

Do we have anything to worry about in the judgment? Absolutely not—rest in the fact that Jesus will leave no stone unturned in His effort to place you in the kingdom of heaven. He’s invested too much in you to give up without a fight! He longs to represent you – what is your answer to Him?

THE VOICE OF PROPHECY SPEAKS

WHAT BIBLE PROPHECYSAYS ABOUT YOUR FUTURE

LESSON 6

Facing the Judgment with Confidence

Many people have lived their lives in terror of the judgment. The thought of the judgment kept Martin Luther awake at night – before he caught on to the fact that if we are covered by Jesus’ sacrifice at the cross, we have nothing to worry about.

In **Daniel 7:9,10**, the next major prophetic event after the 1,260 years of the little horn’s supremacy (which, remember, ended in 1798) turns out to be the beginning of the judgment hour. Since at the judgment Jesus is given His kingdom (**Daniel 7:13,14**), the judgment must begin some time prior to the Second Coming. (This only makes sense, since Jesus declares in **Revelation 22:12** that when He comes, He will bring our rewards with Him). A third reference to the judgment is also found in **Daniel 7:26,27**.

2 Corinthians 5:10 and **Romans 14:10** reveal the universal application of the judgment. None of us will escape it! Your name is guaranteed to come up. We might think, like the person described in **Psalms 10:11** that God hasn’t been paying attention to the way we live our lives, but Jesus makes it plain in **Luke 12:2** that the books of judgment won’t miss a thing. **Ecclesiastes 12:14** tells us that *every* work will be considered. Not only will our actions be weighed by heaven’s court, but according to **Matthew 12:36,37**, so will our *words*.

In other words, we’re in big trouble, unless we’ve got a good lawyer. Fortunately, **1 John 2:1** tells us that we have an “advocate” (or lawyer) in Jesus Christ the righteous. His greatest desire is that your name be cleared in the judgment! If you have confessed your sin to Him, and asked for forgiveness, He stands up for you. “He that overcometh,” says Jesus, “the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out

his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.” (**Revelation 3:5**) What an incredible promise, when you consider the consequences of *not* having Jesus as your representative! (see **Revelation 20:15**)

With Jesus as your judge (see **John 5:22**) *and* your defense attorney, how could you possibly go wrong?

God has a specific time in mind for the beginning of the judgment. **Acts 17:31** tells us that “He hath appointed a day” for it. The time has *already been set*. It’s marked on God’s calendar. We know it will begin some time after the reign of the little horn power and some time before Jesus returns. **Revelation 14:6,7** even reveals that there is enough time after the judgment starts to warn the world that it is under way!

Each case in the judgment will be considered out of books of records. Two of these books are named in the Bible: the Book of Life (see **Revelation 3:5**, for example), and the Book of Remembrance (see **Malachi 3:16**).

This raises an important question. Why does God need books at all? Isn’t He all-knowing and all-seeing? Does God have a bad memory?

Not at all. **Daniel 7:10** reveals that there are millions in attendance at the judgment besides God the Father and God the Son. **Revelation 5:11** identifies these beings around God’s throne as angelic beings.

Why would angels be involved? Because the issue of sin has affected more than our planet. Sin did not start here; it started in heaven. **Revelation 12:7-9** tells the tragic story of the rebellion against God that Satan instigated in the courts of heaven. The fallen angels were deported from heaven, and they came here!

Since Adam and Eve sinned, God has been promising to save us through the Messiah. This plan of salvation is of great interest to the angels (see, for example, allusions to the angels’ interest in **1 Peter 1:12** and **1 Corinthians 4:9**). This sinful planet has become the theater of the universe, where the war between good and evil, between Christ and Satan is being waged on a daily basis. One conceivable question angels might ask is this: “Is it really safe to bring sinners into heaven after we had to

kick Lucifer out?” You can almost hear Lucifer, the “accuser of the brethren” raising the point!

The books are open in the judgment, not for God’s sake, but for the universe’s sake. God has decided to handle the sin problem in a very open way. He’s afraid of nothing. If anybody has any questions about *you*, for example, He can open the book to your page and say, “There’s nothing to worry about. I died for this person, and she accepted me as her personal Saviour. He’s OK, because he’s covered by My blood. I’ve changed him. She’s not a risk, because she loves Me.”

And the angels will be able to see for themselves that you pose no risk to the security and peace of heaven.

There’s something else for you to think about. If God is open enough to let His creation examine the books, perhaps there’s someone on trial in the judgment besides you! Is it possible that the judgment is as much about whether or not God is everything He’s ever claimed to be (perfect love, justice and mercy) as it is about your eligibility for heaven? The character of God is also on trial.

What kind of a God opens Himself up for questions? One that has nothing to hide! He knows that the devil has been lying from the beginning, and the books will confirm it.

How could anybody say “no” to a God as open and loving as that?

The beautiful thing about heaven’s judgment is that God is trying to save as many people as He possibly can. The world often gets this wrong. Satan would love for us to think that the judgment is God’s effort to keep as many people out of heaven as possible. Nothing could be further from the truth:

“The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.” **2 Peter 3:9**