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What Happens on Judgment Day?

2 Peter 2:9: (NASB) *...then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from temptation, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment for the Day of Judgment...*

Judgment Day! The very sound of the phrase previews an ominous picture in the minds of most. Judgment day: a day of great regret, great wrath, great sorrow and great reward, both for the righteous and the unrighteous. All will receive what's coming to them on Judgment Day - the question is - how does it all work? Is Judgment Day really a day to be feared by the multitudes of sinners in our world or is it actually a day to look forward to? Stay with us!

Let's start by reviewing a few scriptures that describe the Day of Judgment: [John 5:28-29](#) [Matthew 11:22](#) [Isaiah 26:9](#) [2 Peter 3:9](#): Wait a minute - these are not describing the harsh and harrowing day that most think about!



 **Will not inherit, Judgment Day, Are You Ready? www.SO4J.com**

- *Jesus says on Judgment Day that “...many will say to me, Lord, Lord, we prophecy, cast out demons and perform many miracles in your name. But I will say to them, ‘I never knew you. Depart from me, you who break God’s laws. Those who indulge in sexual sin, worship idols, commit adultery, practice homosexuality, or are thieves, greedy people, drunkards, abusive, or cheat people. None of these will inherit the kingdom of God. Because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself in the day of God’s wrath. Righteous judgment will be revealed.’” (Based on Matthew 7:23-23)*

To begin with, let's first take a look at our theme text: [2 Peter 2:9](#): Two distinct classes of people: First is “the godly,” and are therefore rescued; Second is “the unrighteous,” therefore subject to Judgment Day. **Does this mean the godly are NOT subject to Judgment Day? Correct...[John 5:28-29](#):** This shows two kinds of resurrections as a result of two different kinds of paths. Why do the righteous “get a pass” and not have to experience the Day of Judgment? Because they are judged in advance of the rest of the world. Their judgment is different, allowing them to experience a *resurrection of life*. Is this text defining an eternal end result (a final stamp of disapproval), or is it defining a state of being at the time of resurrection? If it is a final stamp of disapproval, how do the Scriptures we read at the beginning of this program fit in? It would be too late to learn righteousness.

So, does Jesus relate differently to these two distinct classes?

[1 Peter 2:9-12](#): If you have been “called out,” it implies that others have not been. The godly are supposed to conduct themselves honorably. That example will be remembered and will eventually cause the ungodly to glorify God when He comes to judge. Could there be a positive result to this? Yes, if the ungodly glorify God! The relationship we have with Jesus is different than his relationship with the rest of the world right now and through the Day of Judgment.

Let's talk about Jesus and those who are really trying to walk with him: [1 John 2:1-2](#): (ASV) *¹My little children, these things write I unto you that ye may not sin. And if any man sin, we have an Advocate <3875> with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: ²and he is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for the whole world.*

An advocate is someone who sits by your side and pleads your cause to a judge on your behalf, as your representative. Jesus' role for the believer is as an Advocate.

Advocate: Strong's #3875 parakletos (par-ak'-lay-tos); an intercessor, consoler: summoned, called to one's side, especially called to one's aid, one who pleads another's cause with one, an intercessor

Here is another use of #3875: [John 14:16](#): *And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter <3875>, that he may abide with you forever;*

God's influence, the Holy Spirit, affects the way we live and think if we are following after the footsteps of Jesus.

Propitiation: Strong's #2434 ilamov hilasmos hil-as-mos' 1) an appeasing, propitiating 2) the means of appeasing, a propitiation (in other words, taking care of)

Only other use of 2434: 1 John 4:10: *Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the **propitiation <2434>** for our sins.*

 **Liars, Judgment Day, Are You Ready? www.S04J.com**

- (Voice over) *All liars will be cast into the lake of fire!*
- (Girl's voice) *“Lord? What am I doing here? I thought I was safe. I felt safe. I thought you were a loving God! I'm supposed to be in heaven, not in hell...not forever! Can't you see how accepting and loving I was? I didn't judge anyone...”*
- (Voice over) *Don't you realize that friendship with the world makes you an enemy of God?*
- (Girl's voice) *“Give me another chance!”*
- (Voice over) *I never knew you. Depart from me, you who break God's laws.*

Jesus' relationship with the “ungodly:” 1 Timothy 2:1-6: (ASV) *¹I exhort therefore, first of all, that supplications, prayers, intercessions, thanksgivings, be made for all men; ²for kings and all that are in high place; that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and gravity. ³This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior; ⁴who would have all men to be saved, and come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵For there is one God, one **mediator <3316>** also between God and men, himself man, Christ Jesus, ⁶who gave himself a ransom for all; the testimony to be borne in its own times;*

Mediator: Strong's #3316 *mesitēs* 1) one who intervenes between two, either in order to make or restore peace and friendship, or form a compact, or for ratifying a covenant
2) a medium of communication, arbitrator

Hebrews 12:24: *And to Jesus the **mediator <3316>** of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.*

A mediator sits between two opposing parties in order to bring them together - this assumes both parties have grounds for mediation, meaning there is still time to come together. It is Jesus' work to bring the world to God.

