

Judgement of God



Judgement Seat of Christ

On Judgement Day, there is only one Question Jesus will Ask you...

Do I know you?

Unbelievers Who Reject Jesus as God

- **‘Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.’** Matthew 25:11
- **‘I never knew you; depart from Me,’** Matthew 7:23

Believers Who are Faithful/Loyal

- **‘Well done, good and faithful servant;** you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’
- Matthew 25:23

Judgement – Heaven or Hell

The most serious truth in the Bible:

Jesus loves you and died for you (John 3:16). If you don't ask Jesus to come into your heart and be your saviour (John 1:12), you will die in your sins (John 8:24) and be judged to go straight to hell (Rev. 20:11-15).

- Pilate, the Roman governor who decided to crucify Jesus asked the question **we must all ask**: “What am I to do with this Jesus Christ?”
- Everyone in the world will make a decision how they answer this question – those who accept Jesus as Lord and say “Lord, thy will be done” and those who reject Christ and say “No, my will be done”.
- **Will Jesus be able to say He knows you when you kneel before Him after you take your last breath?**
- **You will either go to Heaven or Hell depending on your answer!**

Humanity's Greatest need is to be Judged Righteous to avoid Hell

- God is a God of both Love and Justice, and justice is the attribute that condemns a man.
- If we break the law, we are “**condemned**” and must pay the penalty.
- If we pay the penalty of the legal charge or are acquitted or pardoned in court, we are **justified** or declared righteous and just.
- God declares that we are condemned as sinners, and since His justice requires the **penalty of death for sin (hell)**, we need to be forgiven, or to have the penalty of our crimes paid for by a substitute (grace an undeserved gift).
- **So, how can we ensure that when we die, we are judged “right” with God in order to avoid the punishment ? This is the big question. (Job 9:2)**
- The Bible says **there will be a judgement** (Rev. 20: 11-15) and **Jesus Christ is the judge** (John 5:16-30; Rev. 7:17). Only those whose names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life (Rev. 21:27) will avoid hell. (the lake of fire).
- How can a sinner be justified (“declared righteous”) before a holy and righteous God and avoid his wrath?

The Righteousness of God

- **Romans 3:21-28**
- “²¹ **But now** (because of Jesus’ sacrifice on the Cross) **the righteousness of God** has been manifested **...through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe.**
- **For there is no distinction: ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,**
- ²⁴ **and are justified by his grace as a gift,** through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus...²⁸ **For we hold that one is justified by faith** apart from works...”

Righteousness Analogy

The arbitrary requirement made by a city Police Force is that all new officers must be at least 7 Feet Tall to be accepted as Police officers.

7 Feet Tall = Righteous Requirement of Law = Glory of God

Don't measure yourself by judging others (works)



Jesus Christ Fulfills the Righteous Requirement
(Rom. 3:21-22; Matt. 3:15; Matt. 5:17)

“For there is no difference (drug addict, morally nice person, self-righteous person) for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.” (Romans 3:23; 6:23)

No one will ever measure up to the acceptable standard to become a police officer on the Calgary Police Force (Rom 3:10). Nothing we do on our own can make us tall enough. **The Righteousness of God (Salvation) is found only through faith in Christ.**

Isaiah 53:6 – Man’s Ruin & God’s Remedy

All we like sheep have gone astray, we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Sheep is the one animal that can never find it’s way home (stupid animal). We are all lost sheep without a shepherd.

Ps. 23; Mark 6:34; John 10:14

God searches for us, we do not search for God. The Holy Spirit must convict us of sin.

Rev. 3:20

We need to make a choice, either we TURN our way, or turn to God (REPENT & BELIEVE – **Mark 1:15; John 1:12**).

Sin results in eternal spiritual **Death**.

