen angels are already in Hell (*Tartarus*) (II Pt. 2:4), and the rest are still awaiting to be cast into the Lake of Fire, the final place of judgment for all fallen angels and men.

Believers in the LORD Jesus will be those who will judge fallen angels (I Cor. 6:3). The time of this judgment seems to be around the time Satan is cast into the Lake of Fire (Rev. 20:10) and The Great White Throne Judgment where all fallen men are judged (Rev. 20:11-15), except the Beast and the False Prophet who are already in the Lake of Fire (Rev. 19:20). This is the Judgment of Angels.

THE SEVENTH JUDGMENT

VII. THE GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGMENT

The timing of this judgment is at the end of the millennial reign of Jesus Christ (Rev. 20:7) and after the Judgment of Fallen Angels and the Devil. The phrase “*great white throne*” appears only once in the Bible in Revelation 20:11. The word *throne* is mentioned 174 times in the Scriptures and 39 of those times it is found in the book of Revelation. The word *throne* appears only one time with the words *great white* and so the Great White Throne is distinguished from any other throne in the Scriptures.

Who is going to be the judge of this judgment? The answer to this question is found in two passages of Scripture (Rev. 20:11-12, Jn. 5:22). It is God the Son in whom all judgment has been committed by the Father.

INTRODUCTION

The world of today may ask, “Why address the subject of the judgments of God, when He is a God of love, not judgment?” This is a question that needs to be answered using the Bible as our source, rather than our emotions or mere traditions. The Bible does teach that God is love. In fact, this phrase, “God is love,” is found two times in the Bible in 1 John 4:8,16. But God has many attributes in addition to His Love.

Out of the many attributes of God, the Bible has a greater emphasis on the fact that God is holy (Lev. 11:44-45). He is addressed as the “*holy one of Israel*” many times in Psalms and Isaiah. The Spirit of God is called the Holy Spirit through out the New Testament over 100 times. God’s holiness is emphasized above His love; His holiness surrounds His love, therefore, God’s holiness directs and controls His love. Since God’s main characteristic is holiness, that means He is pure and without blemish.

The Bible also teaches us, on the one hand, that God is good (Ps. 34:8; 86:5), and on the other hand, that man is not good for he is sinful and defiled by his sin (Rom. 3:12, 23). Sin is a violation of God’s law (I Jn. 3:4) and holy character. Since God is holy, pure, right, and good, He must deal with man’s sin. He must and will judge the sin in mankind. If He did not, He would not be holy, good, or right. This study will deal with the seven judgments of God.

1. Who will actually be the Judge?

God Himself: Palms 50:6 tells us, “*the heavens shall declare His righteousness: for God is judge Himself.*” Hebrews 12:23 contains the phrase, “*God the Judge of all.*” And II Timothy 4:8 makes reference to “*The LORD, the righteous judge.*” These verses do not specify which person or persons of the triune nature of God (God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit) are involved in the judgments. When one of the persons of the trinity is involved in a judgment they all are involved.

The Lord Jesus Christ: Acts 10:42 states, “*it is He [referring to Christ] which was ordained of God to be the Judge*

of quick [living] and dead.” Acts 17:31 tells us that God “will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom He hath ordained; whereof He hath given assurance unto all men, in that He hath raised Him from the dead.” And in John 5:22 Jesus Himself tell us, “For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son.”

The Word of God: In John 12:46-48 Christ teaches us, “I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness. And if any man hear my words, and believe not, I judge him not; for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world. He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.” When someone rejects Christ and His words, Christ will not have to make any further judgments concerning their destiny and eternal torment in the Lake of Fire, only the degree of their torment. Christ’s words are final and binding according to John 3:36, “He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.”

God did not originally intend to judge mankind for God is “not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance” (II Pt. 3:9). In fact Isaiah 28:21 says that God’s act of judgment is His “strange work” or foreign work. This work of judgment is something that was not a common work or desired work of God, but a necessary work to judge sin, for God is holy.

