



## Will Sinners be Happy on Judgment Day?

**2 Peter 3:7: (NASB) *But by His word the present heavens and earth are being reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.***



Judgment Day! The very words strike fear into the hearts of many believers across the borders of many religions. After all, this world obviously does not dole out any form of true justice to its vast population and God - whatever God you may believe in - surely sees this and will soon balance those scales that are presently so skewed in their measure. Justice! For many believers there is a conviction that God's justice will soon come to earth in the form of anger, wrath and fire and bring the result of a destruction never seen upon this planet! Judgment and Justice - are these images of mayhem and obliteration really what the Bible describes? Is this

world in for a dark and miserable night of pain from the wrath of God from which there is no tomorrow or is there an entirely different meaning and result of Judgment Day? What does the Bible REALLY say?

 **Standing Before God, Judgment Day is Coming, Peter Scofield**

- *It is called "the great and terrible day of God's judgment," when all who died and their sins will be called to appear before the Lord Jesus Christ to be judged. The word of God says, "Then I saw a great white throne and Him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And the sea gave up the dead, which were in it and death and hell delivered up the dead, which were in them. And I see the dead, small and great stand before God and the books were opened."*

But are these Scriptures quoted from the book of Revelation symbolic or literal? We believe they are symbolic. (Please see our program, "Is the Bible Literal or Symbolic?" from September 4, 2011.)

**Let us look at all uses of the phrase *Day of Judgment* in the Bible:**

**Matthew 11:22: (KJV) *But I say unto you, it shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the Day of Judgment, than for you.***

**Mark 6:11: (KJV) *And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear you, when ye depart thence, shake off the dust under your feet for a testimony against them. Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrah in the Day of Judgment, than for that city.***

Jesus sent out his disciples with strict instructions of preaching. Wherever they were not given a positive response, they were to *shake the dust under your feet*, in other words, "enough of you," leave the dust of that city behind. They are not responsible for the consequences of their rejecting the message. It would be more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrah (very sinful cities!) than the city that rejected the preaching. What does *more tolerable* mean? Sodom and Gomorrah were already destroyed once because of sin.



Judgment Day includes groups of people from very sinful times and places with varied responses, each having some part in the Day.

**Our theme text:**

2 Peter 3:7: (KJV) *But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.*

Judgment Day here is connected to the destruction of *heaven and earth* as well as the ungodly. This is all about destruction - a negative end result. Sounds ominous! This is different than the Tyre/Sodom and Gomorrah Scripture that indicates one has a better chance than the other. Does this contradict with this image of fire/destruction?

Matthew 12:36: (KJV) *But I say unto you, that every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the Day of Judgment.*

Here Jesus said Judgment Day includes personal accountability, especially for words spoken.

2 Peter 2:9: (KJV) *The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished...*

Now we have a dividing of people into two types: The godly who are delivered and the unjust who are punished.

1 John 4:17: (KJV) *Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the Day of Judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world.*

Should those being judged have *boldness*? Is there some sort of "Get out of Judgment Free (because you paid the price) Card" for some people?



For most of us, being accountable for all of our actions would be embarrassing and humbling experiences. How could we be bold?

As our program continues, we will show scripturally that for some, Judgment Day is not in the future but is in this lifetime. No one gets out of judgment; it is a matter of WHEN you are judged.

By not going too deep into any of these Scriptures, we have created more questions than answers. The Day of Judgment is not a simple subject. Some Christian denominations preach the subject but leave out the plain truth of what it is really about. We are raising questions so we can figure out what the Scriptures *really* teach about Judgment Day.



SCRIPTURES	SUBJECT	JUDGMENT UPON...
<u>Matthew 11:22</u> and <u>Mark 6:11</u>	Tyre (those who did not listen to Jesus' preaching) vs. Sodom and Gomorrah (evil cities)	Groups of people
<u>2 Peter 3:7</u>	Heavens and earth and ungodly men "reserved unto fire"	A general destruction of everything
<u>Matthew 12:36</u>	Man held accountable for "idle words"	Individuals - personal accountability
<u>2 Peter 2:9</u> and <u>1 John 4:17</u>	Godly are delivered and are bold, unjust are punished	People divided into two groups: The godly and the unjust

All of these pieces - once put together and understood under the following biblical principle - will open the door to what Judgment Day will accomplish. Why does Judgment Day exist?



**The most important principle teaching to answer that question:**

Galatians 6:7-8: (NASB) <sup>7</sup>*Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. <sup>8</sup>For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.*

*God is not mocked* - The "seeds" you put out in your life is the resulting "crop" you will get back. God's judgment sees and understands that.



