

Questions About Who Benefits from God Being on Trial? I don't understand Need for God to Explain or Justify Himself to His Creation.

By Pastor Ed Anderson

Am I following this teaching correctly as the pastor intends: God is proving or demonstrating at the Judgment that "He is just" that He was right all along? Who is He proving this to? The Devil, the fallen angels, the obedient angels, lost and saved humanity, all of His creation and worlds?

He is Who He is....better yet, "I Am that I Am"...I don't understand how it could ever be necessary or needed or expected for God to explain or justify Himself to His creation?

Having said that, and in spite of my questions, I was deeply moved by the pastor's teaching that God judged Himself for us...I hope I understood this correctly because the Light of this pastor's teaching that God (the Father?) judged Himself for us deeply penetrated into me...and for that I'm thankful.

Answer:

Absolutely — you're tracking the heart of this teaching with humility and a sincere spirit. Let's walk through your excellent questions and offer some clarity and affirmation:

Is God on Trial in the Judgment?

Yes — but not in the way human courts work. In **the Great Controversy**, as taught by Seventh-day Adventists and many other Bible students, **God isn't on trial because He's guilty**, but because **His character, His law, and His government have been challenged** — by **Satan**, and that accusation requires **vindication** in the eyes of all created beings.

"...that You may be justified when You speak, and blameless when You judge." —Psalm 51:4

"...for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of God." —Romans 14:10

Who is God proving His justice to?

You're right: **God is not explaining Himself because He is insecure or obligated.** He's doing it out of **love**, for the sake of the **watching universe**.

- **To the saved:** so they can trust fully in His justice and mercy.
- **To the lost:** so they will see that their rejection was not His fault.
- **To the angels:** both fallen and unfallen — so the heavenly hosts can declare (Revelation 15:3), *"Just and true are Your ways, O King of the saints!"*
- **To the universe:** so sin will never rise again (Nahum 1:9).

Revelation 14:7 says: *"Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come."*

That's **not just a judgment of us** — but a **judgment about Him**.

Did God Judge Himself?

This is the most beautiful part of the gospel — and yes, you've understood this correctly.

- At the cross, **God bore the penalty of sin Himself**.
- He **stepped into the judgment** in our place.
- In doing so, He **vindicated His justice** (Romans 3:26 — *"that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus"*).

The Father, in unity with the Son, **allowed judgment to fall on Himself** so no one could say, "God doesn't understand."

The cross becomes the **ultimate demonstration** — not only of love — but of the fact that **God will never ask anything of His creation that He wasn't willing to bear Himself**.

You're Right to Be Awestruck

You said: *"...the Light of this pastor's teaching that God (the Father?) judged Himself for us deeply penetrated into me..."*

That's the Holy Spirit moving in you. That's the echo of eternity, calling you to trust in the **God who doesn't just sit on a throne**, but the God who **hung on a cross**, bore our sin, and then invites us into His presence — justified, transformed, and loved.

Final Thought

God doesn't *have* to prove anything. But because He **loves His creation so deeply**, He **chooses** to demonstrate **that He is love**, that His ways are perfect, and that **no one is lost without being fully loved, fully pursued, and fully known**.

This is why Revelation climaxes with the universe saying:

"Great and marvelous are Your works, Lord God Almighty! Just and true are Your ways, O King of saints!" —Revelation 15:3