



LESSON #5 - THE HOUR OF GOD'S JUDGMENT

Introduction

Revelation 14:6, 7: *"Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth--to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people--⁷ saying with a loud voice, "Fear God and give glory to Him, for ["causal conjunction": because] the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water."*

Most people think of the judgment as an event but we should rather think of it as a process. The judgment in Revelation has **three clear stages**:

- Before the Second coming of Jesus (**Revelation 14:6, 7**)
- During the Millennium (**Revelation 20:4-6**)
- After the Millennium (**Revelation 20:13-15**)

In this lesson we will study only the stage before the Second Coming of Jesus.

Let's **go back** to the book of **Genesis** for some **background**.

The Origin of Man

Genesis 2:7 (Isaiah 64:8): *"And the LORD God formed man [body] of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life [energizing force]; and man became a living being."*

- The material body
- The brain processes and stores the information that comes through the five senses of the body
- The electrical power source
- Through what comes in you create your own self-identity. You are what you allow to come into your body through your **five senses**.

What Happens at Death?

Ecclesiastes 12:7: *“Then the dust will return to the earth as it was, and the spirit will return to God who gave it.”*

At death the **body with its brain** is **unplugged** and **disintegrates**.

But **what happens** to our **personal self-identity** which we formed while we were alive?

The Content of the Books (Plural):

A complete biography inside and out kept in heaven

Actions: II 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.”*

Words: Matthew 12:36, 37: *“But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the Day of Judgment. ³⁷ For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.”*

Works, secrets: Ecclesiastes 12:13, 14: *“Fear God and keep His Commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. ¹⁴ For God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil.”*

Works: Revelation 20:12: *“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.”*

- Jesus is in **heaven in person** but on earth He is written in books - **66 books**. Jesus is the Word of God **in person** but He is also the **written Word** of God.
- **We are personally on earth** but in heaven our **self-identity** is written in books.
- The heavenly books contain a **complete biography**: Every **act**, every **word**, every **motive**, every **thought**, every **emotion**, even every **opportunity to do good** which we did not take advantage of. There is a **complete record** of our lives **inside and out**! God has **another me** in heaven in **written form**.

The Bible says the records are contained in books but I am persuaded that if God spoke to a **prophet today** he/she would speak in terms of **video cameras and computers**.

The Contents of the Book (Singular)

Philippians 4:3: *“And I urge you also, true companion, help these women who labored with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the Book of Life.”*

Revelation 3:5: *“He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.”*

Revelation 13:8: *“All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.”*

Exodus 32:31-32: *“Then Moses returned to the LORD and said, “Oh, these people have committed a great sin, and have made for themselves a god of gold! ³² Yet now, if You will forgive their sin--but if not, I pray, blot me out of Your book which You have written.””*

Daniel 12:1: *“At that time Michael shall stand up, the great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people; and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation, even to that time. And at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone who is found written in the book.”*

Every Human Being Must Appear.

II Corinthians 5:10: *“For we must all [without exception] appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body [then they must be written there], according to what he has done [what you have done must be written there], whether good or bad.”*

The Judgment is in Heaven after 1798

Daniel 7:9-10: *“I watched till thrones were put in place, and the Ancient of Days [where does God the Father live?] was seated; His garment was white as snow, and the hair of His head was like pure wool. His throne was a fiery flame, its wheels a burning fire; ¹⁰ a fiery stream issued and came forth from before Him. A thousand thousands ministered to Him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him. The court was seated, and the books were opened.”*

The Judgment is before the close of probation and the Second Coming

The judgment occurs while the **gospel is being preached**. At the conclusion, **Jesus comes in Daniel 7:13**.

Revelation 14:6-7: *“Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth--to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people-- ⁷ saying with a loud voice, “Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water.”*

Reward of the judgment will be given when Jesus Comes

Matthew 16:27: *"For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works."*

Revelation 22:12: *"And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work."*

Where are the righteous dead until Jesus comes to give the reward?

John 5:28, 29: *"Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice ²⁹ and come forth -- those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation."*

If the dead in Christ are in the grave until Jesus comes, **how** then could they appear before Christ's judgment seat **in heaven before the Second Coming?**

Another Look at the Human Spirit

Luke 8:52-55: *"Now all wept and mourned for her; but He said, "Do not weep; she is not dead, but sleeping." ⁵³ And they laughed Him to scorn, knowing that she was dead. ⁵⁴ But He put them all out, took her by the hand and called, saying, "Little girl, arise." ⁵⁵ Then her spirit returned, and she arose immediately. And He commanded that she be given something to eat."*

Acts 7:57-60: *"Then they cried out with a loud voice, stopped their ears, and ran at him with one accord; ⁵⁸ and they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹ And they stoned Stephen as he was calling on God and saying, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." ⁶⁰ Then he knelt down and cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not charge them with this sin." And when he had said this, he fell asleep."*

Luke 23:46: *"And when Jesus had cried out with a loud voice, He said, "Father, 'into Your hands I commit My spirit.' Having said this, He breathed His last."*

The devotional book Maranatha

"Our personal identity is preserved in the resurrection, though not the same particles of matter or material substance as went into the grave. The wondrous works of God are a mystery to man. The spirit, the character of man, is returned to God, there to be preserved. In the resurrection every man will have his own character. God in His own time will call forth the dead, giving again the breath of life, and bidding the dry bones live. The same form will come forth, but it will be free from disease and every defect. It lives again bearing the same individuality of features, so that friend will recognize friend." Maranatha, p. 301

Job 19:25-27 (NIV): “I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth.
²⁶ And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God; ²⁷ I myself will see him with my own eyes - I, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!