This is bigger than taking a few Revelation Scriptures out of context. The whole idea of the Day of Judgment is bringing forward the actions and thoughts of every individual so that something good can be done with them.

**What comes before Judgment Day?**

The context of our theme text will help us see a broad picture of Judgment Day in God's plan:

2 Peter 3:3-4: (NASB) <sup>3</sup>*Know this first of all, that **in the last days** mockers will come with their mocking, following after their own lusts, <sup>4</sup>and saying, Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation.*

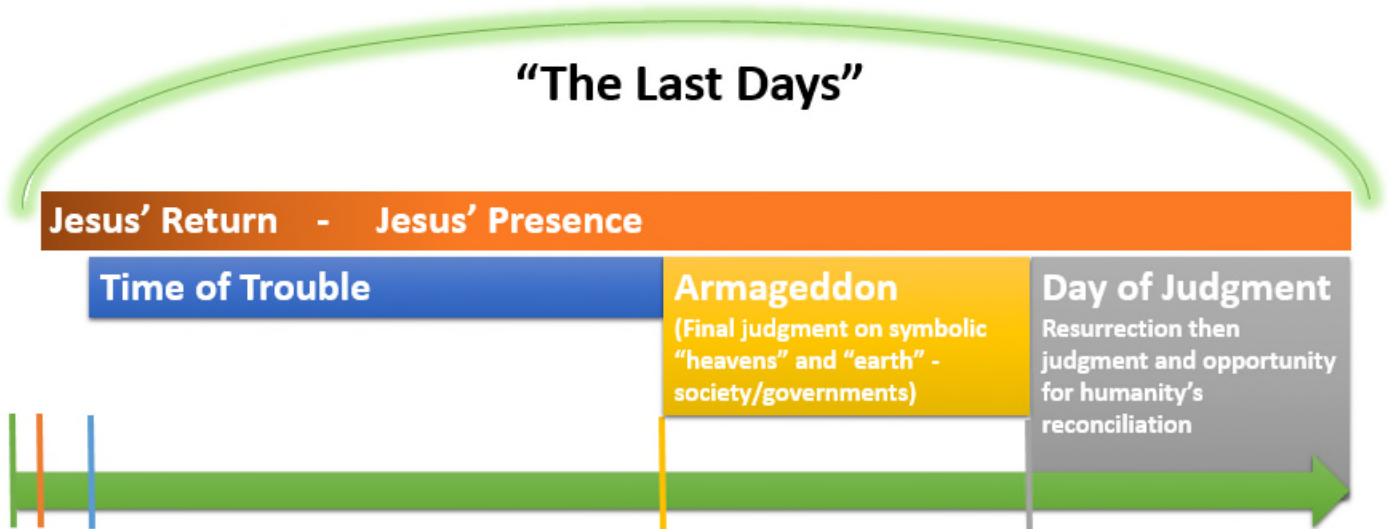
*In the last days* encompasses a longer timeframe than the periods of time known as Armageddon, the Time of Trouble or the Day of Judgment; it starts earlier.



### Jesus returns *before* Judgment Day:

Matthew 24:36-39: (NASB) <sup>36</sup>But of that day (the day Jesus would return) and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone.

(Please see our programs, "Is Jesus Really Returning?" Part 1 from January 19, 2014 and Part 2 from February 2, 2014)



Even though we would not be able to "see" visibly when Jesus returns, he assured us we can see the conditions of the world at the time of his return:

<sup>37</sup>For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah. <sup>38</sup>For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, <sup>39</sup>and they did not understand until the flood came and took them all away; so will the coming of the Son of Man be.

*Like the days of Noah* - Jesus used Noah to picture himself. Noah delivered humanity from destruction to a new life. He was active in facilitating human salvation by building the ark.

This is a picture of Jesus' return - he returns long before the great difficulties, building the method of salvation.

Jesus' return is described in 1 Thessalonians 5:2 as *a thief in the night*. Noah was there long before the rain and the flood. We believe Jesus returns before the Day of Judgment. We see evidence that the return of Jesus has actually happened and he is already preparing.

*Before* Judgment Day we have great trouble (phrased as *the last days*), conditions like those in Noah's day (mocking, sin and extraordinary evil) and we have Jesus already present. This is what is leading up to Judgment Day.

## Who is involved in Judgment Day?



**2 Peter 3:5:** (NASB) *For when they maintain this, it escapes their notice that by the word of God the heavens existed long ago and the earth was formed out of water and by water, <sup>6</sup>through which the world at that time was destroyed, being flooded with water.*

Water, water, water! A comparison is coming up and here Peter helps us get ready to see it...