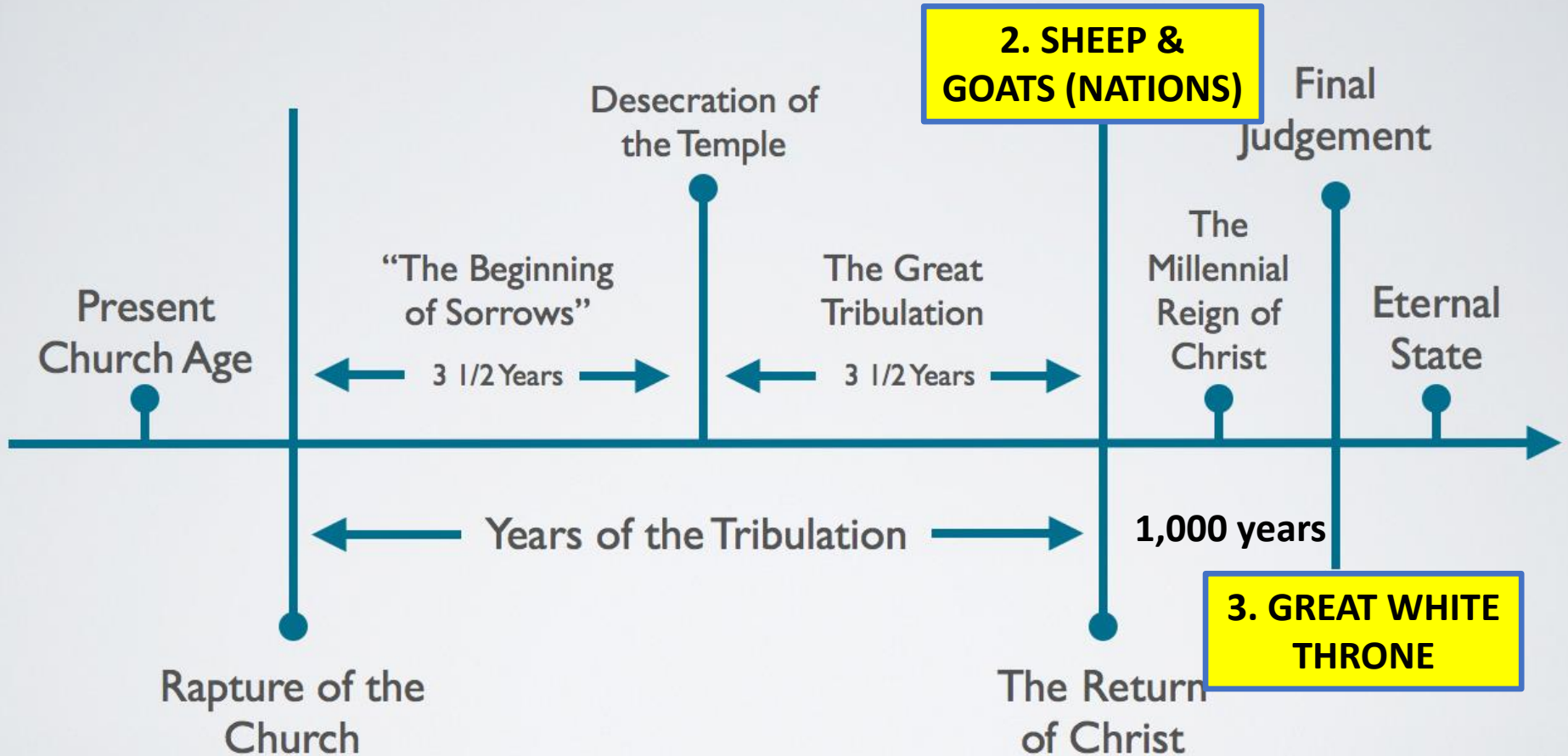


God laid our sin on Jesus Christ. We must make a decision to accept this Salvation - **John 1:12**.

Jesus’ Sacrifice satisfied God. We are forgiven & given eternal **LIFE**.

