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Jesus Christ Second Coming – Lesson 17

Tribulation 11

7 Judgments

Mankind will be subject to judgement, there is no way anyone can escape from it. Some people think that all of us will be subjected to the same judgement both Christians and non-Christians alike. That may be the general idea but not so according to Bible.

Let us learn about the seven judgements of God from this we can learn the following.

- When
- Where
- Who
- Purpose

By examining these seven judgements we will find the answer to many questions.

As a background study for the seven judgments, we can start with the judgments at Garden of Eden at Genesis 3. Because of the fall of Adam and Eve, God placed curses, or judgments, upon Adam and Eve, as well as Satan and the earth, **Genesis 3:14-17**. Because of these things, Scripture states that after we die, then comes the judgment, **Hebrews 9:27**.

1. The judgment of Christ

Time: A.D. 33, **Hebrews 9:25-28**

Place: The Cross on Calvary,

John 3:14, *And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up,*

John 17:4, *I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. ⁵And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.*

1 Peter 2:24, *who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed.*

Subjects: The perfect work of Christ.

John 3:16, *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*

John 5:24, *“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.*

Romans 6:8, *Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him,*

Result: The death of Christ and justification for the believer.

Romans 4:1-25; 5:1-11; 5:15-21; Romans 8:1-16.

Christ died for sin. He took the sinners place on the cross, and died for the sins of the world. Jesus Christ took my place and your place on the Cross, and died as payment for our sins, to satisfy the demands of God's holiness.

The Apostle Paul tells us that Jesus was raised from the dead, because His death was sufficient to meet the judgment of every sin. The result of this judgment is the eternal justification of believers.

Immediately upon being born again, a person is sanctified. We are perfect because God sees us as perfect

when we are saved. But while here on earth, we are not perfect because we sin. Sanctification here on earth is a progressive sanctification, becoming more like Christ each day.

When Christ appears at the **rapture**, all believers receive an incorruptible body, a perfect body. **1 Corinthians 15:51-53.**

A person can go to heaven for one reason, and one reason only (John 14:6; Acts 4:12; John 3:16) they believe in Jesus Christ as their personal saviour, and have accepted the fact that their sins have already been judged and atoned for by Christ.

A believer in Christ is no longer under condemnation. (Romans 8:1; 2 Corinthians 5:21)

Christ died not only for the sins of the world, but He died so that sin would no longer reign in the lives of those that believed in Him. When Christ died on the Cross, the believer's sin nature was also judged and crucified with Christ, Romans 6:4-11.

This is a judgment that also defeated Satan, Colossians 2:14-15; John 16:11. This judgment is already completed and will never be repeated.

2. The Believer's Self Judgment

Time: Any time during our present life.

1 Corinthians 11;31-32, *For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged. ³²But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world.*

Place: Anywhere during this present life.

Romans 8:1-16; Hebrews 12:5-11.

Subjects: Individual Believers that are walking in the light.

1 John 1:7, *But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.*

Result: God's approval or Chastisement, Hebrews 12:5-11.

Colossians 3:5-17, *And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. ¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. ¹⁷And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.*

The church at Corinth Christians were drunken and dissolute. Paul commands them and us that believers should judge themselves when they sin otherwise God will judge and they will be chastened of the Lord. Also, they should not be condemned with the world.

Christians need to examine their own lives for sin, and then judge the sin and confess it to the Lord. If sin is confessed, it is forgiven and the sinner is restored to fellowship with God, and can again walk in the Spirit.

1 John 1:9, *If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

Once the believer has done the confession and made right with God, he can now produce fruit, which will bring them rewards at the judgment seat of Christ.

The believer must remember that discipline from the Lord is not condemnation, 1 Corinthians 11:32. The Lord's chastening is always corrective, and not vindictive, Hebrews 12:10-11.

God does not correct/ discipline non-Christians, He discipline only His children in order to bring them back from sin and into fellowship with Him, so that they would not be condemned with the world.

3. The Judgment Seat of Christ

Subjects: Believers Only

2 Corinthians 5:10, *For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.*

The word "we" is used 26 times in this chapter, and always refers to believers. Further, since no one at this judgment goes to hell, it has to be for believers only, 1 Corinthians 3:14-15; Galatians 6:8; Ephesians 6:8; Colossians 3:24.

