

The Judgments To Come

The BEMA Seat, or Judgment set of Christ, is a significant concept in Christian theology where believers will be judged for their works and service after salvation. It is not a judgment for salvation, as believers are already forgiven, but rather a place where rewards are given based on one's faithfulness (II Corinthians 5:10, Romans 14:10). The term "Bema" originates from a raised platform used by judges in ancient athletic games to award victors, symbolizing that this judgment is about recognition rather than punishment. Key biblical references include Romans 14:10-12, and I Corinthians 3:10-15, which outline the nature of this judgment.

- The Greek word *bema* is translated "judgment seat" in the KJV. (Consider the Olympic competitions of our day)
- **NEGATIVE CONSIDERATIONS:**
 - 1) The purpose IS NOT to determine whether a particular individual enters heaven or not, for every man's eternal destiny is already determined before he leaves this life.
 - 2) The purpose IS NOT to punish believers for sins committed either before or after their salvation. (Psalm 103:10-12; Hebrews 8:12; I John 1:7)
- **POSITIVE CONSIDERATIONS:**
 - 1) In I Corinthians 4:2 Paul says that all Christians should conduct themselves as faithful stewards of God. It is required in stewards that a man be found faithful.
In the New Testament, a steward was the manager of a large household or estate. His only concern was a periodic meeting with his master, at which time he was required to account for the condition of the estate up to that time.
Similarly, "at the Bema Judgment all stewards will stand before their Lord and Master and be required to give an account of the way they have used their privileges and responsibilities from the moment

of their conversion.”

A. In the past, God dealt with us as sinners.

B. In the present, God deals with us as sons.

C. In the future, God will deal with us (at the Bema) as stewards.

2) The results of the Bema Judgment Seat of Christ

A. Some will receive rewards. (I Corinthians 3:14)

The Bible mentions at least five possible rewards.

1) The incorruptible crown – given to those who master the old Nature (I Corinthians 9:25-27).

2) The crown of rejoicing – given to soulwinners (Proverbs 11:30; I Thessalonians 2:19, 20; Daniel 12:3).

3) The crown of life – given to those who successfully endure temptation (James 1:2, 3; Revelation 2:10).

4) The crown of righteousness – given to those who especially love the doctrine of the Rapture (II Timothy 4:8).

5) The crown of glory – given to faithful preachers and teachers (I Peter 5:2-4; II Timothy 4:1,2; Acts 20:26-28).

(It has been suggested that these “crowns” will actually be talents and abilities with which to glorify Christ).

B. Some will suffer loss. “If any man’s work shall be burned, he Shall suffer loss...” (I Corinthians 3:15)