

UNDERSTANDING THE JUDGMENT, PART 1

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We have now had four lessons on the “subject” of The “JUDGMENT”, and in this third last one in the series, we are going to put together what we have learned. The “subject” is certainly very controversial, but as it is so important to our understanding of The Plan of SALVATION, we must learn all that we can to UNDERSTAND it clearly.

To be fair, we must examine most of the verses used by those opposed to our understanding of The JUDGMENT, but have NOT understood or researched thoroughly, what The BIBLE teaches about it. Our aim is to UNDERSTAND these verses in their “TRUE CONTEXT”. We will begin by looking at verses, which, to some people SEEM to CONTRADICT each other.

Jn 5:22

“For The FATHER JUDGE no man, but hath committed ALL JUDGMENT unto The SON”. [JESUS].

Jn 8:15

“Ye [humans] JUDGE after the FLESH; I [JESUS] JUDGE no man”.

Jn 12:47

“..., for I [JESUS] came not to JUDGE the world, but to SAVE the World”.

Here are three APPARENTLY CONTRADICTING statements and each are made by JESUS.

But we must ask ourselves, are they contradictory? Could these verses be talking about THREE DIFFERENT periods of “TIME”? Are they about THREE DIFFERENT sections of The “JUDGMENT”? That is what we will look into now. To settle this matter I looked up 100 verses in The BIBLE dealing with “JUDGMENT”, then I broke that number down to 50, and then to just 25 KEY verses. We will look at some more of them as we progress. After that I studied what our “PIONEERS” taught and wrote on the same “subject”. I’m very glad that I did, as now I am even more convinced that The BIBLE does NOT and will NOT CONTRADICT ITSELF.

We need to turn to Jn 5:25,28,29, to understand what JESUS meant when HE made the statement in verse 22. These verses bring in the “TIME FACTOR” - they inform us that JESUS was talking about The JUDGMENT, which takes place at HIS SECOND COMING. Are you with me there? Next we will read verse 27. “And hath given HIM [JESUS] authority to “EXECUTE” JUDGMENT also, because HE is The SON of MAN”.

Clearly JESUS was referring to The “EXECUTIVE” JUDGMENT”, and the verse adds another helpful piece of information, - it is “because HE is The SON of MAN” that The FATHER has handed over the responsibility of “EXECUTING”, or carrying out, “The JUDGMENT”, (or carrying out the decisions made by The FATHER in The “INVESTIGATIVE” JUDGMENT) to JESUS, - just as we have learned from our previous lessons.

The reason that JESUS is given the responsibility of “EXECUTING” JUDGMENT, is because HE had LIVED on Earth as a MAN, “yet, without sinning”. (Heb 4:15), whereas The FATHER has never been a MAN; nor has HE ever lived on this earth and experienced the TEMPTATIONS that MANKIND faces daily, nor had HE died for MANKIND; as did JESUS.

Matt 16:27

“For The SON of MAN shall come in the glory of HIS FATHER with HIS angels; and then HE shall REWARD every man ACCORDING to his WORKS”.

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The REWARD mentioned in this verse is of course, ETERNAL LIFE to the FAITHFUL, and at the same time, ETERNAL DEATH to the WICKED. - When JESUS "EXECUTES" JUDGMENT, HE becomes The "JUDGE" of both The RIGHTEOUS, (the QUICK), and The WICKED, [the DEAD], at the SAME TIME; this OCCURS at HIS SECOND COMING.

(See also 2 Tim 4:1, which mentions both GOD, and JESUS, with JESUS being the "JUDGE" as HE "EXECUTES" JUDGMENT at HIS SECOND COMING). Before JESUS comes again, The DECISION has ALREADY been MADE as to whom HE will SAVE, and whom HE will DESTROY. (Read 1 Thess 4:16,17 & 2 Thess 2:8).

Now when does The BIBLE say these DECISIONS are made?

Dan 7:9,10

"I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and The ANCIENT of DAYS did sit, The "JUDGMENT" was set, and The BOOKS were opened".

Our first question must be, - WHO is "The ANCIENT of DAYS"?

Dan 7: 13

"I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like The SON of MAN [JESUS] came with The CLOUDS of HEAVEN, [a cloud of angels] and came to The ANCIENT of DAYS, and they brought HIM [JESUS] near before HIM [The FATHER]".

