

James 5:9

“The Judge is Standing at the Door” Part Two

June 28, 2026

James 5:9 “Do not grumble against one another, brethren, lest you be condemned. Behold, the Judge is standing at the door!”

After admonishing believers against “wars and fights” in Ch. 4, in which James calls his audience “adulterers and adulteresses,” he now addresses them as “brethren,” in a softer tone, and he raises the bar for how we are to treat each other as fellow Christians: We are not to “grumble” against one another, “lest you be condemned.”

A “grumble” is a sigh, or a moan, or a complaint. If the Judge standing at the door is our motivation for righteous behavior, then what kind of Judge is James talking about?

Judgment/Justice (Gr *krisis*); Judge (Gr *krites*): administration of what is right and fair

Many believers have a vague notion of a “Final Judgment”, in which everyone, believer and unbeliever alike, appears before God at the same time, to learn of his or her eternal destiny. That notion is not Biblical. The Word is explicit about several different judgments.

Judgment Against Mankind and Creation – Past

Genesis 3:19ff; Romans 8:20ff

At the Cross: Judgment of the Sin of the World – Past

John 1:29; Hebrews 2:9; 1 John 2:2; 1 John 4:14. The world does not have a sin problem; it has a Savior problem. The believer will never enter into judgment for a sin for which Christ died (**John 3:18; 5:24; Romans 8:1**).

At the Cross: Judgment of the Sin Nature of Man – Past

Romans 6; Galatians 5

At the Cross: Judgment of the Devil – Past

John 12:31; 16:8ff; Colossians 2

In the Believer: The Self-judgment of Confession, and The Judgment of God's Discipline – Present and ongoing.

1 Corinthians 11:29ff; 1 John 1:9; Hebrews 12:5ff. The believer's sins will never send him or her to Hell, but God will still discipline us for sins, for the purpose of growing us into mature believers.

Judgment of the Believer's Works at the Bema Seat – Future, after the Rapture and before the Kingdom

Romans 14:10ff; 2 Corinthians 5:9; 1 Cor 3:11; 2 Timothy 4:8

Judgment of Israel – Future, after the Tribulation and before the Kingdom

Daniel 12:1ff; Ezekiel 20:33ff

Judgment of the Nations – Future, after Tribulation and before the Kingdom

Matthew 25:31ff

Judgment of the Great White Throne – Future, after the 1,000-year Kingdom

Revelation 20 Only for those who died without Christ.

Judgment of Angels – Future, after the 1,000-year Kingdom

1 Corinthians 6:2f, 15:24ff; 2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6

Everyone who has died in a right relationship with God will be resurrected, at one time or another, to face an evaluation from God/Jesus Christ; this is having “a part in the first resurrection” (**Revelation 20:4-6**). Believers alive at the Rapture of the Church will not face death, however. That is our “blessed hope” (**Titus 2:13**), and it is the next thing on the horizon of future events.

Everyone who has died without the Savior will be resurrected to face the “second death.” (**Revelation 20:6**). Those who take part in the “first resurrection” face no consequences from the “second death.”

John 3:18 “He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”