

5. Understanding the Judgments of God

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Subtitle: The Great White Throne Judgment
& Judgment of satan, fallen angels and demons

- We are currently studying God's Word concerning God's Judgments, to help us understand what will happen in the future (end-times & beyond)
- Many believers tend to lump all the Judgments of God together into one single event & end up quite confused
- Every believer should know about future Judgments of God & gain greater boldness, confidence & urgency in reaching spiritually lost people

John 5:22–24 (NKJV) *For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son, 23 that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him. 24 “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.*

- 2 Corinthians 5:21 tells us that Jesus Christ became sin for us
- Through His sacrificial death on the cross, He has taken God's judgment & penalty on Himself, so that we can receive His righteousness
- All believers in Jesus Christ are now “saved from” God's future judgment

1. The Great White Throne Judgment

The major prophetic events following the end of the church age will be:

- The Rapture of the church, followed by:
- The seven year “Great Tribulation” period, followed by:
- The Second Coming of Jesus Christ
- Jesus Christ will return to earth to set up His literal (physical) Kingdom (Millennial Reign of Christ [1,000 years. Rev. 20:4])
- The Great White Throne Judgment will take place at the end of the Millennial Reign of Christ
- Christians will NOT appear at the Great White Throne Judgment

Revelation 20:1–15 (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. **7** Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison **8** and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea. **9** They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them. **10** The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. **11** Then I saw a **great white throne and Him who sat on it**, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. **12** And I saw the dead, **small and great, standing before God, and books were opened**. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. **And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.** **13** The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. **And they were judged, each one according to his works.** **14** Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. **This is the second death.** **15** **And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.**

- At the Second Coming of Christ, the battle of Armageddon will take place (Rev. 16:16)
- Jesus Christ will defeat the antichrist & the kings of the world & their armies (Rev. 19:21)
- The antichrist (beast) & the false prophet will be captured & cast into the Lake of Fire (Rev. 19:20)
 - (Hell [hades] is a temporary place of torment and suffering)
 - (The Lake of Fire is a permanent place of torment and suffering)
- Satan will be captured, bound & cast into a bottomless pit for one thousand years. Vs. 2-3

- This will initiate Christ's uninterrupted reign on the earth over all the earthly kingdoms (Rev. 11:15)
- During Christ's 1,000 year Reign, the nations of natural people (sheep nations) who were allowed to enter the Kingdom will re-populate the earth (Matt. 25:23)
- The resurrected saints (faithful Christians) will rule & reign with Christ over these nations. Vs. 4, 6 (Rev. 2:26)
- They were part of the "first resurrection", and the "second death" has no power over them. Vss. 5-6
- Towards the end of the 1,000 years, satan will be released again for a little (short) while to deceive the nations once again. Vs. 3 & 8
- These deceived nations will gather against the camp of the saints around Jerusalem in a 2nd Armageddon-style gathering. (Vs. 9)
- Fire will come down from God out of heaven and devour every rebel
- Then, satan will be cast into the lake of fire, to join the antichrist and the false prophet, to be tormented day and night forever and ever (Vs. 10)
- After all this, the great White Throne Judgment will begin (vs. 11)
- All wicked dead people will be resurrected & brought before the Lord to be judged according to their wicked works. Vs. 12, 13
- This is the second resurrection
- Then, all of them will be cast into the lake of fire. Vs. 15
- This is the second death. Vs. 14
- All Christians, (both resurrected saint & natural people who have committed their lives to Christ) will live in the presence of God throughout eternity on the new earth (Rev. 21:1)
- Their names are written in the Book of Life
- Any person whose name was not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire (vs. 15)

2. Judgment of Satan, fallen angels and demons

- Satan has already been judged when he first sinned & was thrown out of heaven (Isaiah 14:15, Ezek. 28:16)
- He gained entry into the earth by deceiving Adam & Eve, thus becoming the god of this world (2 Cor. 4:4)
- Through His death on the cross, Jesus Christ has defeated satan & all wicked angelic & demonic spirits under his command (Jn. 16:11 Col. 2:15)
- At the end of Christ's 1,000 year reign on earth, satan, all fallen angels & demon spirits will be brought before the Lord, before finally being cast into the lake of fire

Matthew 25:41 (NKJV) *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:***

- Jesus Christ is speaking to the wicked (goat nations) at the judgment of the nations, who will be cast into everlasting fire (lake of fire)
- Notice: ... everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels

2 Peter 2:4 (NKJV) *For if God did not spare the **angels who sinned**, but **cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment;***

- Fallen angels have sinned, and:
 - Have been cast down to hell
 - Been delivered into chains of darkness
 - Are reserved for judgment
- Evidently there is a future judgment coming to seal their fate, before being cast into the lake of fire

Jude 6 (NKJV) *And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, **He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day;***

- These are a class of “fallen angels” who copulated with the “daughters of man”, and brought forth the giants of old (Gen. 6:2-4)
- There is a judgment waiting for these fallen angels

1 Corinthians 6:3 (NKJV) ***Do you not know that we shall judge angels?** How much more, things that pertain to this life?*

- Evidently, the saints of God will be involved in judging these angels

3. The new Heaven and the new Earth

Revelation 21:1–3 (NKJV) *Now **I saw a new heaven and a new earth**, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. **2 Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God**, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. **3 And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.***