God has had some significant periods of judgment throughout history, at least **four** of which have had world-changing significance.



**First, there was judgment upon Adam and original sin. This established a need for Judgment Day.**

**Romans 5:12:** (NASB) *Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned...*



This was a simple judgment in that it was upon one individual, Adam. But it was the most far-reaching of any judgment because everyone who came from Adam would now inherit the consequences of his action.

The Garden of Eden was a special place created for Adam and Eve. It had beauty, comfort and God's blessing in every corner. Humankind was created for such a life, but sin took us away from that.

**Second, there was the flood - it destroyed the "world" at that time - the system by which humanity was governed (not the physical earth):**

**1 Peter 3:18-20:** (ASV) *<sup>18</sup>Because Christ also suffered for sins once, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God; being put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit; <sup>19</sup>in which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison, <sup>20</sup>that **beforetime were disobedient, when the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water:***



At the time of the Flood, the earth was under the rule of Satan and the fallen angels, well outside of the will of God. Water was the tool of destruction in **2 Peter 3:5**, but soon water would play a role in salvation.

The Flood was used to remove the fallen angels' materialized presence on earth, and their destiny is the same Judgment Day we have been discussing.

### The role of the fallen angels:

**Jude 1:6:** (Rotherham) *Messengers also, even them who had not kept their own principality, but had forsaken their proper dwelling, unto the judgment of the great day in perpetual bonds under thick gloom, hath he reserved.*



Days of Noah	Days of Jesus' Return
World conditions very evil	World conditions very evil
Activity before the Flood: Making preparations	Activity before the Day of Judgment: Making preparations
Noah's righteousness delivered humanity from destruction to a new life	Jesus' righteousness will deliver humanity from destruction to a new life

God has put them in restraints until the Day of Judgment. Their ability to do what they want has been limited.



**Third**, the casting off of Israel as the sole seed of promise, providing an opportunity for Gentiles to be called into the favor of following Jesus as part of his "body."

**Romans 2:9:** (NASB) *There will be tribulation and distress for every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek...*

The heavenly call to be Jesus' footstep followers went out first to the Jews. When the majority rejected him, the call went out to the Gentiles. Israel will be judged for their pride and hard hearts in rejecting the Messiah.

Different religions have a lot of perspectives on Judgment Day. Here is an example of a Muslim perspective.

**The Resurrection, Birth After Death, [themercifulservant.com](http://themercifulservant.com)**

*Allah says, "Then the trumpet shall be blown a second time and everybody will be resurrected after the end." And your sight is sharp meaning you see things clearly. As clear as clear can be. Much more clearer than here. Allah says in the Koran, "Your world before this, meaning in the former life, you were blinded to many things. We took the veil away from you today and your eyesight is sharp." Allah says in the Koran, "When the trumpet is blown, and the earth is destroyed and so on and the Day of Judgment comes." Every person will come with an angel who will be pulling or driving that person together with a witness. The angel who was with you all your life will come as a witness against you or for you, Allah, protect us. This will be a day of torment and hardship. It will not be easy.*



**Fourth**, there is the ongoing judgment of the "true church" to choose those who will inherit immortality:

**1 Peter 2:9-11:** (NRSV) *<sup>9</sup>But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. <sup>10</sup>Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, I urge you as aliens and exiles to abstain from the desires of the flesh that wage war against the soul.*

There is a specific judgment going on now. The **godly**, those who follow Jesus, are not destined for the Day of Judgment, for they will have already been proven. Their judgment is in this lifetime.



A caller from Connecticut suggests that all people are sinners but the ones with good intentions will be happy on Judgment Day. **Isaiah 26:9:** *When God's judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants thereof will learn righteousness.* The key is the administration of perfect justice. There is so much injustice in this world. So many people suffer because of injustice, but soon perfect justice will be administered. **Isaiah 25:9:** *In that day they will say, Surely this is our God; we trusted in Him, and He saved us. This is the LORD, we trusted in Him; let us rejoice and be glad in His salvation.* People with good intentions will recognize God's perfect judgment. They will rejoice and say, this is the God we have been waiting for; finally we see a perfect Judge.

What qualifies as a "good intention"? This will come down to what it is you are trying to justify. Will you be seeking for the justification of your own actions -



“I did this because of that,” or will you be seeking the justification of Jesus as a ransom price for your sins?

1 Peter 2:12: (NRSV) <sup>12</sup>Conduct yourselves honorably among the Gentiles, so that, though they malign you as evildoers, they may see your honorable deeds and glorify God when He comes to judge.

