

What does the BIBLE say?

As you read this study, I encourage you to study the corresponding scriptures for yourself so you can develop a personal, confident understanding of biblical truth. Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that need not 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 only cleansed annually 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 links 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 indicates that the temple is located in heaven, and when the entrance to the Most Holy Place—where the ark is kept—is opened, it signifies the start 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 established a specific date for the judgment. Acts 17:31 states that God has designated 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 anticipated 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 explore how the judgment commenced in 1844. Each judgment process consists of 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... Dan. 7:9, 10. God's throne is shown as having wheels and being 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 provided with 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 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.

Psalm 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 as recorded in His books. He looks to see whether those who profess Christ have truly given

their lives to Him and love Him with all their heart. Jesus referred to the need to do this in Matt. 7:21-27 Many people call themselves Christians but do not truly follow Christ. God can't let them into heaven because they would bring their unconverted hearts and spoil heaven's peace. During the investigation, it is established who the genuine 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 He comes. (Illustration: Schools and companies hold award ceremonies. The awards are based on certain criteria. BEFORE the awards ceremony, the BOOKS (records) are studied 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 the judging had to take place BEFORE He comes. According to Daniel 8:14, this judging began in 1844.

The final phase is the Executive Phase, where the execution of the sentence is announced. Rev. 22:12 "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 have assurance of salvation. We read about it right here in... Rev. 22:17. If we are thirsty for Jesus and for the truth of His Word, and if we want to follow Him, He will send His Spirit to lead us to the water of life. When we hear the Spirit of God speaking to our hearts, inviting us to come to Jesus, we need to respond to Him and invite Jesus to come into our hearts.

If you are the type of person who really wants to follow God, give your heart to God, 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>.