

The Judgment

Introduction:

The Bible speaks of three judgments, the investigating phase, the sentencing phase, and the executive phase. It's an important subject to know and understand given the many times judgment is mentioned in the Scriptures. This study does not cover all the phases in full, but just a few references.

Who is the judge?

Acts 17:31 Because He hath appointed a day, in the which He 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.

From the above verse, we observe that there are two beings. The first being is God the Father. The second being is called that Man. It refers to Christ as it states He was raised from the dead by the Father. The second thing we want to notice is that the Father will judge the world in righteousness by His Son. The third thing we want to notice is that there is a day in which Christ will judge the world.

What can we glean from the following verses? The Father has committed judgment to the Son, because He is the "Son of Man," a term used in the book of Daniel and quoted many times by Christ. Christ is the One found worthy to judge because He took on our flesh and can relate to us, giving us assurance of their purpose to save and not condemn us.

John 5:22 For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son:...
27) And hath given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man.

Christ repeats the fact in John 5:22 that was also stated in John 3:16, 17, and that He came to save and not to condemn.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. 17) For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved.

For God **SO** loved the world... The Father has the same will as the Son toward us.

John 5:30 I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.

The following verses seem to contradict the above observations that the Son is the judge. We know that the Scriptures do not contradict each other so we need to look deeper and find the truth. The truth is that the purpose of God is our salvation, and if we receive His words, we shall be saved. But if we reject His words, we are the "one" who judges and condemns ourself.

John 12:47 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. 48) 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.

We find the same truths spoken in the following verses. Those that reject the words of Christ, love evil and will not be separated from sin.

John 3:18 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. 19) And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

John 9:39 And Jesus said, For judgment I am come into this world, that they which see not might see; and that they which see might be made blind.

God desires love from a willing child, not from one who is forced to “love,” being no more than a robot. It is by our reception or our rejection of the light that we are justified or condemned. Thus, we ultimately judge ourselves.

Matthew 12:36 But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. 37) For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.

In the following verses we see that Christ will judge both the quick, referring to the living, and the dead at his appearing and His kingdom. We also observe that the reward for the righteous will be given “at that day,” referring to His coming.

2Timothy 4:1 I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom; ...8) Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love His appearing.

Again we discover in the following verse that there is a “time” for the judgment.

Ecclesiastes 3:17 I said in mine heart, God shall judge the righteous and the wicked: for there is a time there for every purpose and for every work.

Who are being judged?

We are being judged.

Ecclesiastes 12:13 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep His commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. 14) For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.

2Corinthians 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.

Romans 14:10 But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. 11) For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. 12) So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

Both the righteous and the wicked will be judged.

Ecclesiastes 3:17 I said in mine heart, God shall judge the righteous and the wicked: for there is a time there for every purpose and for every work.

Who are judged first, the righteous or the wicked?

Sin is not imputed when one is ignorant of sin.

Acts 17:30 And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:

Sin is imputed to those who know its wrong.

James 4:17 Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.

Therefore judgment begins for those who falsely claim to obey the gospel.

1 Peter 4:17 For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?

Both the living and the dead are judged.

What can we glean from the following verse? Both those that are alive and those who are dead are judged when Jesus comes back. But the common teaching is that you receive your reward, heaven or hell when you die. Let's pay attention to what the Scriptures teach and see if that is true or not.

2 Timothy 4:1 I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom;

By what standard are we judged?

James 2:12 So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty.

We are free to obey or disobey the word of God. If we choose to obey, we receive the blessings of God. If we choose to disobey, we receive the consequences of the curses that come.

Deuteronomy 11:27 A blessing, if ye obey the commandments of the LORD your God, which I command you this day:

Proverbs 26:2 As the bird by wandering, as the swallow by flying, so the curse causeless shall not come.

Deuteronomy 28:15 But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe to do all His commandments and His statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee:

James 1:22 But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. 23) For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: 24) For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. 25) But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.

All are judged by their works during the investigation of the books.

Revelation 20:12 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.

Ecclesiastes 12:13 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep His commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. 14) For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.

Revelation 22:12 And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.