Time: At the rapture.

Place: In heaven after the rapture, Romans 14:10; 2 Corinthians 5:10.

Result: To the believer - rewards or loss of rewards - but he himself shall be saved, 1 Corinthians 3:11-15.

We will look at this judgement as separate lesson in next one!

4. The Judgment of the Nations

Time: When the Son of Man will come in his glory. End of Great Tribulation but before the Millennium reign.

Matthew 25:31, *“When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory.*

Subjects: The Gentile Nations - Matthew 25:31-46

Place: The Valley of Jehoshaphat.

Joel 3:1-2, *“For behold, in those days and at that time, When I bring back the captives of Judah and Jerusalem, ² I will also gather all nations, And bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat; And I will enter into judgment with them there On account of My people, My heritage Israel, Whom they have scattered among the nations; They have also divided up My land.*

Result: Some declared saved and some declared lost.

Matthew 25:24; 25:41; 25:46; Matthew 13:41-50;

²⁴*“Then he who had received the one talent came and said, ‘Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed.*

41 "Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels:

46 And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

This judgment described as being all nations, the word "nations" used in our Bible refers to all nations other than Israel.

All the people living through the Tribulation on earth at the time of Christ's return, and is a separation of the saved and the lost at that time. Those that are saved enter the millennial kingdom, inheriting the kingdom of God. Those that are lost are sent away to everlasting punishment.

Matthew 25:31-46;

Revelation 14:11, *And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name."*

In the Bible the word "nations" is used primarily for people who are not Jewish. It does not have the same meaning as our English word, which refers to a political entity or a people from a specific geographic area.

Therefore, this judgment is a judgment of the Gentile people living at that time, and does not include the Jewish people. Israel has a separate judgment which follows the judgment of the Gentiles (in this case it is everyone but Israelites). Once again, we see that not all are judged at the same judgment.

What is the Basis of this judgment of the Gentile people?

It is the treatment of those whom Christ calls "*my brothers*". Matthew 25:40-46.

It is not the final judgment as other judgments are to follow at the end of the millennium.

The Bible says that Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled. Luke 21:24,

This judgment of the nation's brings to a close the times of the Gentiles and anticipates the judgment of all unsaved will occur at the end of the millennium at the Great White Throne judgment.

It is important to note that this is not at the throne of God in heaven as some believe but it is an earthly throne that was predicted by Jeremiah 23:5.

The judgment therefore is on the earth and not in heaven.

Compare the judgment of the nations in Matthew 25:31-46 to the great white throne judgment in Revelation 20:11-15.

Judgement of Nations	Great White Throne Judgement
No resurrections Matthew 25:31-32	Resurrection of the wicked dead Revelation 20:11-15
Living nations judged Matthew 25:32	The dead judged Revelation 20:12
Place is on this earth Matthew 25:31-32	Heaven and Earth fled away Revelation 20:11
No books used Matthew 25:32-33	Books were opened Revelation 20:12
Sheep, Goat & Brothers Matthew 25:40; 25:33	Only the dead Revelation 20:12
Time appearing of Jesus Christ Matthew 25:31	After the Millennium Revelation 20:1-2 & 7-8
Some are saved Matthew 25:32-33	None are saved Revelation 20:12-15
Judged on their treatment of brothers Matthew 25:31-46	Judged on their works Revelation 20:12

The Judge, Jesus Christ is the same in that both judgments.

However, the saints will be associated with Christ in the great white throne judgment. (1 Corinthians 6:2, Daniel 7:22, Jude 1:14-15).

Since believers will be associated with Christ in the great white throne judgment they cannot be subjected to this judgment.

5. The Judgment of Israel

Subjects: This judgment is for the remnant of Israel that survives the tribulation period, who are on earth and alive when Christ returns, the living Jews.

This judgment follows the final regathering of Israel predicted in Ezekiel 20:34-35; Zechariah 12:10-14.

Time: Near the end of the tribulation after the glorious appearing of Christ, **Matthew 24:15-22; Jeremiah 30:3-11; Daniel 9:27.**

Place: Palestine, Moab, and Edom, **Matthew 24:15-31; Hosea 2:14-17; Daniel 11:40-45; Ezekiel 20:33-34**

Result: The conversion of the nation of Israel, **Romans 11:25-29; Matthew 23:37-39; Zechariah 12:10-13:1; Jeremiah 30:3-11.**

Only those who believe in Jesus Christ as their Messiah and saviour will enter into the kingdom blessings. Those who have not put their trust in Jesus Christ will be gathered, judged and removed, with only believers entering the millennial kingdom, **Ezekiel 20:33-38**.

