



THE BIBLE STANDS

*The Bible stands though the hills may tumble,
It will firmly stand when the earth shall crumble;
I will plant my feet on its firm foundation,
For the Bible stands.*

Lesson 17: THE INVESTIGATIVE JUDGMENT

Name:

Date:

1. Paul taught what three subjects concerning the faith of Jesus? Acts 24:24, 25.

"And after certain days, when Felix came with his wife Drusilla, which was a Jewess, he sent for Paul, and heard him concerning the faith in Christ. And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, Felix trembled, and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee."

2. Will only the wicked be judged? Ecclesiastes 3:17.

"I said in mine heart, God shall judge the righteous and the wicked: for there is a time there for every purpose and for every work."

3. Who must appear before the judgment seat of Christ? 2 Corinthians 5:10.

"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad."

4. How closely are our lives investigated? Ecclesiastes 12:14.

"For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil."

5. What kind of things will come up in the judgment? Matthew 12:36.

"But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment."

"To him that ordereth his conversation aright will I shew the salvation of God." Psalm 50:23.

6. Where will judgment begin? 1 Peter 4:17, 18.

"For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God? 18 And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?"

"The house of God, which is the church of the living God." 1 Timothy 3:15.

7. Who does the judging? John 5:22.

"For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son:"

8. What will Christ bring with Him when He comes? Revelation 22:12.

"And, behold, I come quickly; and My reward is with Me, to give every man according as his work shall be."

The judgment for all who have ever entered Christ's service takes place before He comes. This is illustrated in **Matthew 22** in the parable of a marriage. Before the wedding begins, the king, representing God the Father, inspects the guests to see if all are clothed with the wedding garment (**verse 11**). Notice the parallel in **Revelation 19:7, 8**. In the parable, having that robe determined whether one was accepted or cast out (see **Matthew 7:21; Revelation 3:4, 5; 7:14**). This 'robe' is the righteousness of Christ.

This character examination is performed by God in the heavenly sanctuary. Christ is interceding, pleading the merits of His life and blood for all found entitled to it. When the investigation is completed, everyone's destiny will be sealed. Christ ceases His intercession and will then announce:

"He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still. And behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be."
Revelation 22:11, 12.

Matthew 7:21 "Not every one that saith unto Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of My Father which is in heaven."

Revelation 3:4, 5; 7:14 3:4 Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with Me in white: for they are worthy. 5 He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before My Father, and before His angels.

7:14 And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

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Revelation 22:11, 12.

9. What is the message that is to arouse the world today? Revelation 14:7.

"Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to Him; for the hour of His judgment is come: and worship Him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters."

Paul spoke of "judgment to come" (Acts 24:25).

The message for today is that "judgment is come" (Rev. 14:7).

And finally when Jesus comes, "He hath judged" (Rev. 19:2).

This investigative judgment, which evaluates the lives of all who have ever professed faith in Christ, is completed before Jesus comes. It should not be confused with the judgment of the wicked by Christ and His saints, which occurs during the millennium; or the final judgment and punishment of the wicked, which takes place at the end of the 1000 years.

10. What did Jesus say we were to "rejoice" over? Luke 10:19, 20.

“Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you. 20 Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.”

11. Where are the names of God’s people recorded? Philippians 4:3.

“And I intreat thee also, true yokefellow, help those women which laboured with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and with other my fellowlabourers, whose names are in the book of life.”

12. Are the good deeds of God’s children recorded? Malachi 3:16.

“Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before Him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon His name.”

13. What about sins, are they marked before the Lord? Jeremiah 2:22.

“For though thou wash thee with nitre, and take thee much soap, yet thine iniquity is marked before Me, saith the Lord GOD.”

14. Where has God written a description of everyone? Psalm 139:16.

“Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in Thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them.”

Everything we do is recorded in God’s books. Some of the direct or implied references to the heavenly books of record include Nehemiah 13:14; Job 16:19; Psalm 56:8; Hebrews 12:23; Revelation 13:8; 17:8; 21:27; and 22:19.

15. In the judgment, what are opened? Daniel 7:9, 10.

“I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, Whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of His head like the pure wool: His throne was like the fiery flame, and His wheels as burning fire. A fiery stream issued and came forth from before Him: thousand thousands ministered unto Him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened.”

16. What are the books used for in the judgment? Revelation 20:12.

“And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: 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.”

17. If the books of record show that one turned back to sin, what will be their reward? Ezekiel 18:24.

“But when the righteous turneth away from his righteousness, and committeth iniquity, and doeth according to all the abominations that the wicked man doeth, shall he live? All his righteousness that he hath done shall not be mentioned: in his trespass that he hath trespassed, and in his sin that he hath sinned, in them shall he die.”

18. What will happen to the backslider’s name? Exodus 32:33.

“And the LORD said unto Moses, Whosoever hath sinned against Me, him will I blot out of My book.”

“Let them be blotted out of the book of the living, and not be written with the righteous.” Psalm 69:28.

19. In the end, what will happen to him? Revelation 20:15.

“And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.”

20. What happened in Daniel’s vision of the judgment? Daniel 7:13.

“I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought Him near before Him.”

This movement of Christ does not describe His coming to the earth, but rather to “the Ancient of days.” The same scene is described by the prophet Malachi. Notice the question that is asked, and its answer:

“Where is the God of JUDGMENT? Behold I will send My messenger, and he shall prepare the way before Me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to His TEMPLE.” Malachi 2:17-3:1.

Revelation 10 describes the bitter disappointment of those who expected Jesus to come in 1844 (See lesson 16). When He did not come, their question was, “Where is the God of judgment?” The Bible’s answer was, “The Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple.” Jesus moved in 1844 into the Most Holy Place of the heavenly sanctuary with God the Father, to begin the work of investigative judgment, His final work before coming to earth to receive His people.

From Daniel 8:19 we learned that the sanctuary would be cleansed “at the time appointed.” Commenting on that, Paul says, “He hath appointed a day, in the which He will judge the world.” Acts 17:31. The appointed time for the judgment to begin was October 22, 1844, the fulfillment of the 2300 days prophecy.

21. What is the Lord’s work during this time? Malachi 3:3.

“And He shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and He shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the LORD an offering in righteousness.”

22. What will not happen to the names of the overcomers? Revelation 3:5.

“He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before My Father, and before His angels.”

23. What will be blotted from their record? Acts 3:19.

“Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;”

24. In the ceremonial day of atonement, where did the live goat symbolically take the sins, thus permanently removing them from the sanctuary? Leviticus 16:21.

“And Aaron shall lay both his hands upon the head of the live goat, and confess over him all the iniquities of the children of Israel, and all their transgressions in all their sins, putting them upon the head of the goat, and shall send him away by the hand of a fit man into the wilderness:”

25. When the work of cleansing the heavenly sanctuary is finished, what will be poured out upon the earth? Revelation 15:5-16:1.

“And after that I looked, and, behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened: 6 And the seven angels came out of the temple, having the seven plagues, clothed in pure and white linen, and having their breasts girded with golden girdles. 7 And one of the four beasts gave unto the seven angels seven golden vials full of the wrath of God, who liveth for ever and ever. 8 And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God, and from His

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power; and no man was able to enter into the temple, till the seven plagues of the seven angels were fulfilled. 16:1 "And I heard a great voice out of the temple saying to the seven angels, Go your ways, and pour out the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth."

"And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time Thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book." Daniel 12:1.

Thought Summary:

Christ's present work in the heavenly sanctuary involves the investigation of your life, and this judgment will be completed before Christ comes to bring his rewards.

Is it your desire for sin to be overcome in your life and blotted out of your record in heaven?