When is the execution of judgment?

Christ referred to the future judgment of Sodom.

Matthew 11:23 And thou, Capernaum, which art exalted unto heaven, shalt be brought down to hell: for if the mighty works, which have been done in thee, had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. 24) But I say unto you, That it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for thee.

Paul referred to the future judgment.

Act 24:25 And as he [Paul] reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, Felix trembled, and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee.

Is there a specific day set for the execution of judgment?

We find several Scriptures revealing an appointed day in the future from the writers timeframe.

Acts 17:31 Because He hath appointed a day, in the which He 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.

Romans 2:5 But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God;

Romans 2:16 In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel.

2 Peter 2:3 And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.... 9) The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:

John gave us a clue when the investigative phase of the judgment of the dead would take place. He stated, "the hour of His judgment is come," which is followed by the mark of the beast crises in Revelation 14:9-11. This is when the investigation of the living takes place. He then speaks of the coming of Christ who gives His rewards to the righteous and to the wicked in Revelation 14:14-20. In order for Christ to come with His reward to give to every man according to his works, there must justly be an investigation, both of the dead and living before sentencing and executing the sentence at His coming.

Revelation 14:6 And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, 7) Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to Him; for the hour of His judgment is come: and worship Him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.

Revelation 14:9 And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, 10) The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of His indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: 11) And the smoke of their

torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.

Revelation 14:14 And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of Man, having on His head a golden crown, and in His hand a sharp sickle. 15) And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to Him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe. 16) And He that sat on the cloud thrust in His sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped. 17) And another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle. 18) And another angel came out from the altar, which had power over fire; and cried with a loud cry to Him that had the sharp sickle, saying, Thrust in thy sharp sickle, and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth; for her grapes are fully ripe. 19) And the angel thrust in His sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast it into the great winepress of the wrath of God. 20) And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs.

The execution of judgment is at Christ's coming.

Revelation 22:12 And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.

2 Timothy 4:1 I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom;...8) Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love His appearing.

1 Corinthians 4:5 Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God.

At death the verdict of the judgment is final.

The Bible does not speak of a second chance once one dies. Our eternal destiny is sealed at our death.

Hebrews 9:27 And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:

2 Peter 3:7 But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

What keeps us from being condemned in the judgment?

Revelation 2:2 I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil:... 5) Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.... 16) Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.

Acts 3:19 Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;

Who is the accuser (prosecuting attorney) of the professed saints?

Revelation 12:9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. 10) And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

Zechariah 3:1 And he shewed me Joshua the high priest standing before the Angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to resist him. 2) And the LORD said unto Satan, The LORD rebuke thee, O Satan; even the LORD that hath chosen Jerusalem rebuke thee: is not this a brand plucked out of the fire? 3) Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments, and stood before the Angel. 4) And He answered and spake unto those that stood before Him, saying, Take away the filthy garments from him. And unto him He said, Behold, I have caused thine iniquity to pass from thee, and I will clothe thee with change of raiment. 5) And I said, Let them set a fair mitre upon his head. So they set a fair mitre upon his head, and clothed him with garments. And the Angel of the LORD stood by.

Who is our advocate (defense attorney) in the judgment of the professed saints?

1 John 2:1 My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: 2) And He is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.

Hebrews 9:24 For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God [the Father] for us:

1 John 4:17 Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as He is, so are we in this world.

What is the reward of the righteous?

Matthew 5:12 Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

Revelation 22:14 Blessed are they that do His commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.

John 5:24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on Him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

John 10:27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: 28) And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Matthew 25:31 When the Son of Man shall come in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then shall He sit upon the throne of His glory: 32) And before Him shall be gathered all nations: and He shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: 33) And He shall set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. 34) Then shall the King say unto them on His right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

John 6:39 And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which He hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day. 40) And this is the will of Him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on Him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.

Hebrews 10:35 Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward. 36) For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.

When will the righteous receive their reward?

Isaiah 62:11 Behold, the LORD hath proclaimed unto the end of the world, Say ye to the daughter of Zion, Behold, thy salvation cometh; behold, and His reward is with Him, and His work before Him.

