

Establishing a Firm Foundation



GOD
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Lesson Twelve: Eternal Judgment

Last among the elementary principles of Hebrews 6:1-2 is “eternal judgment.” This coupled with the “resurrection of the dead” because they both have to do with our future destiny. Judgment itself is a neutral word; as it can stand for both negative punishments and positive rewards.

Our subject in this teaching is “eternal judgment” vs. “historical judgment.” There are many judgments seen in the Bible which are recorded as acts of history instead of those which take place in the scene of the hereafter or eternity.

Two passages which are often misunderstood deal with God’s judgment in history: Exodus 20:4-6 and Jeremiah 32:18. God’s judgments in history may involve curses or blessings on people not directly involved in a matter. Not so in eternal judgments. Each person is individually judged in eternity for their own life. Ezekiel 18:1-4 and 20, 24 and John 8:21 depict this. There are three successive phases of eternal judgment woven into these events of Bible prophecy. We will examine these with their relationship to God’s timetable for the Last Days and the End Times.

I. THE PROTOCOL OF GOD’S JUDGMENTS

A. God the Father Judges

1. I Peter 1:17

Since you call on a Father who judges each man’s work impartially, live your lives as strangers here in reverent fear.

2. Hebrews 12: 22-24

But you have come to Mount Zion, to the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the judge of all men, to the spirits of righteous men made perfect, to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

B. Through God the Son

1. John 5:22, 23, 26, 27

Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son, that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father, who sent him. For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son to have life in himself. And he has given him authority to judge because he is the Son of Man.

2. Acts 10:42

He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead.

C. By His Word

1. John 12:47,48

“As for the person who hears my words but does not keep them, I do not judge him. For I did not come to judge the world, but to save it. There is a judge for the one who rejects me and does not accept my words; that very word which I spoke will condemn him at the last day.

2. Psalm 119:160

All your words are true; all your righteous laws are eternal.

D. Four Main Principles

1. According to truth
2. According to deeds
3. Without partiality (or respect of person)
4. According to the light available to those being judged

II. THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST FOR ALL BELIEVERS

A. We Shall All Stand before the Judgment seat of Christ

This is the first stage of the eternal judgment.

1. Romans 14:10-12

2. I Peter 4:17, 18

3. II Corinthians 3:11-15

4. II Corinthians 5:10

B. The Judgment of Rewards Not Condemnation

1. John 5:24

2. Isaiah 43:25, 44:22

3. **Matthew 12:36, 37**
4. **John 3:18**
5. **Matthew 16:27**
6. **Romans 5:9, 10; 8:1**

C. Works Tried by Fire

All of our good works will be tried by fire and only the pure will remain.

1. **I Corinthians 3:11-15**
2. **Matthew 25:14-30**
3. **Luke 19:11-27**
4. **I Corinthians 4:5**

D. Examine Ourselves

There are three points concerning which each one of us should examine ourselves: motive, obedience and power.

1. We should examine our motives. Do we seek to glorify Christ or aim to please ourselves?
2. We should examine ourselves on the point of obedience. Obedience is better than sacrifice. Are we performing God's will or doing our own thing?
3. We should examine ourselves in respect to power (I Corinthians 4:20).
 - a) Are we serving God in our strength or His power? (see also Colossians 1:29)

II. JUDGMENT OF THE NATIONS

A. The Refining Fires

At the close of the Great Tribulation, a period of seven years, the nations (gentiles) will be judged at the "throne of Christ's glory" (read Matthew 25:31-46 for Jesus' words on this matter).

Those who are counted worthy; having passed through the refining fires of the Great Tribulation will enter the thousand years of peace; or the Millennial Kingdom which Christ shall establish on this earth (see Revelation 20:2, 3, 6).

B. On Account of My People Israel – Joel 3:1, 2

"In those days and at that time, when I restore the fortunes of Judah and Jerusalem, I will gather all nations and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat. There I will enter into judgment against them concerning my inheritance, my people Israel, for they scattered my people among the nations and divided up my land.