This verse has a lot to say about the role of the faithful in the Day of Judgment. We will come back to this again, but it gives us a sense there is a different destiny for them. The godly, those who follow Jesus, are not destined for the Day of Judgment, as they will have already had their “day of judgment” beforehand, in this life. When we read Scriptures about being judged now, it is about this class of people and not the rest of the world.

**The faithful judged ahead of time:**

Matthew 25:31-32: (NASB) <sup>31</sup>But when the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels (the spiritual heavenly church already judged and proven faithful in this life) with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. <sup>32</sup>All the nations will be gathered before him; and he will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats;

These are not the messengers of God (like we think of angels); these are messengers of Jesus who have proven faithful in this life who execute judgment in the future.



**The method of the proving of the true Christian is different than that used on Judgment Day:**

1 John 2:1-2: (ASV) <sup>1</sup>My little children, these things write I unto you that ye may not sin. And if any man sin, we have an **Advocate <3875>** with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: <sup>2</sup>and he is the **propitiation <2434>** for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for the whole world.

**Advocate:** Strongs #3875 parakletos (par-ak'-lay-tos); an intercessor, consoler:  
1) summoned, called to one's side, esp. called to one's aid  
2) one who pleads another's cause before a judge, a pleader, counsel for defense, legal assistant, an advocate.



An advocate is someone working with you who is on your side. This is a unique relationship between Jesus and his true followers now. The relationship he has to the world in the Day of Judgment is entirely different. More on this later.

Jesus' role for the BELIEVER is as an ADVOCATE

1 John 2:1-2



*An ADVOCATE is someone who sits with you on your side, one who pleads another's cause before a judge.*

ADVOCATE = Greek word: Παράκλητος  
Strong's #3875 *paraklētōs*

By the time the world's Day of Judgment comes, the members of the true church have already been judged and found faithful. Jesus was their advocate in front of the Father.

**Propitiation:** Strong's #2434 *hilamov hilasmos hil-as-mos'*;  
1) an appeasing, propitiating 2) the means of appeasing, a propitiation

In other words, Jesus takes care of it. He fulfills what is needed to atone for the sin for both the faithful now and the rest of the world. Not everyone has the Advocate, but he was the propitiation *for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for the whole world.*

**Theme text:**

2 Peter 3:7: (NASB) *But by His word the present heavens and earth are being reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.*

There are two steps in this verse:

First, the destiny of the present *heavens* (symbol of the spiritual controlling powers - Satan, fallen angels and the religious systems under their direction) *and earth* (symbol of the entire social fabric) is destruction. We know these are symbols because God is not judging literal dirt, trees, air and stars. God judges *systems*. The destiny of that which was under Satan's influence is destruction, just like during the Flood. This is a judgment of the systems.

Second, there is a Judgment Day for humanity that comes after the controlling powers and social fabric have been judged. Obviously step one ends badly, but what about step two? What does *destruction of ungodly men* mean?





### Paul's witness efforts help us begin to understand this:

**Acts 17:29-31:** (NASB) <sup>29</sup>Being then the children of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and thought of man. <sup>30</sup>Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent, <sup>31</sup>because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising him from the dead.



### Observations:

- It is a fixed day - a time period predetermined to happen.
- The judgment of that day will be upon the world, based in righteousness.
- The judgment of that day will come from Jesus.
- The true church will (as we have already seen) play a role.

First, general observations of how it works and then our theme context:

recap  
recap

- Judgment Day includes those from very sinful times and places that will have varied responses.
- Judgment Day is connected to the destruction of *heaven and earth* (a symbol of governing powers and the social fabric) as well as the ungodly.
- Judgment Day works based upon accountability - especially for words spoken and the intentions of your heart.
- Judgment Day includes a "Get out of Judgment Free (because you paid the price) Card" for some.

**2 Peter 3:3-7:** (NASB) <sup>3</sup>Know this first of all, that in the last days mockers will come with their mocking, following after their own lusts, <sup>4</sup>and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation. <sup>5</sup>For when they maintain this, it escapes their notice that by the word of God the heavens existed long ago and the earth was formed out of water and by water, <sup>6</sup>through which the world at that time was destroyed, being flooded with water. <sup>7</sup>But by His word the present heavens and earth are being reserved for fire, kept for the Day of Judgment and destruction of ungodly men.

This does not describe a destruction of the physical earth; but rather, the systems of the earth that need to be torn down in order to establish the righteous government of God.

