

Introduction

Adam's choice left the human race in a situation that it could not fix on its own. Mankind was powerless to fix the sin problem. God took care of that with the cross and resurrection of Christ. The free gift of salvation is offered to all men. C.I. Scofield noted, "In every dispensation salvation is only by grace through faith."¹ It is appointed unto man once to die, and after this the judgement comes.² There is judgement of man at the end of each dispensation, consequences for the failure to live under the rule of life given by the steward. But there will be a judgement for every individual where God holds them accountable for decisions made. There are three judgements to look at: the Judgement of the Nations - or the Sheep and Goats; the Bema Seat Judgement - or the Judgement Seat of Christ; and the Great White Throne Judgement.

For Believers

Every believer will receive the things done in his body, whether they will be good or bad (good for nothing). Paul tells the believer that he will be changed at the last trump.³ When the believer leaves the body, he will be present with the Lord.⁴ It is important to note that this judgement is not concerning sin. Related to the Rapture is the judgment seat of Christ. God condemned and dealt with the sin nature through the work of the Son (Romans 6:10; 8:3). Christ bore the judgment on the cross so that the believer is free from judgment (Romans 5:18). Christ stated that those who believe have passed out of death into life and will never come into judgment (John 5:24). His sins have been forgiven or sent away. Therefore the believer's works are judged at the judgment seat, not his sins.⁵

God will "snatch" his saints at the end of the dispensation of grace as a judgement for failure to live according to the rule of life. This judgement is gracious because it will remove the believer from a world that will face the judgement of God.⁶ The word rapture actually comes from this passage of scripture. The term "caught up" comes from the Greek *harpazo* from which comes our english "raptor" - thus - rapture. The "dead in Christ" - those in the Body of Christ who have passed will precede the believer into the presence of God. The Judgement Seat of Christ will take place sometime during the next 7 or more years along with the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. The believer will have his work sorted by God to see what sort it is.

Gold Silver, Precious Stones

¹ C.I. Scofield, Scofield Bible Correspondence Course, 6 vols. (Chicago: Moody Bible Institute, 1959) 1:46

² Hebrews 9:27

³ 1 Corinthians 15:51-52

⁴ 2 Corinthians 5:8-10

⁵ Hoelscher, Tim. **God's House Plans**. Royal City, WA. John 14:20 Publishing. 2008
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⁶ 1 Thessalonians 4:15-18

In 1 Corinthians 3 Paul discusses the believer's motivation for service and what can be accomplished through unity as opposed to division. The day will approach **The day** (*hē hēmera*). The day of judgment as in 1Th 5:4 , Rom 13:12; Heb 10:25. The work (*ergon*) of each will be made manifest. There is no escape from this final testing.⁷ So this is a judgement of permissible actions, not sins. God is testing whether the work done was that which was set aside for the believer to do, or that which he decided he wanted to do himself. A good example of this would be the struggles that Timothy went through. He was called to do the work of an evangelist, but he was timidly avoiding this work. Many believe that he was ashamed of Paul and Paul's imprisonment.⁸ Some believers engage in religious works, which God has not prepared for them. Such works might be acceptable in Christendom but were never planned by God. In Corinth certain believers attempted to accomplish God's purpose by reliance upon earthly power, wisdom and scholarship (1 Corinthians 1:17-21). These believers also divided in earthly loyalty to Paul or Apollos (1 Corinthians 3:4-6).⁹ The result of these works is that which creates contentment (good or proper) or that which lacks character (evil or fallow - fallow ground).

At this judgement every man will have the praise of God. God will say at least one good thing about every one at this judgement.¹⁰ The believer will suffer loss at this judgement, but there will be no accounting for sin, confessed or unconfessed, this is just not biblical.

There are five crowns mentioned in Scripture that will be rewarded at the Bema Seat Judgment **The crown of the quality of righteousness.**¹¹ This crown is given to all those who love the appearing of the Lord. The Believer "enduring" trials receive a **crown of life.** The crown that the believer receives pertains to "the life" (that eternal quality of life that can be shown out in believers overcoming temptations.¹² **The crown of rejoicing.**¹³ This crown is given those who win people to the Lord. **The crown of glory.**¹⁴ This crown is one given to those with the pastor/teach gift who shepherds the flock of God properly. The pastor/teacher shepherds properly when he shepherding is not out of constraint, nor for money **The incorruptible crown.**¹⁵ This is a crown given those who by means of self-control is able to experience victory in the Spiritual Life.

⁷ Robertson, A. T. **Robertson's Word Pictures.** E- Sword commentaries, accessed September 26, 2022.