This judgment in Ezekiel results in the rebels being cut off and unable to enter into the land.

This is a judgment of physical death, and they will be raised from the dead for judgment at the Great White Throne.

Again, it can be seen that this is at a different time and place than the other judgments, so these cannot be judged at a general judgment of all peoples at one time and in one place.

6. The Judgment of the Angels

Subjects: Judgment of the fallen angels by believer's.

1 Corinthians 6:2-3, *Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world will be judged by you, are you unworthy to judge the smallest matters? ³ Do you not know that we shall judge angels? How much more, things that pertain to this life?*

Jude 1:6-7, *⁶And 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;⁷as 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.*

2 Peter 2:4, *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;*

Time: After the millennial reign.

Revelation 20:7-15; Jude 1:6;

Place: Not revealed.

Result: Eternal fire.

Matthew 25:41, ⁴¹*“Then He will also say to those on the left hand, ‘Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels:*

Revelation 20:10, *The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and*

the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

Satan is confined during the millennial reign, Revelation 20:2-3, but after the 1000-year reign of Christ, Satan will be loosed for a little while. Satan will go out to deceive the nations but he will be destroyed, judged, and cast into the lake of fire, Revelation 20:7-10.

7. The Great White Throne Judgment

Subjects: The lost, the wicked dead of all ages.

Revelation 20:11-15.

Time: This judgment takes place shortly after the millennium, but before the eternal state of the new heavens and earth mentioned in Revelation 20:10-11; Revelation 21:1

Place: Before The Great White Throne.

Revelation 20:11, *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.*

Result: Those not found written in the book of life will be cast into the lake of fire.

Revelation 20:15, And *anyone not found* written in the *Book of Life* was cast *into the lake of fire*.

The believers have already been resurrected and taken to heaven, so it is now the dead, the unsaved, that stand before the Great White Judgment Throne.

God has already removed Satan and His angels, **Revelation 20:10**, *The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.*

Then the unbelieving dead are resurrected and stand before the throne. **Revelation 20:12-13**, *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.*¹³ *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.*

The unbelieving dead did not accept Christ's payment for their sins so now must be judged by their works.

There will be many who did good works and claim they should get into heaven because of their works. We also see that they will claim they should be able to enter into heaven but Christ will not allow them to enter. They claimed good works to get into heaven. Good works do not get us into heaven. (**Matthew 7:21-22**)

Ephesians 2, tells us that we are saved by grace through faith and not by works. But if we are saved we are created unto good works. (**Ephesians 2:8-10**)

How many of all mankind have sinned?

All of mankind has sinned, Romans 3:23.

So, what is the penalty for violating one of these commandments?

Romans 6:23 says the wages of sin is death. The death mentioned here refers to the second death, which is eternal separation from God in a lake of fire. (Revelation 21:8; John 3:18)

Hebrews 9:27, Death comes first and then the judgment. So, since the eternal destiny is fixed at death, the Great White Throne judgment is also for degrees of punishment.

In **Luke 12:47-48**, Jesus tells us that the one that knew God's will and did not do it, shall be beaten with many stripes. On the other hand, those that did not know God's will and did not do it, shall be beaten with a few stripes. This indicates us that there are degrees of punishment.

In **Luke 20:46-47**, that the scribes mentioned there would receive a greater condemnation, indicating there are degrees of punishment.

Degrees of punishment can also be seen in Matthew 11:22-24 where Jesus tells the cities of Chorazin and Bethsaida that it would be more tolerable on the day of judgment for Tyre and Sidon than for them. In verse 24 we see Jesus speaking of those in Capernaum saying that in the day of judgment it would be more tolerable for the land of Sodom. Degrees of punishment are shown in many more places throughout the Bible.

In this final judgment no one will be able to say that God did not treat them fairly. All mankind will be able to see that God gave everyone a chance and that each of us chose our own eternal destiny. **Romans 3:19; Colossians 3:22-25.**