2. How will God judge?

God, in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ, will judge in righteousness. According to II Timothy 4:8, Christ is called “the righteous judge.” The Lord Jesus said concerning His judgment, “My judgment is just” (Jn. 5:30). The Lord will be fair and impartial, having no respect of persons, but rendering a judgment that is always right and accurate, because it will be based upon what God has said in His word and what man has done in response to God’s Word. He will judge according to truth (Rom. 2:2).

the end of the millennium (Rev. 20:5). They will suffer Hell fire (II Thess. 1:7-9) until the Great White Throne Judgment. Revelation 19:19-20 teaches that the Beast (who is Anti-Christ or the Man of Sin) and the False Prophet (also called the 2nd Beast) were cast into the Lake of Fire. This is the first group to enter the Lake of Fire. The second group to be cast into the Lake of Fire is found in Revelation 20:11-15, which are the lost and unbelieving mankind of all the ages who have died rejecting Jesus Christ as their only Savior, whose names are not in the Book of Life.

THE SIXTH JUDGMENT

VI. THE JUDGMENT OF THE ANGELS

Angels are a race of God’s creatures who were created by God (Ps. 148:2,5) and like all of God’s creation were good when they were created (Gen. 1:31; 2:3). Angels were created by God (Col. 1:16) before the earth was made (Job 38:6-7). Each angel is created individually by God for they do not procreate like human beings do (Mk. 12:25).

Since all angels were created by God and were good, then why do they need to be judged? The books of Isaiah 14:12-14 and Ezekiel 28:12-19 teach us that Lucifer, the highest rank of angels called a cherub, was perfect when he was created until sin was found in him (Ezek. 28:14-15). It was due to his high position of the covering or anointed cherub and his great beauty, brightness, and wisdom, that he became proud and lifted up (Ezek. 28:16-17). God cast him out of the mountain of God (heaven).

The book of Isaiah records the things Lucifer (Satan) said that caused him to be cast out of the mountain of God (Isa. 14:12-14). He (Lucifer) said, “I will ascend into heaven [he will take over heaven], I will exalt my throne above the stars [angels] of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north [he wanted to control all creation]: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds [exalted above all else]; I will be like the Most High.” But God’s response to Lucifer’s claim was that he would be “brought down to hell, to the sides

As Christ comes to judge with His holy angels He will sit upon His throne and all nations will be gathered before Him (Matt. 25:31-32). Once they are gathered before Him, He will separate the nations; the sheep (believers) from the goats (unbelievers). He will not merely judge the nations but all the individuals who make up these nations. The sheep are the Gentiles who believed on Christ as Savior during the tribulation period, and the goats are the Gentiles who rejected Christ as Savior during or before the tribulation period. This will be the first official act of the majestic Messiah sitting upon His royal kingly throne. The Messiah will place the sheep He has divided, upon His right hand and the goats on the left hand (Matt. 25:33). He will first address the sheep on His right hand, *“Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world”* (Matt. 25:34).

The basis of His judgment will be how individual Gentiles have treated the people of Israel during the tribulation period. The Lord specifies by saying to the sheep. *“For I was an hungered, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me”* (Matt. 25:35-36). The sheep on His right did not realize that the LORD noticed their small kindnesses to the Jews. The goats on His left hand also did not realize that the LORD noticed their lack of kindnesses to the Jews (Matt. 25:41-46). The good works of the sheep did not save them or the lack of good works by the goats condemned them. The good works by the sheep showed that they did have saving faith in God, and the lack of good works by the goats showed that they did not have saving faith in God (James 2:17-18). The sheep (believers) who were saved during the tribulation and that lived to the end of the tribulation, were invited by Christ, *“Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world”* (Matt. 25:34). Only believers, the sheep, enter the millennial kingdom of Christ on earth, but children that are born during the millennium will need to accept Christ.

The goats are told, *“Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels”* (Matt. 25:41). Where did the goats go? Revelation 19:21 tell us that the goats were all slain by the LORD Jesus Christ, and would not live again until

3. Who Will Be Judged?

I Samuel 2:10 states, *“the adversaries of the LORD shall be broken to pieces; out of heaven shall He thunder upon them; the LORD shall judge the **ends of the earth**; and He shall give strength unto His king and exalt the horn of his anointed.”* In Ecclesiastes 3:17, *“God shall judge the righteous and the wicked.”* Romans 3:6 tells us that *“God [will] judge the world,”* and in 1 Peter 4:5 states that the world includes both the living and the dead, *“who shall give account to him that is ready to judge the quick [living] and the dead.”* So whom will God judge? He will judge all the earth, believers and unbelievers, the living and the dead, that is every human being that has ever been born. Remember what the first book of the Bible says, *“Shall not the Judge of **all the earth** do right?”* (Gen. 18:25).

