

Judgment I: Why a Judgment?

purpose: To show that the judgment is to vindicate the character of God. In the judgment, God is really on trial, not just us.

center it: Court scene participants in judgment: 1) judge, 2) lawyer, and 3) witness. Jesus is all three of these!

Hebrews 9:27

- Appointed to men to die... but after this there is a judgment.
- Not even death excuses us from the judgment.
- This is a very serious topic in the Bible.
- However, the writer's of the Bible had a different perspective on the Bible than many people do today. They prayed for it and waited for it with eagerness and with hope.
- **Transition:** Why is there a judgment?

Romans 3:23

- All have fallen into sin.

John 3:16

- All have been offered a way out of sin.

Hebrews 10:38,39; 2 Peter 2:20-22

- It is possible to fall away from salvation even after receiving it.
- Worse for those who have come to salvation and then fallen away from it than for those who have never known Jesus.
- Somehow before the coming of Jesus, there must be an investigation into the cases of men. The final decisions of each life must be seen.
- **Transition:** Why do we need a judgment if God is omniscient? What is the point of an investigation if God knows everything?

Psalms 139:1-4

- God knows all- there is nothing that God does not know.

Matthew 10:30

- God knows even the number of hairs on our head.
- The judgment is not to inform God of something He did not already know. It is not for God's benefit! Whom does it benefit, then?
- **Transition:** In order to understand God's judgment in the end of time, we should look at His judgment in the beginning of time. What is God's pattern of judgment?

God's Pattern of Judgment

- Genesis 3:8-11- first sin
 - Why does God ask questions of which He already knows the answer? To benefit us. (Adam & Eve in this case.)
 - God wants to make sure that we know that He has investigated our situation before He takes action.
 - The way God responded to sin in the beginning teaches us something about the way God will respond to sin in the end.
- Genesis 4:9- first murder
 - God is operating in an open environment.

- Genesis 6:5- first worldwide destruction
 - The Lord saw (took a visual inventory) that the world was evil continually.
 - Did God need to see in order to know what was going on? No, Scripture is using human terms for our understanding.
- Genesis 11:5- first worldwide rebellion
 - God "came down to see" before He passed judgment.
- Genesis 18:20,21- first example of judgment in the end.
 - God wanted to physically go to the city and see before He passed judgment.
- God is going to investigate before He takes action at the end of time. God is purposely making Himself predictable to human beings.
- **Transition:** How does this connect to the Great Controversy?

Revelation 12:10

- Satan is the accuser of the brethren.
- Genesis 3:4,5
 - Satan is the serious accuser of God.
 - God is a liar.
 - God's Word is meaningless.
 - God is keeping something from us.
 - In order to be happy, you must disregard God.
 - Satan makes her think that he is concerned for her well-being.
 - Satan is using God's people to call God a liar.

Ephesians 3:10; 1 Peter 1:12

- Wisdom of God might be made known through the church.
- The stuff that happens in my insignificant life is being examined by the angels in heaven, and showing them things about God that they have never seen before.
- God wants to reveal his wisdom to the heavenly beings through us.
- We are a spectacle both to men and to angels.

appeal: God is gathering all the evidence He can find to recommend us to heaven. The judgment is not God choosing who will be saved or who will be lost, but rather God recognizing those who have themselves chosen to be saved or lost. What is scary about the judgment is that God will let you have what you want. People will be allowed the destiny that they themselves have chosen.

CS Lewis: "In the end there are two classes of people, those who say to God, "Your will be done", and those to whom God says, "Your will be done."

Revelation 22:11. At the end God will say, "... let him...". God is coming to let us have what we want. Are you at peace with God letting you have the destiny that you chosen? It's not God's future decisions we need to fear at the judgment, it's our own decisions we are making right now.

defend it:

Exactly what is being judged?

- Hebrews 4:13
 - Everything is naked in the eyes of God. Nothing is hidden from His sight.
- Ecclesiastes 12:13,14
 - Every work, good or bad, will be brought into judgment. Every "secret thing" will be involved in the judgment.
 - Secret things includes both actions and secret things inside the mind. This includes the motives behind our actions.

What is the standard by which we are judged in the judgment?

- James 2:10-12
 - We are judged under the law of liberty.
 - The law of liberty is the law of God (10 commandment law).
- Galatians 2:20
 - Paul says that Jesus now lives within Him.
 - Not a competition for who has kept the law the best. As Christians, we are judged by the life of Christ!
 - What matters is the degree to which we have submitted our lives to Jesus.

Three Phases of Judgment

- Pre-Advent (judgment before the 2nd coming)
- Millennial (judgment during the 1,000 years)
- Executive (judgment during which all decisions are finalized)