True also of the wicked after the millennium

“There are kings and generals who conquered nations, valiant men who never lost a battle, proud, ambitious warriors whose approach made kingdoms tremble. In death these experienced no change. As they come up from the grave, they resume the current of their thoughts just where it ceased. They are actuated by the same desire to conquer that ruled them when they fell. Great Controversy, p. 664

The assassination of **John F. Kennedy** will provide a good illustration. When you see that **short film clip** of the presidential limousine turning the corner **onto Elm Street** in Dallas, is President Kennedy **alive or is he dead?** He is **alive** but you are **seeing the clip after he is dead**.

In a very real sense, when God brings out the life records of the dead in the judgment, the **dead are alive—on the tape**. The **taping** was done **while they were alive** but the DVD is actually **examined after they are dead**. In a very real sense, then, the dead will **appear alive** before the judgment seat of Christ when they are judged.

Think of the example of the **video camera** that is turned off and then turned on ten years later. It **picks up where it left off**.

Explain how the Process Works

Revelation 20:11-12: “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. ¹² 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 Daily and the Yearly Sanctuary Service

We will be judged by the law of God

James 2:12: “So speak and so do as those who will be **judged by the law** of liberty.”

All have broken the law and therefore are guilty

Romans 3:10, 19, 23: “As it is written: “There is **none righteous**, no, not one. . . ¹⁹ Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that **every mouth may be stopped** and all the world may become **guilty** before God. . . ²³ for **all have sinned** and fall short of the glory of God.”

All under the death sentence--we are all on death row

Romans 6:23: “For the wages of sin is death. . .”

Satan stands as the accuser or district attorney and he is right about our sins

Zechariah 3:1: “Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the Angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to oppose him.”

If Jesus **judged us strictly** on the basis of **our records** we would all be **lost**. **How then can we stand** with **bold assurance** in the judgment?

He lived the **perfect life** I should and he **died our death**

I Peter 1:18-20: “. . . knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. ²⁰ He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you. . .”

We have an **advocate** with the Father. Jesus now **represents us** before the Father. If I **retain his services as my attorney**, his **righteousness** will stand in place of my **unrighteousness**. If our sins have **entered the sanctuary** through His blood by **repentance, confession and trust** in Him, God will accept **his life** in place of ours.

I John 2:1: “My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. ”

We must **confess** our sins and he will forgive us. In order to confess we must **repent** and in order to repent we must have **sorrow for sin** and a **willingness to depart** from it. Only when we come to Calvary do we see the monster that sin is.

I 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.”

Leviticus 16:16: “So he shall make atonement for the **Holy Place**, because of the uncleanness of the children of Israel, and because of their transgressions, for all their sins; and so he shall do for the **tabernacle of meeting** which remains among them in the midst of their uncleanness.”

Those who in the **judgment before the second coming** are **found to be in Christ** will be **resurrected** and **receive the reward** when Jesus comes

I Thessalonians 4:15-17 “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” ¹⁶ 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 ¹⁷ 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.”

Saul of Tarsus was a nasty character and had much blood on his hands

Acts 26:9-11: *“Indeed, I myself thought I must do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth. ¹⁰ This I also did in Jerusalem and many of the saints I shut up in prison, having received authority from the chief priests; and when they were put to death, I cast my vote against them. ¹¹ And I punished them often in every synagogue and compelled them to blaspheme; and being exceedingly enraged against them, I persecuted them even to foreign cities.”*

- His **record of sin was great**. In himself he was **doomed**.
- The only one of the saints we know of by name is **Stephen**. (See **Acts 7:58-60**.)
- But he received Jesus on the **road to Damascus**—(I have been there).
- **Acts 22:16:** *“Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.”*
- Saul was indeed a scoundrel but after his conversion on the road to Damascus, his name was changed to Paul and he was a soul-winner for Christ. Imagine the look on Stephen’s face in the kingdom when he meets Paul there for the first time.

The computer illustration

- The **computer (a material object)**
- The **brain**
- The **power source**
- Takes on a **self-identity that you program**
- It might **crash or be smashed**
- The **backup disk**

Buying a new computer:

- A **new computer** (Indestructible)
- A **new brain** (more memory)
- **Plugged into** the power source
- **Backup disk** logged into the computer. Given the **same self-identity**

Now some good news about the **DELETE key**

I’m working on my sermon at the computer and typing along. When I have completed it and printed it out, I read it over to make sure that are no errors and suddenly I discover that for a portion of a paragraph I had my fingers on the wrong keys and there’s just a whole line of gibberish. Thank the Lord that computers have a delete key and all I have to do is highlight the errors and touch this special key that will make it all right. Just so, God will blot out every sin from our individual record that has

been repented of and confessed and our slate is clean again. We will **not receive back** all the bad things which were on our record. This is why repentance (sorrow for sin and a turning away from it) and confession are a matter of **life or death**. Our **greatest assurance** is to have our sins covered by the blood of Jesus **in the sanctuary**.