THREE JUDGEMENTS AT THE END OF THE AGE

Timeline of the End Times



There will be Judgement After Death

- This is one of the most important truths in the Bible and is foundational to the understanding why Jesus Christ died on the Cross. **If you deny this truth and think you will be reincarnated or go to heaven without accepting Jesus as Lord, you are denying the Truth of God and believing a lie from Satan (Gen. 3:4).**
- There are different types of judgement, but **anyone who denies Jesus Christ will be judged guilty (Condemned)** to eternal separation from God (the penalty of sin is eternal death in hell). The Bible is crystal clear on this.
- **If we accept Jesus and His offer of Salvation, we are judged Righteous (Justified)**
- The purpose of the Gospel and Salvation is to avoid the judgement of sin by God, resulting in hell. We need forgiveness of sin, and that can only be obtained by believing that Jesus is the one true God who sacrificed His life on the Cross and rose again, defeating death. If you stubbornly refuse to believe this truth, this means you are unrepentant, & you will be judged guilty by God. (Rom. 3:21-26)

Judgement Verses

Hebrews 9:27

²⁷ **And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment,**

John 5:22

²² For the Father judges no one, but **has committed all judgment to the Son,**

John 9:39

³⁹ And Jesus said, “**For judgment I came into this world,** so that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may become blind

John 3:19 ¹⁹ **This is the judgment,** that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil.

Judgement Verses

2 Peter 3:7

⁷ But the **heavens and the earth** *which* are now preserved by the same word, **are reserved for fire until the day of judgment** and perdition of ungodly men.

Matthew 12:36

³⁶ But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in **the day of judgment**.

Ecclesiastes 12:14 ¹⁴ **For God will bring every work into judgment**, Including every secret thing, Whether good or evil.

Romans 5:16

¹⁶ The gift is not like *that which came* through the one who sinned; for on the one hand the **judgment arose from one transgression** resulting in **condemnation**, but on the other hand the free gift *arose* from many transgressions resulting in **justification**.

Judgement Verses

Romans 2:5

⁵ But **because of your stubborn and unrepentant heart** you are **storing up wrath for yourself** on the day of wrath, **when God's righteous judgment will be revealed.**

(not only will people who refuse to believe and repent be judged to hell, but there will be different degrees of punishment in hell)

The 5 Judgements of Mankind

- 1. Judgement of Believers Sins** – on day of salvation for believers
- 2. Self-Judgement** – a believers regular confession of sins
- 3. The Judgement Seat of Christ** (the Bema)
- 4. The Judgement of Nations**
- 5. The Great White Throne Judgement**

1. Judgement of Believer's Sins

- This judgement is past.
- It took place when the sins of all believers were judged by Christ on the Cross at Calvary.
- Jesus bore our sins in His own body on the tree, and because God's justice was satisfied we will never be brought into judgement for our sins!!

John 5:24

- ²⁴ “Most assuredly, I say to you, **he who** hears My word and **believes in Him** who sent Me has everlasting life, and **shall not come into judgment**, but has passed from death into life.

2. Self-Judgement

- **1 Corinthians 11:31** ³¹ For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged.

- **3 Step Daily Process of Believers**

- 1. Identify Sin you are Harboring**

Psalm 139:23-24 - ²³ Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: ²⁴ And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting. – Psalm 51

- 2. Confess it and ask for forgiveness**

1 John 1:9 ⁹ If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

- 3. Repent of your Sins** - Ask the Holy Spirit to fill you and give you strength to overcome your temptations and sin.

3. Judgement of the Nations

- This is a future judgement that will happen when Christ returns to earth.
- It concerns the living nations, not the dead, and they are judged based on their treatment of God's people.
- **Matthew 24:31-46**
- ³¹ **“When the Son of Man comes in His glory**, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. ³² **All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides *his* sheep from the goats....**
- ³⁴ Then the King will say to those on His right hand, ‘Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: ...⁴¹ “Then He will also say to those on the left hand, ‘Depart from Me, you cursed, ⁴⁵ Then He will answer them, saying, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, **inasmuch as you did not do *it* to one of the least of these, you did not do *it* to Me.’ ⁴⁶ **And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”****

4. The Great White Throne

- **The final judgement for unbelievers** – Christians will not be here.
- All who have died in history will be raised at the end of the 1,000 reign of Christ and appear before Jesus to be receive their sentence of condemnation in hell – This is the **SECOND DEATH**.

