

Judgment Is Coming!

The Coming — Part 4

August 2, 2026 • Cooper City Church of God • Chris Goins

“...it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment.”
—Hebrews 9:27 ESV

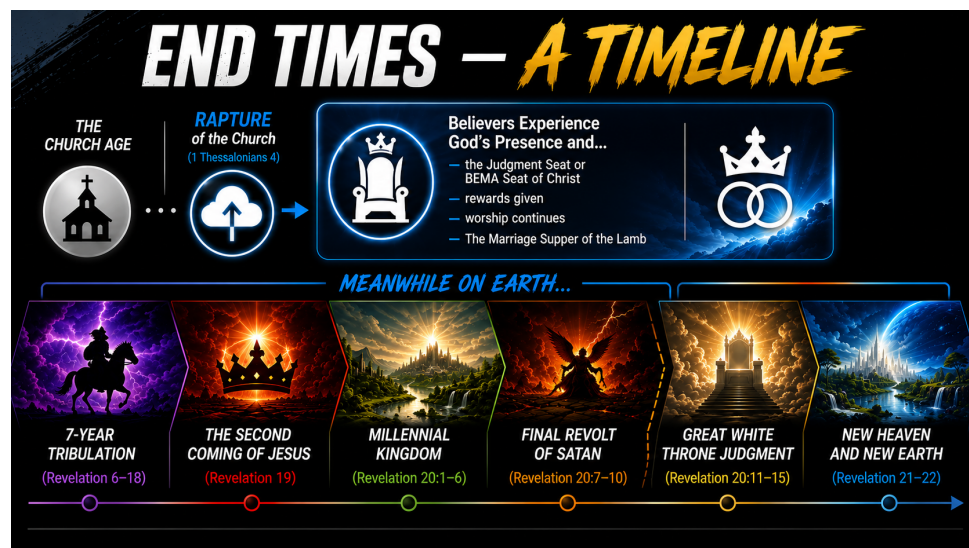
The Big Idea: For unbelievers, it will be a judgment of **condemnation**.
For believers, it will be a judgment of **commendation**.

One determines **eternity**.

The other determines **rewards**.

Both should change the way we live today.

1. The Great White Throne will be the FINAL JUDGMENT for unbelievers and will answer the question: what did you do WITH Jesus?



*“Then I saw a **great white throne** and **him who was seated on it**. The earth and the heavens fled from his presence, and there was no place for them.”*
—Revelation 20:11 NIV

Three Critical Questions:

1) Who is on the THRONE?

“...the Father judges no one. Instead, He has given the Son absolute authority to judge” —John 5:22 (Cf. 5:27; Acts 17:31; Revelation 21:5-6)

And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books.

—Revelation 20:12 NIV

2) WHO will appear at this judgment?

3) What BOOKS will be opened?

The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what they had done. ¹⁴Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. ¹⁵Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.” —Revelation 20:13-15 NIV

“There are only two kinds of people: those who say to God, ‘Thy will be done,’ and those to whom God says, in the end, ‘Thy will be done.’” —C.S. Lewis

2. The Judgment Seat of Christ will be the FINAL evaluation for believers and will answer the question: what did you do FOR Jesus?

“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.” —2 Corinthians 5:10 NIV

Seat — **bēma (βῆμα)**: An elevated judgment seat where a ruler evaluated people, rendered decisions, and presented rewards.

The Judgment Seat (Bēma) of Christ is the future event where every **believer** will stand before Jesus Christ to have his or her life, works, and motives evaluated for the purpose of receiving rewards—not to determine salvation.

Four Questions to Consider:

1) What am I BUILDING?

“For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. ¹²If anyone builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, ¹³their work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each person’s work. ¹⁴If what has been built survives, the builder will receive a reward. ¹⁵If it is burned up, the builder will suffer loss but yet will be saved—even though only as one escaping through the flames.” —1 Corinthians 3:11-17 NIV

Will what I'm giving my life to survive ETERNITY?

2) WHY am I doing it? What is DRIVING me?

*"... judge nothing before the appointed time; wait until the Lord comes. **He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of the heart.** At that time **each will receive their praise from God.**" —1 Corinthians 4:5 NIV*

What are the MOTIVES that drive my actions? Am I doing the right THING for the right REASONS?

3) How am I TREATING PEOPLE?

*"...why do you judge your brother? Or why do you show contempt for your brother? For **we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.**" ¹¹ For it is written:*

*'As I live, says the Lord,
Every knee shall bow to Me,
And every tongue shall confess to God.'*

*¹² "So then **each of us shall give account of himself to God.**" ¹³ Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather resolve this, not to put a stumbling block or a cause to fall in our brother's way." —Romans 14:10-13 NAS*

Am I judging and criticizing others instead of taking PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY for my attitudes and actions?

4) What is my ultimate GOAL?

*"So **we make it our goal to please him,** whether we are at home in the body or away from it. ¹⁰ For **we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body,** whether good or bad." —2 Corinthians 5:9-10 NIV*

Am I making it my GOAL in life to PLEASE Him?

3. Jesus will REWARD what eternity REMEMBERS.

Crowns and Rewards

Crown = *stephanos* and means, "wreath, the victor's crown, a badge of royalty, a prize in the public games, or a symbol of honor generally."

Used during the ancient Greek games, it referred to a wreath or garland of leaves placed on a victor's head as a reward for winning an athletic contest.

"...each be **rewarded** according to their own labor." —1 Corinthians 3:8 NIV

"If what has been built survives, the builder will **receive a reward**."
—1 Corinthians 3:14 NIV

"...each will **receive their praise from God**." —1 Corinthians 4:5 NIV

"...each of us may **receive what is due us**..." —2 Corinthians 5:10 NIV

"Look, I am coming soon! **My reward is with me**..." —Revelation 22:12

Crowns Described in the NT:

- The Crown of Life (James 1:12; Revelation 2:10).
- A Crown of Righteousness (2 Timothy 4:6-8).
- An Imperishable Crown (1 Corinthians 9:25).
- A Crown of Rejoicing (1 Thessalonians 2:19-20).
- The Crown of Glory (1 Peter 5:1-4).

The NT also describes a variety of rewards, including:

- Praise from God Himself (1 Corinthians 4:5)
- Hearing Him say, "Well done, good and faithful servant" (Matthew 25:21, 23)
- Authority to rule and reign with Christ (Luke 19:17-19; Matthew 25:21; Revelation 2:26-27; 3:21; 20:4-6)
- And, treasure in heaven (Matthew 6:19-21; 19:21; Luke 12:33; 18:22)

"...when your faith remains strong through many trials, **it will bring you much praise and glory and honor** on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world." —1 Peter 1:7 NLT

4. Every reward will eventually become WORSHIP.

"Whenever the living creatures give glory, honor and thanks to him who sits on the throne and who lives for ever and ever, ¹⁰ **the twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne and worship him who lives for ever and ever. They lay their crowns before the throne** and say: ¹¹ **"You are worthy, our Lord and God..."** —Revelation 4:9-11 NIV

**Our worship today is preparation
for the way we will worship Him then.**