"One like The SON of MAN [JESUS] came with the clouds of HEAVEN", (with the HEAVENLY angels, Matt 24:30,31) and came to "The ANCIENT of DAYS". WHO else can THE BIBLE mean to be "The ANCIENT of DAYS", but The HEAVENLY FATHER?

Dan 7: 10

"A fiery stream issued and came forth from before HIM: [The Father]: thousand thousands ministered unto HIM, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before HIM: The JUDGMENT was SET, and The BOOKS were opened".

Our next question is "What BOOKS are used in this JUDGMENT"?

Mal 3:16

"Then they that feared The LORD spake often one to another: and The LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a BOOK of REMEMBRANCE was written before HIM, for them that FEARED The LORD, and that THOUGHT upon HIS NAME".

We have found out from these verses that "The ANCIENT of DAYS" is GOD The FATHER, and that The "BOOKS" that were mentioned by Daniel are called "The BOOKS of REMEMBRANCE" in Malachi 3:16, and that they contain THE NAMES of those who at some time in their lives, have ACCEPTED JESUS as their GOD and their SAVIOUR. Clearly, this BOOK / these BOOKS are also called "The BOOK of LIFE", (see Rev 3:5).

1 Pet 4:17

"For the time is come that JUDGMENT must begin at The HOUSE of GOD: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that OBEY NOT The GOSPEL of GOD"?

The time is [has] come that JUDGMENT must first begin at "The HOUSE of GOD". Therefore, BELIEVERS and ex-believers are the only ones who are judged in the "FIRST" JUDGMENT, which has to take place before JESUS COMES AGAIN to REWARD The FAITHFUL. Which can only be a reference to the "INVESTIGATIVE" or, "PRE-ADVENT" JUDGMENT, conducted in

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HEAVEN with The FATHER as JUDGE, and JESUS as our ADVOCATE, and must take place before JESUS comes again, to take HIS people Home.

Rev 14:7

“Saying with a loud voice, Fear GOD, and give glory to HIM; for the HOUR of HIS JUDGMENT is come: and WORSHIP HIM that made HEAVEN, and Earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters”.

“Fear GOD and give glory to HIM for the HOUR of HIS JUDGMENT is come”. - Not the hour when “GOD is JUDGED” as some people teach. (In my experience), they then turn to Rom 3:4, in the RSV, or some other modern version; where it seems to say that GOD is being JUDGED; however, by checking verse six (6) of the same chapter, it is clear that it is GOD WHO is doing the JUDGING). That is the beauty of checking other parts of The BIBLE when you wish to better understand texts.

So The BIBLE teaches that it is not GOD who is being JUDGED, but the HOUR when GOD sits in JUDGMENT, as the following texts state.

Dan 7:9,10

“I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and The ANCIENT of DAYS [The Father] did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of HIS head like the pure wool: HIS throne was like the fiery flame, and HIS wheels as burning fire. A fiery stream issued and came forth from before HIM: thousand thousands ministered unto HIM, and ten thousand times ten thousand Stood before HIM: The JUDGMENT was set, and The BOOKS were OPENED”.

In other words, the hour when GOD The FATHER” sits in JUDGMENT of “The HOUSE of GOD” (1 Pet 4:17), of all those who have at some time in their lives, claimed JESUS as their “PERSONAL” SAVIOUR. (See Mal 3:16). This JUDGMENT can only be the “PRE-ADVENT” JUDGMENT or, The “INVESTIGATIVE” which must take place before JESUS comes to take HIS people home.

Rev 3:5

“He that OVERCOMETH, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will NOT BLOT out his NAME out of The BOOK of LIFE, but I will CONFESS his name before MY FATHER, and before HIS angels”.

Another way of saying this is, “He that OVERCOMETH [that is, overcomes the devil, and his temptations to get us to commit evil deeds instead of good], the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I [JESUS] will NOT BLOT his NAME out of The BOOK of LIFE, but I will CONFESS [stand up in favour of] his name before MY FATHER, and before HIS angels”.

“Not blotting out the name”, indicates The “EXECUTIVE” part of The JUDGMENT; which occurs when JESUS COMES AGAIN, with HIS reward.

Matt 10:32,33

“Whosoever therefore shall CONFESS ME before men, him will I CONFESS also before MY FATHER which is in HEAVEN. But whosoever shall DENY ME before men, him will I also DENY before MY FATHER which is in HEAVEN”.