**We know about the wrath of God and the taking down of the "heavens and the earth."**

**What event triggers the personal judgment activity of Judgment Day?**



**The Book of Life, Standing Before God, Judgment Day is Coming, Peter Scofield**

- "And another book was opened which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books according to their works. Every idle word that men shall speak they should give account thereof in the Day of Judgment." When it is over God will ask an angel to open the Book of Life to see if your name appears. The angel will look and



say, “That name does not appear, Lord,” and God will say, “Depart from me. Ye cursed into everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels.”

What is the purpose of the Day of Judgment? Many Christians understand it to be a “stamping” of approval or disapproval.

**Here is what starts the judgment:**

John 5:28-29: (ASV) <sup>28</sup>Marvel not at this: for the hour cometh, in which all that are in the tombs shall hear his voice, <sup>29</sup>and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of judgment <5278>.



*They that have done good* - These have already been judged and have proven themselves to be unbreakable in their loyalty to Jesus. Their intentions were always towards the will of God. By the grace of God and covering of Jesus, those intentions, even if everything was not done perfectly, are counted as perfect because their heart was in the right place.

*They that have done evil* -

**Judgment:** Strongs #2920 krisis (kree'-sis); decision (subjectively or objectively, for or against); by extension, a tribunal; by implication, justice (especially, divine law): 1) a separating, sundering, separation 1a) a trial, contest 2) selection 3) judgment

The idea of making a decision implies a process, not a final proclamation. This is a time period of a decision-making process about reconciling man back to God.



Though this period of time will be humiliating and shameful, it will be a great relief knowing our pain outside and inside out will be fixed!

The judgment is for the purpose of reconciling man back to God. Man will have to account for their sins and there will be consequences. But man will then have the opportunity to learn righteousness (most for the very first time), make amends and move forward in the kingdom.

2 Peter 3:7-8: (NASB) <sup>7</sup>But by His word the present heavens and earth are being reserved for fire, kept for the Day of Judgment and destruction of ungodly men. <sup>8</sup>But do not let this one fact escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day.

This is obviously not something that happens in an instant - it is a 1,000-year judgment period where people are held accountable.



Practical example: Your employer calls you in for your review. If you had unaccomplished goals and objectives from the previous year, you are held accountable. What is supposed to happen next? You go back to work with a new focus. The Day of Judgment is a time of accountability for the purpose of correction and reconciliation to righteousness. It is not a mere “pass/fail” proclamation or verdict for a death sentence. This fact gets confused by many and the Day becomes ominous instead of the pathway to a glorious future.



2 Peter 3:9: (NASB) <sup>9</sup>The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, **not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.**

Everyone will have an opportunity to turn their heart right and be in harmony with God and His ways.

**This next text reveals the process and objective of The Day of Judgment:**  
Isaiah 26:9: (KJV) *With my soul have I desired thee in the night; yea, with my spirit within me will I seek thee early: for when thy judgments are in the earth, **the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness.***

This could not happen if the Day of Judgment “stamped” you as “disapproved.”

Remember the *advocate* method of proving the true followers of Jesus? Now let us look at Jesus and the ungodly - *they that have done evil.*

Romans 3:23: (NASB) *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,*

1 Timothy 2:1,3-6: (ASV) <sup>1</sup>I exhort therefore...that supplications, prayers, intercessions, thanksgivings, be made for all men...<sup>3</sup>This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior; <sup>4</sup>who would have all men to be saved, and come to the knowledge of the truth. <sup>5</sup>For there is one God, one **mediator** also between God and men, himself man, Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>who gave himself a **ransom** for all; the testimony to be borne in its own times;

### Jesus' role for the Non-BELIEVER is as a MEDIATOR

#### 1 Timothy 2:5-6



**A MEDIATOR is a translator, someone who intervenes between two sides at odds to bring them together.**

**MEDIATOR** = Greek word: μεσίτης  
Strong's #3316 *mesitēs*

*Christ Jesus, who gave himself a ransom for all; the testimony to be borne in its own times* - In the Day of Judgment, we believe the vast majority of mankind will be thankful they have been resurrected and are alive again, realizing Jesus died for them - even if they had no relationship with him. They will be joyous they were given an opportunity.



There are distinct differences between Jesus as Advocate vs. Mediator:

## TWO DIFFERENT ROLES OF JESUS

To the GODLY	To the UNGODLY
True followers of Christ	“Everybody else”
Jesus as an “advocate” sits side-by-side, next to you, speaking to God on your behalf	Jesus as a “mediator” sits between two parties in order to bring God and the ungodly together
When? During your lifetime, being judged in advance of the world	When? During the world’s Judgment Day
The result? A reward of “glory, honor and immortality”	The result ? “Tribulation and distress,” then the opportunity to make a choice to glorify God with full knowledge of sin and personal accountability

### What does Judgment Day look like for the sinful world?

Here is a viewpoint we strongly do not agree is biblical.