- **Revelation 20:11-15**

- ¹¹ Then I saw a **great white throne** and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. ¹² 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*... ¹³ 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.** ¹⁴ Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. **This is the second death.** ¹⁵ **And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.**

5. Judgement Seat of Christ

Romans 14:10

10 ...For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. ¹² ...

¹² So then each of us shall give account of himself to God.

- **This is a Judgement of Believers Only, for rewards (unbelievers are judged unrighteous).**
- Resurrected believers will be judged for their works at the time of Christ's Second Coming or the beginning of the millennium .

Judgement Seat means “Bema”

- Bema Seat comes from the ancient Olympics, where a judge would sit on the Bema Seat at the finish line. The judge's purpose was to determine what position the runners came in-first, second, and so on-and then to give out the appropriate rewards.
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- The word bema is used 12 times in the New Testament.
 - John 19:13 – **Pilate sat in the Bema seat to judge Jesus**
 - Acts 18:12-17 – Paul was brought to the Bema seat
 - There have been ancient Bema seats discovered.

Ancient Bema Seats



This is the actual Sardis Bema Seat in a synagogue used to decide civil matters (as Jews didn't use courts) and to read the Torah.

Judgement Seat means “Bema”

- Everyone will one day meet with Jesus Christ and give an account of their life.
 - The Bible says that “every knee will bow and every tongue confess, that Jesus Christ Is Lord (Phil 2:10-11) ...and give an account of their life.” (Rom 14: 11-12)
 - There is an appointed, pre-destined time for you to die and meet Jesus Christ
 - Just being saved by putting your faith in Jesus is not enough.
 - **What you do in this life matters for all eternity!!**
 - We were saved for the purpose of serving God using our spiritual gifts.
 - We will receive a report card on our life, and be rewarded accordingly.
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2 Corinthians 5:8-10

⁸We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be **absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.**

⁹Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him. 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.

Necessity of Judgement

- No person is capable of judging another righteously – he is either biased or doesn't know all the facts. We cannot know the thoughts, intents and motives. Think of all the wrong verdicts of the past and miscarriages of justice.
 - We are not even capable of judging ourselves, yet most unbelievers think that somehow because they feel they are a “good person”, through their own judgement, that they are somehow deserving of heaven?
 - Only God knows the secrets of men and His judgement will be just.
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1 Corinthians 4:3-5

³ But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by a human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. **⁴ For I know of nothing against myself, yet I am not justified by this; but He who judges me is the Lord.** ⁵ Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels of the hearts. Then each one's praise will come from God.

Basis of Judgement – Works, not Faith

Matthew 16:27

²⁷ For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then **He will reward each according to his works.**

Revelation 22:12

¹² “And behold, I am coming quickly, and **My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work.**

Luke 14:14

¹⁴ And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you; **for you shall be repaid at the resurrection of the just.”**

Revelation 2:23

²³ ...all the churches shall know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts. And **I will give to each one of you according to your works.**

Doctrine of Rewards – Now or Later

Matthew 6:1

6 “...do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. **Otherwise you have no reward** from your Father in heaven.

