

The Judgment Study: Part 1

- 1. Heb 9:27
- 2. Rom. 3:23
- 3. John 3:16
- 4. Heb. 10:38,39
- 5. Ps. 139:1-4
- 6. Matt 10:30
- 7. Gen. 3:8-11
- 8. Gen. 4:8-10
- 9. Gen. 6:5
- 10. Gen 11:5
- 11. Gen. 18:20,21
- 12. Rev. 12:10
- 13. Eph. 3:10
- 14. 1 Pet. 1:12

The Judgment Study: Part 1

- **Purpose:** To show that the judgment is to vindicate the character of God, to remove blame and prove innocence. In the judgment God is really on trail not just us.
- **Center it:** In the judgment Jesus himself is on trail, not just us. Jesus will be our judge, our lawyer, and in the stands when we are in trail trying to find every way to save us. What do we have to be afraid of?! God reads the heart and motive, we just need to live completely for him every day in response to His amazing love for us!

Beginning Question

○ Is there a Judgment?

1. Hebrews 9:27

- Nuremburg Trials
- This Judgment is so important that we will be brought back to life, if necessary, to realize the verdict.
- The Bible says that every human being has an appointment in the judgment and not even death will allow us to escape it.

- God is not a tyrant waiting up in heaven in a courtroom for us to stand there so He can press a red button that makes the floor drop out from under us, sending us to our doom in “hell”.
- Transition: So if it is so important, what is the purpose of Judgment?
- The next 3 verses will show us why there is a judgment...

2. Romans 3:23

- Everyone has sinned...everyone has reason to be guilty
- We are under condemnation
- The Bible says the wages of sin is death

3. John 3:16

- God counters our condemnation and offers salvation to all those who accept it through His Son.
- Transition: Is it possible to once in life have accepted this gift and walk a life of faith and then to turn away from it?

4. Heb. 10:38,39

- God gives us the freedom of choice throughout our life both before we come to Jesus and after. We do not become robots when we become Christians. We still have the freedom of choice.
- Does salvation have an undo button? Yes.

Other verses that discuss the issue of once saved always saved:

- 2 Pet. 2:20-22 Once salvation is offered it is possible to forfeit it.
- Heb. 3:14 We are made partakers with Christ (conditionally) if we are faithful to the end.
- Heb. 4:11 Potential to fall
- Ezek. 33:18 Righteous can turn from his righteousness.
- Ex. 32:33 In order to be blotted out of God's book, you would've had to have been in there in the first place.

Transition

- There must be some kind of determination that finalizes who has continued to live covered by the blood of Christ and who has rejected His offering of salvation.
- To Judge means to examine something and decide.
- Transition Question: If God knows all, then why is an examination into peoples lives necessary?

Let's Establish that God knows all:

- 5. Ps. 139: 1-4 Is there anything that God does not know? No
- 6. Matt. 10:30 God even knows how many hairs are on our heads (and that is always changing!)
- Transition Questions: So if the judgment isn't for God, since He already knows everything, then who is it for?

Let's look at God's pattern of judgment in the next 5 verses

- 7. Gen. 3:8-11 God talking to Adam and Eve.
- All over the Bible, God asks hundreds of questions, none of which does He not know the answer to.
- Why ask questions that you already know the answer to? Wants us to think.
- Illustration: Parent questioning a child/ rhetorical questions. Parent typically asks their child questions before punishing them- to help them understand the discipline/punishment that is coming to them.

If these questions weren't for God's benefit, who's were they for...?

The people He is asking them of, ours.

- 8. Gen 4:8 God asking Cain questions
- What is God illustrating about Himself here?
- He is willing to stoop down and come personally to people and engage them in His logic to inspire confidence in us for His leadership.
- 9. Gen 6:5- Doesn't say "the Lord knowing", it says the Lord "saw". **God always investigates before He takes action!**

- 10. Gen 11:5 “the Lord came down” **God always investigates before He takes action.** Did He need to come down and see the city before taking action? Not for Himself, but He did it for us to build confidence in His righteous decisions. God is perfectly fair.

- 11. Gen 18: 20,21 Very human language used here God coming down to “see”. Is what happened to Sodom and Gomorrah a pretty serious thing? Fire and brimstone came down from heaven to completely cook the whole cities! **Main Point: The more impending the coming judgment, the more God stretches Himself to establish confidence in what He is about to do.**

All throughout the Bible we find God investigating before

- Extra Verse: Gen 18:17- He wants us involved in what He's doing...He wants His decisions out in the open.
- Summary: God always investigates before He takes action! Jude 7 says that Sodom and Gomorrah is an example of what will happen in the end...God will investigate before passing Judgment.

Most Beautiful example of God investigating the affairs of man:

- Jesus coming to be a human being and living the human life. Isn't it a comfort to know that there is a representative among the angelic beings who knows what the human experience is like. Jesus is in heaven as a witness, an advocate for us.
- Isn't it a comfort that there is someone in the judgment seat that is actually related to you, part of your race?