God declares that He will first bring back the captives of Judah and Jerusalem- that is He will regather the scattered Jewish People to their own land. Then He will gather all the gentile nations and bring judgment upon them. The basis of this judgment is the same as that described by Jesus in Matthew 25. God says He will enter into judgment with the nations “*on account of My people Israel.*”

III. SPECIAL JUDGMENT UPON ISRAEL

A. A Word About the Jewish Nation

1. **Jeremiah 30:3-9**

According to Jeremiah 30, prophecy indicates a time of special judgment upon the Jewish nation at the close of the Great Tribulation.

2. **Zechariah 12:1-3; 14:1-4**

The Gentiles will be stirred up against the Jews as God’s instrument of judgment.

3. **Zechariah 12:10**

Purging of the Jewish nation occurs as all rebellious elements are confronted and cleansed away.

4. **Romans 11:25-27**

The entire remaining Jewish nation will ultimately turn to Christ, the One whom they have pierced (Zechariah 12:10). This reconciliation of the Jewish nation to their Lord is described in Romans 11.

B. Tribulation Judgment of Israel

Two general principles according to which God deals with the human race: in blessing and judgment.

1. **A principle of blessing.**

God normally blesses the Gentiles through the Jews, but He blesses the Jews directly.

2. **A principle of punishment.**

God normally punishes the Jews through the Gentiles, but He punishes the Gentiles directly.

C. According to Jeremiah 30:3-9

1. God will bring Israel back to their own land.

2. There will be for Israel a time of national peril and distress more terrible than any that they have previously known.

3. The Lord Himself will eventually intervene against the Gentile enemies of Israel. He will deliver and save Israel.
4. The national kingdom of Israel will again be restored upon the throne of David, under the supreme government of the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. This period of the restored kingdom is called The Millennium.

IV. THE GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGMENT

A. At the Close of the Millennium

1. Revelation 20:7-10

At the close of the Thousand Year Reign, Satan will attempt to organize the gentile kingdoms to rebel against Christ's kingdom, but they are destroyed.

2. Revelation 20:11-15

The devil is cast into the lake of fire with the beast and the false prophet. Then comes the final judgment, the Great White Throne Judgment.

3. Revelation 20:5

When Satan's last rebellion is defeated, all the rebellion on earth will have been purged. Now all of the dead who have not been previously judged will be resurrected and called forth.

B. New Heaven and Earth

Those who are written in the Book of Life enter into the new earth and those whose names do not appear enter into the lake of fire where the rest of the wicked have gone (read Revelation 20:11-15; 21:1-5).

Revelation 22:12, 13, 16, 17

"Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End. "I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star." The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life.

Reflective Questions

Lesson Twelve: Eternal Judgment

Answers to these questions can be found in the back of the study guide.

Fill in the blank

1. Judgment can stand for both negative _____ and positive _____.
2. John 5:24 declares that “he who _____ My word, and _____ Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into _____, but has passed out of death into life.”
3. When Satan’s last rebellion is defeated, all the rebellion on earth will have been _____.

Multiple Choice: Choose the best answer from the list below:

A. fire B. judgment C. earth D. heaven

4. All of our good works will be tried by _____ and only the pure will remain.
5. Those who are written in the Book of Life enter into the new _____ and those whose names do not appear enter into the lake of fire.

True or False

6. Each person is individually judged in eternity for their own life. _____
7. God will judge nations based on their treatment of Israel. _____
8. The national kingdom of Israel will again be restored under the supreme government of the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. _____

Scripture Memorization

9. Write out and memorize Romans 14:10-12.

Reflection and Journaling

10. Look back at the insights you wrote down in the previous lessons.
 - On the next page, journal concluding thoughts about what you have learned through this entire study and how you want to respond to what God has spoken to you.
 - Ask the Lord to use what you have learned to make your foundation strong.

Answers to the Reflective Questions

Lesson Twelve

1. punishments; rewards
2. hear; believes; judgment
3. purged
4. A – fire
5. C – earth
6. True
7. True
8. True