

The Gospel, 1844, and Judgment Lesson 14 3Q 2006

The Meaning of the Judgment Today

Read Memory Text – thoughts? Does this mean the time when God is sitting in judgment of us or the time when we are making our judgments about Him?

“Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son,” John 5:22

The hour of His judgment has come, but Christ said the Father judges no one – do we believe Christ or do we say, well Christ didn’t really understand?

Or is it that Revelation is saying that the hour when Christ will judge us has come?

You judge by human standards; I pass judgment on no one. John 8:15

But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken. For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned. Matthew 12:36,37

Jesus says He passes judgment on no one, do we believe Him? Is there evidence that God is the one being judged?

“Some of them were undoubtedly faithless, but what then? Can you imagine that their faithlessness could disturb the faithfulness of God? Of course not! God must be true, even if every living man be proved a liar. Remember the scripture? That you might be justified in your words, And might prevail when you come into judgment.” Romans 3:3,4 Phillips translation

Do we have other evidence that God was the one accused? How did Satan tempt Adam and Eve? Was it not an accusation that God was untrustworthy? That God was selfish?

There is the throne, and around it the rainbow of promise. There are cherubim and seraphim. The commanders of the angel hosts, the sons of God, the representatives of the unfallen worlds, are assembled. The heavenly council before which Lucifer had accused God and His Son, the representatives of those sinless realms over which Satan had thought to establish his dominion,--

all are there to welcome the Redeemer. They are eager to celebrate His triumph and to glorify their King. {DA 834.1}

All the powers of his master-mind were now bent to the work of deception, to secure the sympathy of the angels that had been under his command. Even the fact that Christ had warned and counseled him, was perverted to serve his traitorous designs. To those whose loving trust bound them most closely to him, Satan had represented that he was wrongly judged, that his position was not respected, and that his liberty was to be abridged. From misrepresentation of the words of Christ, he passed to prevarication and direct falsehood, accusing the Son of God of a design to humiliate him before the inhabitants of Heaven. He sought also to make a false issue between himself and the loyal angels. All whom he could not subvert and bring fully to his side, he accused of indifference to the interests of heavenly beings. The very work which he himself was doing, he charged upon those who remained true to God. And to sustain his charge of God's injustice toward him, he resorted to misrepresentation of the words and acts of the Creator. It was his policy to perplex the angels with subtle arguments concerning the purposes of God. Everything that was simple he shrouded in mystery, and by artful perversion cast doubt upon the plainest statements of Jehovah. His high position, in such close connection with the divine administration, gave greater force to his representations, and many were induced to unite with him in rebellion against Heaven's authority. {GC88 496.1}

Where did rebellion begin? In heaven, over what? Over an attack on God Himself, which spread to this planet. And What do you think the war will end over? What will bring an end to the war? God is the one on trial, God has always been the one on trial. Consider the story of Job...

Let's consider some more judgment statements from Jesus:

Jesus said, "For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind." John 9:39

What does this mean?

Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself." John 12:31,32

I thought judgment wasn't until 1844 – what did Christ mean when He said, “Now is the time for judgment on this world” or could it mean “now

is the time for judgment of this world”? Well, what did He say would cause this judgment? His crucifixion – would do something, draw all beings to Him. Is He saying that by revealing the truth about Himself, that this is what brings judgment? Does it mean the revelation of truth causes all intelligent beings to make a judgment about God?

The people who beheld the Saviour at His advent were favored with a fuller manifestation of the divine presence than the world had ever enjoyed before. The knowledge of God was revealed more perfectly. But in this very revelation, judgment was passing upon men. Their character was tested, their destiny determined. {DA 475.2}

When who comes into judgment? God, how is it that God comes into judgment? Who can judge God what does it mean?

Why does the Cross of Christ bring judgment? What does the Cross of Christ force us to make judgments about? God Himself – what He is like, the methods of Satan vs. the methods of God...