There are distinct differences between Jesus as Advocate vs. Mediator: To the godly or true followers of Christ, Jesus is an “advocate,” sitting side-by-side next to you, speaking to God on your behalf. When does this happen? During your lifetime, as you are being judged in advance of the world. The result is a reward of “glory, honor and immortality.” To the ungodly or “everybody else,” Jesus is a “mediator,” one who sits between two parties in order to bring God and the ungodly together. The ungodly are judged during the world's Judgment Day. The result is “tribulation and distress,” but then the opportunity to make a choice to glorify God with full knowledge of sin and personal accountability.

So, is the Day of Judgment for the BENEFIT of the sinful world?

The Day of Judgment as a tool to fulfill God's promise: Galatians 3:19-22: (NASB) *¹⁹Why the Law then? It was added because of transgressions, having been ordained through angels by the agency of a mediator, until the seed would come to whom the promise had been made. ²⁰Now a **mediator is not for one party only; whereas God is only one.** ²¹Is the Law then contrary to the promises of God? May it never be! For if a law had been given which was able to impart life, then righteousness would indeed have been based on law. ²²But the Scripture has shut up everyone under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.*

Everyone is trapped under sin so the promise can be given to believers - but what promise? Does this promise exclude everyone else? Galatians 3:29: **What promise to Abraham do we inherit? Here it is:** Genesis 22:17-18: (NASB) *¹⁷indeed I will greatly bless you, and I will greatly multiply your seed as the stars of the heavens and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your seed shall possess the gate of their enemies. ¹⁸In your seed **all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.***

As a follower of Jesus, you inherit the ability to bless all the nations of the earth, the “everybody else!” What a privilege! Although there is accountability in the Day of Judgment, there is also great hope.



A caller discussed another facet of a Scripture we already reviewed: 1 Timothy 2:4: (KJV) ...*who would have all men to be saved, and come to the knowledge* of the truth*. In that future time in the Judgment Day when all men are to be saved, what happens next? They come to a knowledge of truth. It is exactly the *opposite* sequence now, during the age when the Gospel has gone out. Now we hear the gospel of Christ first, and that is a “saving” knowledge. In the Judgment Day since God wants all men to be saved, He obviously has to bring them up from death first and *then* bring them to a knowledge of truth. This is in line with Jesus’ role as the Advocate now, the Mediator later. (*The word for *knowledge* here literally means “full disclosure.”)

Romans 2:3-10: (NASB) ³*But do you suppose this, O man, when you pass judgment on those who practice such things and do the same yourself, that you will escape the judgment of God?* ⁴*Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and tolerance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?* ⁵*But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God,* ⁶*who will render to each person according to his deeds: (this is a very strong text about accountability...we reap what we sow)* ⁷*to those who by perseverance in doing good seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life;* (Previously referred to as “the godly” - footstep followers of Jesus, sacrificial in their lives) ⁸*but to those who are selfishly ambitious and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, wrath and indignation.* (Previously referred to as “the ungodly,” who will have to by necessity change their ways.) ⁹*There will be tribulation and distress for every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek,* ¹⁰*but glory and honor and peace to everyone who does good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.*

2 Peter 2:9: (KJV) *The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be **punished <2849>**:*

Punished: Strong's #2849 1) to lop or prune, as trees and wings, 2) to curb, check, restrain, 3) to chastise, correct, punishment, 4) to cause to be punished

This is saying evil is being curbed or restrained. The Day of Judgment is a day of correction. Individuals resurrected will be put into a context where good reigns and evil is no longer allowed. They will have to make good for all of their evil thoughts and deeds. They will be “pruned,” or “cut back” so they can produce good fruit. So, how do we put it all together...we have a day to restrain and a day of fire? A day of tribulation and a day of blessing? Can it all refer to the same time period? The ungodly will be held accountable for what they do. The godly are *presently* accountable for what they do. They are judged in advance of the world. A great example is the heroes of faith in the Old Testament described in Hebrews 11. They proved their value to God in their lifetime.