4. What Will Be Judged?

“God shall judge the secrets of men by the Lord Jesus according, to my gospel” (Rom. 2:16). There are books in which God records the works of lost mankind whom He will judge (Rev. 20:12-13). God will judge sin found in each person. Sin is choosing our way and will above God’s. God is our creator and He is holy. He will not allow sin into His presence, so He must judge sin.

There is also a judgment for believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, but this judgment will not determine where one will spend eternity. Heaven is already their home through faith alone in Christ. This judgment for believers will determine what kind of rewards they will receive.

Judgment will never determine where a person will spend eternity, because that will be determined in this life by what they do with the Lord Jesus. In John 3:18 it states, *“He that believeth on Him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”* The person who believes on the Lord Jesus will have eternal life (heaven), and he that does not believe will have eternal death (Lake of Fire).

5. When Will God Judge?

In Hebrews 9:27 we learn when judgment will come, *“it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.”* What ever a person decides to do with Jesus in this life will be fully seen when death comes. If he believes on the Lord Jesus Christ alone for salvation (Acts 16:31) then he will be ushered into heaven, but if he decides not to believe in Christ then he will be *“punished with everlasting destruction”* (II Thess. 1:7-9). The judgment for believers determines the amount of rewards they will receive after death and probably before the tribulation time (II Cor. 5:10). The final judgment for unbelievers is at the end of the 1000-year reign of Christ at the Great White Throne Judgment (Rev. 20:7-11). These judgments take place only after death, for *“it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment”* (Heb. 9:27).

6. Why Will God Judge?

Let us consider one matter concerning God’s judgment before we go further. In Isaiah 28:21 we find that God’s wrath and judgment is His strange work. Judgment is strange or foreign to God towards His creatures. His common work is to bless, comfort, and protect. But because of sin’s entrance into the human race the Lord is left with no other course of action but to deal with it. Let us remember God created man for His pleasure (Rev. 4:11). He did not want to destroy man just because sin entered the human race. Sin is the reason God will need to judge mankind as well as angels. *“Sin is the transgression of [God’s] law”* (1 Jn. 3:4). Sin is rebellion against God, refusing to go God’s way. Every man and woman have sinned as stated in Romans 3:23, *“All have sinned.”* Since God is holy and cannot allow sin in His presence then all of mankind will face judgment (Rev. 20:11-15). But since God is also love, He made a plan so that He could have fellowship with man, and that man would be able to enter into His presence. God sent His own Son, Jesus, to be the payment for man’s **sin**. God’s wrath and judgment were poured out upon Him instead of mankind.

to the LORD will bring a *“well done”* by the LORD to His believing servants. This faithful service does not earn their salvation, because salvation has never been earned (Eph. 2:8-9). But their faithfulness shows that they truly are His believing people (James 2:14,17).

Those who do not render consistent faithful service do not do so because they are not the LORD’s people. Just because they are called servants (Matt. 25:26) does not mean that they are God’s people or children. King Cyrus, in Isaiah 44:28, is called a *“shepherd.”* in Isaiah 45:1 he is called *“[God’s] anointed,”* and yet the LORD says that Cyrus did not know the LORD (Isa. 45:4-5). Cyrus was a pagan King, yet the Lord used him as His servant to do His will. Human government is called the servant of God in Romans 13:4 and yet they are not all believers.

THE FIFTH JUDGMENT

V. THE JUDGMENT OF THE NATIONS

The Second Coming of Jesus Christ to the earth will be a coming of judgment. He will begin by judging His people Israel, and then He will judge the nations (Matt. 25:31-46, Rev. 19:15). When Christ returns to earth to judge He is upon a white horse and He is called *“Faithful and True, and in righteousness He doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns; and He had a name written, that no man knew, but He Himself. And He was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies which were in heaven followed Him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of His mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it He should smite the nations: and He shall rule them with a rod of iron: and He treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And He hath on His vesture and on His thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS”* (Rev. 19:11-16). The Lord Jesus in His first coming, was meek and mild, and came to save (Matt. 18:11, Jn. 12:47); but in His Second Coming to earth He will come in power and great glory to judge (Jn. 5:22-23).