If JESUS “CONFESSES” (or, STANDS up for, see also Dan 12:1), or, SPEAKS up in DEFENCE of The FAITHFUL, before The FATHER, then that would obviously mean that The FATHER would have to be “The JUDGE” in The “INVESTIGATIVE” JUDGMENT, or “PRE-ADVENT” JUDGMENT. And that JESUS CHRIST is their “MEDIATOR”, their “INTERCESSOR” or “ADVOCATE”. There can be no other way of interpreting these two texts.

1 Jn 2:1

“My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an “ADVOCATE” with The FATHER, JESUS CHRIST The RIGHTEOUS”.

These verses clearly teach that in The “INVESTIGATIVE” JUDGMENT, which considers the cases of all who have at some time in their lives, claimed JESUS as their SAVIOUR, (or as Peter put it, those who make up “The HOUSE of GOD”), - The FATHER is The “JUDGE”, and obviously JESUS is The “ADVOCATE” with The FATHER - HE is NOT The “JUDGE” in this part of The JUDGMENT; The “INVESTIGATIVE” JUDGMENT. To put it another way, The FATHER makes the DECISION on who will be SAVED, or who will be DAMNED in THE “INVESTIGATIVE” JUDGMENT, and JESUS is the one WHO “EXECUTES”, or “CARRIES OUT” the PUNISHMENT or REWARD decided by The FATHER.

Jn 12:47, 48

“And if any man hear MY WORDS, and believe not, I JUDGE him NOT: for I came NOT to JUDGE The World, but to SAVE The World. He that REJECTETH ME, and receiveth not MY WORDS, hath “ONE” that JUDGETH him: The WORD that I have SPOKEN, the same shall JUDGE him in LAST DAY”.

With words stated so plainly as that, and spoken by JESUS HIMSELF, how can some people believe that JESUS is The JUDGE in The “INVESTIGATIVE” JUDGMENT? When 1 Jn 2:1, the previous text quoted, made it very clear that JESUS is our “ADVOCATE”, or the one who pleads our cause with The FATHER in The “INVESTIGATIVE” JUDGMENT.

Would JESUS say that those who REJECT HIM; hath “ONE” that JUDGETH him, if HE was The JUDGE? That would hardly be likely. No! in this case, GOD’S WORD is The JUDGE.

The only way that I can ever understand that JESUS is in any way The “JUDGE” in The “INVESTIGATIVE” JUDGMENT, is that HE must make a “JUDGMENT” or, a DECISION as to whom HE will “CONFESS before The FATHER” (Rev 3:5 ; Matt 10:32,33); and whom HE will NOT “CONFESS before The FATHER”, nevertheless, that does not make JESUS The “JUDGE” in The “INVESTIGATIVE” JUDGMENT, because there are so many verses which say that The FATHER is The “JUDGE” at this TIME; and in this JUDGMENT. (1 Jn 2:1, refers to JESUS as the “ADVOCATE”, [NOT The JUDGE], with The FATHER in this JUDGMENT).

1 Pet 1:17

“And if ye call on The FATHER, who without respect of persons “JUDGETH” according to EVERY man’s WORK, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear”:

Now could anything be clearer than that? Peter definitely says that The FATHER in HEAVEN DOES “JUDGE people”. This does not mean that there is a contradiction in The BIBLE, but that The FATHER is The “JUDGE”, (or the one who makes the decisions), in The “INVESTIGATIVE” or, the “FIRST” JUDGMENT, with JESUS being “The “ADVOCATE” with The FATHER”.

This JUDGMENT must take place before JESUS COMES AGAIN; In this “JUDGMENT” The FATHER “JUDGES” first, the “HOUSE” or the people of GOD. (1 Pet 4:17).

If we go back to Jn 5:22, where JESUS told HIS disciples; “For The FATHER JUDGETH NO man ...”; and we read on to verse 27, “and hath given HIM [JESUS] AUTHORITY to “EXECUTE” JUDGMENT also, because HE is The SON of MAN”. This verse helps us to better understand verse 22, which is teaching that The FATHER has given all The “EXECUTING” of “JUDGMENT” to JESUS.

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This conclusion is further supported by reading verse 25, and verses 28,29, which in turn, presents us with the “TIME FACTOR” of this “JUDGMENT” – The SECOND COMING of JESUS, which is the TIME when JESUS “EXECUTES” JUDGMENT.

