



What Really Happens on Judgment Day?

Romans 2:5: (NASB) *But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God.*



It is kind of funny how there is such a movement against the Bible and Biblical principles these days, yet things like “Armageddon” and “Judgment Day,” which have their basis in Scripture, are common themes in our society. Of course, society dramatizes these things way beyond the reality of Scripture so what we perceive is generally not what will happen. So, Judgment Day...it is coming! What does that mean? When will it happen? Who will be judged?

The difficulty in discussing “The Day of Judgment” is in all of the erroneous and well-traveled ideas swimming around about how it works. We want to go back to what the Bible says about it. Part of decoding the Bible is determining what language is symbolic vs. literal. **Please see our programs from November 9 and December 14, 2014 called, “Can We Know the Mind of God? (Parts I and II)”** which included how to determine the use of symbolic language in the Bible.

- **WHEN** - does the Day of Judgment actually take place?

Jesus tells us... John 5:28-29: So, we know there will be a resurrection and then a judgment. To figure out when this happens, we need to look at several of the parables of Jesus. The Parable of the Sheep and the Goats describes the final phase of Judgment Day. So, do we know when this occurs? There are two other parables spoken directly before the Parable of the Sheep and Goats that should help give us clues.

The first parable: Matthew 25:1-2: This story is directed to Jesus’ true followers being prepared for the coming of the bridegroom - the return of Jesus. You have to have the light of the Gospel shining in front of you to see where you are going and to wait through the dark night. Lesson: Watch and wait in a prepared spiritual state. **Psalms 119:105 Jesus then goes directly into a second parable: Matthew 25:14-15:** This story builds upon the foundation of the last one - not only must true Christians watch and wait in a prepared state, but they must work hard at the opportunities in the work of the Gospel that they are given while waiting. Lesson: Use that which you are given as a bondservant of Christ...or lose it! We watch for opportunities and we watch for needs.

Please see our programs from January 19 and February 2, 2014 called, “Is Jesus Really Returning? (Parts I and II)” which discusses in detail the object and manner of Jesus’ return.

Observations about these two parables: They are directed at true Christians only, the preparation and the work of the Gospel are at stake, Jesus is returning to judge each effort, and there is a potential for great loss.

The next parable Jesus gives is about the sheep and the goats: Matthew 25:31-32
Differences from the first two parables in this chapter:

- *When the Son of Man comes in his glory....*The previous parables were in *preparation* for (before) Jesus’ return, but this one is as a *result* of his return. Timing is important.
- His *angels* are the true Church - they are with him. Those followers were being prepared in the previous two parables so that they can do this job in the third parable. They are with him in this judgment process.
- *All the nations* are involved. The time period is during the Day of Judgment.

This is a whole different story, applied in a whole different way, applied in a whole different time. To get the main lesson, we have to know how it all fits together.

So, we know that “The Day of Judgment” is after the resurrection, which is after Jesus returns. We know that **Matthew 24** was about the second *presence* (not second coming) of Jesus. The word translated *coming* in our King James Version Bibles actually means *presence*.

Matthew 24:3

Coming: Strongs #3952 *parousia* (par-oo-see'-ah); from the present participle of 3918; a being near; presence, arrival, advent From this word: Strongs #3918 *pareimi* (par'-i-mee); to be near, i.e. at hand

Therefore all of the trouble described in **Matthew 24** - described as *the great time of trouble* that brings Armageddon - must happen before the resurrection and “Judgment Day.”



Understanding this helps us to see that there is a difference between the anger of God that pulls down the governments and religions of this world (alluded to by [Matthew 24](#)) and the judgment of God for individuals that is a separating work (to be discussed later). The day of wrath upon the nations of the world is different than the day of individual judgment.

- **WHO - does the Day of Judgment actually affect?**

Jesus tells us...[John 5:28-29](#): Humanity is broken into two categories. Jesus tells us there are some who get a pass from Judgment Day. (Do they have any judgment at all?) What role does Jesus play in each of the two categories represented above? **Jesus and the “godly” - they “that have done good:” [1 John 2:1-2](#)**

Advocate: Strong's #3875 parakletos (par-ak'-lay-tos); an intercessor, consoler: One who pleads another's cause before a judge, a pleader, counsel for defense, legal assistant, an advocate

Propitiation: Strong's #2434 ilamov hilasmos 1) an appeasing, propitiating
2) the means of appeasing, a propitiation

So the godly - the true followers of Christ - are not judged in that day as they have already been tested! During this life, they laid their lives down with Jesus by their side, “advocating for” and covering them. Let's say we do something wrong. We go to the Father in prayer and say, “Please forgive me, and I ask this through Jesus Christ.” Jesus approaches God on our behalf, on our side. These are resurrected in heaven; Jesus having intervened on their behalf. They already passed their test - they were judged early before the rest of the world. They proved faithful through this life. This believer/advocate relationship goes beyond just being a nice person and walking old ladies across the street! It is about being a true “footstep follower” of Jesus, and those footsteps lead to a life of sacrifice.