Putting the Day of Judgment together:

It IS coming. It is a fixed day - a day predetermined to happen. The judgment of that day will be upon the world but based in righteousness. The judgment of that day will come from Jesus. Acts 17:29-31: There will be great accountability for sin. Those of us who think we can get away with something in this life will have a long way to “dig out” in the future.

No one escapes judgment. 2 Timothy 4:1-2 Hebrews 4:12-13 Jude 1:6 The END of judgment will ultimately be life or death. Romans 6:23 Acts 3:19-23: (NASB) ¹⁹*Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord;* ²⁰*and that He may send Jesus, the Christ appointed for you,* ²¹*whom heaven must receive until the period of restoration of all things about which God spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from ancient time.* ²²*Moses said, The Lord God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your brethren; to Him you shall give heed to everything He says to you.* ²³*And it will be that every soul that does not heed that prophet shall be utterly **destroyed <1842>** from among the people.*

Destroyed: Strong's #1842 *exolothreuo* (ex-ol-oth-ryoo'-o); to extirpate: to destroy out of its place, destroy utterly, to extirpate (Extirpate means to destroy completely, wipe out, pull up by the root or to cut out by surgery.)

Once accountability is complete, if one is still not following after Jesus after that long period of righteous judgment time, then one is destroyed.

What are the rules for judging in the Day of Judgment?

Matthew 7:13-14: So, this broad road to destruction is the road to the Judgment Day. They have the opportunity to get off the road of destruction and onto the path of righteousness. It will be difficult and will take time, and they will be accountable for their actions. The “resurrection of Judgment” is a resurrection to the serious challenge of full accountability before God.

Judgment will be based fully upon one’s own actions: Jeremiah 31:27-30: This sets the tone for full personal accountability! Upon resurrection, the person will be given full disclosure. Then you are judged and accountable. There is a great righteousness to this. We will no longer be in the scenario where the father sins but the son bears the responsibility. An example of judgment is a parent who sees his child going down the wrong path and disciplines the child. It is to teach them a lesson so they can learn to go down the right path. How would God’s heart be less than the heart of a parent who wants the best for that child, even if the child is going astray? **Judgment will be based upon what one does or does not do:** Matthew 7:21-23: These are the professed Christian leaders who are out of harmony with God. They will be resurrected and judged with the masses of the ungodly. *Weeping and gnashing of teeth* is not torture, it is reaction to a great loss. **Judgment will be based upon the intentions of the heart and therefore the fruit of one’s life:** Matthew 12:33-37: **Judgment will be based upon the words we utter.** The time period of judgment is for God’s plan of success to be finalized - having mankind reconciled back to Him. If 99.99% of all people that ever lived are destroyed, wouldn’t God be an incredible failure? Think about the consequences of realizing how bad sin is. Man will learn how to forever avoid sin and will finally have a chance at life. **Judgment will happen within a set period of time:** Revelation 20:1-3

Do even *really* bad people and nations have a chance in the Day of Judgment?

Isaiah 26:9: Does this apply to inhabitants worldwide? Matthew 11:20-24: Sodom was a city specifically destroyed because of its inherent evil. So, not only is it worldwide, but it is also generational - from the earliest of times through the present. Jeremiah 31:31-34: So, it looks as if the Judgment Day events include a lot of *favor* as well as hardship...All will have to dig deep into the recesses of their hearts, find the intention of their lives and focus it on God or suffer the consequences of destruction. Isaiah 42:1-4: These Scriptures are talking about Jesus. Jesus came first to provide the ransom price, as the Lamb to be sacrificed. He returns as the lion, as the king, the one ruling the world. He will bring forth justice and truth.

Those raised in judgment will have a lot of work to do. God will not let anyone pass through that without having to fully and completely face their own lives, words, actions and thoughts. How does God make sure that they are not just giving Him lip service?

There is a test at the end of the Day of Judgment...Revelation 20:7-9: So, after the Judgment Day, Satan is again loosed upon the earth as a final test - that is a subject for another day!

God has a plan of redemption that is so full, so complete, so comprehensive that everyone who has ever lived has the opportunity according to God to be righteous. Once they cross over into righteousness and follow after God, truly with their whole heart, they can live. If they do not, they will eventually be destroyed. Justice will be served in a loving, compassionate, wise and powerful way because that is the way God works.

***So what happens on Judgment Day?
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions,
Think about it...!***