

THE PRE-ADVENT JUDGMENT

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"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" (2 Corinthians 5:10)

The Bible states that we all will be judged. This week we studied several facets of the Judgment.



- 1. How will the Judgment take place?**
- 2. When will the Judgment begin?**
- 3. Why is a Judgment necessary?**
- 4. When will the Judgment end?**
- 5. The result of the Judgment.**

HOW WILL THE JUDGMENT TAKE PLACE?

God followed the same steps in all His judgments. Those steps are investigating, deciding and executing. That's why the first phase of the Judgment is called **INVESTIGATIVE JUDGMENT**.



Adam and Eve: Genesis 3:9-24.

- Investigation: He interrogated Adam and Eve (v. 9-13)
- Decision: He issued a verdict (v. 14-19)
- Execution: They were expelled from Eden (v. 23-24)



Cain: Genesis 4:9-16.

- Investigation: He interrogated Cain (v. 9-10)
- Decision: He issued a verdict (v. 11-12)
- Execution: Cain was expelled from his land (v. 16)



Babel: Genesis 11:4-9.

- Investigation: He came down to see what they were doing (v. 5-6)
- Decision: He decided to punish them by confusing their language (v. 7)
- Execution: He scattered them over the face of all the earth (v. 8)



Sodom: Gen. 18:16-19:28.

- Investigation: Two angels came to investigate (18:20-22)
- Decision: He issued the verdict (19:15)
- Execution: Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah and Zeboim were destroyed (19:24-25)

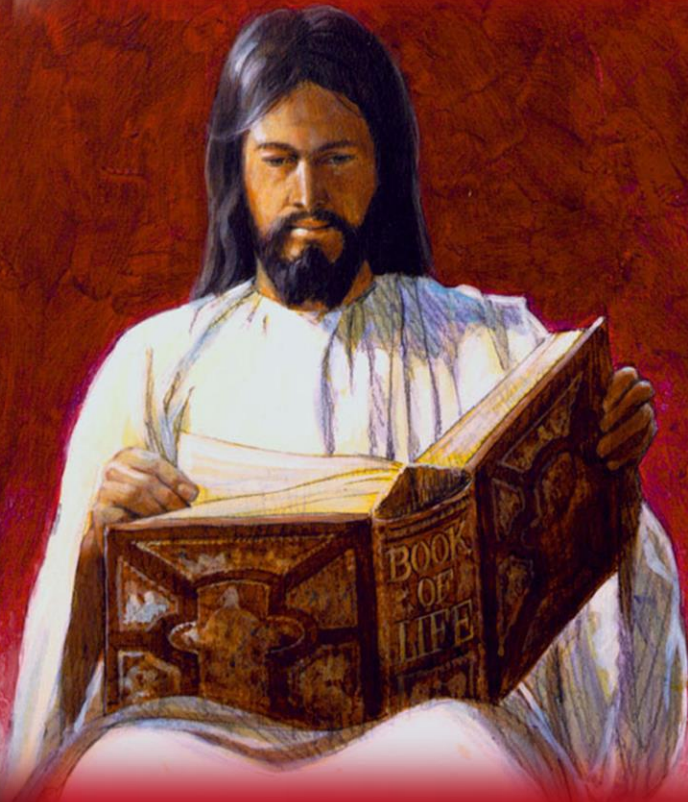
Investigation involves deliberation and fairness in the Judgment.

HOW WILL THE JUDGMENT TAKE PLACE?



"I watched till thrones were put in place, and the Ancient of Days was seated; His garment was white as snow, and the hair of His head was like pure wool. His throne was a fiery flame, its wheels a burning fire; a fiery stream issued and came forth from before Him. A thousand thousands ministered to Him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him. The court was seated, and the books were opened" (Daniel 7:9-10)

HOW WILL THE JUDGMENT TAKE PLACE?



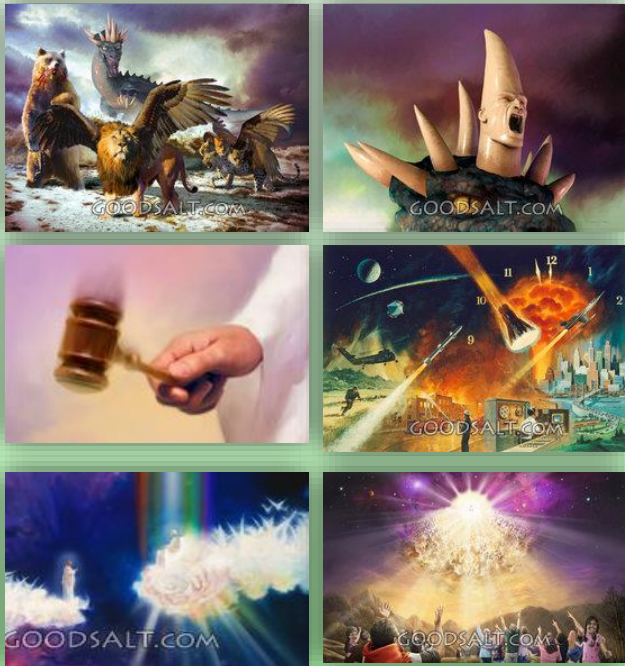
All the decisions in the Judgment are based on the content of the books that “were opened”. Those books are, among others:

