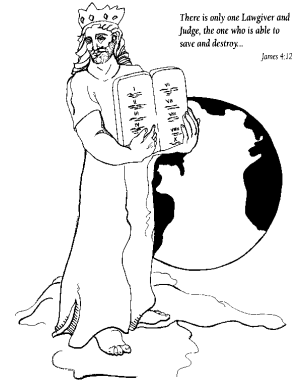


ETERNAL JUDGMENT



1. WHO WILL BE THE JUDGE OF ALL MEN ON THE LAST DAY?

Jesus Christ. **John 5:22** "For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son."

2. THE BIBLE SPEAKS OF TWO FUTURE ETERNAL JUDGMENTS PERTAINING TO MAN. WHO IS INVOLVED IN EACH ONE?

A. The Judgment Seat of Christ or the Bema Judgment is only for believer. This is often called the Bema Judgment.

"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad." (**II Cor. 5:10**) Also read **I Cor. 3:12-15**.

B. The Great White Throne Judgment. Is the final judgment for the unbeliever. It will involve the unrighteous dead of all time and those who became believers since the first resurrection or Judgment Seat of Christ.

"And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds." (**Rev. 20:12**, also read verses **13-15**)

3. HOW WILL THOSE BE JUDGED AT BOTH JUDGMENTS?

A. The unbeliever is judged by his unbelief toward Jesus Christ and not for living for Him.

"He that believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God." (**John 3:18**)

B. The believer will be judged by four things:

1. Our works. These are the things which we do in this present life.
 "Each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it, because it is to be revealed with fire; and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work. If any man's work which he has built upon it remains, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work which he has built upon it remains, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work is burned up, he shall suffer loss; but he himself shall be saved, yet so as through fire. **(I Cor. 3:13-15)**

2. Our faithfulness to our calling. God expects us to be responsible for the gifts, talents, and abilities, that He entrusts to us.
 "In this case, moreover it is required in stewards that one be found trustworthy." **(I Cor. 4:2)**

3. Our treatment of the brethren. If we are to be great in the Kingdom of God, we must serve one another in love.
 "And the King will answer and say to them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me'." **(Matthew 25:40)**

 "By this love is perfected with us, that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; because as He is, so also are we in this world. We love, because He first loved us. If someone says, 'I love God,' and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen." **(I John 4:17, 19-21)**

4. Our motives. God, who knows all things will look into our hearts and judge us for our real intent.
 "Who will render to every man according to his deeds." **(Romans 2:6)**

 "Therefore do not go on passing judgment before the time, but wait until the Lord comes who will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and disclose the motives of men's hearts; and then each man's praise will come to him from God." **(I Cor 4:5)**

4. WHERE ARE THE DEAD NOW?

- A. The bodies are in the grave.
- B. The spirits of the righteous are with Christ.
 - "We are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord." **(II Cor. 5:8)**
 - "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. But if I am to live on in the flesh, this will mean fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which to choose. But I am hard pressed from both directions, having the desire to depart and be with Christ, for that is very much better." **(Phil. 1:21,23)**
- C. The spirits of those who died without Jesus as Savior are in Hades (hell).
 - "And in Hades he lifted up his eyes, being in torment and saw Abraham far away, and Lazarus in his bosom." **(Luke 16:23)**
 - "And death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire." **(Rev. 20:14)**

5. HOW CAN THE LAKE OF FIRE BE DESCRIBED?

- A. It is a place of unholy association.
 - "But the cowardly fearful, and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death." **(Rev. 21:8)**
- B. It is a place of torment for eternity.
 - "And the devil who deceived them was thrown was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever." **(Rev. 21:10)**
 - "Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched." **(Mark 9:44)**
- C. It is a place of sorrow, despair and darkness.

"There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth there when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, but yourselves being cast out." **(Luke 13:28)**

"And cast out the worthless slave into the outer darkness; in that place there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth." **(Matthew 25:30)**

"For whom the black darkness has been reserved forever." **(Jude 13)**

From the Scriptures we know that this will be a place where the presence of God is completely absent. This is probably the meaning of black darkness. Since "God is light, and in Him there is no darkness at all", this blackness would indicate that the wicked will be so far banished from the presence of God that they will know the full meaning of being without God and without hope.

6. WILL THESE INDIVIDUALS BE GIVEN A SECOND CHANCE OR WILL THEY EVER BE RELEASED FROM THIS PLACE?

No. Our present life is the only opportunity to prepare for eternity. Those who are sent to the Lake of Fire are sent there because they chose not to follow Christ.

A. The Bible does not speak of a second chance.

"And it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment." **(Hebrews 9:27)**

B. It is an everlasting fire.

"And these shall go away into eternal punishment; but the righteous into eternal life." **(Matthew 25:46)**

7. WHAT IS HEAVEN?

A. It is the future destiny of those redeemed by Christ.

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. To obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved for you in heaven." **(I Peter 1:3-4)**

B. It is a place where communion with God will be unhindered.

"Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He shall dwell among them, and they shall be His

people, and God Himself shall be among them.."
(Rev. 21:3)

- C. It is a place of holy environment and associations.
"And nothing unclean and no one who practices abomination and lying, shall ever come into it, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life." **(Rev. 21:27)**
- D. It is a place of joy and gladness.
"And He shall wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there shall no longer be any death; there shall no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away." **(Rev. 21:4)**
- E. It is a place of rest. It will be an eternal deliverance from the arduous labors and fierce struggles of this life.
"Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on! 'Yes', says the Spirit, 'that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds will follow them'."
(Rev. 14:13)

"Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet we shall be. We know that, when He appears, we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him just as He is." **(I John 3:2)**

