

MSB 204

MORE Seed and Bread

BRIEF BIBLICAL MESSAGES FROM

THE WORD OF TRUTH MINISTRY

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INDIVIDUAL JUDGMENT

by David R. Hettema

There is in man an inherent realization that someday, somewhere in their future there will be a settling of accounts, a determination by a supreme force that rewards the good and punishes the bad. This is also a basic tenet of every known religion in the world. Generally called "Judgment Day" it is usually associated with man's ideas of what happens at death or the end of the world. The prevailing belief in the religious world today is that this determination is made when men die, that an immediate judgment is made by God as to the destination of the deceased, Heaven or Hell.

The Bible gives promise of a time coming when there will be a personal, individual entering into judgment with our Creator, but the judgments at death ideas are foreign to the Word of God. It is a record of many of God's previous judgments, and speaks of a variety of judgments to come but no man that has ever lived, including Adam, has experienced his final judgment. God's Word also sets forth that the righteousness and justice of God demands that every individual living or dead will have their day in court. The scriptures clearly state that this time of judgment is still future. It will only have its beginning when God intervenes in the affairs of men and exercises His sovereignty over the whole earth. Then will be true the Psalmist's song, *Say among the nations that the LORD reigneth: the world also shall be established that it shall not be moved: he shall judge the peoples righteously. Psa. 96: 10.* This act of divine intervention will usher in the time of God's outflowing righteous judgments, a time when good men living or dead will enjoy the eonian life that is their portion in His great government upon this earth, but the unrighteous and evil men who have no inheritance in it will be eliminated.

For evildoers shall be cut off: but those that wait upon the LORD, they shall inherit the earth. Psa.37:9.

Concurrent with the judgment of the living and continuing during the early years of Heaven's government, the orderly resurrection of the dead will be taking place. **(John 6: 40)** These resurrections will continue until all who in the judgment of God ... ***"are accounted worthy to obtain that world, and the resurrection from the dead"*** **Luke 20:35**, have been raised. The rest of the dead will wait in their graves until the Great White Throne judgment described in **Revelation 20:11-15**. When this final judgment is completed, every human that has ever lived will have had their day in court with the Judge of all the earth.

Whatever a person believes about future judgment must be tested against what God has said on the subject of man's nature and his destiny. God's words to man contain much light on this matter and it is to God's Word we must go if we are to find the truth. That perception in man's conscience that speaks to him about a future settling of his personal account is confirmed by God's Words: ***It is appointed unto man once to die, but after this the judgment. Hebrews 9: 27.*** This judgment is still future. When the scriptures speak of God's judgments, they are always characterized as being righteous and just. The scriptural use of the words **judge** and **judgment** do not always imply an adverse ruling against whom or what is under judgment but means "to evaluate, to determine and to set the proper order." When God's righteous order is imposed upon this earth, this reputation will be demonstrated and extolled.

Men shall speak of the might of thy terrible (awe-inspiring) acts, and I will declare thy greatness. They shall abundantly utter the memory of thy great goodness, and shall sing of thy righteousness. Psa. 145:6,7.

The awe-inspiring acts of God that men will be witnessing and speaking of have to do with the removal of all the curses of sin and death which have been resident in the earth since the fall of man. God's redeeming work of making the whole earth alive, fruitful and inhabitable, and resurrecting men from the dead in their determined order to live in it. God undoing what sin has done.

Say among the nations that the LORD reigneth; the world also shall be established that it shall not be moved He shall judge the peoples righteously. For he cometh to judge the earth: he shall judge the world with righteousness, and

the peoples with his truth. Psa. 96:10,13.

The Apostle Paul in his testimony on Mars Hill revealed that this judgment will be carried out through God's visible expression Jesus Christ.

God has appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead. Acts 17:31.

