

THE TRUTH

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Lesson 9 - The Truth About the Judgment

In the Chapel of St. George, in Westminster Abbey, is a memorial of World War II. It consists of four bound volumes that contain the names of 60,000 civilians killed in the city of London by enemy action. A light shines upon one open volume. Each day it is turned to a new page. It is a book of death. In heaven, there are several books. One is the Book of Life. You and I want our names entered into that book. We want to be protected by the blood of Christ when our names come up in the judgment.

THE JUDGMENT AND ITS ORDER

1. Whose judgment seat must we all appear before someday? [2 Corinthians 5:10; Revelation 20:3]

Ans. _____

2. Has judgment been occurring since creation, or did God appoint a set day? [Acts 17:31] Ans.

_____, it has a set _____

NOTE: This work was yet future in Paul's day, for, "he reasoned of... judgment to come" [Acts 24:25] so God set the clock of eternity to strike, at a certain time, the hour for the investigative judgment to begin.

3. What does the first angel's message announce about the judgment? [Revelation 14:6, 7] Ans. It

has _____

4. When Jesus returns a second time, what will He give to every man? [Revelation 22:12] Ans. Their

NOTE: When Jesus Christ comes to earth the second time, He will bring His reward with Him, "to give every man according as his work shall be." Since this is true, it is clearly evident that a work of judgment must take place _____ Christ returns, to give those rewards.

A RETAINED ATTORNEY

- Jesus is our _____, or _____ in the investigative judgment. [1 John 2:1; Hebrews 9:24; 4:15]

Jesus will appear as their advocate, to plead on their behalf before God. Jesus does not excuse their sins, but shows their penitence and faith, and, claiming for them forgiveness, He lifts His wounded hands before the Father and the holy angels, saying: I know them by name. I have graven them on the palms of My hands. [The Great Controversy, 482]

- Satan is our _____, or _____ in the investigative judgment. [Rev. 12:9-10]

5. In order for Jesus to represent us rightly, what must we do? [Isaiah 1:18]

- _____ of sin. **[Matthew 9:13]**
- _____ our sin. **[John 1:9]**
- _____ our sin. **[Proverbs 28:13]**

NOTE: Whereas judgment is totally deserved, totally warranted. Forgiveness is offered to all, but it is given only to those who cease their rebellion against the Lord and return to him. While probationary time lasts, Christ is willing to accept and win our case at court, but only if, in humility of heart with simple childlike submission and obedience, we let Him remove our sins and purify our hearts.

THE BOOKS

6. What else is connected with the judgment? [Daniel 7:10] Ans. The _____

The books of record in heaven, in which the names and the deeds of men are registered, are to determine the decisions of the judgment.

7. How many books are used in the judgment? Ans. _____

- a. The Book of _____ **[Luke 10:20; Phil. 4:3; Daniel 12:1; Revelation 20:12]**

**8. How does one get their name written in the Book of Life? [Isaiah 45:22] Ans. By _____
unto _____.**

- Fiery Serpent **[Numbers 21:4-10]**

NOTE: Moses was divinely commanded to make a serpent of brass resembling the living ones, and to elevate it among the people. All who had been bitten were to look, and they would find relief. If these people, though faint and dying, could only once look upon the serpent they were perfectly restored.

- All who have ever lived upon the earth have felt the deadly sting of "that old serpent, called the devil, and Satan." **[Revelation 12:9]**
- Looking unto Jesus. **[John 3:14, 15]**

"All have sinned and come short of the glory of God." Like sheep have gone astray. God's invitation is, "Look unto me," the Saviour on the cross with outstretched hands says, "Look unto Me and be you saved all you ends of the earth."

Jesus used the brazen serpent to illustrate how people are saved. **[See John 3:14, 15]** "As Moses lifted up the serpent so must the Son of man be lifted up: that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

One moment he was dying; the next minute by simply looking at the brazen serpent, he was completely healed. So the very moment you give yourself to Jesus and take Him as the One who bled and suffered for you, you are pardoned and saved.