The main passage we want to deal with is Matthew 24:1-25:30 in which the events appear that will take place during the 7-year tribulation. In the first part of Matthew 24 the LORD Jesus answers His disciple's questions concerning when the temple complex will be thrown down. The second question asked by the disciples in Matthew 24:3 is, "*What shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?*" In Matthew 24:7 Jesus answers the what question, "*For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places.*" So these will be the signs that will occur during the first half of the tribulation. Then Jesus answers the first question last, "*When shall these things be?*" (Matt. 24:3). When Israel shall be surrounded with armies (Lk. 21:20) Israel will be afflicted, killed, and hated of all nations. Jews will even hate one another and have many false prophets (Matt. 24:9-13).

The abomination of desolation is when the Anti-Christ sets himself up in the temple to be worshipped as God (Dan. 9:27), and the rest of the seal judgments and the trumpet and bowl judgments follow in Revelation 6:12 - 16:21. Then the Lord returns to the earth (Rev. 19:11). This is when the LORD Jesus will complete His judgment of the nation of Israel. The LORD's Judgment of Israel will be successful because Zechariah 13:1 says, "*In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness.*" Israel will turn and receive their Messiah and the greater part will be saved.

In Matthew 24 and 25 Israel's faithfulness to the Lord is judged. Starting with the parable of the householder in Matthew 24:45-51, faithfulness is seen in doing or serving one's Lord. The parable of the 10 virgins, in Matthew 25:1-13, teaches Israel to carefully prepare and watch in order to enter their Messiah's Kingdom. This shows their true faith and belief, but not to be found ready and watching for their Messiah shows their unbelief. The oil in this parable is a symbol of the Holy Spirit and one's salvation. In Matthew 25:14-30, the Lord encourages His people, in the parable of the talents, to serve Him faithfully or suffer loss. These are the Lord's talents given to His people to serve Him faithfully. Consistent and faithful service rendered

THE FIRST JUDGMENT

I. THE JUDGMENT OF CALVARY

The Judgment of Calvary is predicted in Genesis 3:15. In chapter 3 the serpent (the Devil) tempted Eve, by questioning God's goodness to Adam and Eve for withholding from them the experience of knowing good and evil. The Devil said that if they ate of this tree they would get better and better, "*For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil*" (Gen. 3:5). (This is the first push for evolution from the mind of Satan to mankind. Yes, evolution was introduced by Satan in the Garden of Eden.) Eve first believed this lie being deceived by the Devil; Adam was not deceived but willingly went along with his wife. They soon found out that they had become worse, and not better. The type of fruit Adam and Eve ate is not named in the Scripture, but they both ate from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. They gained the knowledge of evil or sin, then they hid themselves and covered their bodies with leaves. This is the reason why we wear clothes, because it was in these bodies sin entered into the human race. Adam blamed Eve for his sin and Eve blamed the serpent. Mankind has always blamed others for their sin and failure.

God knew Adam and Eve would sin, so He made a plan to deliver mankind from sin's penalty. God addressed the devil concerning this deliverance in Genesis 3:15, "*I will put enmity [or hatred] between thee [devil] and the woman [Mary, mother of Jesus], and between thy seed [the devil's] and Her seed [the Lord Jesus, see Lk. 1:35, Matt. 1:20-21], it [the Lord Jesus] shall [permanently] bruise [or crush] thy head [the devil - will receive a deadly wound], and thou [the devil] shalt bruise His heel [the Lord Jesus will receive a minor or temporary wound].*" This is a prophecy of Christ's death on the cross. There on the cross Christ delivered to the Devil a permanent deathblow. His dying on the cross did not end with death, but victoriously in resurrection. The devil is a defeated foe and Christ is the Victor. This is a prediction of the Judgment of Cal-

vary that would pay for sin and sin's penalty for all men who truly believe (Acts 4:12; 16:31).

