

## **What does the Bible say?**

**As you read this study, I encourage you to study the corresponding scriptures for yourself to develop a personal, confident understanding of biblical truth. Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needs not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. Study like the Bereans, who listened to Paul but did not take his word for it. They studied the scriptures for themselves so they would know for sure.**

**Acts 17:11 “These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.” I ask that you do the same with this study. Please pray before you begin.**

### **God’s Great Judgment (The Judgment)**

**We have an exciting study today about The Judgment. In our previous study, we found that the Bible predicted the judgment would start in 1844. Daniel 8:14 indicated that the sanctuary would be cleansed after 2300 days. The Bible states that the sanctuary was cleansed only once a year, when the High Priest entered the Most Holy Place to purify God’s people from all their sins, as described in Leviticus 16:15-19. In our previous study, we saw how this event foreshadowed the judgment beginning in the last days in 1844.**

**Let’s examine how Revelation connects the opening of the Most Holy Place in heaven with the Judgment period. Revelation 11:18, 19 states, “The time of the dead, that they should be judged...then the temple of God was opened in heaven, and the ark of His covenant was seen in His temple.” This clearly shows that the temple is in heaven, and when the entrance to the Most Holy Place—where the ark is kept—is opened, it signals the beginning of the Judgment.**

**John was also shown that before Jesus returns to earth, God will inform everyone that the judgment has begun. Refer to Rev. 14:6, 7. Note that this message is directed to the entire world and declares, “the hour of his judgment IS come.” This message is proclaimed globally before Jesus’ return. The context is important because verses 14 and 15 pertain to the second coming (“time to reap” signifies the end of this world. See Matt. 13:39).**

**Other writers in the Bible also mention that God has set a specific date for the judgment. Acts 17:31 states that God has appointed a day to judge the world. Ecclesiastes 3:17 affirms that God will judge and has a set time for it. Additionally, Acts 24:25 records Paul**

**preaching about an upcoming judgment. All these men of God expected the coming judgment. However, in Revelation, we learn of a time when God's people will declare, "the hour of His judgment is come."**

**As we discussed in our previous study, the judgment date is set for 1844. Let's examine how the judgment began in 1844. Each judgment process has three parts, which is true both in earthly trials and in God's court: (1) the Investigative Phase, where the facts of the case are reviewed; (2) the Verdict Phase, where guilt or innocence is decided and announced; and (3) the Executive Phase, where the sentence is carried out, either releasing the person or penalizing them.**

**Let's look at these three phases of God's judgment in the Bible.**

**In the heavenly judgment, the Investigative Phase, where the investigation is described in Daniel 7:9, 10, God's throne is depicted as having wheels and as mobile, moving into a role of judgment, similar to how a priest transitions from the Holy Place to the Most Holy Place. The judgment begins, and the books are opened. Daniel 7 confirms that the judgment will take place. In Daniel 8, we are given the timing of the judgment.**

**The books used in the judgment encompass the life histories of every individual. Many texts reference these books. Here are a few examples:**

**Rev. 21:27 The book of life includes the names of all who have professed Christ and are His fellow workers (Philp. 4:3).**

**Rev. 3:5 Ultimately, the book of life will contain only the names of those destined for heaven because they have overcome through Jesus.**

**Mal. 3:16 and Neh. 13:14 The book of remembrance records a person's spiritual life and good deeds.**

**Isa. 65:6, 7 Even our sins are recorded in God's books.**

**Psalms 87:4-6 The book of environment considers where a person was born and the privileges they had to learn the truth. When the Lord records His people, He will consider whether they were born in a godly environment (Zion) or an ungodly one (Babylon). He will see if they knew and obeyed the truth (James 4:17).**

**In the investigative phase of the judgment, God examines the life records of everyone recorded in His books. He checks to see whether those who profess Christ have truly**

**surrendered their lives to Him and love Him with all their hearts. Jesus mentioned the importance of this in Matt. 7:21-27. Many people call themselves Christians but do not truly follow Christ. God cannot allow them into heaven because they would bring their unconverted hearts and disrupt heaven's peace. During the investigation, it is determined who the true followers of Christ are.**

**The next phase is the Verdict Phase, where the verdict is announced. See Rev. 22:11, 12. Here, God declares who is righteous and ready for heaven and who is not. Notice that this announcement of the verdict occurs before Jesus returns because when He comes, He brings His rewards with Him. Therefore, the judgment of who receives which rewards must be made BEFORE His return. (Illustration: Schools and companies hold award ceremonies. The awards are based on certain criteria. Before the awards ceremony, the Books (records) are examined to see who qualifies for the awards. All the judging takes place before the ceremony. Then everyone attends the ceremony, and the awards are presented.)**

**We just read in our text that Jesus brings His rewards with Him. Consequently, all judgment had to happen before He comes. According to Daniel 8:14, this judgment began in 1844. The final phase is the Executive Phase, during which the sentence is executed. Rev. 22:12 says, "Behold, I am coming quickly, and My rewards are with me to give everyone according to his work." After the verdict is announced in heaven, Jesus quickly returns to distribute the rewards. Some will receive eternal life because they have trusted Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Others will lose the blessings of heaven and be lost.**

**The good news about the judgment is that we can be assured of salvation. We see this clearly in... Rev. 22:17. If we are thirsty for Jesus and eager for the truth of His Word, and if we want to follow Him, He will send His Spirit to guide us to the water of life. When we hear God's Spirit speaking to our hearts, inviting us to come to Jesus, we need to respond and invite Jesus into our hearts.**

**If you are the kind of person who truly wants to follow God, give Him your heart and invite Him in now. As you prayerfully consider this topic, I want you to know that we are here to help answer any questions you might have. If you have questions, please get in touch with us at <https://freechristianbooks.us>.**