This will surprise many people, but before we leave First Peter, would you turn to 1 Pet 2:23? “WHO, when HE was reviled, reviled not again; when HE suffered, HE threatened not; but committed HIMSELF to HIM that “JUDGETH” RIGHTEOUSLY”:

This text makes it very plain that JESUS (THE MAN) was the subject of an “INVESTIGATIVE” JUDGMENT at The CROSS. Lk 23:46, supports this fact. “And when JESUS had cried with a loud voice, HE said, FATHER into THY hands I commend MY SPIRIT: and having said thus, HE gave up the ghost”. [HE died].

These two verses explain that JESUS was “JUDGED” as “a WORTHY SACRIFICE” that could “PAY the PRICE” for our SINS, HE was “JUDGED” “by” The FATHER, “WHO JUDGES RIGHTEOUSLY”. WHOM ELSE could JUDGE JESUS? only The FATHER. (See also Jn 20:17).

When JESUS COMES the SECOND TIME, HE acts as The “EXECUTING JUDGE” for the FIRST time; HE RESURRECTS The RIGHTEOUS: and CALLS the living RIGHTEOUS to join with them, and HE then TAKES them HOME to HEAVEN, with HIS ANGELS. The wicked living, are destroyed by “the brightness of HIS COMING”, (See 2 Thess 2:8), and the wicked dead, remain dead in their graves. The “FINAL EXECUTING” of JUDGMENT is at the END of the THOUSAND YEARS. (See Rev 20:7-10).

We have now examined THREE quite DIFFERENT aspects of “JUDGMENT”; the first; which has The FATHER as The “JUDGE”. And the second and third, which has “JESUS” as “JUDGE”.

In both cases; two completely different “JUDGES”, with two completely different RESPONSIBILITIES. (a) When The FATHER sits in JUDGMENT to decide who will be “SAVED” and who will be “LOST”.

(b) In which JESUS is The JUDGE WHO “EXECUTES” The FATHER’S JUDGMENTS; one at the BEGINNING of the THOUSAND YEARS; and the other at the END of the THOUSAND YEARS.

So, The FATHER is clearly The “JUDGE” WHO makes the DECISIONS as to who will be SAVED, and who will be LOST.

Before leaving this theme of The “INVESTIGATIVE” JUDGMENT, I want to draw your attention to another area of “JUDGMENT”, - The “VINDICATIVE” JUDGMENT. This takes place during “The MILLENIUM”. This THOUSAND-YEAR PERIOD, is when the people of GOD (who are in HEAVEN with JESUS), sit in JUDGMENT of the WICKED.

This is when The RIGHTEOUS saints, who, united with, and no doubt guided by CHRIST, go through The BOOK and agree with, or “VINDICATE” the decisions made previously by The FATHER in The “INVESTIGATIVE” JUDGMENT. We read about this “JUDGMENT” in Rev 20:4,6, where these verses state that, “we live and reign”, [on thrones of “JUDGMENT”] “with CHRIST for a thousand years”. “The SAINTS”, (in this case, the saved of the earth), even “JUDGE” the WICKED ANGELS at this TIME. (as we read in 1 Cor 6:1-3).

Next, I want to look at what Ellen White taught about The “INVESTIGATIVE” JUDGMENT.

“Great Controversy”, page 479. “Thus was presented to the prophet’s vision the great and solemn day when the characters and lives of men should pass in review before “The JUDGE” of all the

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earth, and to every man should be rendered “ACCORDING to his WORKS”. The ANCIENT of DAYS is GOD The FATHER. It is HE, the SOURCE of all BEING, and the FOUNDATION of all LAW, WHO is to “PRESIDE” in the “JUDGMENT”.

Clearly, the Spirit of Prophecy states that The FATHER is the JUDGE in the “INVESTIGATIVE” JUDGMENT. “The Oxford School Dictionary”, page 230, defines “PRESIDE”, to mean, “to have, or take position of control or authority”.

When the Court Bailiff announces to the Court, that “Judge Murphy is Presiding”, he means that Judge Murphy is “The JUDGE”, and is “in control of” this particular trial. - I decided to look further at other dictionaries, because I have found that some people still do not understand the term “preside”. “Funk & Wagnall’s New Practical Standard Dictionary”, vol 2, page 1036, “preside”, To sit in authority over other, exercise the chief direction and oversight, to be set over a deliberative body, or court”. “World Book Dictionary”, vol 2, page 1648, “preside” To hold the place of authority, to have authority: have control”.