Matthew 16:27 For the Son of Man shall come in the glory of His Father with His angels; and then He shall reward every man according to his works.

It is after the mark of the beast crises when “the nations were angry” persecuting the saints, and the wrath of God during the seven last plagues are poured out on the wicked, that the saints receive their reward when Christ returns during the seventh plague delivering them from the wicked.

Revelation 11:18 And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth.

Daniel 12:1 And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great Prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.

Where is the evidence of the righteous works found?

The Bible speaks of different books recording the works of the righteous as well as the wicked. Are these books so God can remember how to judge, or are they for all His creatures so they can be convinced that His judgments are just and true. It is the latter of the two as we shall discover in this study.

Daniel 7:10 A fiery stream issued and came forth from before Him: thousand thousands ministered unto Him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened.

Psalm 139:16 Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them.

Psalm 56:8 Thou tellest my wanderings: put thou my tears into thy bottle: are they not in thy book?

Malachi 3:16 Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before Him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon His name. 17) And they shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him. 18) Then shall ye return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not.

What is the book of life?

Revelation 21:27 And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.

The righteous have had their sins blotted out of the books.

Acts 3:19 Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;

Isaiah 44:22 I have blotted out, as a thick cloud, thy transgressions, and, as a cloud, thy sins: return unto me; for I have redeemed thee.

The righteous will be found written in the book of life.

Revelation 3:5 He that overcometh, 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.

Philippians 4:3 And I intreat thee also, true yokefellow, help those women which laboured with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and with other my fellowlabourers, whose names are in the book of life.

Daniel 12:1 And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.

What is the reward of the wicked?

Matthew 13:41 The Son of Man shall send forth His angels, and they shall gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; 42) And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. 43) Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear. ... 49) So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked

from among the just, 50) And shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

Malachi 4:1 For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch. 2) But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in His wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall. 3) And ye shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, saith the LORD of hosts.

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Revelation 20:14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. 15) And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

When do the wicked receive their reward?

The wicked receive their reward when Christ returns. However, they are resurrected to be judged and receive their final eternal reward which is called "the second death." They will have the opportunity to be convinced of the righteous judgment of God.

Revelation 20:13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. 14) And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. 15) And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

Jude 14 And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of His saints, 15) To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him.

Where is the evidence of the works of the wicked found?

Revelation 20:12 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.

Jeremiah 17:13 O LORD, the hope of Israel, all that forsake thee shall be ashamed, and they that depart from me shall be written in the earth, because they have forsaken the LORD, the fountain of living waters.

Jeremiah 2:22 For though thou wash thee with nitre, and take thee much soap, yet thine iniquity is marked before me, saith the Lord GOD.

The wicked have not had their sins blotted out.

Nehemiah 4:5 And cover not their iniquity, and let not their sin be blotted out from before thee: for they have provoked thee to anger before the builders.

Psalms 109:14 Let the iniquity of his fathers be remembered with the LORD; and let not the sin of his mother be blotted out.

The wicked will be blotted out of the book of life.

Exodus 32:32 Yet now, if thou wilt forgive their sin--; and if not, blot me, I pray thee, out of thy book which thou hast written. 33) And the LORD said unto Moses, Whosoever hath sinned against me, him will I blot out of my book.

Deuteronomy 29:20 The LORD will not spare him, but then the anger of the LORD and his jealousy shall smoke against that man, and all the curses that are written in this book shall lie upon him, and the LORD shall blot out his name from under heaven.

Psalms 69:27 Add iniquity unto their iniquity: and let them not come into thy righteousness. 28) Let them be blotted out of the book of the living, and not be written with the righteous.

Revelation 13:8 And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him [the beast], whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

Revelation 17:8 The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.

Revelation 20:15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

The saints shall judge the wicked.

1 Corinthians 6:2 Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? and if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters?

Revelation 20:4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. ... 5b) This is the first resurrection. 6) Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.

It is during the thousand years when the righteous reign as priests and kings in Heaven that they judge the wicked dead. They are not judging the eternal destiny of the wicked, but are convinced through the books that God already judged righteously concerning the wicked.

Revelation 20:12 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.

