

SINGING IN THE COURTROOM
The Good News about the Judgment

The Call to Judgment: *“Fear God and give glory to Him for the hour of His judgment is come.”* (Revelation 14:6)

Some Purposes of the Judgment

- Investigation – but there is more to the judgment than investigation.
- The removal of all injustice in this world – *“How long, O Lord, till you judge?”* (Revelation 6:10).
- The vindication of God - *“...just and true are Your judgments”* (Revelation 15:3).
- The salvation of God’s people in a manner that justifies God. *“...that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus”* (Romans 5:26).

Scenes from Heaven’s Courtroom:
Jesus is Inaugurated as Judge and King

Look upon Revelation chs. 4 & 5 as the proceedings in the heavenly courtroom where a last will and testament is being ‘probated’ in order that we may receive the benefits to which we are entitled because we are legitimate heirs.

The Participants:

The Judge: The One seated on the throne.

The Executor/Testator: The slain Lamb.

Witnesses from heaven: the four living creatures.

Witnesses from earth: the twenty-four elders. There is evidence that the witnesses from earth are those resurrected saints who ascended with Christ as the ‘first fruits.’ See Ephesians 4:8; Matthew 27:53.

The Jury: Many angels and every creature in heaven and earth.

The Scroll: The covenant, God’s last will and testament.

The Testimonies of the 24 Witnesses from Earth: (Rev. 4:11; 5:8-10)

- About God: He is worthy to receive worship because He created.
- About the Lamb: *“And they sang a new song, saying, You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; for You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood...and have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth”* (Rev.5:9,10).
- The Testimonies of the Jury: *“Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom, and strength and honor and glory and blessing”* (Revelation 5:11-13).

The proceedings in heaven's open court establish that...

- God is worthy of worship.
- the Lamb, Jesus Christ, is worthy of worship.
- the testimonies of the witnesses in heaven's open court defeat the accusations of Satan .
- there are no challenges to the covenant/will.

When we worship, we...

- participate in the judgment with the witnesses in heaven's courtroom as we agree with their testimonies.
- defeat Satan's accusations against God and Christ.
- discover our true identity as His very own children and thus overcome feelings of inadequacy.
- come as heirs to receive the covenant benefits.
- enter into Christ's work as His kings and priests
- satisfy our thirst for God.
- participate in Christ's victory.

The Beast Challenges the Proceedings in Heavens Courtroom

The work of the beast is to "*blaspheme God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven*" (Revelation 13:8). Satan's blasphemes God by twisting the truths of God into lies about Him, namely that...

- the righteousness presented by Christ in the heavenly sanctuary is not sufficient to make you acceptable before God.
- our being seated with Christ in heavenly places is only make-believe.
- that our justification through faith in Christ is merely legal fiction.
- the testimonies of the witnesses in heaven's courtroom are lies (Revelation chs. 4 & 5).

"The thought that the righteousness of Christ is imputed to us, not because of any merit on our part, is a precious thought. The enemy of God and man is not willing that this truth should be clearly presented, because he knows that if the people receive it fully his power will be broken." Ellen G. White, The Faith I Live By, p. 111.

Replace Satan's Lies with God's Truths: Satan will always have power over us as long as we believe his lies.

Satan's Lies	God's Truths
<p>Your righteousness is in your own accomplishments and good works.</p> <p>This leads to insecurity, feelings of shame, condemnation, worthlessness, discouragement, and hopelessness because your own righteousness is never good enough.</p> <p>The result is that we cover our sins (we hide them), and we live in fear of the judgment. If our hearts condemn us, we run and hide from God rather than coming to the heavenly sanctuary to find mercy and grace.</p>	<p>Your righteousness is <u>in</u> Christ who is at the right hand of the Father. The Father, on account of Christ, loves and accepts you just as He loves and accepts His own Son.</p> <p>This leads to security, joy, peace, hope, and confidence.</p> <p>The result is that we uncover and confess our sins, and we need not be ashamed because He is not ashamed of us. <i>"For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart and knows all things"</i> (1 John 3:20).</p>

You may overcome Satan, the accuser, by...

- believing the testimonies of the witnesses in heaven's courtroom. *"Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom, and strength and honor and glory and blessing"* (Revelation 5:12).
- agreeing through your own testimony with the witnesses in heaven's courtroom *"They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony"* (Revelation 12:11).
- believing that Christ's sacrifice for you is in every way satisfactory. *"Great and marvelous are Your works, Lord God Almighty! Just and true are Your ways, O King of the saints!"* (Revelation 15:3).

Living in the Judgment Hour

1. Live with Confidence in the Sufficiency of Christ's atonement:

"The Father gave all honour to His Son, seating Him at His right hand, far above all principalities and powers. He expressed His great joy and delight in receiving the Crucified One, and crowning Him with glory and honour. And all the favours He has shown to His Son in His acceptance of the great atonement are shown to His people. God loves them as He loves His Son. The seal of Heaven has been affixed to Christ's atonement. His sacrifice is in every way satisfactory. In Him mercy and truth have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other. The Father embraced His Son, and in this included all who receive Him."

E.G. WHITE , Bible Echo, May 22, 1899

2. Live According to our Status as God's Children, Heirs with Christ:

Some Covenant Benefits Available to Every Believer:

- We have justification, acquittal, in the judgment for all our sins. "
- We have continual advocacy, legal representation, when we sin.

- We need not fear a future judgment, because herein is “*our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment...*” (1 John 4:17,18).
 - We receive the gift and the seal of the Holy Spirit
- “*If anyone sins, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ, the righteous*” (1 John 2:1)
- We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 5:1).

TWO WAYS OF LIVING IN THE JUDGMENT HOUR

The choice is yours:

<p>Holding on to holiness Gripping it tight the day The rules came down Spelling out the texts That make one pure Laying down the mind Waiting for the end of time With white knuckles And a quivering chin Scared to death Unto death. Into death That we'll be caught With our bags unpacked When God's big ship comes in.</p>	<p><i>Holding on to wholeness Giving thanks for freedom To forgive and be forgiven And allowing love To bridge the brokenness Filling empty hours With reverence Living the time of our lives Holding on to wholeness With open arms and open minds Free to live Walking with confidence That tomorrow's needs Will be met tomorrow For those who live faithfully With joy today Holding on to wholeness And letting grace come in.</i></p>
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

or -

NORMAN BOWMAN

Base Your Life on These Incontrovertible Facts of Faith:

*“Because of Christ's redemption
I am a new creation of infinite worth. I am deeply loved,
I am completely forgiven, I am fully pleasing,
I am totally accepted by God, I am absolutely complete in Christ.”*

*God the Father, who is for us, sent His Son Jesus Christ
to be with us, to die for us to give salvation to us,
that the gift of the Holy Spirit might be in us
so the sufficiency of God's resources which are beyond us
may flow through us to overcome all that is against us.*