If people reject the Judgment of Calvary for their sin, then they are left with paying for their sin themselves in hell forever. Remember God does not judge sin on a large scale, where the good works and sin are weighed and if the good works weighs greater than the sin a person goes to heaven, if the sin is greater than the good works then a person goes to hell. This also is a lie from the devil. The basis upon which God frees someone from judgment or condemnation is to believe alone in Jesus as Savior (Jn. 3:17-20).

The Judgment of Calvary is also predicted in Isaiah 53. Isaiah 53:1 and following states, *"Who hath believed our report? And to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed? For He [Christ] shall grow up before Him [the Father], as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground [as Israel did not have a Davidic King for 400 years]: He hath no form nor comeliness [beauty] that we should desire Him."*

The verses below list the prediction and fulfillment of Christ's work in the Judgment of Calvary.

PREDICTION FULFILLMENT

Micah 5:2	Matt. 1:21
Isaiah 53:3	Matt. 27:30-31, Lk. 23:13-23
53:4-5	Matt. 26:67; 27:28-56, Mk. 15:16-23, Lk. 23:26-32, Jn. 19:16-17
53:7	Matt. 26:62-63, Mk. 15:3-5, Lk. 23:9, Jn. 19:9
53:8-9	Matt. 27:57-66, Mk. 15:42-47, Lk. 23:50-56; Jn. 19:38-42
Psalms 22:1	Matt. 27:46, Mk. 15:34
22:6	Matt. 27:37-44
22:7	Matt. 27:39, Mk. 15:29
22:16	Matt. 27:35, Jn. 20:25
22:18	Matt. 27:35, Lk. 23:34, Jn. 19:24

Jesus predicted the Judgment of Calvary (which is His death, burial, and resurrection) nine times during His earthly ministry.

them to produce fruit. Fire is also mentioned in John 15:6, but remember this is a branch *in* the vine. His works are burned up but he does not lose his salvation, for he has eternal life (Jn. 10:27-30).

THE FOURTH JUDGMENT

IV. THE JUDGMENT OF ISRAEL

The fourth judgment, the Judgment of Israel, is directed towards the nation of Israel and is found in Matthew 24:1-25:30. The timing of this judgment begins after the rapture of the church and the beginning of the 7 years of tribulation. The 7 years of tribulation are designed primarily as a purging of Israel and Gentile nations because of their unbelief. Daniel 9:24, 27 teaches that the judgment on Israel consists of 70 weeks of years or 490 years and the last week, the 70th week, is the 7 years of the tribulation for the nation of Israel. *"Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.... And he [the Prince or Anti-Christ] shall confirm the covenant with many for one week [7 years]: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease [the abomination of desolation], and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolator"* (Dan. 9:24, 27). The prophet Jeremiah calls this time of judgment *"The time of Jacob's trouble"* (Jer. 30:7). These 7 years of trouble or judgment are designed to purge out unbelief from His people (Ezek. 20:36-38).

The Lord warns that when He returns to earth *"who may abide the day of His coming? and who shall stand when He appeareth? for He is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap"* (Mal. 3:2). His judgment will begin with the sons of Levi, the priests and the temple workers. But according to Malachi 3:16-17 the Lord has in His book of remembrance those who fear Him, and those will be His jewels.

themselves won to Christ (I Thess. 2:19-20), at other times it may be an actual gold crown (Rev. 4:4, 9-11).

Let us remember what II Corinthians 5:10 says; that every believer *“must...appear before the judgment seat [Bema Seat] of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good [profitable] or bad [worthless].”* There are also several passages concerning the judgment of believer’s works. In I Corinthians 3:10-15 the Lord teaches us that a believer must be careful how he builds his service upon the foundation of the church. Peter said the foundational truth that the church would be built upon was, *“Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God”* (Matt. 16:16). Christ is the foundation of the church. Some believers works are like gold, silver, precious stone, or wood, hay and stubble (I Cor. 3:12). The Lord at His judgment seat will test our works and they will *“be made manifest”* (appear or made public) for they will *“be revealed [or exposed] by fire”* (I Cor. 3:13). I Corinthians 3:14-15 says, *“If any man’s work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.”* (Their works of gold, silver, and precious stone will not be burned up.) *“If any man’s work shall be burned [like wood, hay, and stubble], he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.”* (All their works or services will be burned up, like wood, hay, stubble, with nothing left.) Their souls are saved but none of their works or services can be rewarded. They did works, but due to their wrong motives or sin in their life, their works will not remain.