There is a lot of evil, darkness and sin in this world. The majority of humanity has not proven themselves faithful to a godly standard, so it is good they are NOT tested right now.

Jesus and the “ungodly” - “they that have done evil:” [1 Timothy 2:1-6](#)

Mediator: Strong's #3316 1) one who intervenes between two, either in order to make or restore peace and friendship, or form a compact or for ratifying a covenant 2) a medium of communication, arbitrator.

God and mankind are definitely at odds right now! [Hebrews 12:24](#): What is this *New Covenant*? Time does not allow much detail in this program, but in the Old Testament, the Law Covenant was given to Israel. Those who are following after Jesus are under a covenant of Grace, because as imperfect humans, we cannot live up to the perfect standard of a life of sacrifice required. We are all faulty and sinful. The New Covenant is a covenant God again makes with Israel in this future Day of Judgment for the purpose of blessing both Israel and all of mankind. It is different than the original Law Covenant. Who gets judged in the Day of Judgment? The world of mankind. (The true followers of Jesus have already been proven.) A *mediator* sits between two opposing parties - this assumes both parties have grounds for mediation, meaning “the jury is still out” and the only reason for this mediation is the *ransom* price that Jesus paid:

Ransom: Strong's #487 antilutron
what is given in exchange for another as the price of his redemption, ransom

The Day of Judgment is not a final stamp of GUILTY or NOT GUILTY! It is a period of time with the *process* of mediation, not just a single moment. So, the unbelievers of the world have Jesus mediate for them to bring them back to God. His purchase of the whole race of Adam provides them with resurrection - but what happens next?

- **HOW - does the Day of Judgment work? Is it a mass one-time sentencing?**

Jesus tells us...[John 5:28-29](#): Does that mean all judgment is just a single hour...even less than one day? [Matthew 12:36](#)

Day: Strong's #2250 hemera (hay-mer'-ah); ...day, i.e. (literally) the time space between dawn and dark, or the whole 24 hours; figuratively, a period (always defined more or less clearly by the context)

“Day” can be used as a 24-hour literal day *or* a period of time. **Some uses of the word day that obviously don't mean a 24-hour literal day:** [Matthew 23:30](#) [Acts 8:1](#): So, the “Day” of Judgment is not a day - it is a period of time when something is happening. We will review further to verify this.



Judgment: Strongs #2920 krisis (kree'-sis); decision (subjectively or objectively, for or against); by extension, a tribunal; by implication, justice (especially, divine law)

Our English word “crisis” comes from this word.

Lexicon: 1) a separating, sundering, separation 1a) a trial, contest 2) selection 3) judgment

Judgment can mean the pronouncement of “guilty/not guilty,” but it can also mean the process by which you are gathering up evidence, like an actual trial. During that process there will be an intense learning experience and education. Mankind will not just be judged on their past but also how they accept it and make retribution. God IS doing something. He is allowing the process to come to its full fruition, but the pieces are in place to pull down the false governments and false religions of the world. That all happens before the Day of Judgment. Mankind has really gotten so far away from God.

Why do we think that this “Day of Judgment” is a process? **These next two Scriptures really reveal the process and objective!** Isaiah 26:9: Unlearning unrighteousness and learning righteousness takes time. 2 Peter 3:9: If God has a desire for all to come to repentance, He could do that by brainwashing people, but that means they did not really come to Him of their own free will. The “how” of the Day of Judgment will be a learning process. It is not a dark, evil, horrific situation so many people portray it as. It is full of hope and opportunity for the people of this world to be able to find their way to God. Jesus died as a ransom, enabling all to be resurrected. People are raised so they can *begin the process* of being able to stand before God. Jesus mediates for them so they can learn righteousness and have a legitimate opportunity and be judged based on their true character.

- **WHAT - exactly will be judged on Judgment Day?**

What will be judged? The deeds of humanity: Romans 2:5-10: There absolutely is wrath and indignation - God is not pleased with how far man has degraded himself. But He provides a way to make it right - a way to get back into harmony with Him. **What will be judged? The thoughts and reactions of humanity:** Matthew 11:20-24: (NASB) Sodom was a city specifically destroyed because of its inherent evil. Yet here we have Jesus telling us they will have an easier time in the Day of Judgment. The degree or extent of sin each person was responsible for will be reflected in the Day of Judgment. It will be easier for those who were not as degraded in sin and led a good life. What if someone led a hideous life because they were abused and neglected as a child? Those deeds will be judged as will their heart. Does their past justify what they did? No, but it puts those acts in context and upon being resurrected, they will have the opportunity to act in a godly way to show they can rise above those things. Matthew 10:26: There will be accountability for every word and all acts and deeds will be revealed and judged. This judgment will include your heart, your experiences and where you came from. **What will be judged? The intentions and words of humanity:** Matthew 12:33-37: All of these things are not judged as in “this is the final decision.” Mankind is judged as in “this is who you have been. Now let’s look at who you can be.” That is why there is a Mediator helping the two sides reconcile. It is revealed what you did, why you did it and then determine how to make it right and how to ultimately be made right in God’s eyes. This is personal reconciliation with God. It is a long, difficult, PROMISING process.