My next move was to look up these Dictionaries to find the true meaning of the word “Judge”, “Funk & Wagnall’s New Practical Standard Dictionary”, vol 1, page 725, “Judge”, An officer invested with authority to administer justice”. “World Book Dictionary”, vol 1, page 1138, “Judge”, A public official appointed or elected to HEAR and DECIDE cases in a Law Court”.

Great Controversy page 484 – “HE asks for HIS people not only PARDON and JUSTIFICATION, full and complete, but a SHARE in HIS GLORY and a SEAT upon HIS THRONE. While JESUS is PLEADING for the subjects of HIS GRACE, satan accuses them before GOD [obviously The FATHER] as transgressors”. (Emphasis mine).

To WHOM else would JESUS be PLEADING, other than to The FATHER?

Once again The LORD’S SERVANT points to The FATHER as being the “JUDGE”, and JESUS as “ADVOCATE” or “MEDIATOR” (“PLEADING for the subjects of HIS grace”) and satan as the accuser. We can be certain of our beliefs when we have such evidence as we have read from our BIBLE, and from the servant of The LORD.

“Pioneer Articles”, page 115, from the book “Explanation of the Typical and Anti-Typical Sanctuary”, by Joseph Bates, page 10 – “I beheld the thrones were cast down and The ANCIENT of DAYS [or, GOD The FATHER] did sit. Where? In “JUDGMENT”.

“Pioneer Articles”, page 321 - John Nevins Andrews wrote: “For when The BOOK of GOD’S REMEMBRANCE, is found to prove that the person under examination is an OVERCOMER, it is the part of The SAVIOUR to “CONFESS” [or stand up for] his name before The “FATHER”, and the holy angels. And the part of The FATHER is to “GIVE” or “PASS JUDGMENT” [in favour of the sinner], and that person’s sins be blotted from the records”. – “These words virtually announce the close of our LORD’S WORK as HIGH PRIEST and “ADVOCATE”. They cannot be uttered till HE, as our “ADVOCATE”, [in The “INVESTIGATIVE” JUDGMENT], has secured the blotting out of the sins of HIS people at HIS FATHER’S TRIBUNAL”.

“Pioneer Articles”, page 322 – “It is therefore NOT The SON, but The FATHER, who sits in “JUDGMENT” as described in this vision”. (See Dan 7:9,10).

THE “JUDGMENT” MUST BE UNDERSTOOD IN THE CONTEXT OF THE SANCTUARY SERVICES.

Unfortunately, I have heard others say that, “The Judgment needs to be understood in the context of the way that the Elders sat in Judgment at the gates of the cities in BIBLE days”. They then proceed

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to explain that the Elder was at the same time, Judge, Advocate, and Executor of the Judgment. Sadly, they have forgotten, or they have not understood, that this was a corrupt system of Judgment introduced by fallible men; the work of these Judges had absolutely nothing to do with deciding who will be SAVED, and who would be LOST, their job was only to decide between right and wrong. Whereas, GOD had given us a PERFECT PLAN of The “JUDGMENT” in The SANCTUARY SERVICES, especially the service explaining the need of The DAY of ATONEMENT. (The CLEANSING of The Sanctuary from the “confessed” sins of the people).

On The DAY of ATONEMENT, The High Priest entered The Earthly Sanctuary, not as a “JUDGE”, nor did he ever become The “JUDGE” at any time during the service. He was representing, or was a “TYPE” of JESUS our FAITHFUL HEAVENLY HIGH PRIEST. He was making “ATONEMENT” for the people, between The FATHER and MEN.

He [The High Priest] was performing the role of “ADVOCATE”, or “MEDIATOR” between GOD [The FATHER] as “JUDGE” and the people who had fulfilled the conditions of “afflicting their souls”, and making an offering for their sins, as is explained in Lev 23:29-32. In this case, it was GOD [The FATHER], WHO DECIDED who would be “cut off from the people”, [those who had NOT followed the INSTRUCTIONS of GOD]. (See verses 28,30). If JESUS was The “JUDGE”, at this time, HE would be “MEDIATING” between the people and HIMSELF. And as we said before, that would not be understood as being very fair.

