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# God's Judgment: How It Works

Part 4

By

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*“For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son, that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him. Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life. Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live. For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself, and has given Him authority to execute*

*judgment also, because He is the Son of Man. Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth —those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation. I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me.” John 5:22-30*



What is the “Day of the Lord”?

It's a phrase first used in the Bible by the prophet Isaiah:

*For the day of the Lord of hosts Shall come upon  
everything proud and lofty, Upon everything lifted up—  
And it shall be brought low— Isaiah 2:12*

## God's Day

Isaiah and other prophets used the phrase in connection with the “day” when God will judge Israel and the world. Isaiah 1 begins with — “The vision of Isaiah the son of Amoz, which he saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, *and* Hezekiah, kings of Judah.”

As we read through the first chapter of Isaiah we see that God is angry with a wicked and rebellious Israel. He is tired of the supposed “sacrifices” of His people and calls on them to repent of their sins and “seek justice”:

*Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean; Put away the evil of your doings from before My eyes. Cease to do evil, Learn to do good; Seek justice, Rebuke the oppressor; Defend the fatherless, Plead for the widow. ‘Come now, and let us reason together,’ Says the Lord, ‘Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool. If you are willing and*

*obedient, You shall eat the good of the land; But if you refuse and rebel, You shall be devoured by the sword'; For the mouth of the Lord has spoken. Isaiah 1:16-20*

God then rehearsed the history of Israel and Jerusalem. The city had been faithful in the past. It was full of justice and righteousness lodged in it, but murderers were the lodgers. Their silver had become dross and their wine mixed with water. Their princes were rebellious and companions of thieves. Everyone loved bribes and followed after rewards. No one defended the fatherless or helped the widows.

What Isaiah wrote next are the words that lead into the section about 'the day of the Lord, so look carefully at what God promised He would do to Israel and His enemies. Also, look at how God will redeem His people "with justice":



*Therefore the Lord says, The Lord of hosts, the Mighty One of Israel, 'Ah, I will rid Myself of My adversaries, And take vengeance on My enemies. I will turn My hand against you, And thoroughly purge away your dross, And take away all your alloy. I will restore your judges as at the first, And your counselors as at the beginning. Afterward you shall be called the city of righteousness, the faithful city. Zion shall be redeemed with justice, And her penitents with righteousness. The destruction of transgressors and of sinners shall be together, And those who forsake the Lord shall be consumed. For they shall be ashamed of the terebinth trees Which you have desired; And you shall be embarrassed because of the gardens Which you have chosen. For you shall be as a terebinth whose leaf fades, And as a garden that has no water. The strong shall be as tinder, And the work of it as a spark; Both will burn together, And no one shall quench them. Isaiah 1:24-31*

The next words are – “The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.” (Isaiah 2:1) What follows is probably a familiar section to you:

*Now it shall come to pass in the latter days That the mountain of the Lord's house Shall be established on the top of the mountains, And shall be exalted above the hills; And all nations shall flow to it. Many people shall come and say, 'Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, To the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, And we shall walk in His paths.' For out of Zion shall go forth the law, And the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, And rebuke many people; They shall beat their swords into plowshares, And their spears into pruning hooks; Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, Neither shall they learn war anymore. Isaiah 2:2-4*

The last line may remind you of an anti-war protest song from the 1960s, but it was first an African-American spiritual that pre-civil war slaves sang:

*Gonna lay down my sword and shield, down by the riverside, down by the riverside, down by the riverside.  
Gonna lay down my sword and shield, down by the riverside, gonna study war no more.*

Other lines that have appeared in the song include “gonna shake hands with every man,” “gonna lay down my heavy load,” gonna try on my long white robe,” “gonna talk with the Prince of Peace,” “gonna cross the River Jordan,” and “gonna climb the road to heaven.” The sentiment is of a time when everyone in the world will be at peace with God and with each other.

## Tribulation and the Day of the Lord

What we read in Isaiah 2 is one description of what will happen in “the latter days.” This is a prophecy of the end times when Jesus Christ will physically rule on earth. Many Christians view this time as the Millennium (thousand years) spoken of in Revelation 20. So, is that the ‘day of the Lord’ of Isaiah 2:12? I don’t think so and here’s why I say that.

The Millennial reign of Christ will be a time of great peace, as we saw in Isaiah 2:2-4 and in Revelation 20:4. According to Isaiah and other prophets the ‘day of the Lord’ will be the time Jesus referred to as the ‘great tribulation.’ Look at the similarities between how Isaiah, the Gospels and Revelation describe it:

*For the day of the Lord of hosts Shall come upon everything proud and lofty, Upon everything lifted up— And it shall be brought low— Upon all the cedars of Lebanon that are high and lifted up, And upon all the oaks of Bashan; Upon all the high mountains, And upon all the hills that are lifted up; Upon every high*