Summary of what we have learned so far...

- We have learned so far that the Judgment doesn't benefit God because he is omniscient (knows all), so who does it benefit?
-The Non-Omniscient (whose who aren't God).

Transition

- Transition Question: How does this relate to the entire great controversy?
- 12. Rev. 12:10 Who is accusing us? Satan, he is the prosecuting attorney, He accuses us before God both day and night.
- He is not only accusing human beings, God is also on the end of his accusations. (Gen. 3:4,5) Here he is telling Eve God is a liar/trying to keep good things from her. Satan accuses God and us.

○ In the Judgment God is really the one on trial not us!! The issue of God's *fairness* is central to the battle between God and

Angels are Watching...

- 13. Eph. 3:10 The church gets the privilege of vindicating God's character to the whole universe!
- 14. 1 Pet. 1:12- This is something of intense interest of the angels, something they "desire to look into".
- We are on the stage of a great cosmic battle! Our lives are of great interest to the angels!
- Angels understand God better as they observe the lives of the people on planet earth.
- Book of Job: shows why bad things happen to good people.

- The gospel working in the lives of sinners is the thing that has the whole universe spellbound...the question is ,how is God going to make sinners live in a sinless world?
- Angels have limitations too, they don't know what's going on in your heart and mind. This question boggles their minds.
- The sin problem began in their own backyard and they don't want to live with sinners...they are freaking out!
- The reason there is a judgment is to show the entire universe which side each person has chosen to take in this cosmic conflict.
- The judgment is when God convinces the entire universe that you are fit for heaven.

Illustration

- Doctor/patient with unknown contagious disease.
- Has to prove to family the disease is gone/show all the evidence (lab results/x-rays)
- Angels need to know that the “sin disease” isn't floating around in our veins somewhere, hence the investigative judgment...God needs to show them our x-rays and lab reports to guarantee the sin disease is completely eradicated.

Appeal

- The judgment is not God choosing who will be saved or lost, but God recognizing those who have chosen to be saved or lost. We need not fear God's judgment in the future, it is in our favor-for our benefit! We need to concern ourselves with our decisions today.
- God is gathering all the evidence He can find to prove an excuse to bring you to heaven.
- Do you want to give God that excuse to save you?

The ball is in our court

- The ball is not in God's court, it's in our court.
- Illustration: Parent/Teacher conference...why did my kid get an F?
- Wrong question...he earned it
- C.S. Lewis. In the end there will be 2 classes of people: Those who say to God "Your will be done", and those to whom God says "your will be done."
- God is so merciful he lets go all who want to be there and doesn't force people to be there who wouldn't be happy there.

Summary

- God is just showing in the judgment that everyone gets what they want. The Judgment is just God acknowledging what everyone's choice was.

End of Appeal

- Satan is our prosecutor, he doesn't care for us, he is trying to condemn us.
- Jesus is our Judge and our attorney.
- He is trying to save us at all costs.
- What could keep you from siding with the one who is trying to save you and didn't want to live in Heaven if you couldn't be there too He loves you so much?

Defend it:

- What about once saved always saved?
- 2 Pet. 2:20-22 Once salvation is offered it is possible to forfeit it.
- Heb. 3:14 We are made partakers with Christ (conditionally) if we are faithful to the end.
- Heb. 4:11 Potential to fall
- Ezek. 33:18 Righteous can turn from his righteousness.
- Ex. 32:33 In order to be blotted out of God's book, you would've had to have been in there in the first place.

Who is the Judge?

- 2 Cor. 5:10 / Rom. 14:10-12 Christ!!! “the judgment seat of *Christ*”
- What appeal factor is this? Because he knows what we went through, he did it too!! Somebody that is actually related to you is presiding over the judgment. We don't have to be scared of God either because God and Jesus are one.
- Jesus is not like an earthly judge, he is looking for any little reason to get you off the hook!

What about the verse, Jn. 12:47?

- This verse says “I come not to judge the world but to save it.
- Answer: Look at the next verse...it says that there still will be a judgment by Gods words. (Jn. 1:14 Christ is the word: the words are the revelation and life of Jesus.)
- We will be judged whether or not we let God live out his life in us.

What will be judged?

- Ecc. 12:13-14 even the secret things we do. Not just our actions, but also our heart and motives.

How will God relate to people who died without fully living up to or knowing all the truths we know today?

- Act. 17:30,31- God is not unreasonable, even in the judgment. God will not hold people accountable for what they do not know.

What is God's standard in the judgment?

- James 2:10-12 The law of God (the 10 commandments)

What are the 3 judgments?

- **Investigative Judgment:** happens before Jesus comes back (this is for Christ's people, those who have confessed Christ who have transferred their sins onto the “lamb”). It is to evaluate God’s people.
- **The millennial judgment** is the one that the saved get to help in to evaluate. Everyone's judgment has already been passed but the saved get to see why and will know and understand.
- **Executive judgment**, when God finally eradicates sin and the devil forever (this one is for the wicked).