Only “GOD” could be trusted with the decision as to who would LIVE and who would be DESTROYED. GOD The FATHER did not leave us in any doubt that HE was the DECISION MAKER or “JUDGE” in The “INVESTIGATIVE” JUDGMENT.

Twenty-three (23) of the OLD TESTAMENT verses I checked that used the word “JUDGE”, or “JUDGMENT”, clearly dealt with The “EXECUTION” of “JUDGMENT” or, the “carrying out” of JUDGMENT”, or The “JUDGMENT” of the WICKED, or “VENGEANCE”. These verses did not refer to DECISION MAKING, but to the “CARRYING OUT” of the DECISIONS already made.

I also found that sixteen (16) NEW TESTAMENT texts clearly agree, and use words like, “VENGEANCE” and “DESTRUCTION”, “EXECUTE”, and so they obviously refer to The SECOND COMING of JESUS, or, The FINAL “EXECUTION” of “JUDGMENT” at the END of the THOUSAND YEARS; and NOT to the “DECISION MAKING” JUDGMENT, or “PRE-ADVENT” or, “INVESTIGATIVE” JUDGMENT.

But some people would still say that there are a lot of texts that need explaining, so let’s look at some of these together, - well known verses such as Rom 14:10; 2 Cor 5:10; Acts 17:31; and Rom 2:16, for a start, which are used by some persons (unfortunately, even some of our own Church members), who try to prove that JESUS is The “JUDGE” in The “INVESTIGATIVE” JUDGMENT. Why do they make this claim when we have seen so much evidence to the contrary?

It is because they study by “TOPIC” or a “WORD” only, and not by both the “SUBJECT” & “CONTEXT”. It is also very necessary in some cases for us to consider the “TIME FACTOR”, as I will endeavour to demonstrate in the following texts. You will see how important that is, I’m sure.

Rom 14:10

“But why dost thou “JUDGE” thy brother? Or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? For we shall all stand before The “JUDGMENT” SEAT of CHRIST”.

The “SUBJECT” is certainly The “JUDGMENT”, but what is the “CONTEXT”? The first part of the text is dealing with one person judging another, which has absolutely nothing to do with The “INVESTIGATIVE” JUDGMENT, or DECIDING who will be “SAVED”, and who will be REJECTED. Now if so far, all THREE sources, - “The BIBLE”, (Dan 7:9,10), - “The SPIRIT of

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PROPHECY”, and also “The PIONEERS” of our Church, all teach that The FATHER is The “JUDGE” in The “INVESTIGATIVE” JUDGMENT, then “The JUDGMENT SEAT of CHRIST” must refer to another EVENT, - so we then must find in what “CONTEXT” this statement was made.

To get to the truth of this matter; we must find the “TIMING”, or “CHRONOLOGY” of Paul’s statement, let’s see what Rom 14:11 tells us about the “TIME FACTOR”.

Rom 14:11

“For it is written, As I live, saith The LORD, “every” KNEE shall BOW to ME, and every tongue shall CONFESS to GOD”.

When will “every” KNEE BOW to JESUS”? Answer, When HE returns in GLORY, with HIS ANGELS at the beginning of the thousand years, when HE rewards HIS faithful with ETERNAL LIFE; and again at the end of the thousand years and the FINAL DESTRUCTION of the wicked. I have found, that if we let The BIBLE interpret ITSELF then we don’t get into difficulty. And we must also see from this verse that “every tongue shall CONFESS to GOD”.

“GOD”, in this instance, can only apply to “GOD The FATHER”, WHO is “The DECISION MAKING” GOD; and it also means that those who are bowing their knees to JESUS, and confessing before GOD, have accepted the decision made by The FATHER, in the “INVESTIGATIVE” JUDGMENT, and they are bowing before both The FATHER and JESUS.

The wicked people know in their hearts at this time, that they, as individuals, have brought this “JUDGMENT” upon themselves, no one else can be blamed. On the other hand, The RIGHT-EOUS SAINTS are looking forward to spending eternity with GOD, and each other. Our next verse will shed more light on not only the “SUBJECT”, and the “CONTEXT”, but also on the “TIME FACTOR” as well.