*tower, And upon every fortified wall; Upon all the ships of Tarshish, And upon all the beautiful sloops. The loftiness of man shall be bowed down, And the haughtiness of men shall be brought low; The Lord alone will be exalted in that day, But the idols He shall utterly abolish. They shall go into the holes of the rocks, And into the caves of the earth, From the terror of the Lord And the glory of His majesty, When He arises to shake the earth mightily. In that day a man will cast away his idols of silver And his idols of gold, Which they made, each for himself to worship, To the moles and bats, To go into the clefts of the rocks, And into the crags of the rugged rocks, From the terror of the Lord And the glory of His majesty, When He arises to shake the earth mightily.*

*Isaiah 2:12-21*

*Therefore when you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place' (whoever reads, let him understand), 'then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house. And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes. But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath. For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened ... Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds*

*of heaven with power and great glory. And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other. Matthew 24:15-22, 29-31*

*But the rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, that they should not worship demons, and idols of gold, silver, brass, stone, and wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk. And they did not repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts. Revelation 9:20-21*

The plagues are found in Revelation chapters 8 and 9 as six trumpets. The seventh trumpet is the proclamation of the Lord's Kingdom:

*Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, 'The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!' And the twenty-four elders who sat before God on their thrones fell on their faces and worshiped God, saying: 'We give You thanks, O Lord God Almighty, The One who is and who was and who is to come, Because You have taken Your great power and reigned. The nations were angry, and Your wrath has come, And the time of the dead, that they should be judged, And that You should reward Your servants the prophets and the saints, And those who fear Your name, small and great, And should destroy those who destroy the earth.' Then the temple of God was opened in heaven, and the ark of His covenant was seen in His temple.*



*And there were lightnings, noises, thunderings, an earthquake, and great hail. Revelation 11:15-19*



## The Prophetic 'Day'

We find the “Day of the Lord” used in many of the prophetic books of the Old Testament and also by New Testament writers. The “Day of the Lord” is not a literal 24-hour day, but a period of time where God will judge the world. Let's look first at how an Old Testament prophet used the phrase:

*And it shall come to pass afterward That I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your old men shall dream dreams, Your young men shall see visions. And also on My menservants and on My maidservants. I will pour out My Spirit in those days. And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth: Blood and fire and pillars of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood, Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the Lord. And it shall come to pass That whoever calls on the name of the Lord Shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be deliverance, As the Lord has*

*said, Among the remnant whom the Lord calls. Joel 2:28-32*

Next, let's see how a New Testament apostle used the same phrase quoting from the same Old Testament prophet:

*But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: 'And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your young men shall see visions, Your old men shall dream dreams. And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; And they shall prophesy. I will show wonders in heaven above And signs in the earth beneath: Blood and fire and vapor of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood, Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the Lord. And it shall come to pass That whoever calls on the name of the Lord Shall be saved.'* Acts 2:16-21

We recognize those as the words of the Apostle Peter from his famous sermon on the Day of Pentecost. Peter also quoted from King David and preached that Jesus of Nazareth is the “Holy One” of God who was exalted to the right hand of God and will sit on the everlasting throne of David. The “Day of the Lord” is about the judgment of Jesus Christ on Satan and sin.

*For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil. 1 John 3:8*

*For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. For he who has died has been freed from sin. Romans 6:5-7*

*In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence, having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him.*  
*Ephesians 1:7-10*

The judgment of God became obvious to all when Jesus died on the Cross. There was no reason for Jesus to be treated like a criminal. He had only done good. Jesus was beaten and crucified for sinners. God judged our sins on Jesus as He bled and died. We have redemption (delivered through ransom payment) through the blood of Jesus Christ, We have forgiveness of sins according to the riches of God's grace.

The first coming of Jesus and His death and resurrection was also a vital step toward destroying the works of the devil. Those who have been saved during the last two-thousand years are part of Christ's victory over Satan.

*But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. Ephesians 2:4-7*

*... and to make all see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ; to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places,*

*according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. Ephesians 3:9-11*

Jesus will complete His destruction of the devil's works at His Second Coming.



## The Day of Christ's Return

As much as Christians look forward to the return of Christ, it is not something the world will want to see. Jesus Christ will return in great power to rule with a rod of iron and tread the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God's:

*And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. Revelation 19:14-16*

We have only to look back at the Old Testament prophets to see that the Day of the Lord will not be a good day for the enemies of God:

*Therefore the Lord God of hosts, the Lord, says this: 'There shall be wailing in all streets, And they shall say in all the highways, 'Alas! Alas!' They shall call the farmer to mourning, And skillful lamenters to wailing. In all vineyards there shall be wailing, For I will pass through you,' Says the Lord. Woe to you who desire the day of the Lord! For what good is the day of the Lord to you? It will be darkness, and not light. It will be as though a man fled from a lion, And a bear met him! Or as though he went into the house, Leaned his hand on the wall, And a serpent bit him! Is not the day of the Lord darkness, and not light? Is it not very dark, with no brightness in it? Amos 5:16-20*