1. *The book of life* which contains the name of those who accepted Christ (Ex. 32:31-33; Psalm 69:28; Phil. 4:3; Rev. 3:5)
2. *The book of deeds* which contains the record of everything we do (Rev. 20:12)
3. *The book of remembrance* which contains special individual and collective actions that the saints did (Psalm 56:8; Mal. 3:16)



WHEN WILL THE JUDGMENT BEGIN?

The vision in Daniel 7 shows the moment when the Investigative Judgment begins at Heaven.



1. Daniel 7:1-7. Four beasts come up. They represent four world empires, from Babylon to Rome.
2. Daniel 7:8, 21, 25. A little horn represents the continuation of the Roman Empire. It makes war against the saints for “a time and times and half a time”.
3. Daniel 7:9-10. The Investigative Judgment begins.
4. Daniel 7:11-12. Last events on Earth.
5. Daniel 7:13-14. Jesus receives the Kingdom from the Father.
6. Daniel 7:22, 26. The saints receive the Kingdom.

The Judgment begins before the Second Coming (3) when some events are still happening on Earth (4)
When the judgment ends, Jesus receives the Kingdom (5) and He comes to Earth to give that Kingdom to the saints (6; see Rev. 20:4)

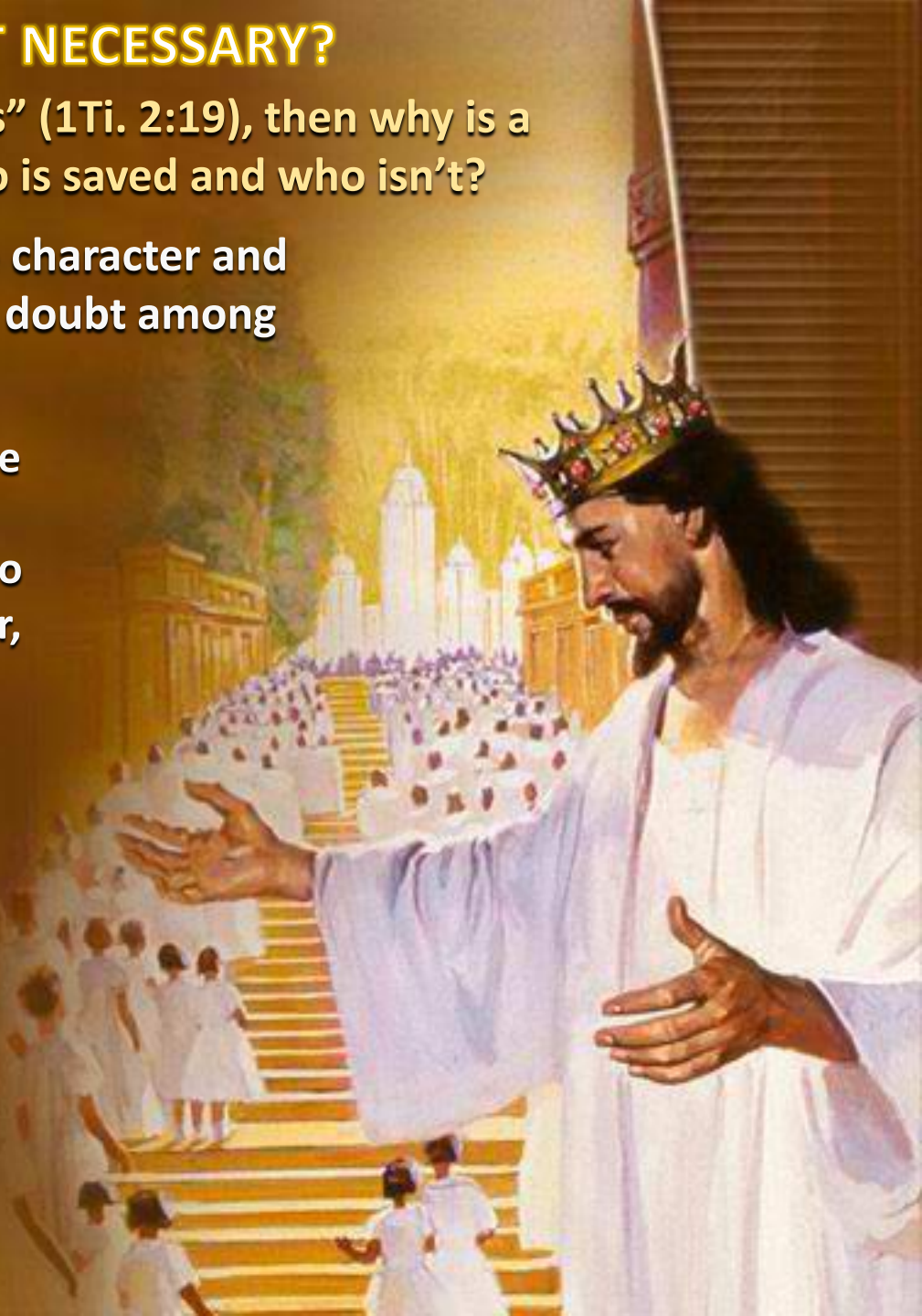
WHY IS A JUDGMENT NECESSARY?