Jahannam, *Birth After Death*, [themercifulservant.com](http://themercifulservant.com)

- *On that day we will bring Jahannam (hellfire) forth. We will let Jahannam come right onto the point where we are taking account. So when Jahannam sees the criminals, listen to what happens. Allah says, as the criminals see Jahannam, Jahannam will make a roaring, bubbling, crackling sound, inviting sound to tell them this is your abode ...Allah will ask “Is this not the day? Did I not promise you of this day?”*
- *The people will call out, “Please, our Lord, listen to pain. Please, our Lord, return us back. Please, our Lord, give us another chance. Please, our Lord, have mercy upon us.” People will cry until their tears run out and they begin to cry blood.*

Hellfire is not a scriptural way of judging. (See our programs, “Do the Fires of Hell Come from God?” Part I - June 7, 2015 and Part II - July 26, 2015.) That audio clip described a very harsh, final result, and many Christian denominations see it that way as well. We do not believe Judgment Day has that message or methods.

2 Peter 3:10-11: (NASB) <sup>10</sup>But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up. <sup>11</sup>Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,

A new spiritual governing system and social fabric will replace what is needed to be destroyed for life to continue in a godly fashion.



These verses remind us of what the Apostle Peter already said so we can be focused on doing our part - that is, to live every day faithfully so we can be a healing part of this great Judgment Day.

### **Jesus will run Judgment Day through his faithful ones:**

1 Peter 2:12: (NASB) *Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may because of your good deeds, as they observe them, glorify God in the day of visitation.*

The Apostle explained that one of the results after judgment will be the people glorifying God. If Judgment Day were about throwing people into an abyss, why would they praise God in everlasting torment or instant death after resurrection?

Many people throughout all ages have made complicated messes of their lives. It will not be easy to change from who you were to who you need to be.

### **Judgment Day will be a day of restraint:**

2 Peter 2:9: (KJV) *The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be **punished** <5281>:*

**Punished**: Strongs #2849 kolazw kolazo kol-ad'-zo 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

Pruning a tree cuts back all the branches not needed for fruit. Is that a good thing or bad thing? It is good because it helps the fruit to grow and develop, even though the tree does not look good immediately after. This is a description of the Day of Judgment. Mankind will go through a pruning or refining process the faithful Christians already went through.



### **Jesus talking to his disciples the night before he died:**

John 15:5: (KJV) *I am the vine and you are the branches...*

This picture of pruning resurrected mankind means having their sinful tendencies pruned back and restrained so they can grow into righteousness. It will be painful but worth the result.

### **Judgment Day applies equally to all who have ever lived. It does not matter when or where you were born, or into what religion you were born:**

Matthew 11:20-22: (NASB) *<sup>20</sup>Then he began to denounce the cities in which most of his miracles were done, because they did not repent. <sup>21</sup>Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles had occurred in Tyre and Sidon, which occurred in you, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. <sup>22</sup>Nevertheless I say to you, it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in the Day of Judgment than for you.*

Jesus personally visited Chorazin and Bethsaida. Jesus tells us if Tyre and Sidon would have received such a visit, they would have changed their ways.

(Source: Biblical commentary from Matthew Poole) Tyre and Sidon were habitations of heathens, their country joined to Galilee. They were places of great traffic, inhabited with Canaanitish idolaters, and exceedingly wicked; threatened by the prophet Isaiah, (Isaiah 23:1-



18), and by the prophet Ezekiel, (Ezekiel 26:1-28), and by Amos, (Amos 1:9,10); a people odious to the Jews upon many accounts.

All will have an opportunity for life in the kingdom, but some will have an easier time because their hearts were not so disconnected from righteousness. These sinners may not be initially happy in the Day of Judgment, but they will have the opportunity to work their way back to God's will.

Matthew 11:23-24: (NASB) <sup>23</sup>And you, Capernaum, will not be exalted to heaven, will you? You will descend to Hades; for if the miracles had occurred in Sodom, which occurred in you, it would have remained to this day. <sup>24</sup>Nevertheless I say to you that it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the Day of Judgment, than for you.

Sodom was a city specifically destroyed because of its inherent evil, yet they appear in the Day of Judgment with an easier path to righteousness than Capernaum.

Then what does this mean? *You will descend to Hades* - Hades is the grave. Capernaum as a city would be destroyed. But the people would have an opportunity for life.

**JUDGMENT DAY**

Is the imagery described **LITERAL** or **SYMBOLIC**?