Unselfishness, the principle of God's kingdom, is the principle that Satan hates; its very existence he denies. From the beginning of the great controversy he has endeavored to prove God's principles of action to be selfish, and he deals in the same way with all who serve God. To disprove Satan's claim is the work of Christ and of all who bear His name. {Ed 154.3}

What is the principle Satan hates? What did the Cross prove? That God is truly unselfish, even to the point of letting His creatures torture and kill Him.

Is the first angel's message teaching a time when God sits on His throne judging us or a time when all the world will make judgments about God? Is it saying, wake up, be in awe of our incredible God and reveal in your life the glory of His character for the time when He opens Himself up fully to the scrutiny and judgment of His intelligent creatures has come?

What does this have to do with the cleansing of the heavenly sanctuary?

Just prior to the Daniel 8:14 text the Bible says that out of one of the horns that made up the divisions of the Greek Empire would rise a “little horn” which would reach the host of heaven and bring the place of the sanctuary low. How did this little horn power defile the heavenly sanctuary AFTER the fall of the Greek Empire? Did this power enter heaven where God sits? Of course not, then how did it defile the sanctuary in heaven after the fall of the Greek Empire?

“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.” Hebrews 12:22,23.

Notice the church has its membership registered in heaven. Satan defiles the heavenly sanctuary by defiling the membership of the church here on earth.

Paul says,

“Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction. He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God.” 2 Thes 2:3,4

He is talking about that same little horn power who sets itself up in the church defiling the membership with lies about God and thus defiling the heavenly temple where God's church is registered. Why does this defile the heavenly sanctuary?

What do you think the building blocks of the heavenly sanctuary are? Do you envision bricks and mortar, goat's skin, granite or brass and silver and gold? Does anyone really think God's Temple is made of mere inanimate materials and that Satan wanted to occupy a building? What are the building blocks of God's Heavenly Temple? What is the actual structural components upon which this temple is built?

Paul says,

“Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's HOUSE [sanctuary/temple], built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building [sanctuary/temple] is joined together and rises to become a HOLY TEMPLE in the Lord. And in him YOU too [you all] are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit. Ephesians 2:19-22.

And Peter says,

“As you come to him, the living Stone--rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him-- YOU also, like LIVING STONES [building blocks of the Temple], are being built into a SPIRITUAL HOUSE [Temple] to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.” 1 Pet 2:4,5.

And Paul says,

“For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building [Temple]...Don't you know that you yourselves [the church] are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him; for God's temple is sacred, and you [you all] are that temple.” 1 Cor 3:9,16,17.

And Jesus says,

Him who overcomes I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will he leave it. I will write on him the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will also write on him my new name. Revelation 3:12

By your many sins and dishonest trade you have desecrated your sanctuaries. Ezekiel 28:18

Revelation 2:9 & 3:9 states those who are like Satan are called the “synagogue of Satan.”

God cleanses His Temple by cleansing the very building blocks of this living breathing, loving, cohesive, unity of intelligent being where God dwells by His Spirit and character of Love!

SUNDAY

Read second paragraph- thoughts – what is this greatest injustice? I thought the cross was all about God’s justice? Why is it an injustice?

“To put it generally, there are two views of the Cross, one objective and one subjective, or one that thinks of the Cross as doing something to God, and the other that thinks of the Cross as doing something to man.

“The first view of the Cross is just this – and I suppose it is the commonest view of the Cross – that on the Cross Jesus bore the agony, the pains and the penalty that we should have borne. The idea is that we were under the condemnation of God, and God was going to eliminate us, when Jesus came to God and said, ‘Let me bear it for them.’ Jesus is our substitute, bearing the punishment that we should have borne.