Psalms 149:5 Let the saints be joyful in glory: let them sing aloud upon their beds. 6) Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, and a twoedged sword in their hand; 7) To execute vengeance upon the heathen, and punishments upon the people; 8) To bind their kings with

chains, and their nobles with fetters of iron; 9) To execute upon them the judgment written: this honour have all His saints. Praise ye the LORD.

Daniel 7:22 Until the Ancient of Days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom.

Matthew 19:28 And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of Man shall sit in the throne of His glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

Satan and his angels will be judged.

Christ taught that the judgment and casting down of Satan, “the prince of this world,” would happen at His crucifixion.

John 12:31 Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out.

John 16:8 And when He [the Holy Spirit] is come, He will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: 9) Of sin, because they believe not on me; 10) Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; 11) Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.

Hebrews 2:14 Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, He [Christ] also Himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;

When are Satan and his angels judged?

Jude 6 And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, He hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.

“The judgment of the great day” occurs after the thousand years, during the white throne judgment of the wicked. It is then that the wicked receive their final reward of eternal death.

Revelation 20:11 And 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. ... 13) And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. 14) And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. 15) And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

In the following verse, Satan is referred to as the “root,” while the wicked are referred to as the “branch.” Notice that they are burned up leaving “neither root nor branch.” This is consistent with all the other Scriptural references to the final end of Satan and the wicked?

Malachi 4:1 For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch.

Malachi continues to say that the wicked will be turned to ashes.

Malachi 4:3 And ye shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, saith the LORD of hosts.

I hope this is causing you to consider whether or not you have been deceived by Satan who suggested to Eve that she would “not surely die” (Genesis 3:4).

But what about the verses that suggest that Satan and the wicked are “tormented day and night for ever and ever?”

Revelation 20:10 And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

What does “for ever” mean? Do we define that term from our common understanding of it, or do we allow the Scriptures to define it? Strongs concordance describes the term for ever as “an age” as a “Messianic period.” That definition applied to “tormented day and night for ever and ever,” means an “age” or “period” of time which is consistent with the Scriptures that say “the wicked shall perish,” they shall burn up, “they shall be ashes,” “they shall consume,” “into smoke shall they consume away,” they shall be rooted “out of the land of the living,” and destroyed “for ever.”

Psalms 37:20 But the wicked shall perish, and the enemies of the LORD shall be as the fat of lambs: they shall consume; into smoke shall they consume away.

Psalms 68:2 As smoke is driven away, so drive them away: as wax melteth before the fire, so let the wicked perish at the presence of God.

Psalms 104:35 Let the sinners be consumed out of the earth, and let the wicked be no more. Bless thou the LORD, O my soul. Praise ye the LORD.

Psalms 52:5 God shall likewise destroy thee for ever, He shall take thee away, and pluck thee out of thy dwelling place, and root thee out of the land of the living. Selah.

What about the “everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels?” Let’s now look at the term, “everlasting,” and see how the Scriptures define it. Strongs defines it as “eternal,” “perpetual.”

Matthew 25:41 Then shall He say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

So let’s look at what Christ said regarding the wicked and the “everlasting punishment.”

Matthew 25:46 And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

Matthew contrasts “everlasting punishment” with “life eternal.” He does not teach eternal life in everlasting punishing.

Did you notice what was “everlasting?” Was it the **punishing** or was it the “**punishment**?” Is there a difference? Which one is consistent with all the Scriptures regarding the end of the wicked? The “punishment” and the “destruction” is everlasting, not the punishing or the destroying. Which one sounds consistent with “God is love?”

2 Thessalonians 1:9 Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of His power;

God is also being judged.

God is also being judged, not for what He has done, but of what He has been accused. Satan has successfully projected his own character traits to God accusing Him of being unjust and unmerciful, and many reject God saying, "I want nothing to do with your damning God." God is blamed for the curses instead of sin being responsible for them. How unjust is it that He who became a curse for us, is accused of causing the curses that sin brings?