⁸ 2 Timothy 1:6-8; 4:5

⁹ Hoelscher, Tim. **God's House Plans.** Royal City, WA. John 14:20 Publishing. 2008
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¹⁰ 1 Corinthians 4:5

¹¹ 2 Tim. 4:8

¹² Ja. 1:12; Rev. 2:10)

¹³ 1 Thess. 2:19

¹⁴ 1 Pet. 5:2

¹⁵ 1 Co. 9:25

Those Alive at the End of the Tribulation Period

There will be a number of Jews that survive the Tribulation. Ezekiel 36 talks about their return to their land and the restoration of their boundaries to promised levels (36:24-28). Romans refers to the time when “ All Israel will be saved”.¹⁶ This will be that time. They will have endured the most intense persecution ever poured out against a people. This could actually be termed a fourth judgement specifically on the Nation of Israel, called the Time of Jacob’s trouble, or Daniel’s Seventieth Week.

There will also be a large number of Gentiles who will survive the Tribulation. These Gentiles will be gathered before our Lord (Matthew 25:32). He will separate them like a shepherd separating sheep from goats, believers from unbelievers. The sheep, the believers, are placed on His right and are told to inherit the kingdom (vv. 33-34). The Son of Man will show the reality of their faith by pointing to their works, which they did for His brothers (v. 40). These brothers are fellow Jews, specifically the sealed 144,000 Jews who will be moving throughout the earth during the Tribulation. Times will be harder than any in history, yet these believing Gentiles will share the very little they have with these brothers and even risk visiting them when they are imprisoned. This has nothing to do with believers in the dispensation of Grace, but with Gentiles caring for Jews during the Tribulation. The goats, the unbelieving Gentiles, will go into eternal fire because they never provided for these Jews (vv. 41-46). The fact that these unbelieving Gentiles stand before the Son of Man is evidence, that though unbelieving, they refused the mark of the beast (Revelation 14:9-11). They maintained some form of religious commitment, but remained unbelievers as evidenced by their lack of help for the Jewish believers.

The Gentile believers will enter the kingdom. God will take some from among these Gentiles to serve as priests and Levites during the next 1,000 years (Isaiah 66:21). John saw the 144,000 Jews sealed. He also saw the result of their sealing, namely, an innumerable crowd of Gentiles (Revelation 7:9). These are they who come out of the Tribulation and have washed their robes (Revelation 7:14). They do a priestly service to God day and night as God tents out [dwells] over them (Revelation 7:15). The Gentiles will multiply over the next 1,000 years and will go up to Jerusalem to worship the King, Jehovah of hosts (Zechariah 14:16).¹⁷

The Old Testament Saints will be resurrected to face their judgement at this time. Daniel speaks of a time when the dust of the earth will be awakened.¹⁸ Some of these to life, and some of these to death. Matthew 16: 7 tells of a time when Christ will come back to repay those for their actions.

¹⁶ Romans 11:26

¹⁷ Hoelscher, Tim. **God’s House Plans**. Royal City, WA. John 14:20 Publishing. 2008
www.graceteaching.com

¹⁸ Dan 12:1-2

For Unbelievers

For everyone born, a judgement will come. By the end of the Kingdom, everyone will have received final judgement except for one group. Old Testament believers will have been resurrected to their paradise, everyone alive on earth at the end of the Tribulation Period will be sorted in the Sheep and Goat Judgement, believers In Christ will appear before the Judgement Seat of Christ. Those during the Kingdom will be judged on the spot by Christ Himself. All unbelievers who have died up to this point (end of the Kingdom) have been spending their years in hell. This is not a permanent place. Hell is a holding place for those awaiting final judgement. The final judgement is described as the Great White Throne Judgement. The Great White Throne judgment is the place where all of the unbelieving world of mankind not previously receiving their eternal judgment, will be judged.

The Great White Throne judgment takes place following the execution of Satan's Judgment. Satan was judged at the cross.¹⁹ Though Satan was judged at the cross, he currently enjoys the position of being the ruler of this world and the god of this age.²⁰ Satan currently has access to the third heaven, a privilege not taken from him until the middle of the Tribulation Period.²¹ Satan is bound for the Millennial Kingdom and is loosed from one final rebellion.²² Satan is bound for the 1000 year Millennial Kingdom. Satan is loosed at the end of the 1000 years. His sentence is finally carried out after his rebellion at the end of the Millennial Kingdom.²³ The time frame for Satan's punishment is set in verse 7. The devil is cast into a lake of fire and brimstone. (vs. 10) It is following Satan's casting into the lake of fire that the Great White Throne judgment occurs.

All the dead will be judged at this judgement. All those in a state of death will be resurrected to face this judgement. Books will be opened to discern what level of evil was accomplished. The Book of life is there to show where these individuals had their name blotted out. The blotting could take place when they refuse to believe the gospel for the last time. Everyone who was in hell, will be cast into the Lake of Fire for an eternity of torment. There seems to be levels of torment according to the book of works. Judgement is taking place at this time, and the works are evil committed.

Conclusion

Every individual will face one of the judgements listed above. No one will escape God's accountability of them. He is the faithful and righteous judge.

¹⁹ John 16:11

²⁰ John 16:11; 2 Co. 4:4

²¹ Rev. 12:7-8,10

²² Rev. 20:7,10

²³ Rev. 20:7-10