The time element given is a future day (not a day of 24 hours), a period of time when this judgment will take place. It will begin when God breaks His long silence and through His Spirit impresses upon the minds of all living that Jesus Christ is the Savior of this world and as such He alone is worthy to be the Judge of all the earth. Paul writing to Timothy declares by inspiration: *I charge thee therefore before God, even the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick (living) and the dead at his appearing even his kingdom. 2 Tim.4:1.*

The Greek word used for appearing is *epiphaneia*, *epiphaino* indicating an accelerated *shining forth*, thus *a blazing forth*, a very favorable intervention, a description of God presenting Jesus Christ to the world in power and great glory. *For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment to the Son. John 5:22.*

Paul tells us that this authority is the right of Jesus Christ; *For to this end Christ both died, and rose again that he might be Lord both of the dead and the living. Romans 14:9.*

This writer is fully persuaded concerning the deity of Jesus Christ, that He is the visible expression of God, our only source of knowledge concerning the character of God. Jesus Christ is Jehovah (LORD) of the Old Testament, and when we speak of God we speak of Jesus Christ; when we speak of Jesus Christ we speak of God.

Paul speaks this same way using the names and titles of Christ in referring to men's personal accounts being settled in the future. *For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ, for it is written, As I live saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. So then every one of us shall give an account of himself to God. Romans 14:10-12*

The initial event that brings the rule of God upon this earth is the pouring out His

Spirit upon all flesh. (Joel 2: 28-31). It will reach out to touch everything and everybody in the earth, bringing a multitude of miraculous changes. The most amazing of these changes will be in the people who are living upon the earth at that time. The Holy Spirit brings this enlightenment upon everyone at the same time. **(John 16:8)** As the flow of light and life comes from God, every individual's mind and body will experience an instant change, whether they are sinners saved by grace, or one of the workers of iniquity. **(1 Cor. 15:51)** The penalties of Adam's transgression will be removed. The gift of life that Christ has victoriously won will equip everyone to stand in honest judgment, the bad as well as the good. Even today in human courts, our laws require that the one on trial must be able to understand the nature of the charges brought against them or justice will not be served. How much more so, *shall not the judge of all the earth do right? Gen. 19:25.*

This enlightenment by God's Spirit will illuminate every individual's conscience revealing to them their record and making plain to all just where their deeds stand in relation to God's righteousness. Our Lord was speaking of this time when He said, *for nothing is secret, that shall not be made manifest; neither anything hid, that shall not come abroad Luke 8:17.* In another place he warned, *every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account of in the day of judgment For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned Matt. 12:36-37.*

This is the time and place where men will comprehend the glory and majesty, the exalted place of Jesus Christ, and every knee shall bow. The good and the evil, their tongues shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God. Those whose record of sin and iniquity makes them unworthy of life will be eliminated. They will not live to enjoy that life in Heaven's Government. This is the time when believers will realize their Salvation, their faith has been counted to them for righteousness. David is quoted by Paul in

Romans 4:7-8 *Blessed (happy) are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin.*

A passage in **Psalms 22:27-29** describes this great intervention, *All the ends of the earth shall remember (zakar) and turn. unto the Lord* The Hebrew word *zakar* is better translated "have something imprinted on their minds. " That something is the enlightenment and physical changes given through God's Spirit causing men to turn and recognize who and what Jesus Christ is in the sight of God Next we read, *and all the kindreds of the nations shall worship before thee.* This

enlightenment causes all families of all nations to bow the knee in worship, ***For the Kingdom (government) is the Lord's; and he is the governor among the nations.***

Verse 29 then reads, ***All that be fat*** (fulfilled, satisfied, rich) ***upon earth shall eat and worship.*** The Hebrew word ***daw-shane*** rendered *fat* here describes the glorious position of those who have a portion in the Kingdom of God, (see verse 26). Their worship and praise of Jesus Christ is to the glory of God; they have been rescued, delivered and made safe.

The next portion of verse 29 speaks of another group, those condemned to destruction. They will bow in worship before the righteous judge of all the earth before they return to the soil, ***they that go down to the dust shall bow before him: and none can keep alive his own soul.***

This is the second death, there is no resurrection from the second death. How much better to know the one who said, ***"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting (eonian) life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him."*** John 3:36.

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