

The Future Judgments of God

The Judge

The LORD our God is one LORD (Deuteronomy 6:4) and He is the Judge of all (Hebrews 12:23). **But God is the Judge; He putteth down one, and setteth up another** (Psalm 75:7). In the New Testament, **The Father ... hath committed all judgment unto the Son** (John 5:22). God the Father does not separate Himself from the pronouncement of judgment, but He has delegated this responsibility to His Son. The Father and the Son are equal in character (John 5:17-18), in works (5:19-22) and in honor (5:23). In Matthew 25:31-35, Jesus pictured Himself sitting on a glorious throne, judging all nations. **I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, Who shall judge the quick and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom** (II Timothy 4:1). Though we are not privileged to know the details, Matthew 19:28, Luke 22:28-30, I Corinthians 6:2-3 and Revelation 3:21 and 20:4 reveals that believers and the Disciples will share in the future judgments. God will judge everyone with perfect justice.

The Subjects of Judgment

God's judgment has always been against sinners and their sin. Romans 14:12 states that every one of us will give account of himself to God, Who will punish evildoers and reward those who love Him (Matthew 13:33-58; I Corinthians 2:9; II Timothy 4:8; James 1:12; 2:5). His judgment will be against individuals and it will have a universal scope.

The Number of Judgments in God's Word

We normally think of judgments in terms of end time events. However, depending on how you count, there are 36 to 40 different judgments going back to the beginning of time. Note just a few of these – Judgment of: Human race in Adam (the curse), world-wide flood, Babel, Sodom and Gomorrah, Egypt, Temporal judgment of Ancient Apostate Israel, Nebuchadnezzar and Babylon, and the judgment of sin at Calvary. In the Tribulation Period there are 21 judgments upon the earth before Christ's visible reappearing on the earth. There are seven Seal Judgments, seven Trumpet Judgments and seven Vial Judgments.

The Different Thrones for the Major Judgments

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| • Bema Seat | Believers | In the Air |
| • Throne of Glory | Nations | On the Earth (Valley of Jehoshaphat) |
| • Great White Throne | Ungodly | In Heaven |

The End-Time Judgments

1. **Judgment of Believers' Works (for Service)** – Eternal life is not the issue at this judgment. This is known as, the Judgment Seat of Christ (Romans 14:10; I Corinthians 3:11-15; 4:5; II Corinthians 5:10; Galatians 6:7-9; Ephesians 6:8; II Timothy 4:8; Revelation 22:12). This judgment, sometimes referred to as the Bema, is for the purpose of rewards. Every believer will stand before the Lord in this judgment.
2. **Tribulation Judgments:** Seals, Trumpets and Vials (bowls).
 - **Final Judgment upon the Nation of Israel (for Scorning God)** – the faithless of Israel (Ezekiel 11:21; 20:38-38; Amos 9:9, 10; Zechariah 13:8; Malachi 4:1; Matthew 24:48-51; 25:7-10, 21, 24-30; Romans 9:6; I Thessalonians 2:14-16; Revelation 3:9).
 - 1) Tribulation – Time of the Judgment (Matthew 25:4-26)
 - 2) Second Coming of Christ to the earth (Matthew 24:27-30)
 - 3) Regathering of for Judgment (Matthew 24:31)
 - 4) Judgment of Israel (Matthew 25:1-30)

5) Purpose for their judgment

- The rejected their Sovereign God I Samuel 8: 7
- They rejected the Son of God Luke 23:18
- They rejected the Spirit of God Acts 7:51, 54

6) The intent of their judgment

- Repentance of the people Zechariah 12:12; Isaiah 66:8
- Refining of the people Malachi

- **Judgment of the Nations – (for their standing against the Jews - Joel 3:1-2; Matthew 25:31-46).** This takes place immediately following Christ's deliverance of Israel from the antichrist (Matthew 13:40, 41, 47-49; 25:31-46). This will determine who should and who should not enter the millennial period, everyone being **evaluated on the basis of their attitude toward the Jews**, though no unsaved people will enter the millennial kingdom (Matthew 25:34). The **sheep** will enter into the kingdom and the **goats** will be sent into everlasting punishment.
 - **Judgment of Fallen Angels (for supporting Satan - Mark 1:23-24; I Corinthians 6:3; II Peter 2:4; Jude 1:6).**
 - **Judgment upon the Beast, Antichrist, False Prophet, second Beast and the Great Harlot (Revelation 19).**
3. **The Great White Throne Judgment (for sin - Revelation 20:5, 11-15).** All the unsaved of all the ages will be resurrected (bodies and spirits reunited) and be judged according to their works and receive their sentence of eternal punishment in hell for their sin where they will experience various degrees of torment forever.

Severity of Judgment

- In Noah's day, God destroyed the entire human race because of its wickedness.
- In Lot's day, God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah because of its gross immorality demonstrated in the sin of homosexuality (Genesis 19:4-11; Isaiah 3:9; Jeremiah 23:14; Jude 7).
- God ordered the destruction of the Canaanites as a result of their iniquity noted in sins of incest, bestiality, and homosexuality (Deuteronomy 7:1-3; Leviticus 18:19-25).

Iniquity (sin) is like a cancerous infection which must be removed so that others will not be infected. The Bible also records where sudden destruction came upon families and individuals because of sin – Korah, Nadab, Abiram, and King Herod. We would praise a doctor who can effectively remove a cancer so that the whole body is not affected. We need to praise God for His judgments recognizing that everything He does is righteous, holy and right (Psalm 145:17; Genesis 18:25).