If “the Lord knows those who are His” (1Ti. 2:19), then why is a judgment necessary to decide who is saved and who isn’t?

When Satan rebelled, he questioned the character and law of God. He questioned Him and cast doubt among the angels and the non-fallen worlds.

Of course our omniscient God is fully aware of who His people are. He does not need a judgment in order to decide who is going to be saved. The pre-Advent judgment, rather, shows the Judge to be just in the saving of His people.

Heavenly beings need to be sure that the saints are safe to save. As we seek to understand the meaning of the judgment, we need to remember the reality of the great controversy scenario, which is hinted at in these texts, because we see the angelic host witnessing the judgment. Other beings have an interest in the final outcome of the plan of salvation.



“The final judgment is a most solemn, awful event. This must take place before the universe. To the Lord Jesus the Father has committed all judgment. He will declare the reward of loyalty to the law of Jehovah. God will be honored and His government vindicated and glorified, and that in the presence of the inhabitants of the unfallen worlds. On the largest possible scale will the government of God be vindicated and exalted. It is not the judgment of one individual or of one nation, but of the whole world. Oh, what a change will then be made in the understanding of all created beings. Then all will see the value of eternal life”

E.G.W. (This Day with God, October 14)

WHEN WILL THE JUDGMENT END?

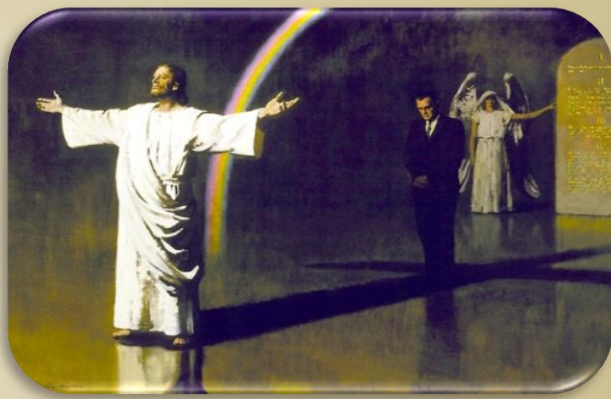
“Those great beasts, which are four, are four kings which arise out of the earth. But the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom, and possess the kingdom forever, even forever and ever” (Daniel 7:17-18)



According to Daniel 7, Jesus will receive the Kingdom and will give it to the saints. That will take place on the Second Coming. Therefore, the Investigative Judgment will end before the Second Coming.

The decision in that Judgment will be made known on the Second Coming. The saints will resurrect or be transformed and the wicked will be destroyed.

The final execution of the sentence will be fulfilled in the second resurrection. They will be “judged, each one according to his works... And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire” (Rev. 20:13, 15)



THE RESULT OF THE JUDGMENT

“Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world” (1 John 4:17)

Paul confirms that the result of the Judgment is favorable for the believers, “There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit” (Romans 8:1)

Although the righteous are vindicated in the Judgment and their sins are washed away forever, they are encouraged to live a life of loyalty and responsibility while waiting for the Judgment.

The assurance of our salvation transforms the way we live. We are thankful for all God has done for us and we love Him, so we try to express that love through our faithfulness, obeying Him and doing what He asks us to do.