*Wail, for the day of the Lord is at hand! It will come as destruction from the Almighty. Therefore all hands will be limp, Every man's heart will melt, And they will be afraid. Pangs and sorrows will take hold of them; They will be in pain as a woman in childbirth; They will be amazed at one another; Their faces will be like flames. Behold, the day of the Lord comes, Cruel, with both wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate; And He will destroy its sinners from it. For the stars of heaven and their constellations Will not give their light; The sun will be darkened in its going forth, And the moon will not cause its light to shine. 'I will punish the world for its evil, And the wicked for their iniquity; I will halt the arrogance of the proud, And will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible. Isaiah 13:6-11*

*Behold, the day of the Lord is coming, And your spoil will be divided in your midst. For I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem; The city shall be taken, The houses rifled, And the women ravished. Half of the city shall go into captivity, But the remnant of the people shall not be cut off from the city. Then the Lord will go forth And fight against those nations, As He fights in the day of battle. And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, Which faces Jerusalem on the east. And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two, From east to west, Making a very large valley; Half of the mountain shall move toward the north And half of it toward the south. Then you shall flee through My mountain valley, For the mountain valley shall reach to Azal. Yes, you shall flee As you fled from the earthquake In the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Thus the Lord my God will come, And all the saints with You. Zechariah 14:1-5*

*For the day of the Lord upon all the nations is near; As you have done, it shall be done to you; Your reprisal shall return upon your own head. For as you drank on My holy mountain, So shall all the nations drink continually; Yes, they shall drink, and swallow, And they shall be as though they had never been. But on Mount Zion there shall be deliverance, And there shall be holiness; The house of Jacob shall possess their possessions. The house of Jacob shall be a fire, And the house of Joseph a flame; But the house of Esau shall be stubble; They shall kindle them and devour them, And no survivor shall remain of the house of Esau,' For the Lord has spoken. Obadiah 1:15-18*

*The great day of the Lord is near; It is near and hastens quickly. The noise of the day of the Lord is bitter; There the mighty men shall cry out. That day is a day of wrath, A day of trouble and distress, A day of devastation and desolation, A day of darkness and gloominess, A day of clouds and thick darkness, A day of trumpet and alarm Against the fortified cities And against the high towers. Zephaniah 1:14-16*



## 'Day of the Lord' in the New Testament

The Apostle Peter first used the phrase "day of the Lord" in his sermon on Pentecost. It was Peter's first use of quoting Scripture in the sermon, so that's significant.

*The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood, Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the Lord. Acts 2:20*

Here's the full quote from Peter:

*'And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your young men shall see visions, Your old men shall dream dreams. And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; And they shall prophesy. I will show wonders in heaven above And signs in the earth beneath: Blood and fire and vapor of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the*



*moon into blood, Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the Lord. And it shall come to pass That whoever calls on the name of the Lord Shall be saved.' Acts 2:17-21*

As we saw in the last part of our series the *Day of the Lord* is not a literal 24-hour day. It's a period of time where God will judge Israel and the world. Peter quoted Joel to remind Israel of what would happen before the coming of the great and awesome "day of the Lord."

Peter began his sermon by saying this:

*But Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them, 'Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and heed my words. For these are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:' Acts 2:14-16*

Peter seemed to be saying that the event people witnessed in the streets of Jerusalem on Pentecost in the 1st century AD were the fulfillment of Joel's prophecy hundreds of years earlier. Joel's theme was "the Day of the Lord" and had both "near" and "far" implications. God's judgment of Israel for sin has occurred in the past (historical) and will occur in the future (eschatological). God will also unleash His wrath and judgment on other nations. Peter looked back at Joel's prophecy and announced that a portion of the prophecy was being fulfilled in the presence of those listening to Peter speak. God was pouring out His Spirit on His people and they were prophesying and seeing visions.

*When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak*

*with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.*

Acts 1:1-4

Jesus had told His disciples to “wait for the Promise of the Father” and that they would “receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth” (Acts 1:4, 8).

## Joel's Prophecy

Here's a small example from Joel's prophecy. It's a short Book, so you can read through it in less than ten minutes. Joel's prophecy, as with other Old Testament prophecies, had the Lord Jesus in view.

*Blow the trumpet in Zion, And sound an alarm in My holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble; For the day of the Lord is coming, For it is at hand. Joel 2:1*

*The Lord gives voice before His army, For His camp is very great; For strong is the One who executes His word. For the day of the Lord is great and very terrible; Who can endure it? Joel 2:11*

*The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood, Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the Lord. Joel 2:31*

*Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision. Joel 3:14*

The Apostle Peter used the phrase many years later when he wrote his second letter.

*But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. 2 Peter 3:10-13*

The Apostle Paul used the phrase in his first letter to the Thessalonians. It's obvious from what Paul wrote that those Christians were already familiar with the "day of the Lord."

*But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. For when they say, 'Peace and safety!' then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. 1 Thessalonians 5:1-3*

## Day of Judgment

Jesus used a similar phrase when He spoke of the “day of judgment.”

*Assuredly, I say to you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment than for that city! Matthew 10:15*

*But I say to you, it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in the day of judgment than for you. Matthew 11:22*

*But I say to you that it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment than for you. Matthew 11:24*

*But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. Matthew 12:36*

Peter used the phrase “day of judgment” twice prior to using “day of the Lord” in his second letter.

