

# The Judgement Seat Of Christ

**The Second Coming of Christ and the Final Judgement are closely connected.**

**All human history is moving toward this great and final event in man's world or society.**

**We see it prophesied in the Old Testament presented as "*The day of the Lord*".**

**Amos 5:18** [NIV] *"Woe to you who long for **the day of the LORD!** Why do you long for **the day of the LORD?** That day will be darkness, not light."*

**Joel 3:14** [NIV] *"Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For **the day of the LORD** is near in the valley of decision."*

**We find the same event in the New Testament presented as "*that day*" or "*last day*".**

**Matthew 7:22-23** [NIV] *"Many will say to me **on that day**, Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles? Then I will tell them plainly, I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!"*

**John 12:48** [NIV] *"There is a judge for the one who rejects me and does not accept my words; that very word which I spoke will condemn him **at the last day.**"*

Paul refers to this Day of Judgement as part of the Gospel Message.

**Romans 2:16** [NIV] *"This will take place **on the day** when God will judge men's secrets through Jesus Christ, as my gospel declares."*

**1 Corinthians 1:8** [NIV] *"He will keep you strong to the end, so that you will be blameless **on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.**"*

Peter refers to this same event as a Day of Judgement and a day of cleansing by fire; but a day we should be looking forward to.

**2 Peter 2:9** [NIV] *"...if this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue godly men from trials and to hold the unrighteous for **the day of judgement**, while continuing their punishment."*

**2 Peter 3:10-13** [NIV] *"But **the day of the Lord will come like a thief**. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare. Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness."*

All will face this event both the great of the world as well as those of lesser estate. Those living at the Second Coming of Christ and those who have died.

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18** [NIV] *"Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly*

*not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage each other with these words.”*

**Revelation 20:11-13** [NIV] *“Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done.”*

Christ personally promised to return to His Disciples after preparing them for His Death and Departure.

**John 14:1-3** [NIV] *“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father’s house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.”*

**Matthew 24:30-31** [NIV] *“At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. **They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory.** And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.”*

**This same return was confirmed by angels after Christ’s Departure.**

**Acts 1:10-11** [NIV] *“They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. Men of Galilee, they said, why do you stand here looking into the sky? **This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.**”*

Paul’s epistles confirmed the same return.

**1 Corinthians 15:51-53** [NIV] *“Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed – in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. **For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.** For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality.”*

The other New Testament writers mentioned this same event, showing how real and very important this event was to all early Christians. **The knowledge of this event shaped their every day life.**

**2 Timothy 4:1-5** [NIV] *“In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage – with great patience and careful instruction. For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.”*

**As far as Paul was concerned all preaching should be designed to prepare men for this earth shaking event. This event is the destiny of every human being, something we all need to not only be aware of but day by day be preparing ourselves to face.**

**2 Corinthians 5:10** [NIV] *“For we must all appear before the judgement seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.”*

**What are the purposes behind the judgement seat of Christ?**

**To vindicate the name of Jesus Christ.**

When Christ came the first time He ended up on a cross, the symbol of shame and pain. There was no open vindication of Him as a person.

**1 Timothy 3:16** [NIV] *“Beyond all question, the mystery of godliness is great: He appeared in a body, was vindicated by the Spirit, was seen by angels, was preached among the nations, was believed on in the world, was taken up in glory.”*

**Christ was vindicated by the Holy Spirit but this was only to a few, the “family”, those who through the work of the Holy Spirit know who Jesus Christ is.**

**When Jesus Christ comes a second time He will be vindicated openly before all people.**

**Revelation 1:7** *“Look, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and all the peoples of the earth will mourn because of him. So shall it be! Amen.”*

**Every eye will see Him as He really is eternal God and Saviour of all mankind.**

Herod and Pilate who condemned Him to death will witness this event.

Those soldiers who crucified Him will witness this event.

All who mourn for having rejected Him will witness this event.

