

The Day of Judgment

Paul said in Acts 17:31 that God has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by Christ. We call this day the Day of Judgment.

Jesus used this phrase several times in Matthew 10:15, 11:22, 11:24, etc. when He said that it will be more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrah and Tyre and Sidon on the Day of Judgment than it will be for those cities that rejected the gospel of Christ. Jesus described the Judgment Day in John 5:28-29 where the hour is coming where all that are in the graves will rise and be judged based on their lives.

Paul described how the Day of Judgment will be in I Thessalonians 4:15ff. The Lord will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. The dead in Christ will rise first. Then faithful Christians who are still alive on the earth will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air and be always with Him. Paul also said in the next chapter that the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night so we should watch and be sober.

Peter talked about the Day of Judgment in II Peter 3:7ff. He said the heavens and the earth are reserved for fire until the Day of Judgment and perdition of ungodly men. He also warned that the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night. The heavens will pass away with a great noise. The elements will melt with fervent heat. The earth will be burned up. Peter warned that since this will all happen we should be people with holy conduct and godliness.

Jesus talked about the Day of Judgment with His apostles in Matthew 24:36ff. He said only the Father knew the day and hour the world would end. He said it would come when people were least expecting it. There would be no signs like there was with the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70 in the previous verses He just discussed. Jesus warned to be watchful since we do not know what hour the Lord will come. Jesus also said in Matthew 12:36 that all men will give account of every idle word they spoke on the Day of Judgment.

Jude said that disobedient angels are reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the Day of Judgment.

Paul said in II Corinthians 5:10 that we will all appear before the judgment seat of Christ and receive the things done in the body whether good or bad.

Jesus said in John 12:48 that we will all be judged in the last day by the words He spoke.

King Solomon said in Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 that we need to fear God and keep His commandments for this is the whole of man and God will bring every work into judgment whether good or evil.

Paul said in Romans 14:10 that we will all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.

The Hebrew writer said in Hebrews 9:27 that it is appointed for men to die once and then be judged.

Paul said in II Thessalonians 1:7-9 that Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire. He will take vengeance on those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of Christ. They will be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power when He comes in that day.

Jesus described the Day of Judgment in Matthew 25:31ff. When He comes in glory with His angels, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him and He will separate the one from another like a shepherd divides his sheep from his goats. The sheep on His right hand will enter into eternal life. The goats on His left hand will enter into everlasting punishment.

Jesus said in Matthew 7:22ff that on the Day of Judgment there will be many people claiming to be Christians but Christ will tell them they did not obey Him and therefore, are not saved.

Summary: God has a specific day called the Day of Judgment where everyone that has ever lived will be judged by the Word of God (the Bible) and will either go to Heaven or Hell. The earth and everything else will be burned up and destroyed. We do not know when this day is. There will be no signs. It will come fast and will not be expected. We need to be prepared for it by living a faithful obedient life to God.

There are so many false beliefs about what will happen at the end of time:

- Some believe there will be all kinds of signs like wars and natural disasters, etc. to warn us that the world is coming to an end. There have been wars and natural disasters since the beginning of time.
- Some believe there will be some kind of Rapture where God will, either secretly or openly, take faithful Christians to Heaven and leave the wicked on earth for a period of time—usually seven years of tribulation.
- Some believe Christ will come in the flesh and reign as a physical king on a throne in Jerusalem for 1,000 years.

There are many other variations of the Rapture, Millennialism, and Pre-Millennialism but the Bible does not teach any of this. Most of these false beliefs I think are pulled from the book of Revelation. People need to understand though that the book of Revelation is a vision that John had from God and uses highly figurative language and most likely has more to do with the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70 rather than literally discussing the end of time.

We must be careful how we study God's Word and rightly divide it (II Timothy 2:15). If I take something from Revelation, try to make it literal, and it contradicts something else in God's Word, then I can logically conclude that my interpretation of Revelation cannot be correct and I need to study it again.