Let us look at another portion of Scripture to see this truth. John 15:2 states, *“Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away.”* Notice this is a branch (believer) and he is in the vine (Christ) so he is saved, but he has no fruit. A believer can be without fruit, but the Lord takes them away. To *take away* could mean to *take their physical life or health*, or the word *take away* could be translated to *lift up, to encourage, to raise or lift up the hands, so to produce fruit*. The tense of the verb in this verse supports the view that Christ will lift up to encourage. The verbs *bearth* and *taketh away* are in the present tense, that means that Christ will continually lift up the believer who is continually not bearing fruit and enable and encourage

1. Jn. 2:19
2. Matt. 12:38-40
3. Matt. 16:21
4. Matt. 17:9
5. Matt. 17:22
6. Jn. 10:17-18
7. Matt. 20:17-19
8. Jn. 16:16-20
9. Matt. 26:31-32

Jesus even prays concerning the Judgment of Calvary with sweat as great drops of blood in Luke 22:44. Then comes the actual Judgment of Calvary (Matt. 26:47-56, Mk. 14:43-50, Lk. 22:47-53, Jn. 18:3-11) where Jesus is betrayed by Judas and arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane.

Then Jesus endures three Jewish trials and three Roman trials.

- 3 Jewish Trials -
- 1) Jn. 18:12-14 —before Annas
 - 2) Matt. 26:57-68 —before Caiaphas
 - 3) Lk. 22:66-71—before the Sanhedrine

- 3 Roman Trials -
- 1) Matt. 27:2,11-14, Mk. 15:1-5, Lk. 23:1-5, Jn. 18:28-38 —before Pilate
 - 2) Lk. 23:7-12—before Herod
 - 3) Lk. 23:13-25, Jn. 19: 1-16—before Pilate

The scene then moves on to the actual suffering of Christ during His week of passion. The word *passion* is only translated one time this way from the word *pascho*. The other 40 times it is translated *suffer or suffering*. This week of passion began with His triumphant entry into Jerusalem and ended with Christ’s death and burial. This week changed the entire course of World History and was the apex of every event ever to occur upon this earth.

Listed below are the 22 different occasions where Christ suffered at the hands of the Jews and the Roman civil government during His Passion Week or week of suffering.

1. *“They... laid hold on Jesus [and] led Him away to Caiaphas”* (Matt. 26:57).
2. *“One of the officers... struck Jesus with the palm of his*

- hand" (Jn. 18:22).
3. "Annas... sent [Jesus] bound unto Caiaphas" (Jn.18:24).
 4. "Chief priests, and elders, and all the council, sought false witnesses against Jesus" (Matt. 26:59).
 5. "They spat in His face and buffeted Him" (Matt. 26:67a) and "plucked [out] His hair" (Isa. 50:6).
 6. "They smote Him with the palms of their hand" (Matt. 26:67b).
 7. They mocked Him saying, "Who... smote Thee" (Matt.26:68).
 8. They "bound Him... [and] led Him... to Pilate" (Matt. 27:2).
 9. "They began to accuse Him, saying... [He perverted] the nation" (Lk. 23:2).
 10. They "mocked Him, and arrayed Him in a gorgeous robe" (Lk. 23:11).
 11. They called for Christ's crucifixion (Jn. 19:6).
 12. "Pilate... took Jesus, and scourged Him" (Jn. 19:1)
 13. "Soldiers platted a crown of thorns, and put it on His head" (Jn. 19:2a).
 14. They put a purple robe on Christ having stripped Him (Matt. 27:28, Jn. 19:2b).
 15. They "mocked Him saying, 'Hail, King of the Jews,'" and spat on Him (Matt. 27:29-30).
 16. They "took a reed and smote Him on the head" (Matt. 27:30).
 17. After they mocked Him they took off His robe (Matt. 27:31).
 18. Jesus was compelled to carry His cross (about 300 lbs.) (Jn. 19:17).
 19. They crucified Jesus nailing His hands and feet on to the cross (Matt. 27:35).
 20. They took off His garments and cast lots for them, leaving Him naked (Matt. 27:35b).
 21. "They that passed by reviled Him wagging their heads" (Matt. 27:39).
 22. The religious leaders mocked Him saying, "He saved others: Himself He cannot save" (Matt. 27:41,42).

service for Christ (II Cor. 11:24-28). Paul said, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith" (II Tim. 4:7). All those who love Christ's appearing will receive this crown.

