

Set Free!

The accuser of our brethren has been silenced.
Jesus is our victory in the judgment



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DANIEL

9. JUDGMENT DAY

Daniel sees a “man” come to God’s judgment throne. In that heavenly court, Jesus forever silences the voice of our accuser.



Look for These Points

- Daniel's judgment vision.
- Jesus at the judgment throne.
- Why the judgment is "good news".
- Why you can have confidence concerning the judgment.

In this unit, we are still looking into Chapter 7.

First, recall how alarmed Daniel was by his vision of the little horn's claims regarding God, God's people and God's laws.

Notice Daniel's lament: "I, Daniel, was grieved in my spirit ... and the visions of my head troubled me." (Daniel 7:25, page 865)

But the vision also brought good news to Daniel. A judgment day was coming which would rule in favour of God's faithful people and God's kingdom would be restored on earth forever.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

A. DANIEL'S JUDGMENT VISION

QUESTION 1 (Daniel 7:9, 10, page 864)

(a) As Daniel watched the little horn, and listened to his great claims concerning God, His people, and His laws, his attention was suddenly drawn from earth to heaven. What scene flashed before him?

"I watched till the thrones were put in _____."

"The _____ was seated, and the books were opened."



Books were opened and the judgment was set

Notice that NKJV footnote 7:10 has "judgment" instead of "court". KJV does not use "court", but "judgment". RSV uses both court and

NOTES:

Exhibit 2

RECEIVING CHRIST AS YOUR SAVIOUR

The way of salvation is simple for all to understand.

1) BELIEVE IN CHRIST: "... that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." (John 3:16)

2) ALLOW CHRIST INTO YOUR LIFE: "If anyone hears my voice, and opens the door, I will come in to him." (Revelation 3:20)

3) ASK FOR FORGIVENESS: "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins." (1 John 1:9)

4) ACCEPT THE GIFT OF CHRIST'S RIGHTEOUSNESS: "The righteousness which is from God by faith." (Philippians 3:9) He freely and mercifully credits this to us in place of our own sinfulness.

5) LET THE SPIRIT OF GOD LEAD YOU TO REPENTANCE: "Repent therefore, and be converted (changed), that your sins may be blotted out." (Acts 3:19)

6) ACCEPT HIS POWER TO RESIST SIN: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." (Philippians 4:13)

7) START NOW - TODAY: "Behold ... now is the day of salvation." (2 Corinthians 6:2)

judgment: "the court sat in judgment."

(b) What title did Daniel give to God as He came in a fiery chariot to His judgment throne?

"And the _____
was seated." (verse 9) (also
read Psalm 90:1,2, page 569)

(c) Many thousands of attendants stood before the throne. Who would they have been? Compare Revelation 5:11 (page 569)



Daniel saw a number of books
in the judgment

B. BOOKS OF RECORD OPENED

QUESTION 2 (Daniel 7:10; Malachi 3:16, page 931; Revelation 3:5, page 1176; 20:12, 15, page 1188)

Daniel saw "books" "opened" in the judgment. What books of record are mentioned in the Bible?

"A book of _____" (*Malachi 3:16, page 931*)

"the book of _____" (*Revelation 20:12, page 1188*)

QUESTION 3 (Revelation 20:12,15; Isaiah 65:6,7, page 722)

There is reference also to God's record of unrepented sins. Read Revelation 20:12, 15, then Isaiah 65:6,7, before supplying the missing words.

"Behold it is _____ before Me: ... I will repay your iniquities."
(*Isaiah 65:6*)

READ EXHIBIT 1: Page 13
BIBLE FACTS ABOUT THE JUDGMENT

C. THE MAN AT THE JUDGMENT THRONE

QUESTION 4 (Daniel 7:13, 14, page 865)

As Daniel watched, what notable person was brought before the judgment throne?

"I was watching in the night visions, and behold, one like the _____ of Man came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought him near before him." (Daniel 7:13)

"Like the son of man" generally means "like a human being". In other words, Daniel saw a certain man entering the heavenly judgment. Without doubt this would be "the man Christ Jesus". The New Testament says Jesus is our advocate with God (1 John 2:1), and that he is the key person in the Judgment (Acts 17:31, John 5:27). Also, it is interesting to note that when Jesus was on earth, His favourite titles for himself were "the Son of Man" and "Son of God". He still retains the title "Son of Man", even at his second coming (Matthew 24:30, page 961)



Jesus approaches the judgment throne with the clouds of angels

Previously, Nebuchadnezzar had seen one "like the Son of God" in the furnace, now Daniel sees "one like the Son of Man" in the Judgment. Should we not see one and the same person in these two appearances? The one who was to live on earth as a human; who was to be tempted and tried as we are, and who was to die in agony for our sins, is also to represent us before God's Judgment throne. By committing our lives to Him, we place ourselves in the safest hands in all the universe when it comes to the day of judgment!

Exhibit 1

BIBLE FACTS ABOUT THE JUDGMENT

ITS CERTAINTY

At an appointed time.
None can avoid it.
Certain as the fact of death.
We must all appear before it.
Everyone must give an account to God.