*For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment; and did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, one of eight people, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly; and turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned them to destruction, making them an example to those who afterward would live ungodly; and delivered righteous Lot, who was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked (for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds)— then the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment, and especially those who walk*



*according to the flesh in the lust of uncleanness and despise authority. 2 Peter 2:4-10*

*Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in both of which I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder), that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior, knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, and saying, 'Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation.' For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water. But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. 2 Peter 3:1-7*

The Apostle John also used the phrase “day of judgment.”

*Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love. 1 John 4:17-18*

As did the Lord's half brother Jude.

*But I want to remind you, though you once knew this, that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe. And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day; as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone*

*after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire. Jude 1:5-7*



## Judgment of the Almighty

We know from the Old Testament prophets, and from Jesus Christ and His apostles in the New Testament, that God is going to judge the world at a particular time in future. Many other prophecies have been fulfilled, so there's no reason to think prophecies concerning God's judgment won't happen. They will.

Our question now is what God's "Day of Judgment" will look like. We can assume that it will be a tough judgment since God's involved, but just how bad will it be for people alive at the time of His judgment? Does the Bible give us any information about that?

Yes, it does. A lot of information.

*And I heard another from the altar saying, 'Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are Your judgments. Revelation 16:7*

The Lord God Almighty is going to judge the earth. The fact that God is *Almighty* speaks to His nature. The fact that His judgments are *true and righteous* speak to His character. God has the power to do anything He wants to do. The fact that He will judge according to truth and righteousness should let everyone know what's coming.

God has the power to destroy the earth. He almost did it several thousand years ago because of the wickedness of humanity.

*Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually ... So the Lord said, 'I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them.'* Genesis 6:5, 7

God didn't destroy the earth at that time because, in addition to truth and righteousness, another part of His character is grace and mercy.

*But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord. Genesis 6:8*

God did enact judgment through a world-wide flood that destroyed almost every living thing, but He showed mercy to Noah. However, it wasn't long after the destructive flood that God judged the people of the earth again. He confused the language of Noah's descendants at the Tower of Babel and "scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth" (Genesis 11:9).

God's eternal plan had always included sending His Son to the earth to save people from their sins (Matthew 1:21) and to destroy the works of the devil (1 John 3:8), so He demonstrated judgment and mercy through the flood and the confusion of language. The family of Noah's son Shem carried the "seed" of God's promise to Eve in the Garden forward. That holy Seed is Jesus Christ. He came from Heaven the first time to seek and save the lost. He will come the second time to execute judgment and righteousness in the earth.

*Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, 'That I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; A King shall reign and prosper, And execute judgment and righteousness in the earth. Jeremiah 23:5*



## Judgment In The Earth

The idea of executing judgment and righteousness “in the earth” tells us that every nation, every people group, in the world will be impacted. The Old Testament were specific in naming many of those nations and peoples.

Isaiah is believed to be one of the greatest of the Hebrew prophets. God used him to announce to Israel and the world that a day of reckoning was coming. Who will do the reckoning? Jesus Christ – prophetically known as the Son of David (Matthew 1:1).

*There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse,  
And a Branch shall grow out of his roots. The Spirit of  
the Lord shall rest upon Him, The Spirit of wisdom and  
understanding, The Spirit of counsel and might, The  
Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. His  
delight is in the fear of the Lord, And He shall not  
judge by the sight of His eyes, Nor decide by the  
hearing of His ears; But with righteousness He shall*

*judge the poor, And decide with equity for the meek of the earth; He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, And with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt of His loins, And faithfulness the belt of His waist. Isaiah 11:1-5*

The Old Testament prophets often began their proclamations with warnings to Israel and Judah, then moved on to warn other nations of God's impending judgment. Some of that judgment has already been delivered to ancient civilizations like Assyria, Babylonia, Philistia, Tyre, Edom, and Moab. Here are some of the nations identified in Isaiah for God's future "judgment in the earth."

**Egypt** – Isaiah 19:1-17

**Ethiopia** – Isaiah 18:1-7

**Syria** – Isaiah 17:1-3

**Moab** (modern Jordan) – Isaiah 15 & 16

Isaiah followed that up with a general warning to all the nations of the earth.

*Behold, the Lord makes the earth empty and makes it waste, Distorts its surface And scatters abroad its inhabitants ... The land shall be entirely emptied and utterly plundered, For the Lord has spoken this word ... The earth mourns and fades away, The world languishes and fades away; The haughty people of the earth languish. The earth is also defiled under its inhabitants, Because they have transgressed the laws, Changed the ordinance, Broken the everlasting covenant. Therefore the curse has devoured the earth, And those who dwell in it are desolate. Therefore the inhabitants of the earth are burned, And few men are left ... The city of confusion is broken down; Every house is shut up, so that none may go in. There is a cry for wine in the streets, All joy is darkened, The mirth of the land is gone. In the city desolation is left, And the gate is stricken with destruction. When it shall be thus in the midst of the land among the people, It shall be like the shaking of an olive tree, Like the*