Is the judgment spoken of **NOW** or **FUTURE**?

The faithful followers of Jesus are judged during their lifetimes. The rest of the world is judged after they are resurrected.

**Judgment Day will be based fully upon one's own actions, with the past considered, but not the primary qualifier:**

Jeremiah 31:27-30: (NASB) <sup>27</sup>Behold, days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will sow the house of Israel and the house of Judah with the seed of man and with the seed of beast. <sup>28</sup>As I have watched over them to pluck up, to break down, to overthrow, to destroy and to bring disaster, (past actions) so I will watch over them to build and to plant, (this is happening in Israel right now) declares the LORD. <sup>29</sup>In those days they will not say again, the fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge. <sup>30</sup>But everyone will die for his own iniquity; each man who eats the sour grapes, his teeth will be set on edge. (future)

*But everyone will die for his own iniquity; each man who eats the sour grapes, his teeth will be set on edge.* - No one will be able to say it is unfair since they inherited sin through no fault of their own. After being resurrected and rehabilitated, they will from then on be completely accountable for their own actions, without any influence of inherited sin or temptation.

**What does Judgment Day produce as an end result for the world?**

2 Peter 3:12-13: (NASB) <sup>12</sup>looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat! <sup>13</sup>But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.

The symbolic heaven and earth are destroyed, replaced by God's perfect way of running things.



## Judgment Day is inescapable: God sees all - no one gets away with anything:

**Hebrews 4:12-13:** (ASV) *<sup>12</sup>For the word of God is living, and active, and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing even to the dividing of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and quick to discern the thoughts and intents of the heart. <sup>13</sup>And there is no creature that is not manifest in His sight: but all things are naked and laid open before the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.*

God is love and has a plan. Mankind will have life, blessing, goodness, righteousness -in the best way that glorifies God first and foremost.

You will be happy in the Day of Judgment if you are seeking the justification of Jesus - his assisting you to be righteous through his ransom sacrifice. If you are seeking to justify yourself and the things you have done in this evil world - you do not want to be part of this new program - eventually you will be removed from this new, righteous society and will go out of existence. We would think very few will choose this path.

## True Christians will take part in the responsibility of judging - even angels:

**1 Corinthians 6:3:** (NASB) *Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more matters of this life?*



God's goal is for every person to be whole mentally, physically and spiritually; to know the living God who created Jesus Christ and gave us life.

This will be the time when the goodness of God's original plan for man can be seen and understood. There are billions of people who have never heard of the righteousness of God. That is all going to change.

## Judgment Day will ultimately bring life to the billions and billions of humanity:

**Romans 6:23:** (KJV) *For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Every human being inherited Adam's sin. God's perfect justice required the sacrifice of Jesus' life so that every human being could be given a resurrection. They have to earn life from that point and though it will not be easy, they will have the opportunity.

 **No rest in hellfire, Standing Before God, Judgment Day is Coming, Peter Scofield**

- *"And these shall go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into life eternal. And whosoever was not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire." The Bible says, "And the smoke of their torment ascended up forever and ever. And they have no rest day or night forever."*

We understand the lake of fire to be a symbol of utter destruction.

**Isaiah 42:1-4:** (ASV) *<sup>1</sup>Behold, my servant, whom I uphold; my chosen, in whom my soul delighteth: I have put my Spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the Gentiles. <sup>2</sup>He will not cry, nor lift up his voice, nor cause it to be heard in the street. <sup>3</sup>A bruised reed will he not break, and a dimly burning wick will he not quench: he will bring forth justice in truth. <sup>4</sup>He will not fail nor be discouraged, till he have set justice in the earth; and the isles shall wait for his law.*



Great compassion is described. Jesus' ultimate work with the human race is to *bring forth justice and truth*. This is one of many prophecies that give us the sense of something good happening. There is an anticipation for this time. It is good news!

Judgment Day will ultimately bring death to the few who refuse love, righteousness and mercy. There is a dark side for some if they absolutely refuse the gift of resurrection and mercy and want to continue in their evil ways.

### Here is the method to deal with such incorrigible people:

**Acts 3:19-23:** (NASB) <sup>19</sup>Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord; <sup>20</sup>and that He may send Jesus, the Christ appointed for you, <sup>21</sup>whom heaven must receive until the period of restoration of all things about which God spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from ancient time. <sup>22</sup>Moses said, THE LORD GOD WILL RAISE UP FOR YOU A PROPHET LIKE ME FROM YOUR BRETHREN; TO HIM YOU SHALL GIVE HEED to everything He says to you. <sup>23</sup>And it will be that every soul that does not heed that prophet shall be **utterly destroyed <1842>** from among the people.