2. The Crown of Life

The crown of life is mentioned in James 1:12 and Revelation 2:10 and is bestowed upon believers who endure temptation. This word *endure* is in the present tense and means *to continually bear up courageously under tests and suffering*. The believer who endures will receive the crown of life, because they have come to fully trust their heavenly Father's wisdom in all things (Pro. 3:5-6).

3. The Crown of Glory

This crown is mentioned in I Peter 5:4 and is given to faithful elders (pastors) who faithfully feed God's flock, and gives them the proper oversight. This is not done for mere gain of money or position but to please the Chief Shepherd, and to benefit the sheep (I Pt. 5:2-3). To be like Christ, the Chief Shepherd, the pastor needs to give his life for the sheep (Jn. 10:11-12).

4. The Crown of Rejoicing

This crown is mentioned in I Thessalonians 2:19-20, and is given to faithful soul winners when they see those they helped come to Christ stand before Him (I Pt. 3:15). The most sobering reality is that the souls of mankind are lost and going to an eternal Hell. These are the statistics: 90 people die every minute; 5,400 people die every hour; 130,000 people die every day; and 47,000,000 people die every year. May this motivate us to tell the old, old story of Jesus and His love (Pro. 11:30).

5. The Crown of Incorruption

This crown is mentioned in I Corinthians 9:25-27 and is given to believers who strive (agonize) for the mastery of self-denial and run with certainty. This takes much self-control and denial (Matt. 16:24, 25; Jn. 12:24, 25). This is the death of self.

The crowns that we will receive will sometimes be the people

Cor. 5:10). The key passage is II Corinthians 5:1-10. This judgment will not take place until after the rapture of the church, when all the dead and living in Christ are caught up (or raptured) into Heaven.

The believers hope, concerning the Judgment Seat of Christ, is to receive *“a building of God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens”* (II Cor. 5:1-5). This is speaking of the new resurrected body; a body made by God that is eternal. Our body is mortal, or of the earth, and can die, but the body promised to us is immortal, or heavenly, and cannot die (II Cor. 5:1-2). This new body will not be received while we are at home or living in this present body. But when we die we will be absent from this earthly (mortal) body and present with the LORD (II Cor. 5:8). This new body will be received at the rapture of the Church (I Cor. 15:52). But while believers wait for this new body, according to II Corinthians 5:9, *“we labor [or are ambitious in our service for Christ], that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted [or well pleasing] of Him [the Lord].”*

Then we come to the main verse II Corinthians 5:10, *“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.”* The reason why Paul is very ambitious in his service for Christ, is that he will stand before the Judgment Seat of Christ. This judgment will sift through all the service we have rendered for the Lord to see whether it is good (profitable) or bad (worthless, evil).

The Scripture speaks of five different crowns in the Judgment Seat of Christ. These crowns will be given to faithful believers, but the Lord is not limited by these five.

1. The Crown of Righteousness

This crown is mentioned in II Timothy 4:8 and is given to all believers who love (agape) Christ's appearing. This love is a self-sacrificing love which is focused on benefiting the one loved. If you love His appearing you will be busy doing His will and awaiting for the time when you will first view your Savior's face. This truth is seen in Paul's sacrificial ministry in his

The end of the Judgment of Calvary is when sin's penalty was paid in full. All who believe in Christ's death, burial and resurrection alone will be saved.