*gleaning of grapes when the vintage is done ... Fear and the pit and the snare Are upon you, O inhabitant of the earth. And it shall be That he who flees from the noise of the fear Shall fall into the pit, And he who comes up from the midst of the pit Shall be caught in the snare; For the windows from on high are open, And the foundations of the earth are shaken. The earth is violently broken, The earth is split open, The earth is shaken exceedingly. The earth shall reel to and fro like a drunkard, And shall totter like a hut; Its transgression shall be heavy upon it, And it will fall, and not rise again. It shall come to pass in that day That the Lord will punish on high the host of exalted ones, And on the earth the kings of the earth. They will be gathered together, As prisoners are gathered in the pit, And will be shut up in the prison; After many days they will be punished. Then the moon will be disgraced And the sun ashamed; For the Lord of hosts will reign On Mount Zion and in Jerusalem And before His elders, gloriously. Isaiah 24:1, 3, 4-6, 10-13, 17-23*

*Come near, you nations, to hear; And heed, you people! Let the earth hear, and all that is in it, The world and all things that come forth from it. For the indignation of the Lord is against all nations, And His fury against all their armies; He has utterly destroyed them, He has given them over to the slaughter. Also their slain shall be thrown out; Their stench shall rise from their corpses, And the mountains shall be melted with their blood. All the host of heaven shall be dissolved, And the heavens shall be rolled up like a scroll; All their host shall fall down As the leaf falls from the vine, And as fruit falling from a fig tree ... For it is the day of the Lord's vengeance, The year of recompense for the cause of Zion. Its streams shall be turned into pitch, And its dust into brimstone; Its land shall become burning pitch. It shall not be quenched night or day; Its smoke shall ascend forever. From generation to generation it shall lie waste; No one shall pass through it forever and ever. But the pelican and the porcupine shall possess it, Also the owl and the raven shall dwell in it. And He*

*shall stretch out over it The line of confusion and the stones of emptiness. They shall call its nobles to the kingdom, But none shall be there, and all its princes shall be nothing. And thorns shall come up in its palaces, Nettles and brambles in its fortresses; It shall be a habitation of jackals, A courtyard for ostriches. The wild beasts of the desert shall also meet with the jackals, And the wild goat shall bleat to its companion; Also the night creature shall rest there, And find for herself a place of rest. There the arrow snake shall make her nest and lay eggs And hatch, and gather them under her shadow; There also shall the hawks be gathered, Every one with her mate.*

*Isaiah 34:1-4, 8-15*



## **Judgment and the Prophets**

God spoke through prophets, then He spoke through His Son (Hebrews 1:1-2). Jesus, the Son of God, taught His apostles in person, then sent the Holy Spirit to speak truth to and through His apostles. It is because of the prophets that we know what God said in the Old Testament about His future judgment. It is because of the apostles that we know what God said in the New Testament about His future judgment.

In the last part of our series, we looked at what God said through the prophet Isaiah about His coming judgment on various nations and people groups. In this part, we will look at what other prophets said and wrote.



You've probably heard the terms "Major" and "Minor" prophets in the Bible. Those terms address the length of the prophetic writings, not the importance of the prophets. Every prophet that God used to speak His word was important because every Word that proceeds from the mouth of God is important.

The Bible tells us how to tell if someone is a "true" prophet of God.

- They received a call from God
- They received a word from God (e.g. direct communication, dreams, visions, revelations)
- They spoke the words God gave them to speak
- They did what God told them to do
- They worked miracles in fulfillment of God's Word
- They prophesied to God's people (e.g. instruction, direction, warning)
- They prophesied to other nations (e.g. primarily warning)
- What they prophesied came true in the past and will come true in the future

The Bible lists many true prophets of God. We know some of them by name. Some we do not know by name. Here are some examples.

### **Named Prophets (Male and female)**

- Noah
- Abraham
- Jacob
- Joseph
- Moses
- Aaron
- Miriam
- Joshua
- Deborah
- Huldah
- Samuel
- King David

- Gad
- Nathan
- King Solomon
- Ahijah
- Asaph
- Elijah
- Elisha
- Shemaiah
- Hanani
- Micaiah
- Oded
- Azariah
- Jehu
- Iddo
- Jahaziel
- Eliezer
- Jonah

- Amos
- Hosea
- Isaiah
- Micah
- Nahum
- Jeremiah
- Zephaniah
- Daniel
- Ezekiel
- Habakkuk
- Obadiah
- Haggai
- Zechariah
- Malachi

## Unnamed Prophets

- Prophet spoke to the children of Israel (Judges 6:8-10)
- Man of God spoke to Eli (1 Samuel 2:27-36)
- Prophets of 1 Samuel 10
- Old prophet who lived in Bethel (1 Kings 13:1-32)
- Prophets killed by Jezebel and prophets protected by Obadiah (1 Kings 18:4)
- Prophet spoke to Ahab king of Israel (1 Kings 20:13-22)
- Man of God spoke to the king of Israel (1 Kings 20:28)
- One of the sons of the prophets spoke to his neighbor and King Ahab (1 Kings 20:35-43)
- Sons of the prophets who were at Bethel (2 Kings 2:3)
- Sons of the prophets who were at Jericho (2 Kings 2:)
- Prophet spoke to Amaziah (2 Chronicles 25:5-16)

## **Prophets Warn the Nations**

God made a specific promise to Abram when He called him to leave his home country and travel to “a land that I will show you” (Genesis 12:1). God promised Abraham —

- I will make you a great nation
- I will bless you And make your name great;
- And you shall be a blessing.
- I will bless those who bless you
- And I will curse him who curses you
- And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.

