

2. Preparing ourselves for the Judgment Seat of Christ

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Subtitle: The Millennial Reign of Christ

Last year we ministered a series of messages on End-times, to gain biblical insights concerning events that will take place in the not-too-distant future.

(The video recordings are viewable on our Youtube channel, entitled: “Endtimes Revealed Through Bible Prophecy”, dated May to mid-June 2020).

Today we will proceed with our new study of God’s Word on “The Judgment Seat of Christ”, and how we can position ourselves for this exciting event.

2 Corinthians 5:10 (NKJV) *For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.*

Romans 14:10–12 (NKJV) ... *For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. 11 For it is written: “As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to Me, and every tongue shall confess to God.” 12 So then each of us shall give account of himself to God.*

- At some point in the future, there will be an event called “The Judgment Seat of Christ”
- Every Christian will appear before Christ to give an account of himself to God
- The “Judgment Seat of Christ” would better termed “The Reward Seat of Christ”, since we will be rewarded for our faithful service to Christ during our lifetime on earth
- Judgment seat – Gr. bema – a tribunal seat from which an official would recognise & reward athletes for their achievements
- The “Judgment Seat of Christ” is different from “The Great White Throne Judgement” where the wicked will be judged for their sins (Rev. 20:11)
- The Judgment Seat of Christ will take place in heaven
 - After the Rapture of the church (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17)
 - Before the 2nd Coming of Christ (Matthew 24:27–30)
 - (sometime during the 7 Year Period of the Great Tribulation)

1. The Millennial Reign of Christ

Revelation 20:1–6 (NKJV) *Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. 2 He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for **a thousand years**; 3 and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while. 4 And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And **they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years**. 5 But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. 6 Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but **they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.***

Immediately after the 2nd Coming of Jesus Christ to earth, He will set up His literal kingdom on the earth, which will last for 1,000 years.

(“Millennium” from Latin - mille = 1,000 & ennum – years)

Zechariah 14:9 (NIV) *The Lord will be king over the whole earth. On that day there will be one Lord, and His name the only name.*

Isaiah 24:23 (NKJV) *Then the moon will be disgraced and the sun ashamed; For the **Lord of hosts will reign on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem** and before His elders, gloriously.*

- In the Millennium, Jerusalem will be the capital city of the world
- Jesus Christ will be the Ruler Supreme over the whole world
- His faithful saints will rule and reign with Him

2 Timothy 2:11–12 (NKJV) *This is a faithful saying: For if we died with Him, we shall also live with Him. 12 **If we endure, we shall also reign with Him.** If we deny Him, He also will deny us.*

Jesus’ rewards for His saints, in return for their faithful service, will be:

- initiated at the beginning of His Millennial Reign
- demonstrated & “walked out” throughout His Millennial Reign
- and enjoyed throughout eternity

Revelation 2:23, 25–26 (NKJV) ... I will give to each one of you according to your works ... 25 But hold fast what you have till I come. 26 And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations.

“Power over the nations” is indicative of a position of authority

“Reign with Him” again indicates a position of authority

Jesus’ rewards for His faithful saints will major largely on:

- Honour/positions of honour
- Positions of authority

2. Power over the nations - which nations?

2 Questions:

- If we, the faithful saints, rule and reign with Christ, who will we rule over?
- If Jesus gives us power over the nations, who are these nations?

Matthew 25:31– 34, 41, 46 (NKJV) *When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. 32 All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. 33 And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. 34 Then the King will say to those on His right hand, ‘Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world ... 41 “Then He will also say to those on the left hand, ‘Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels ... 46 And these (goats) will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous (sheep) into eternal life.”*

All the people who survive the Great Tribulation will be gathered before Christ as He sits on His throne:

- Those who are righteous (sheep) are invited to enter His Kingdom
- Those who are wicked (goats) are thrown into everlasting fire (hell)

A person can only become righteous through faith in Jesus Christ.

- These righteous people are tribulation saints who demonstrated their faith through their good works (they are not saved by works but by faith!)
- Those called “cursed” (goats) are unsaved people who demonstrated their unbelief & rebellion against God through their evil works

Only righteous people will remain on earth when the Millennium begins, including the Jewish people who will all be saved when Jesus returns.

- These righteous people will all be in their natural, mortal state and continue to procreate and re-populate the earth
- We, the (previously died or raptured) saints will be in our resurrected state, in our resurrection body
- We will rule and reign with Christ over the nations of natural people

Romans 8:18–23 (NASB95) *For I consider that **the sufferings of this present time** are not worthy to be compared with **the glory that is to be revealed to us.***

Our present challenges are nothing in comparison to the great honour and glory that will be revealed in us as sons of God during the Millennium.

Romans 8:19–23 (NASB95) *For the anxious longing of **the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God.** 20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope 21 that the **creation itself also will be set free from its slavery** to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now. 23 And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even **we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body.***

- All of creation looks forward to the manifestation of the sons of God in the Millennium
- All of creation groans in anticipation of freedom from slavery to corruption into the glorious liberty
- We too, the saints of God, groan within ourselves, and wait eagerly to the day when our adoption is finally completed, and we are in our resurrected body