- **WHY - is mankind dealt with in this manner on Judgment Day?**

The whole point of the ransom price was to SAVE humanity. But, Jesus can only bring them so far - they - humanity by virtue of their free moral choice must do their part. Giving people the opportunity to live again still does not transform their mind and heart for them. God built into humanity the ability to choose and He honors that free will. 1 Timothy 2:3-6:

Knowledge: Strongs #1922 epignosis; recognition, i.e. (by implication) full discernment, acknowledgement Lexicon: precise and correct knowledge

So, the world is saved (ransomed) first and THEN given the opportunity for full discernment! People will fully understand what their life meant before and what their choices and actions meant. They will then fully understand what they are *supposed* to do and will have the choice. A lot of the wrath and sorrow will come from realizing all of the pain each one caused. They will then make amends and be able to move forward.

This full discernment will not only be for their new experiences, but their past as well!

1 Peter 2:9-12: Notice in the last Scripture, it describes those who are evildoers now and how



they end up glorifying God *later*. THE DAY OF JUDGMENT IS WITHOUT SATAN'S INFLUENCE! Satan will be bound during this time, allowing mankind the ability to finally learn righteousness without all of the negative and evil influences. They will learn and develop in a godly environment. The sin we inherited from Adam is lifted; humanity can now truly observe the real story of life. **Humankind needs the restraints of law, order and a higher source of guidance: 2 Peter 2:9**

Punished: Strong's #2849 kolazw kolazo kol-ad'-zo from kolos (dwarf) 1) to lop or prune, as trees and wings 2) to curb, check, restrain 3) to chastise, correct, punishment 4) to cause to be punished

How do you get a fruit tree to produce more fruit? You prune it to cut away what does not belong. That is what the Day of Judgment is for! Humanity, no matter what state they are in, will be raised and revealed for who or what they are. They will then have to have what does not belong in their characters "cut back" or pruned so they can be complete.

God gave Adam a conscience to know right from wrong, but our consciences now are so out of whack. In the kingdom, consciences will learn how to be attuned to righteousness. Mankind was born in sin through Adam, so of course we lived a life of sin! But during that life of sin, what kind of choices did we make? Were they righteous, good choices or were they dark and evil choices? Most of us have both.

Judgment will be based fully upon one's own actions with the past considered but also actions after being resurrected: Jeremiah 31:27-30: Everyone will be able to make their own decisions with full understanding of the consequences of the choices made in the past, present and future.

- **WHERE - does this marvelous judgment take place and to what end?**

EARTH!!! Acts 17:30-31 Isaiah 42:1-4: To what end? It all comes down to what you do, driven by what your heart and mind dictate! Matthew 25:41-45: Please see our program, "*Are You a Sheep or a Goat?*" from March 5, 2013 for more specific information on this Parable.

Remember, the Parable of the Sheep and the Goats takes place *after* the great time of trouble and after Armageddon. It is the FINAL portion of the Day of Judgment. It is NOT the judgment based on just this current lifetime. At the end of this long Day of Judgment, everyone will have to give a final accounting. If they choose righteousness, they live. If they choose unrighteousness, they are destroyed (not eternally tortured). You get to choose whether or not you want to be a part of eternity.

Ultimately, the actions that provoke judgment are all tied to the following statement from Jesus. This text represents the attitude of the "sheep" in the parable:

Mark 12:28-31: There is nothing about self-sacrifice described here. The Old Testament Law was not about following the footsteps of Jesus, but instead it gave a guideline for living life on earth. The New Covenant in the Day of Judgment replaces the old Law Covenant. The key to physical life eternal on earth will be the same: *Love your Lord your God will all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.* That is what the Day of Judgment will ultimately produce - those who truly love God because they see the love of God.

Judgment Day is a period of time when mankind will go through the resurrection then a rehabilitation process to get back into harmony with God. Jesus as the mediator together with his true followers will help a sin-sick world come back to righteousness. Humankind was given earth as a home. God gave the opportunity for a few to follow after Jesus and receive a heavenly reward. The rest of the world is given the opportunity to live on earth in a perfect world where they will become perfect human beings with the ability to look back on the experience of evil and darkness and see it was a learning process.

The Day of Judgment involves both rehabilitation and opportunity. It is a process, not a single event. It gives mankind the opportunity to live the way they were meant to, realizing God loved us before we ever even knew Him.

***So, what really happens on Judgment Day?
For Jonathan and Rick (and Kathy!) and Christian Questions...
Think about it...!***