All who saw Jesus Christ in the flesh but rejected His Teaching.

All who hear the Gospel message, whether from a pulpit or as the result of a personal witness and reject that message.

**All will see Jesus Christ and will be convicted.**

That He is Lord, that is God.

That He is the one and only Saviour.

That He is the looked for Messiah.

That His death on the cross was God’s way to save all mankind from eternal death.

That He was fully man.

That He was fully God.

**This event will vindicate The Christian Bible and righteousness.**

**The event will be a vindication of God’s Word, The Christian Bible.** The foolishness of those who try to ridicule the Word of God will be exposed to their shame.

All the words of the Old and New Testaments will be vindicated before all men.

The very words of Jesus will judge us as well as the books of The Christian Bible.

**John 12:48** [NIV] *“There is a judge for the one who rejects me and does not accept my words; that very word which I spoke will condemn him at the last day.”*

**Revelation 20:11-12** [NIV] *“Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books.”*

**This event will vindicate all those who confessed Christ as their Lord and Saviour.**

**All whose lives witness to their trusting in Jesus Christ’s shed blood on the cross will be saved by receiving eternal life.**

**1 Corinthians 15:51-58** [NIV] *“Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed – in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: Death has been swallowed up in victory. Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting? The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain.”*

**This event will vindicate all who have sought to live Godly lives and to do things for God’s Glory.**

**James 5:7-11** [NIV] *“Be patient, then, brothers, until the Lord’s coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains. You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord’s coming is near. Don’t grumble against each other, brothers, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door! Brothers, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. As you know, we consider blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job’s perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.”*

**Patient perseverance in seeking and doing God’s Will for our lives will be revealed and rewarded.**

**1 Corinthians 3:8-9** [NIV] *“The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose, and each will be rewarded according to his own labour. For we are God’s fellow workers; you are God’s field, God’s building.”*

**Hebrews 6:10-12** [NIV] *“God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them. We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, in order to make your hope sure. We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised.”*

**What will happen at the judgement?**

**Jesus will sit.**

**In ancient time sitting in company or court showed you were in a position of power and authority.**

**John 19:13** [NIV] *“When Pilate heard this, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judge’s seat at a place known as the Stone Pavement (which in Aramaic is Gabbatha).”*

Pontius Pilate sat down when he gave his final pronouncement.

**Luke 4:20-21** [NIV] *“Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him, and he began by saying to them, Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”*

**Jesus sat down when He revealed that He was the fulfilment of the scripture He had just read. [Isaiah 61:1-2]**

**Revelation 20:11** [NIV] *“Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them.”*

**When Jesus comes as judge He will also sit in power and judgement.**

**We will stand.**

**Revelation 20:12** [NIV] *“And I saw the dead, great and small, **standing before the throne**, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books.”*

The dead resurrected once again to life, those who hold positions of authority on earth and those in positions of lower estate.

**Romans 14:10** [NIV] *“You, then, why do you judge your brother? Or why do you look down on your brother? **For we will all stand before God’s judgement seat.**”*

**All of us as Christians will also stand before the same seated judge, Jesus Christ. The fact we stand shows our humility and submission to the one seated in judgement.**

**The books will be opened.**

**Revelation 20:12** [NIV] *“And I saw the dead, great and small, **standing before the throne**, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books.”*

The books of The Bible will be opened and it will be from them that we will be judged. A record book of all we have done will be opened, in which is recorded all unrepented sins as well as our acts of love and mercy.

