

There are many places to begin studying end-times belief. And there many more interpretations of those beliefs. For this study, we will concentrate on a few specific passages as a basis for new believers.

Let's begin with the Apostle Paul's message to the new converts at Rome.

Romans 2:5-11 (NIV) - 5 But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God's wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed. 6 God "will repay each person according to what they have done." u 7 To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life. 8 But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger. 9 There will be trouble and distress for every human being who does evil: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile; 10 but glory, honor and peace for everyone who does good: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. 11 For God does not show favoritism.

There is clearly here a separate eternal existence between those who accept he truth of God and does good, versus those who reject the truth and follow evil. It's important to note that God will not judge on the basis of character and conduct but rather he will judge one's character and conduct itself on the basis of whether or not it has been shaped by the Truth (vs 16).

Now, let's examine **key aspects of God's final judgment**. First, God executes his judgment on Satan. Also, God executes his judgement on believers and unbelievers.

A. Judgement of Satan

Satan and his fallen angels were judged by God at their fall and by Christ at the cross but the execution of their judgement for rebellion was postponed until God had completed His eternal plan for people, including redemption.

John 12:31

John 16:11

Hebrews 2:14-18

Revelation 20:10

B. Judgment of Believers & Unbelievers

The issue of salvation or condemnation is settled by how we respond to God. But what it will be like for us when we get to heaven or hell depends on the kind of life we have lived. Each day and everything we do really does count for eternity. Revelation 20:13.

Judgment of the Saved

Believers stand under no condemnation from God (Romans 8:1) because of their acceptance of God's provision of salvation in Christ. God justifies believers by declaring them not guilty because they

accepted by faith Christ's substitute payment for their sins and God imputes to them the righteousness of Christ to nullify the imputation of sin from Adam (Romans 5:15-19; 2 Corinthians 5:21). As already indicated, the only judgement for believers is at the judgment seat of Christ where their works are evaluated for the purpose of rewards, not salvation (2 Corinthians 5:10).

Judgment of the Unbelievers

Final judgement of all unbelievers occurs at the Great White Throne Judgement after their bodily resurrection. (Revelation 20:11-15; Acts 17:31; Romans 2:16) Scripture does not teach a second chance after death (Hebrews 9:27-28).

The unsaved are judged and remain condemned eternally because:

1. Their deeds (works/conduct) confirm their sinfulness
2. Their names are not written in the Book of Life and they have rejected God in this life