“Brought up in that view, very early, while still a boy, I began to feel there was something quite desperately wrong with it. I thought there were two things wrong. First this, that it implies or actually says that something Jesus did changed the attitude of God, that God’s hand was posed to strike, his condemnation poised to obliterate, and Jesus came and begged us off as it were, by taking it upon himself. Somehow or other Jesus changed a wrathful, angry God into a gentle God. I could always understand, even then, the saying of the little girl, ‘Mummy, I love Jesus but I hate God.’ And when I went to the New Testament and I could find no evidence for this at all, for the New Testament has nothing but God’s love – ‘God so loved the world that he sent his Son.’ In Jesus God proves his *love*, that while we were yet enemies Christ died for us. The whole thing is inside the love of God. I saw this; I could not help seeing it. Jesus did not change the attitude of God; Jesus shows what the attitude of God is like. And then there was something else which came to me. It was supposed to be for the sake of his justice that God punished Jesus – to satisfy God’s justice someone has to take the punishment, and that someone was Jesus. It came to me while I was still young that this means that in order to satisfy his justice, God had to do the unjustest thing this world has ever seen; that in order to satisfy his holy justice he punished the only perfectly good man there ever was, his own beloved Son. I began to feel I could not believe in a God like that or trust a God who did such a thing. For awhile I was out of Christianity altogether, completely.

“I began to think again and I came to that thing which is always in my mind – that in Jesus we see perfectly displayed the mind of God. This is God – in these last days, in that last week – this is God from beginning to end, saying ‘I love you like that; you can batter me, you can bruise me, you can forsake me, you can crown me with thorns, you can treat me with injustice, you can scourge me – I love you, nothing will stop me from loving you.’ And this is why, in the end, Jesus had to die – because if Jesus had not died it would have meant that at some point the love of God said, ‘Thus far and not further. Stop, I can’t love you any more.’” William Barclay, *Discovering Jesus* (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2000) pp. 55-57.

Did a great injustice occur to Christ? Was it from His Father or was it from His creatures? Did Christ have to die because God demanded it?

Read first sentence of third paragraph – thoughts? Who is it that will need to come to the conclusion/judgment which condemns evil as evil and sees righteousness as righteous? Remember Isaiah 14 – what happens but Satan is exposed for the fraud he is and when he is seen for what he is his power is broken and the lies about God are removed and rest again on Satan. No longer will people say the hurricane, tornado, earthquake that destroyed their home is an act of God. No longer will people say when illness or murder takes a loved one in death that God took their loved one, no longer will people say when a disaster strikes that God is punishing the nations for wickedness. No, for God will have written His law in the hearts and minds and everyone will know God and Satan will have been exposed as the source of all suffer, disease, pain and death!

MONDAY

Bottom paragraph read – thoughts? Some have expressed the desire to practice explaining these concepts, would anyone like to explain this paragraph to us?

When I read something I am always asking questions, what does that mean, is that really true, always true, are there exceptions? If so, why? What would such a concept say about God?

Is there a difference between justice and righteousness? In the Greek they are the same. What does it mean to be justified? To be set right or put right, in order for us to be set right or put right what needs to happen? Does something need to happen to God or us? If Christ stands in our place in the judgment in heaven, so that when the Father judges us He actually sees Christ how does that actually put us right? How does that change us? If such theory were true wouldn't it be a big heavenly deception? A con game? Here are all these unrighteous people who are "declared" righteous because Jesus prevents the Father from seeing their true condition?

Isn't it more reasonable, that Christ actually works in us to cleanse our hearts and minds, to regenerate us, to transform us to be like Jesus in character here and now so that when the Father sees us He sees the character of His Son because it is reproduced within us?

Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we

shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure. 1John 3:2,3

Bottom question asks, “What are some of the questions that you want to ask God? What are some things that you, right now, just can’t understand?”

In Teacher’s comments the study guide quotes Romans 8:1 “There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, for through Christ the law of the Spirit has set me free from the law of sin and death.” What does this mean? Why is there no condemnation?

We are back into unity and oneness with God, the Law of Love is written again on the heart and selfishness has been purged. We are healed!

TUESDAY

The lesson observes that the judgment scene in Daniel 7 ends with the second coming of Christ, why does the second come follow? What is this time in heaven all about? It is the final culmination of the healing and transforming of the hearts and minds of believers so that we are ready to meet Him when He comes. It is the time when every person in the world becomes either so settled into the truth both intellectually and spiritually that they cannot be moved or so settled into the lie they cannot be moved. This is not a time of going through records and once all the paperwork in heaven is complete He will come.

WEDNESDAY

First paragraph read- thoughts about this paragraph?