We will see the full power of God's blessings and cursing on all the families of the earth in the final judgment. While many prophets in the Bible prophesied about God's judgment on Israel, many prophesied against other nations. We saw in our last study about Isaiah's prophecies that he mentioned several nations including —

- **Egypt** – Isaiah 19:1-17
- **Ethiopia** – Isaiah 18:1-7
- **Syria** – Isaiah 17:1-3
- **Moab** (modern Jordan) – Isaiah 15 & 16

God spoke to nations through other Old Testament prophets as well. Some of those nations no longer exist because of prophecies God pronounced on them through His prophets. However, many nations and people groups will remain at the time of the God's judgment of the nations. Here are some examples of what's coming for them —

*The Lord is at Your right hand; He shall execute kings in the day of His wrath. He shall judge among the nations, He shall fill the places with dead bodies, He shall execute the heads of many countries. He shall drink of the brook by the wayside; Therefore He shall lift up the head. Psalm 110:5-7*

*Egypt shall be a desolation, And Edom a desolate wilderness, Because of violence against the people of Judah, For they have shed innocent blood in their land. But Judah shall abide forever, And Jerusalem from generation to generation. Joel 3:19-20*

*For the day of the Lord upon all the nations is near; As you have done, it shall be done to you; Your reprisal shall return upon your own head. For as you drank on My holy mountain, So shall all the nations drink continually; Yes, they shall drink, and swallow, And they shall be as though they had never been. But on Mount Zion there shall be deliverance, And there shall be holiness; The house of Jacob shall possess their possessions. Obadiah 1:15-17*

*The nations shall see and be ashamed of all their might; They shall put their hand over their mouth; Their ears shall be deaf. They shall lick the dust like a serpent; They shall crawl from their holes like snakes of the earth. They shall be afraid of the Lord our God, And shall fear because of You. Micah 7:16-17*



*For Gaza shall be forsaken, And Ashkelon desolate;  
They shall drive out Ashdod at noonday, And Ekron  
shall be uprooted. Woe to the inhabitants of the  
seacoast, The nation of the Cherethites! The word of  
the Lord is against you, O Canaan, land of the  
Philistines: 'I will destroy you; So there shall be no  
inhabitant.' Zephaniah 2:4-5*

*Then the Lord will go forth And fight against those  
nations, As He fights in the day of battle. And in that  
day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, Which  
faces Jerusalem on the east. And the Mount of Olives  
shall be split in two, From east to west, Making a very  
large valley; Half of the mountain shall move toward  
the north And half of it toward the south ... And this  
shall be the plague with which the Lord will strike all  
the people who fought against Jerusalem: Their flesh  
shall dissolve while they stand on their feet, Their eyes  
shall dissolve in their sockets, And their tongues shall  
dissolve in their mouths. It shall come to pass in that  
day That a great panic from the Lord will be among  
them. Everyone will seize the hand of his neighbor,*

*And raise his hand against his neighbor's hand; Judah also will fight at Jerusalem. And the wealth of all the surrounding nations Shall be gathered together: Gold, silver, and apparel in great abundance. Such also shall be the plague On the horse and the mule, On the camel and the donkey, And on all the cattle that will be in those camps. So shall this plague be. Zechariah 14:3-4, 12-15*

## A Word to the Wise

The nations of this world are not listening to God's prophets. If they were, here's a word to the wise.

*Now therefore, be wise, O kings; Be instructed, you judges of the earth. Serve the Lord with fear, And rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, And you perish in the way, When His wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him. Psalm 2:10-12*



One of the amazing thoughts about God's Judgment is that His people will be eyewitnesses to it. That does not mean we should attempt to hurry God to judge people. God's Judgment is on His timetable. The disciples of Christ were hoping to see God's judgment in their day. That's why they asked Jesus this question before His death and resurrection:

*Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, 'Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age? Matthew 24:3*

The disciples asked a similar question after the Lord's death and resurrection:

*Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, 'Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel? Acts 1:6*

The disciples of Christ were Jews and knew from the Hebrew Bible that Messiah's restoration of the Kingdom to Israel would include God's judgment on their enemies. Our Lord's answer to their question was direct and purposed:

*And He said to them, 'It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth. Acts 1:8*

Jesus' answer to the question after His resurrection was a bit different from His answer to the question before His death and resurrection. Jesus went into great detail about the end of the age in Matthew 24 and 25, and in Luke 21. His answer included how He would judge the nations when He returned to establish His earthly Kingdom. However, in Acts 1, Jesus did not even mention judgment of the nations. Instead, He told His disciples to go to the nations as "witnesses" about what He had done for sinners.