Acts 17:31
Romans 2:3
Hebrews 9:27
2 Corinthians 5:10
Romans 14:12

ITS STANDARD

Righteousness and truth.
Love of the truth.
The words of Jesus.
The deeds of Jesus.
The law of liberty.

Psalms 96:13
2 Thessalonians 2:10
John 12:46-48
Matthew 25:31-46
James 2:12

ITS SCOPE

Every work, and every secret thing.
The secrets of men.
The hidden things of darkness.
Every idle word.

Ecclesiastes 12:13,14
Romans 2:16
1 Corinthians 4:5
Matthew 12:36,37

ITS ACCURACY AND FAIRNESS

The judge of all the earth will do right.
God will judge with truth and justice.
Record "books" will be the basis of the judgment.
Even the ungodly will be "convinced" of the justice of God's verdicts.

Genesis 18:25
Deuteronomy 32:4
Daniel 7:9,10
Jude 14,15

OUR SECURITY

Through Christ, we may have "boldness in the day of judgment".
We have an Advocate with the Father.
Christ will confess our names before the Father.
Only through Him can we be accepted

1 John 4:17
1 John 2:1
Revelation 3:5

REVIEW QUIZ

Underline the correct words or statements in the following sets. In some cases more than one statement in the set is correct.

- 1) The judgment described in Daniel 7 takes place BEFORE / AFTER the "Second Coming" of Jesus.
- 2) The little horn power is judged because it PERSECUTED THE SAINTS / CHANGED THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED NATIONS / TRIED TO CHANGE THE LAW OF GOD / CLAIMED AUTHORITY OVER GOD'S KINGDOM.
- 3) When arriving at decisions for the eternal destiny of every person who has ever lived, the judgment will base its findings on CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE / BOOKS OF RECORD / GENUINE ACCEPTANCE OF CHRIST / THE BELIEFS OF THE MAJORITY / THE OPINIONS OF OTHERS / STANDARDS SET BY THE SOCIETY OF THE DAY.
- 4) If I believe, trust, and obey Him, Jesus will CLAIM AND RECEIVE ME / IGNORE ME / CONDEMN ME, when my name comes before the heavenly court.

QUESTION 5 (Daniel 7:14,21,22,26,27, page 865)

- (a) In the judgment scene what did "the Ancient of Days" give to the "Son of Man"?

(verse 14) _____

- (b) What does the judgment do for the saints?

"and judgment was made in _____ of the saints"

- (c) What does the judgment do about the little horn kingdom?

"they shall take away his _____ to consume and _____ it forever"

- (d) What then happens to the world kingdom?

"then the kingdom ... shall be _____ to the people, the saints of the Most High"

NOTE: Two general groups are brought to view in this judgment scene – “the little horn” and “the saints of the Most High”. The kingdom is taken from the little horn and given to the saints. Does this mean that all who have come under the banner of the little horn will be condemned? Does it mean that all other Christians will be numbered as the saints? By no means!



The dominion of the Little Horn is taken away in the judgment

The prophecy of the little horn is pointing, not primarily to the people of the church, but to that power which grasped dominion over the church – over all churches. Even “the saints of the Most High” were “given into his hand”. (Daniel 7:25) This dominion, the judgment will take away from the little horn. The same judgment will distinguish between the false and the true of all who have professed to follow Christ. It will award

the kingdom to the true.

God knows the secrets of every life, and what God knows, the judgment will reveal before the whole universe when the books are opened at last. (see Luke 12:2,3, page 1007; Ecclesiastes 12:13,14, page 647; Revelation 14:6,7,12, page 1183)

D. TIME OF THE JUDGMENT

QUESTION 6 (Daniel 7:9,10,13,14,22,26,27; Acts 17:31, page 1072)

As already seen in Exhibit 1, God has "appointed" a judgment day. One important question is, when does this judgment take place?

- At the second coming of Christ?
- After the second coming?
- Just before the second coming?

Before answering, Study the following chart showing the sequence of events as they are given in vision. Study this chart. The sequence of events is as follows:

1	2	3	4	5
THE JUDGMENT BEGINS WHILE THE LITTLE HORN IS STILL AT WORK (VERSES 8,9,10)	THE JUDGMENT GIVES THE KINGDOM TO CHRIST (VERSES 13, 14)	THE JUDGMENT RULES IN FAVOUR OF THE SAINTS (VERSE 22)	THE JUDGMENT TAKES THE KINGDOM FROM THE LITTLE HORN (VERSE 26)	THE JUDGMENT AWARDS THE KINGDOM TO THE SAINTS (VERSE 27) SECOND ADVENT (MATTHEW 25:31-44; REVELATION 22:12)

OPTIONAL QUESTIONS TO THINK THROUGH

- 1) Why does God tell us about a judgment to come in His prophecies? What benefit is it to us?

- 2) Does God conduct the judgment because He needs to gain information about people? If not, why does He have a judgment?

- 3) People sometimes think that they will be judged as soon as they die. Have you learned anything from this unit that would show this not to be so? (Look up Acts 17:31, page 1072; Revelation 11:18, page 1182.)