Does Christ stand in a court room scene in our place being judged? No, there is no Biblical evidence for this. In Zechariah 3 the judgment scene has Joshua the High Priest standing there Himself, in the book of Job a mini-judgment scene is carried out and no one stands in for Job.

If you were sick and dying and went to the physician would you want your perfectly healthy brother to stand in for you during the examination? What good would it do you for the physician to find your brother healthy?

Why do we deserve death? Is it because God is required to kill us? Or is it because without intervention from God our condition is terminal?

If you had a child and told them never ever to touch the pesticides in the garage for if they do they will surely die, and one day your child drinks the pesticides, does that mean you will now have to kill them? Does it mean you will have to punish them? Or if it were your child would you immediately begin trying to save your child? And what do we mean when we say save? Do we mean setting about getting you to forgive your child for their disobedience? Or do we mean healing? As soon as mankind sinned God set into motion His plan of healing/salvation.

Is the judgment about vindicating us? Or God? Who stands accused? Then what role do we have? We are merely witnesses, evidence if you will, of God's incredible grace, goodness, love and the healing power of His methods.

FRIDAY

Read first paragraph – thoughts? Is there still more growing for us to do? Have we fully understood the meaning? Have we been presenting a clear message?

“The significance of the Jewish economy is *not yet fully comprehended*. Truths vast and profound are shadowed forth in its rites and symbols. The gospel is the key that unlocks its mysteries. Through a knowledge of the plan of redemption, its truths are opened to the understanding. *Far more than we do*, it is our privilege to understand these wonderful themes.” COL 133.

“In the building of the sanctuary as a dwelling place for God, Moses was directed to make all things according to the pattern of things in the heavens. God called him into the mount, and revealed to him the heavenly things, and in their similitude the tabernacle, with all that pertained to it, was fashioned.

“So to *Israel*, whom He desired to *make His dwelling place*, He revealed His glorious ideal of *character*. The pattern was shown them in the mount when the law was given from Sinai and when God passed by before Moses and proclaimed, "The Lord, The Lord God, merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth." Exodus 34:6. ..

“Through Christ was to be fulfilled the *purpose* of which the *tabernacle was a symbol*--that glorious building, its walls of glistening gold reflecting in rainbow hues the curtains inwrought with cherubim, the fragrance of ever-burning incense pervading all, the priests robed in spotless white, and in the deep mystery of the inner place, above the mercy seat, between the figures of the bowed, worshiping angels, the glory of the Holiest. *In all, God desired His people to read His purpose for*

the human soul. It was the same purpose long afterward set forth by the apostle Paul, speaking by the Holy Spirit:

"Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are." 1 Corinthians 3:16, 17. (Education 34-36).

"In the cleansing of the temple, Jesus was announcing His mission as the Messiah, and entering upon His work. That temple, erected for the abode of the divine Presence, was designed to be an object lesson for Israel and for the world. From eternal ages it was God's purpose that *every created being*, from the bright and holy seraph to *man*, *should be a temple for the indwelling of the Creator.* Because of sin, humanity ceased to be a temple for God. Darkened and defiled by evil, the heart of man no longer revealed the glory of the Divine One. But by the incarnation of the Son of God, the purpose of Heaven is fulfilled. God dwells in humanity, and *through saving grace the heart of man becomes again His temple.* God designed that the temple at Jerusalem should be a continual witness to the high destiny open to every soul. But the Jews had not understood the significance of the building they regarded with so much pride. They did not yield themselves as holy temples for the Divine Spirit. The courts of the temple at Jerusalem, filled with the tumult of unholy traffic, represented all too truly the temple of the heart, defiled by the presence of sensual passion and unholy thoughts. *In cleansing the temple from the world's buyers and sellers, Jesus announced His mission to cleanse the heart from the defilement of sin,--from the earthly desires, the selfish lusts, the evil habits, that corrupt the soul.* "The Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to His temple, even the Messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, He shall come, saith the Lord of hosts. But who may abide the day of His coming? and who shall stand when He appeareth? for He is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap: and He shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and He shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver." Mal. 3:1-3. (DA 161).