**Malachi 3:16** [NIV] *“Then those who feared the LORD talked with each other, and the LORD listened and heard. A scroll of remembrance was written in his presence concerning those who feared the LORD and honoured his name.”*

**All our words of love and encouragement recorded by God will also be revealed.**

**All secrets will be revealed.**

**Luke 12:2-3** [NIV] *“There is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known. What you have said in the dark will be heard in the daylight, and what you have whispered in the ear in the inner rooms will be proclaimed from the roofs.”*

**All unrepented sins will be exposed**, all of us will have to face afresh the way we have conducted our lives.

**The Book of Life will be opened.**

**Philippians 4:3** [NIV] *“Yes, and I ask you, loyal yokefellow, help these women who have contended at my side in the cause of the gospel, along with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life.”*

**The names found in this book of eternal life are only those who are fellow workers with Christ.**

**Revelation 3:4-6** [NIV] *“Yet you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes. They will walk with me, dressed in white, for they are worthy. He who overcomes will, like them, be dressed in white. I will never blot out his name from the book of life, but will acknowledge his name before my Father and his angels. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”*

**The symbolic meaning of “dressed in white” is our white wedding garments which we are weaving or soiling every day of our lives.**

**Revelation 19:7-9** [NIV] *“Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear. (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.) Then the angel said to me, Write: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb! And he added, These are the true words of God.”*

**The white garment [wedding dress] is the “worked out” righteousness of the saints. [Greek – dikaioma] not the imputed righteousness [Greek – dikaisos] we receive from God on repentance and acceptance of the Blood of Jesus Christ in faith.**

God places in us through the indwelling of the person of the Holy Spirit His Righteousness, given to us without any work on our part [Greek – dikaisos].

**But for us not to be taken out of the Book of Life, but to receive the gift of eternal life, we have to be dressed in a wedding garment woven by our righteous acts.**

**How?**

**By allowing God’s Righteousness to flow out to others in voluntary acts of love, grace and kindness.**

**Philippians 2:12-16** [NIV] *“Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed – not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence – continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose. Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the word of life – in order that I may boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labour for nothing.”*

Even this is the Work of God for it is the Holy Spirit that is flowing in and out of us like a river.

**John 7:38-39** [NIV] *“Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him. By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.”*

**The return of Jesus Christ is one of two things to all of us: it can be a day to look forward to or a day to fear.**

**Which day Christ will return we do not know.**

**Matthew 25:1-13** [NIV] *“At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise. The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. The wise, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep. At midnight the cry rang out: ‘Here’s the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!’ Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish ones said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.’ ‘No,’ they replied, ‘there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.’ But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut. Later the others also came. ‘Sir! Sir!’ they said. ‘Open the door for us!’ But he replied, ‘I tell you the truth, I don’t know you.’ Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.”*

**This applied to both wise and foolish virgins but it was only the wise, those fully prepared for that day they entered into the marriage with Christ.**

**This same marriage supper is found in another Kingdom of God parable.**

**Matthew 22:1-14** [NIV] *“Jesus spoke to them again in parables, saying: The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his servants to those who had been invited to the banquet to tell them to come, but they refused to come. Then he sent some more servants and said, ‘Tell those who have been invited that I have prepared my dinner: My oxen and fattened cattle have been butchered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding banquet.’ **But they paid no attention and went off – one to his field, another to his business.** The rest seized his servants, mistreated them and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his army and destroyed those murderers and burned their city. Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding banquet is ready, but those I invited did not deserve to come. Go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find.’ So the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, both good and bad, and the wedding hall was filled with guests. But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes. ‘Friend,’ he asked, ‘how did you get in here without wedding clothes?’ The man was speechless. Then the king told the attendants, ‘Tie him hand and foot, and throw him outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ **For many are invited, but few are chosen.**”*

**This is not just academic knowledge we have just studied, this is a matter of eternal life and death.**

**Only if we are applying ourselves constantly daily to prepare for the day of Christ’s return will we rejoice when it arrives.**

**The choice is ours but the terms of entry into the Kingdom of God are fixed by our Creator.**

We know the terms, we choose to be foolish or wise virgins, by our attitude and actions, now and during the rest of our time before Christ returns, which could be our physical death or the actual event of Christ’s return to judge all mankind.

What are we, foolish or wise?