G. CONFIDENCE IN CHRIST

Because Jesus, “THE SON OF MAN”, is our Advocate in the judgment, we have the strongest possible assurance of acceptance with God.

A judge in Daniel’s day was one who saved the oppressed as much as one who convicted wrongdoers. There were no barristers. The judge was both judge and advocate who defended the accused if at all possible. Likewise, Jesus is both our judge and advocate (Acts 17:31, page 1072; John 5:27, page 1030; 1 John 2:1, page 1168).

This does not mean that Christ can save those who profess to believe in Him, yet do not obey Him from their hearts. (See Matthew 7:21-23, page 941; Hebrews 10:26, page 1154.)

READ EXHIBIT 2: Page 14

RECEIVING CHRIST AS YOUR SAVIOUR

TRY PRAYING LIKE THIS: “Lord Jesus, I open my heart’s door to you just now. I accept You as my Saviour from sin and eternal death. I believe You have come into my life and I thank You for the faith You have given me. Amen.”

QUESTION 10

What are your own thoughts regarding the judgment? Do you welcome it with your faith firmly in Christ?

Would you like to indicate your relationship with Christ by placing a tick in the appropriate spaces below?

I believe in Christ.

I have just now accepted Christ as my saviour.

I have already received Him as my Saviour, but want to renew my commitment to Him.

Circle your answer, (a), (b), or (c), as to when this judgment begins:

- (a) at the second advent
- (b) after the second advent
- (c) before the second advent

QUESTION 7 (Revelation 14:6,7,14-16, page 1183)

Do other prophecies show that a judgment takes place *before* Jesus returns?

“Then I saw another angel ... having the everlasting _____ to preach to those that dwell on the earth - to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people - saying ... ‘Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His _____ has come.’” (verses 6,7)



A message of judgment is given to the world *before* Jesus returns

The angel’s announcement shows that God’s judgment is in progress while the gospel is still being preached. That is, before the end – before Jesus comes. (Note Matthew 24:14,30,31, page 960; Matthew 25:34, page 962; Revelation 11:18, page 1182.) The nations of earth are still here, stirred and angry at the time of judgment. Also, the little horn is very much alive on earth, speaking great words while the judgment proceeds in heaven. (Daniel 7:10,11, page 864)

Explanatory Note:

The Bible speaks of three phases of judgment.

1. Before Christ comes and before the saints possess the kingdom (as here in Daniel 7).
2. During the 1,000 years of Revelation 20, after Christ comes, when the resurrected saints sit in judgment as Satan and all evil doers are judged. (see 1 Corinthians 6:2,3; Revelation 20:4)

3. At the end of the thousand years when all the evil is destroyed in the carrying out of all previous judgment (Revelation 20:7-15).

E. WHY THE JUDGMENT MUST BEGIN BEFORE JESUS-COMES

QUESTION 8 (Daniel 12:1-3, page 871. Read carefully.)

What does Daniel indicate is necessary before God's people can be resurrected in the last day?



The reward of the righteous must be determined before Jesus comes again

"At that time your people shall be delivered, everyone who is _____ written in the _____. And many of them who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting ____." (verse 1,2)

Before any of the dead in Christ can be raised to life at the resurrection, the judgment must confirm as to who have the right in Christ to enter His kingdom. The righteous are "found written in the book" – a reference to the "books" that were opened in Daniel's judgment vision.

If rewards are to be given **when** Jesus comes, a judgment must be made **before** He comes. (Read Matthew 16:27, page 952; Revelation 22:11, 12, page 1190.)

F. WILL IT BE WELL FOR YOU IN THE JUDGMENT?

QUESTION 9

What is it that determines our fitness for a place in Christ's kingdom?

- (a) "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son, that whoever _____ in Him should not

perish but have everlasting life." (John 3:16, page 1027)

- (b) "If we _____ our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9, page 1168)

- (c) "There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are _____, who do not walk according to the flesh, but (walk) _____." (Romans 8:1, page 1090)

- (d) "Here are those who _____ the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus." (Revelation 14:12, page 1184)

- (e) "He who _____ shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot his name from the book of life." (Revelation 3:5, page 1176)

We overcome "by the blood of the lamb" (Revelation 12:11, page 1182). We don't "earn" a place in God's wonderful new world. No one deserves to be there in his or her own right. Eternal life is a free gift of God's grace to all who truly believe (John 3:16, page 1027). Through Christ's sacrifice and mediation, we receive forgiveness and grace for obedience (Romans 1:5, page 1085). Christ's power works within. "He who has the Son has life." (1 John 5:12, page 1171)

Imperfect as we may see ourselves to be, He accepts us and "cleanses us from all unrighteousness". (1 John 1:9, page 1168)

The judgment is not held to condemn those who believe, love and obey Christ. Its purpose is to confirm, claim, and seal them as His forever before the watching universe (Daniel 7:22, page 865; Revelation 3:5, page 1176; Matthew 10:32, 33, page 944; Luke 12:8,9, page 1008).



If we believe in Jesus and confess our sins and trust that Jesus' righteousness is our title to heaven, then judgment will be given in our favour