Matthew 6:2

² Therefore, **when you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet** before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, **that they may have glory from men.** Assuredly, I say to you, **they have their reward.**

Matthew 6:5

⁵ “And **when you pray, you shall not** be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may **be seen by men.** Assuredly, I say to you, **they have their reward.**

YOU CAN HAVE YOUR REWARD NOW BY MEN OR LATER BY GOD

The Judgement Seat of Christ

- **1 Corinthians 3:8-15**

- ⁸ Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor.
- ⁹ For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, ***you are God's building***. ¹⁰ According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. **But let each one take heed how he builds on it.**
- ¹¹ **For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.**
- ¹² Now if anyone builds on this foundation ***with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw***, ¹³ ***each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is.*** ¹⁴ ***If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward.*** ¹⁵ ***If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.***

The Judgement Seat of Christ

- Sin is not in view at this judgment, as that was paid for by Christ, but only faithfulness in Christian service.
- Selfish works or those done with wrong motives will be burned up (“**wood, hay, and stubble**” of).
- Works of lasting value to the Lord will survive (“**gold, silver, and precious stones**”). “Fruit” as mentioned the in Parable of Sower, [John 15:1-11, 16](#).
- **Fire will be applied to test the works, and rewards given.** [Rom. 14:12-12](#)
- **Judgement is only for those on the “**foundation**” (Christians who are saved).**
- **Works before salvation are not recognized, no matter how good they were!**
- We are all building a structure on a foundation whether we realize it or not. The building depends entirely on the materials used – “**take heed**” **how you build it.**
- Salvation is assured, the foundation is not tried, only the building or the believer's works are judged. Both reward and loss are plainly taught – therefore it’s possible to be saved and still suffer loss.

Types of Fruit/Works/Materials - Progressive

- 1. Repentance** – genuine sorrow over sin, confession and turning from it – foundational fruit; **Matt 3:7-10; 2 Cor. 7:9-10; Romans 7:4; Matt 7:15-20**
- 2. Christian Character/Attitudes/Virtues** (Fruit of the Spirit – Gal. 5:22-23 – joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control... not behaviors but attitudes & virtues behind the behavior)
- 3. Conduct** (Fruit of Righteousness/Holiness/Obedience/Praise/Worship/Financial Contributions – **Rom. 6:21-22, 15:26; Heb 12:11, 13:15; Phil 1:11, 4:16-17; 1 Cor. 14:14**)
 - Righteous living
 - Worship of God
 - Financial Contributions to those in need & to the Church (tithes)
- 4. Converts** – Bringing people to Christ (**Rom. 1:13; Col 1:28-29; John 4:34-37; 1 Cor 16:15** – The Great Commission). The most wonderful fruit because it is the outcome of the other fruits and your testimony.
 - **Are you bearing fruit?** Pray about this and how you can be used by God.

A Summary of the Judgement

2 Corinthians 5:10

¹⁰ For we (**Christians**) must (**it is inevitable**) all (**it's universal**) appear (**a public display**) before the judgment seat of Christ (**Jesus who is judge**), that each one (**individual judgement**) may receive (**wages to be paid, exactly what is due & earned**) the things *done* (**works, not faith**) in the body (**thoughts, words and deeds**), according to what he has done (**impartial**), whether good (**reward**) or bad (**loss**).”

The Five Crowns (Rewards)

- Not everyone will have crowns - crowns are dependant on approved service – much church service work is not worthy of reward since it often produces no eternal value.
 - The Bible urges believers to race for the crown. (1 Cor. 9:23 - ²⁴ Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it.)
 - We are told how to run the race (Heb. 12:1-2) by laying aside sin and everything that hinders us. Run with patience, keeping our eyes on Jesus. We must RUN not just stumble along if we want to win the race.
1. **Crown of Life** – James 1:12; Rev. 2:10 – **those who resist temptation**
 2. **Incorruptible Crown** – 1 Cor. 9:23-25 – **the one who wins the race**
 3. **Crown of Rejoicing** – 1 Thess. 2:19 – **Soul-winners crown**
 4. **Crown of Glory** – 1 Peter 5:1-4 – **crown of the minister, shepherd**
 5. **Crown of Righteousness** – 2 Tim. 4:7-8 – **to one who is faithful to end**

Fight the Good Fight!

2 Timothy 4:7-8

7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

8 Finally, there is laid up for me the **crown of righteousness**, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QEgpcgO4Hvk> – Song – Fight the Good Fight
(play up to the 2 min. 35 second mark)