2 Cor 5:10

“For we must all appear before “The JUDGMENT SEAT of CHRIST”; that every one may RECEIVE the THINGS done in his BODY, according to that he hath DONE, whether it be GOOD or BAD”.

“For we must all appear before “The JUDGMENT SEAT of CHRIST”, (same phrase as in Romans 14:10), then follows the “TIME FACTOR”: - “That everyone may RECEIVE the THINGS done in his BODY, according to that he hath DONE, whether it be GOOD or BAD”.

When is this “JUDGMENT” going to happen? When do the people receive their rewards for FAITHFUL LIVING? Obviously, we can only understand that this event takes place at The SECOND COMING of JESUS, because the text refers to CHRIST “EXECUTING” or, “CARRYING OUT” of the “JUDGMENTS”, or “DECISIONS”, made previously by The FATHER in The “INVESTIGATIVE” JUDGMENT.

The “INVESTIGATIVE” JUDGMENT is conducted between 1844 and The RETURN of JESUS, when at this time JESUS COMES to take HIS PEOPLE to HEAVEN to LIVE and REIGN with HIM. It is at this time that JESUS becomes “JUDGE”; at The SECOND COMING.

So far in this lesson, “UNDERSTANDING THE JUDGMENT” we have concentrated on what The BIBLE has to teach us about our subject. Next, we will revise what we have learned, and also examine what our Church Pioneers, including The SPIRIT of PROPHECY, have to teach us about this much-misunderstood topic. And in future lessons I will endeavour to answer the many

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questions that must arise, because of the way that some of the people have misunderstood some of the writings of The SPIRIT of PROPHECY.

Pioneer Articles page 344, John Nevins Andrews, (Emphasis throughout mine).RH Feb 8 1870 JNA
“The meaning of the term “JUDGE” – (1) It is used in THE BIBLE in the sense of a trial according to law and evidence; the idea being drawn from a civil or criminal court....”. (2) It signifies a penal judgment; or the execution of judgment. The terms are both used in reference to the JUDGMENT of the HUMAN RACE. All men will be brought to trial, or into JUDGMENT, and their deeds and their moral characters will be examined, and their everlasting states will be determined by the evidence produced from GOD’S books, including “The Book of Life”, which will decide the moral character and everlasting destiny of each individual of Adam’s race. (Quote contd.)

If their names are contained [retained] in “The Book of Life” they will be SAVED”; “and if not found there, they will be cast into the lake of fire, the second death. But the degree of reward or punishment will be graduated by what each has done [works]”.

“THE TRIAL MUST PRECEDE THE EXECUTION. This is so clear a proposition that it is sufficient to state it. No human tribunal would think of “executing judgment” on a prisoner until after his trial; much less will GOD. HE will bring every work into judgment, with every secret, whether it be good or evil. (See Eccl 12:14). “But the resurrection is the RETRIBUTION or “EXECUTION” of JUDGMENT; for they that have done GOOD shall come forth to the resurrection of life. We “look for The SAVIOUR, The LORD JESUS CHRIST: who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto HIS GLORIOUS BODY”, (See Phil 3;20,21). In a moment in a twinkling of an eye at the last trump; for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed”. (See 1 Cor 15:52). Here is clearly a retribution in the RESURRECTION”.

“ibid” “These two sentences of the JUDGMENT are recognised in Rev 20:12. “And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before GOD; and the books were opened; and another book was opened, which is The BOOK of LIFE; and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their WORKS” (See Rev 20:12). This is the trial of the dead in the invisible and spiritual world, before JESUS CHRIST comes in the clouds of HEAVEN”. “and they were JUDGED [JUDGMENT was EXECUTED] finally, on each party; the RIGHTEOUS and the wicked, each one at the TIME of their RESURRECTION; the RIGHTEOUS at the FIRST RESURRECTION, [at the beginning of the Thousand years], and the WICKED at the FINAL RESURRECTION” [at the end of the Thousand years].

I hope and pray that you, the reader will be patient with me, and not make any hasty decisions because of any pre-adopted opinions, but will carry on to the end of the lessons before making any final decision as to the accuracy of the presentation.

This lesson has become quite a long one, and so I have decided to stop here and make it into three parts. That way I believe that we can do it justice. Do you have any questions? If you do please write them down, so I can try to answer them next visit. May GOD lead and guide you in all that you and your loved ones undertake in your walk with HIM, ‘bye for now.

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