**Utterly destroy:** Strongs #1842 exolothreuo (ex-ol-oth-ryoo'-o); to extirpate:  
1) to destroy out of its place, destroy utterly, to extirpate

(Extirpate means to destroy completely, wipe out, pull up by the root or to cut out by surgery.)

*Restoration of all things* -What was lost that needs restoring? The harmony of humankind with God. This period of restoration is of great value.

In the context of resurrection and restoration, there will be some who will be utterly destroyed. (Not tormented or tortured.)



A caller from Colorado suggests **Revelation 21:1-4:** (NAS) *Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away."*

This is a beautiful explanation of what the Day of Judgment will accomplish.

**Hebrews 9:24-28:** (NASB) <sup>24</sup>For Christ did not enter a holy place made with hands, a mere copy of the true one, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us; <sup>25</sup>nor was it that he would offer himself often, as the high priest enters the holy place year by year with blood that is not his own. <sup>26</sup>Otherwise, he would have needed to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now once at the consummation of the ages he has been manifested to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. (One sacrifice, Jesus, finished the work.) <sup>27</sup>And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment, <sup>28</sup>so Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time for salvation without reference to sin, to those who eagerly await him. (Second appearance means trouble first, resurrection next, and these then salvation for all!)





There is a necessary destruction of the symbolic *heavens* (the spiritual controlling powers - Satan, fallen angels and the religious systems under their direction) *and earth* (the entire social fabric) in Armageddon. There will be trouble first, then resurrection that leads to salvation for all. Part of that salvation is the Day of Judgment - when resurrection begins - when humans start returning from the grave, there is a new, righteous government in place.

The Day of Judgment involves the plan of God coming to fruition where every man, woman and child will be able to learn righteousness by following after the will of God.

Will sinners be happy on Judgment Day? If they are relying on the justification of Jesus, absolutely! We look forward to that!

*So, will sinners be happy on judgment day?  
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...  
Think about it...!*

*And now even more to think about...  
only in the **Full Edition** of CQ Rewind!*



Peace on earth as the result of Judgment Day.

### **Judgment Day is about reconciliation!**

2 Corinthians 5:17-21: (ASV) <sup>17</sup>Wherefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature: the old things are passed away; behold, they are become new. <sup>18</sup>But all things are of God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and gave unto us the ministry of reconciliation; <sup>19</sup>to wit, that God was in Christ reconciling the world unto himself, not reckoning unto them their trespasses, and having committed unto us the word of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup>We are ambassadors therefore on behalf of Christ, as though God were entreating by us: we beseech you on behalf of Christ, be ye reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup>Him who knew no sin he made to be sin on our behalf; that we might become the righteousness of God in him.

### **Judgment will be based fully upon one's own actions, with the past considered, but not primary:**

Jeremiah 31:27-30: (NASB) <sup>27</sup>Behold, days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will sow the house of Israel and the house of Judah with the seed of man and with the seed of beast. <sup>28</sup>As I have watched over them to pluck up, to break down, to overthrow, to destroy and to bring disaster, (past actions) so I will watch over them to build and to plant, (present Day of Judgment actions) declares the LORD. <sup>29</sup>In those days they will not say again, the fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge. <sup>30</sup>But everyone will die for his own iniquity; each man who eats the sour grapes, his teeth will be set on edge.

### **Here are the fruits of Judgment Day:**

Isaiah 35:8-10: (ASV) <sup>8</sup>And a highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for the redeemed: the wayfaring men, yea fools, shall not err therein. <sup>9</sup>No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast go up thereon; they shall not be found there; but the redeemed shall walk there: <sup>10</sup>and the ransomed of Jehovah shall return, and come with singing unto Zion; and everlasting joy shall be upon their heads: they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.



Matthew 6:9-10: (NRSV) *<sup>9</sup>Pray then in this way: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. <sup>10</sup>Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.*

Daniel 2:44: (NRSV) *And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed, nor shall this kingdom be left to another people. It shall crush all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, and it shall stand forever...*

Habakkuk 2:14: (KJV) *For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.*

Psalms 22:27: (KJV) *All the ends of the world shall remember and turn unto the LORD: and all the kindreds of the nations shall worship before thee.*

Psalms 86:9: (KJV) *All nations whom thou hast made shall come and worship before thee, O Lord; and shall glorify thy name.*

Isaiah 11:9: (KJV) *They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.*

Zechariah 14:9: (KJV) *And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one.*

Revelation 11:15: (KJV) *And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign forever and ever.*