Galatians 3:13 Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:

The following verse found in the everlasting gospel, the final call to repent of our sin, to live to glorify Him by keeping His commandments, states, "Fear God, and give glory to Him; for the hour of His judgment is come." It is true, we will be judged, but it is also true that God will be judged, not for what He's done or not done, but for His judgment of us. When He is tried and vindicated, many will know Him as He is and will worship Him. They will recognize Him as the Creator and Redeemer who has the power to work in us "His will and good pleasure" (Philippians 2:13).

Philippians 2:13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure.

It is Christ in us the hope of glory, who will find us in the book of life having had our sins blotted out.

Colossians 1:26 Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to His saints: 27) To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:

Jude 24 Now unto Him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy,

This is the final message given by His messengers, "having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people," preparing them for the final battle between God and Satan, the mark of the beast crises. Our reception to this message will determine our eternal destiny, "whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness" (Romans 6:16.)

Revelation 14:6 And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, 7) Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to Him; for the hour of His judgment is come: and worship Him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.

Paul reveals his burden that God might be vindicated as a righteous judge in the following verse that he quotes from Psalm 51:4.

Romans 3:4 God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged.

David also had this burden, that God would be justified in His judgment of us. David, after his sin with Bathsheba and her husband, Uriah, cries out to God for forgiveness and cleansing. David was very familiar with the sanctuary services given to Israel to practise. God gave these services hoping they would understand the gospel message pointing to the Saviour who was able not only to forgive sins but to cleanse them from all their sins. What is David's major reason for desiring that God would forgive and cleanse his sin? He states, "that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest."

Psalm 51:1 Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. 2) Wash me thoroughly from mine

iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. 3) For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me. 4) Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest.

Both David and Paul were motivated to "Fear God, and give glory to Him; for the hour of His judgment is come." Are we so motivated? Do we selfishly only desire to be saved, or have we become selfless like our Saviour, caring for His vindication which will bring salvation to those who have bought into Satan's lies about our God?

In the end we are assured that His judgments, having been revealed, will cause everyone to finally bow, confessing that His judgments were true and just. It will be seen that there was no more He could do to save everyone outside of forcing them against their will. There will be no more questioning regarding the accusations of Satan against God and how He rules His universe.

Revelation 15:2 And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God. 3) And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints. 4) Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest.

Because of the glorious law of liberty, not all will choose salvation and God, although grieved in His heart, He will give them over to their choice to reap that which they have sown (Galatians 6:7).

Romans 2:4 Or despisest thou the riches of His goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance? 5) But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God; 6) Who will render to every man according to his deeds:

Galatians 6:7 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. 8) For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.

God's righteous judgments will be judged and vindicated.

Isaiah 5:16 But the LORD of hosts shall be exalted in judgment, and God that is holy shall be sanctified in righteousness.

Revelation 15:4 Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest.

Revelation 16:5 And I heard the angel of the waters say, Thou art righteous, O Lord, which art, and wast, and shalt be, because thou hast judged thus.... 7) And I heard another out of the altar say, Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are thy judgments.

Revelation 19:2 For true and righteous are His judgments: for He hath judged the great whore, which did corrupt the earth with her fornication, and hath avenged the blood of His servants at her hand.... 11) And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and He that

sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He doth judge and make war.

Romans 2:1 Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things. 2) But we are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth against them which commit such things. 3) And thinkest thou this, O man, that judgest them which do such things, and doest the same, that thou shalt escape the judgment of God? 4) Or despisest thou the riches of His goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance? 5) But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God; 6) Who will render to every man according to his deeds:

Everyone in God's universe will finally be convinced of the righteous judgment of God.

When God's "judgments are made manifest," and His justice revealed, every knee shall bow and confess, "just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints." This unforced confession from all His creatures will finally "reconcile all things unto Himself; by Him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven" (Colossians 1:20). The wicked will not be converted but convinced. The beings in Heaven who were also deceived by Satan, will be convinced that God is love.

Isaiah 45:23 I have sworn by myself, the word is gone out of my mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, That unto me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear.

Romans 14:11 For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.

Philippians 2:10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; 11) And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Colossians 1:20 And, having made peace through the blood of His cross, by Him to reconcile all things unto Himself; by Him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.

Prepared by Cindy Robinson