## Witness Waiting

I call this “witness waiting.” What I mean by that is we know Jesus is going to judge the world. We read the Bible and see clearly what’s coming. Jesus is going to judge the nations. We know a lot about what’s coming because God wants us to know. Notice I wrote the word “coming,” not “here and now.” God is patient and long-suffering. He is slow to anger, but He is angry and that anger will one day reach a point where God will pour out His wrath on the world.

Jesus answered His disciples’ questions, but told them to wait and witness. Here’s how the Apostle Paul explained the process of “witness waiting” –

*If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, ‘Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,’ says the Lord. Therefore ‘If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If*

*he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head.” Romans 12:18-20*

Judgment Day is coming, but we have important work to do while we wait. You can read previous parts of this series for more details about that.



## **Witnessing Judgment**

What I'd like to address in this part of the study is how Christians will witness God's judgment. I know we will witness Christ's judgment of nations on the earth and His judgment of all humanity in Heaven because of what I read in several passages of the New Testament.

The Apostle Paul saw things in Heaven that he was not allowed to disclose (2 Corinthians 12). According to the timeline of when Paul wrote 2 Corinthians and his detail of seeing Paradise and hearing things there "fourteen years" earlier, tells us that this event occurred before Paul began his missionary journeys. One of the earliest of Paul's letters was to Christians in Thessalonica, one of the cities where Paul established a church. He had to leave Thessalonica after only a brief time of preaching and teaching (Acts 17), so the new Christians there became confused about some things Paul had taught. Paul responded to their questions and concerns by letter. we know that letter as 1 Thessalonians. Here's what Paul wrote about where Christians will be in the future –

*For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17*

“And thus we shall always be with the Lord.” That means Christians will be where Jesus is in the future. Paul wrote something similar to another church a few years later –

For we know that if our earthly house, *this* tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven, if indeed, having been clothed, we shall not be found naked. For we who are in *this* tent groan, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed, that mortality may be swallowed up by life. Now He who has prepared us for this very thing *is* God, who also has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. So *we are* always confident,

knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord. For we walk by faith, not by sight. We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord. 2 Corinthians 5:1-6

We are “confident” Paul wrote, that to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord. While Paul may have been addressing “soul” presence in 2 Corinthians, he was certainly addressing “body and soul” presence in 1 Thessalonians 4 and in 1 Corinthians 15 –

*So also is the resurrection of the dead. The body is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption. It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body. And so it is written, ‘The first man Adam became a living being.’ The last Adam became a life-giving spirit. However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural, and afterward the spiritual. The first man was of the earth, made of dust; the second Man is the Lord from*

heaven. As was the man of dust, so also are those who are made of dust; and as is the heavenly Man, so also are those who are heavenly. And as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man. Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed— in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: 'Death is swallowed up in victory.' 'O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?' The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to

*God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Corinthians 15:42-57*

What this means is that we will see Jesus Christ in Heaven in all of His Glory. Read the Book of Revelation and the “what is to come” portion is what we will witness. Depending on your particular interpretation of prophecy, you may believe you’ll go through some or all of the Tribulation period. You may believe you won’t go through any of the Tribulation period. However, whatever you believe about that, we should be able to agree that Jesus Christ will return to earth with the saints to establish His earthly Kingdom (Revelation 19).

- Christians will be witnesses of Christ treading “the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God” (Revelation 19).
- Christians will be witnesses of Christ when He destroys the armies of the world and judges the nations.
- Christians will be witnesses of Christ when He has the beast and false prophet thrown into the lake of fire, and Satan into the bottomless prison.

- Christians will be witnesses of Christ when He rules the earth with a rod of iron during the Millennial Reign.
- Christians will be witnesses of Christ when Satan is released from his prison and goes out to deceive the nations to gather together to fight against “the saints and the beloved city.”
- Christians will be witnesses of Christ when fire comes down from Heaven to devour the rebels.
- Christians will be witnesses of Christ when Satan is cast into “the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and false prophet are” and where “they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.”
- Christians will be witnesses of Christ judging “the dead, small and great.”
- Christians will be witnesses of Christ as “anyone not found written in the Book of Life” is “cast into the lake of fire” (Revelation 20).

Christians will witness all of these things. As Paul wrote, vengeance belongs to God and He will repay. He will repay in His time. That time is not for us to know now. We have work to do. We have the Gospel to preach. Truth to teach. Christ-like lives to live before others. We know what's coming, so we can take comfort in knowing that Christ is in control of all things.

## **A Question About Witnessing Judgment**

I've been asked when teaching on this subject about how Christians will handle witnessing Christ judging fellow human beings. That's a fair question and one I want to address with humility and appreciation.

By humility, I mean that I know that my eternal salvation is because of what Christ did on the Cross, not anything I did. To think that we played any role whatsoever in being saved is a big mistake – in my humble opinion. I believe I can support that from God's Word, and have written and taught on that subject throughout my 55 years of being saved.

