

Skegness Community Church - Weekly Bible Study 2025

52 passages of Scripture that every believer should know

Week 49 - HERE COMES THE JUDGE! 2 Corinthians 5:10

"For we must all appear before the judgement seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due to him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad."

Perhaps there is no other subject more relegated to the back recesses of our minds than the fact that each of us will one day stand before the supreme judge of all the earth. In His court there are no mistrials, no appeals, no probations, no adjudicated sentences, and no hung juries. It is the one court where ultimate and perfect justice will prevail. There are four coming judgements described precisely in the Bible. Here comes the judge!

THE JUDGEMENT OF SIN

The first judgement related to us has already taken place. It is the judgement of the believer's sin. God judged the believer's sin one dark day outside the city walls of Jerusalem when Christ died our death so that we could eternally live His life. It's no wonder the Apostle Paul began the eighth chapter of Romans by saying, "Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus." (see also John 5:24 & 2 Corinthians 5:21)

THE JUDGEMENT OF SAINTS

The fact that Jesus stood in our place at the judgement of sin does not mean we will not stand before Him at the judgement of saints. This is referred to as the judgement seat of Christ. Paul speaks of this in 2 Corinthians: **"we must all appear before the judgement seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due to him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad."** Our eternal salvation is not an issue at this judgement. Here, we believers will each give an account of ourselves before God, and the degree of our rewards will be assessed and determined by the One who judges all things well. One of the most beautiful aspects about this judgement is that "we have one who speaks to the Father in our defence - Jesus Christ, the Righteous One" (1 John 2:1). Christ-our Advocate will plead our case before the judgement bar. The good news is that God cannot and will not see our sins because of the blood of Jesus.

THE JUDGEMENT OF STATES

The judgement of the states (nations), takes place at the conclusion of the period of the Great Tribulation. It is this judgement that the prophet Joel alluded to when he said that God will "judge the nations on every side" (Joel 3:12). This judgement determines who will enter the millennial reign of Christ. At issue here is the treatment of Israel during the period of tribulation. Jesus said, "whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for Me" (Matthew 25:40). Those entering the coming millennial kingdom of Christ will consist only of those saved. (see Matthew 25:34) (see also Zechariah 2:8 & 2 Chronicles 7:16).

THE JUDGEMENT OF SINNERS

The Apostle John put it like this: "I saw a great white throne and Him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from His presence, and there was no place for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire" (Revelation 20:11-12,15). This great white throne judgement follows the thousand-year reign of Christ's kingdom. Only those who have not placed their trust in Christ alone for their salvation will stand before this judgement bar. Every lost person who has ever lived will stand before Christ to give an account for their lives. The lamb's Book of Life will be opened. This book contains the names of all those who come to know Christ as Lord and Saviour during their earthly pilgrimage. The lost who stand before God will see that there was room where their names could have been listed. When all is said and done, the only question that really matters in this world--and the next--is this one: Is your name in the Book?

As you memorise this verse, meditate on the wonderful privilege that we, as believers, have in Christ, our Advocate. And ask yourself the question: Is my name in the Book?