9. Can one get their name removed from the Book of Life, after it is written there? [Exodus 32:32-33] Ans. _____

NOTE: When we become children of God, our names are written in the Lamb's book of life, and they remain there until the time of the investigative judgment. Then the name of every individual will be called, and his record examined, by Him who declares, "I know thy works." If in that day it shall appear that all our wicked deeds have not been fully repented of, our names will be blotted from the book of life, and our sins will stand against us.

b. The Book of _____ [Malachi 3:16; Nehemiah 13:14; Psalms 56:8]

Every deed of heartfelt kindness to others is to be found in this book of God's remembrance. There every temptation resisted, every evil overcome, every word of tender pity expressed, is faithfully kept. And every act of sacrifice, every suffering and sorrow endured for Christ's sake is recorded.

c. The Book of _____ [Psalms 139:16]

d. The Book of _____ / _____ / _____
[Ecclesiastes 12:14; Jeremiah 2:22; Isaiah 65:6-7; Matt. 12:36-37; 1 Corinthians 4:5]

NOTE: God does not need to keep books for Himself, but rather they are kept for others who do not have His omniscience. These books are available to the heavenly hosts in the court for their investigation that they may know that God is just.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

10. Besides the "Books," what else will be used in the judgment? [James 2:12; Romans 2:12] Ans. The _____ (The moral law)

THE BLOTTING OUT

11. What other aspects are connected to the judgment?

- The blotting out of _____ [Acts 3:19; Isaiah 43:25]
- The blotting out of _____ [Revelation 3:5; Exodus 32:33; Ezekiel 18:24]

The work of the investigative judgment and the blotting out of sins is to be accomplished before the second advent of the Lord.

As the books of record are opened in the judgment, the lives of all who have believed on Jesus come in review before God. Beginning with those who first lived upon the earth, our Advocate presents the cases of each successive generation, and closes with the living. Every name is mentioned, every case closely investigated. Names are accepted, names are rejected.

When any have sins remaining upon the books of record, unrepented of and unforgiven, their names will be blotted out of the book of life, and the record of their good deeds will be erased from the book of God's remembrance.

All who have truly repented of sin, and by faith claimed the blood of Christ as their atoning sacrifice, have had pardon entered against their names in the books of heaven... their sins will be blotted out, and they

themselves will be accounted worthy of eternal life. Sins that have not been repented of and forsaken will not be pardoned and blotted out of the books of record, but will stand to witness against the sinner in the day of God. [Great Controversy, 483]

12. Will we all be the same age when our names are called in the Judgment?

- Cockcrowing: _____
- Morning: _____
- Even: _____
- Midnight: _____

13. Will anyone's fate be changed after the investigative judgment of the saints, at the second coming of Jesus Christ? [Revelation 22:11] Ans. _____

NOTE: Everyone's fate will have been decided by the court of heaven *before* the second coming of Jesus, and nothing will change the verdict after the pre-advent investigative judgment of the saints has concluded (the close of probation). While only the books regarding the saints of God have been examined in the pre-advent investigative judgment, the wicked stand condemned by not having sought the defense of the righteousness of Jesus Christ, so their sins are not covered by Christ's righteousness, and they must bear responsibility for their own sins.

➤ [Hebrews 3:15]

➤ [Proverbs 27:1]

OUR HEAVENLY ADVOCATE

A young man was brought into Denver's Westside court to answer for an alleged offense. When his case was called, he stood there silent, not knowing what to say. The clerk read the charge, but the boy stood speechless. The judge, a kindly man, leaned forward on his desk and asked him if he had a lawyer. The boy shook his head. Then the judge motioned to a man in the courtroom who came forward and took his place beside the defendant. He was appointed as his attorney, or *advocate*.

The two left the courtroom to confer together. Other cases were called and disposed of. Within an hour the lawyer with his young client returned. The boy's case was again called. This time, accompanied by his attorney, he had more confidence; for now he had an advocate to speak for him. In the investigative judgment, God has provided Jesus Christ as the advocate for all who will, in this life, accept Him and submit their lives to His control.

"All who have truly repented of sin, and by faith claimed the blood of Christ as their atoning sacrifice, have had pardon entered against their names in the books of heaven; as they have become partakers of the righteousness of Christ, and their characters are found to be in harmony with the law of God, their sins will be blotted out, and they themselves will be accounted worthy of eternal life. The Lord declares, by the prophet Isaiah: 'I, even I, am He that blotteth out thy transgressions for Mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins.' [Isaiah 43:25]