The sayings of Christ on the cross are as follows:

1. *“Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.”* (Lk. 23:34)
2. *“Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with me in paradise.”* (Lk. 23:43)
3. *“Woman, behold Thy Son!”* (Jn. 19:26)
4. *“Behold thy mother!”* (Jn. 19:27)
4. *“My God, my God why hast Thou forsaken Me?”* (Matt. 27:46; Mk. 15:34)
5. *“I thirst.”* (Jn. 19:28)
6. *“It is finished.”* (Jn. 19:30)
7. *“Father, into Thy hands I commend My Spirit.”* (Lk. 23:46)

The offering of Christ to bear the sins of mankind paid the penalty required by God. Sins debt was paid in full, therefore finished. Man's redemption was provided for and God's wrath was satisfied or propitiated (Rom. 3:24-25). This suffering of Christ was offered only once (Heb. 9:28; 10:10,14). He does not continue to suffer. Praise God for the finished work of Jesus Christ on my behalf and on all who believe. Have you my friend believed on the blessed Son of God alone for your salvation? If not, do so today or you will suffer in Hell forever.

THE SECOND JUDGMENT

II. THE JUDGMENT OF ONE'S OWN SELF

The Epistle of I Corinthians was written by the Apostle Paul to a church that was not lead by the Holy Spirit but was led by their flesh or sinful desires. In I Corinthians 3:1-3 we find *“And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal [fleshly], even as unto babes in Christ. I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able. For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?”* The Apostle Paul said in

the book of Romans 8:6-8, *“For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity [hostile] against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.”*

When a person is led or directed by his or her own sinful, selfish feelings or desires, he is carnal or fleshly. Fleshly is a physical and emotional self-centered orientation; this mindset cannot possibly please God, because the flesh is our fallen sinful nature. Later in verse 14 of chapter 8 of Romans the Bible states, *“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.”* If a person is led on a regular basis by God’s Spirit and the divine nature given by God, he can be assured that he is a son of God, having believed on the name of the Lord Jesus. But, if a person is led on a regular basis by the flesh or his fallen sinful nature, he can be assured that he is not a son of God (as stated in Romans 8:14).

There is another way we can tell if we are God’s sons, and that is found in Hebrews 12:6-8. Verse 6 states, *“For whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom He receiveth.”* If we receive from God chastisement or correction for our sin, then this is also another indication of belonging to Christ.

A person who professes that he is a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ is commanded in II Corinthians 13:5 to examine and prove himself, so that he will not be tricked by his own sinful heart that can only deceive him (Jer. 17:9). To examine one’s self means to search, judge, or try yourself to see if you really are in the faith trusting only Christ, and not controlled by sin. Give yourself the test, prove yourself. Ask yourself, *“Is my life characterized by being led by God’s spirit on a regular basis? Am I controlled by sin?”* You will know that you are led by God’s Spirit when you are making decisions and choices that have God’s glory in view and that are based on God’s Word (I Cor. 10:31). Is Christ’s likeness seen in you? If so, you are led by God’s Spirit. Remember, God never leads us contrary to His written Word. If you are not being led by God’s Spirit and His Word, but by your own sinful nature, you will see that, first

of all, your life will be characterized by self-centered desires and you may have some or most of the sins of the flesh listed in Galatians 5:19-21. Now a Christian or son of God can be self-centered at times, since all believers still have a sinful nature or a capacity to sin. But they should be growing out of that self-centered life; it should not characterize them. II Corinthians 13:5 commands us to examine or judge ourselves. If we fail the test we could be reprobates or unapproved; having therefore failed the test, we will be rejected by God as not being genuine sons of God.

I Corinthians 11:28 is another verse that commands us to examine ourselves. It has to do with our fellowship with God and any un-confessed sin when we observe the Lord’s table or at any other time. This word *examine* is a different word than we see in II Corinthians 13:5, and has the meaning of *to prove or put to the test, a searching*, as we find in Psalm 139:23-24. This testing is to prepare us to partake of the Lord’s Table in a worthy manner. A manner that is first pleasing and honoring to God and that is worthy of His holy name because of His great sacrifice on our behalf.

Let us follow the commands of Scripture and properly examine ourselves so that we do not deceive ourselves by a false profession of faith or by the mere following of some rules made by man. *“Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?”* (II Cor. 13:5).

THE THIRD JUDGMENT

III. THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST

The Judgment Seat of Christ is a judgment for believers only. The Judgment Seat is the Bema seat. In Roman times this referred to a raised platform reached by steps in order to make public announcements and to present athletic awards. This judgment is different from all other judgments, because it does not bring condemnation or punishment, but rewards to some believers, or no rewards to others. The phrase the *“judgment seat of Christ”* is found two times in the Bible (Rom. 14:10, II