By appreciation, I mean that I am forever thankful to the love, grace, and mercy of Almighty God for saving me. Knowing that I had nothing to do with my salvation causes me to be both thankful and forever indebted to Christ for His great gift of eternal life.



With that said, I believe I and other Christians will feel humbled and grateful as we witness Christ's judgment of the nations on earth and His judgment of the dead in Heaven. Our bodies and minds will be both immortal and incorruptible at that time, so there may be things I cannot fathom about what I will think and feel at those judgments. I believe all Christians will understand that God's judgment will be righteous and just.

I will admit, as someone now living in the flesh, being a bit conflicted about witnessing the judgment of people I know now or have known. I know that God will be right in judging people. Interestingly, the Apostle Paul wrote that Christians will participate in judging the world and angels (1 Corinthians 6), so that shows that the change we go through in the resurrection of saints will prepare us for the work God has for us to do in that context. However, I wonder what it will be like to see loved ones face an angry God.

The upside to my conflict is that I can do everything possible during my life on earth to tell family and friends about God's love for them. I don't think of John 3:16 as just a T-shirt to wear or a sign to hold up at a sporting event for others to see. I really believe that "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." I really believe that God is "rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses" (Ephesians 2:4-5). I believe that sinners can be saved and receive the gift of eternal life "by grace through faith" in Christ.

Once we witness the "great white throne" of Revelation 20, the time for preaching the Gospel to unbelievers is finished. God is now withholding His judgment so that we can be witnesses of God's great love for us through His Son who shed His blood to save us from our sin, and rose from the dead for our eternal future.

*Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Hebrews 12:1-3*



## Judgment Confirmation

The entire Bible, Old and New Testaments, confirms that God will judge all of the nations and peoples of the earth. We can trust that 'confirmation' because it comes through those through whom God speaks – the prophets and Jesus Christ, who is God the Son (Hebrews 1:1-2). The Holy Spirit inspired the writing of all Scripture, which is further confirmation that the 'judgments' written about in the Bible are true.

The 'ages' as we understand them will come to an end. Time will come to an end. Those humans who serve God will enter into an 'unending' relationship with Him.

*Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men,*

*and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away. Revelation 21:1-4*

*And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it. Its gates shall not be shut at all by day (there shall be no night there). And they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it. But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life. Revelation 21:25-27*

*And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him. They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads. There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever. Revelation 22:1-5*

God's people will reign with Christ 'forever and ever.' The nation's will be healed and those who are saved will walk in the 'Light of the Lamb.' The 'kings of the earth' will bring their glory and honor to Christ as He rules the new heavens and new earth from the New Jerusalem.

God's judgment will be finished at that point. It ended at the 'great white throne' –

*Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.*

*Revelation 20:11-15*



## **Judgment Conclusion**

That raises an important question. What happens when God's Judgment is finished? What then? What will life be like for the saved who live on the new earth? What will life be like for the saved who live in the New Jerusalem?

It will be AWESOME! Christians will REIGN with Christ. The idea of 'reigning' means that we will have something to 'reign.' The Apostle Paul wrote that 'If we endure, We shall also reign with Him' (2 Timothy 2:12). The Apostle John wrote, 'And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth' (Revelation 5:9-10). I believe that includes both the old earth (current earth) and the new earth. We will reign with Christ to the glory of God the Father.

The New Jerusalem will certainly be an amazing place to live, as will the new earth. Even the greatest of earthly kings have never built any city that comes close to the size or beauty of The New Jerusalem. The new earth will also be a place of perfection for all who live there. The New Jerusalem will have

—

- a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb
- In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, *was* the 'tree of life,' which bore twelve fruits, each *tree* yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree *were* for the healing of the nations
- And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him. They shall see His face, and His name *shall be* on their foreheads
- There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever

It will be a type of new 'Eden' where God's people will rule and reign with Him. That's the most important thing. We will BE WITH GOD! We will see His Face, and His name will be on our foreheads. We will belong to Him, serve Him, and reign with Him forever.

I wrote a short eBook titled [\*Revelation 23 – Our Future Reign\*](#) to answer the question about what we'll be doing 'after' Revelation 22. I recommend you read it if you'd like to dig deeper into the question. In short, we will be serving God. That means we'll be going in and out of The New Jerusalem, visiting the 'new earth' to do whatever it is that God wants us to do there as we 'reign' with Christ, and possibly going on new adventures with the Lord as He creates and rules – possibly new worlds that do not currently exist.

I also believe we will 'fellowship' with family and friends. I look forward to seeing people I know in this life who will be both 'immortal' and 'incorruptible' in Heaven (1 Corinthians 15). I look forward to meeting people from my family who died long before I was born who will share in reigning with Christ. I look forward to all of the phenomenal experiences that await us after God' finishes 'judging' the world.

I hope you have enjoyed reading this study as much as I have enjoyed researching and writing it. It boils down to the Eternal and Holy Purposes of God, and how we will 'be with the Lord' forever and wherever He goes.

*For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with*

*the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words. 1 Thessalonians 4:15-18*

## **Free eBooks**

[God's Judgment: How It Works – Part 1](#)

[God's Judgment: How It Works – Part 2](#)

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