

Bible Doctrines

19. Give the divisions of the 2300 days.
20. What event does the prophecy give for the beginning of the 70 weeks?
21. Give the decrees associated with the restoration and rebuilding of Jerusalem with their dates.
Why do we select the last one for the commencement of the 70 weeks?
22. What leads to the conclusion that the 70 weeks begin in the autumn of the year?
23. Explain carefully the events and dates of the 70 weeks.
24. Show that the 2300 days terminate in the autumn of 1844.

31. THE HOUR OF DIVINE JUDGMENT

1. A Definite Time Appointed.

Acts 17: 31. A definite day has been divinely appointed for the judgment of the world.

Romans 14:10,12. No one can escape the judgment day. Every person must answer individually before God. Luke 10:1-1. Christ regarded the judgment as an event future from His day. It is evident that He did not think of judgment as taking place at death.

Acts 24: 25. Paul spoke of the judgment as future.

Revelation 22: 12. The decisions made in the judgment have been determined before the actual Second Advent.

At the appearing of Christ the decisions of the judgment will be carried into effect. An appropriate designation for this phase of the judgment would be executive. The determination of the sentence of judgment, which precedes the second advent could be spoken of as investigative.

Leviticus 23: 27-29. The ancient day of atonement, when the sanctuary was cleansed, was in its nature a day of solemn judgment.

Daniel 8: 14. The interpretation that the 2300 days terminated on October 22, 1844, led the Adventists to the conclusion that the day of God's final judgment began at that time.

2. The judgment Represented in Vision.

Daniel 7: 9-11. Daniel's vision of a court in session judging the deeds of men.

Daniel 7: 13, 14. Christ appears in the judgment.

Our security in the judgment is in our acceptance of Jesus Christ as our Savior. These who accept Him have been forgiven their sins and freed from condemnation. (Romans 8:1; John 3:18.) They are at peace with God, having been reconciled to Him (2 Corinthians 5:18), and will therefore not come into condemnation in the judgment. (John 5: 24.) John speaks of Christ as the believer's Advocate. (1 John 2:1.) Revelation 20: 11-15. John's vision of the judgment.

While Daniel view, the investigative phase of the judgment, John's vision carries his mind to the climax of judgment at the end of time when sentence is executed upon the wicked.

3. The Records of the Judgment.

The fact that God is fully acquainted with the details of man's character and conduct is represented in Scripture by reference to books of record. While we do not conclude that there are books in heaven that correspond to books such as we have for human records, we may be certain that God is perfectly cognizant of the life of every human being.

(a) God is acquainted with those who have professed His name. Revelation 20: 12. The book of life.

Daniel 12: 1. Those whose names are in the book of life will be delivered when Christ comes.

Revelation 21 27. Only those whose names are in the book of life will enter heaven.

Luke 10: 20. It is a cause for rejoicing to have one's name in the book of life.

Philippians 4:3. Contains the names of those who engage in God's service.

Exodus 32: 32, 33. One's name can be erased from the book of life because of sin.

Revelation 3: 5. Christ's promise to the overcomer.

"The book of life contains the names of all who have ever entered the service of God." – "Great Controversy," - page 480.

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(b) God is not forgetful of the good deeds and purposes of the lives of His followers.

Malachi 3: 16. A book of remembrance.
Matthew 25: 31-40. Christ does not forget our works of love.
Revelation 2: 2, 3, 13, Some of the things God remembers. 19.
Ezekiel 18:24. One's good deeds may be removed from God's remembrance through sin.
 (Cf. Nehemiah 13: 14.)

(c) God is acquainted with the sins which men commit.

Ecclesiastes 12: 14. Every work and every secret thing is known in the judgment.
Matthew 12: 36,37. The words we speak are considered in the judgment.
Isaiah 65: 6, 7. The iniquities of men.
1 Corinthians 4: 5. "The purposes of the heart."

4. Christ's Place in the Judgment.

Acts 17: 31. The Father will judge all men by Jesus Christ.
John 5: 22, 27. The Father has given all judgment to Christ.
Acts 10: 42. Christ is the One ordained by the Father to be the judge of the world.

5. The Standard of Judgment.

John 3: 36. The determining factor which decides the destinies of men will be their personal altitude to Jesus Christ.
Ecclesiastes 12: 13, 14. One's personal attitude to Christ involves obedience to the commandments of God. (Cf. John) 14: 15, 21; 15: 10.)

When Christ abides in the heart the life of the believer will live a life of obedience to the requirements of God.

6. The Judgment Hour Message.

Revelation 14: 6, 7. A world-wide last-day message is to proclaim the time of God's judgment.

When, after the Great Disappointment of 1844, the Adventists, on the basis of their interpretation of Daniel 8: 14, arrived at the conclusion that the cleansing of the sanctuary pointed to the final work of Christ in heaven they began to proclaim the message: "The hour of His judgment is come."

MEMMORIZE: Acts 17:3 1.

Questions on the Lesson

1. Show that a definite time has been appointed for the judgment.
2. Who will be judged?"
3. Show that the judgment was future from the first century.
Give a scripture which speaks of a present judgment.
4. Explain the two phases of the judgment.
5. What led the Adventists in the middle of the last century to the conclusion that the investigative judgment had commenced? What message did this lead them to proclaim?
6. Describe Daniel's vision of the judgment; John's.
7. How did Daniel describe Christ's presence in the judgment? What was given to Him?
8. What will flee us from condemnation in the judgment?
9. How is God's acquaintance with all the details of our lives illustrated in Scripture?
10. What books are referred to in Scripture in connection with the judgment, and what do they contain?
11. Show that one may have the promise of eternal life and later lose it.
12. Name some of the good things that God remembers.
13. Will our good deeds avail its anything in the judgment if we apostatize?
14. How searching is God's knowledge of us?
15. What place does Christ occupy in the judgment?
16. How will the question of one's destiny be settled?
17. Show that mail's attitude to the commandments of God will be considered in the judgment.

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For Further Study

1. How about the teaching that once a man finds salvation he cannot be lost?
9. The place of works in the judgment.

32. THE MESSAGE OF THE JUDGMENT HOUR

1. Warnings of Divine judgments.

God does not bring destruction upon men without first giving opportunity for repentance and escape. In the past He has sent a warning of impending judgment before bringing punishment upon evil-doers.

Amos 3: 7. "Surely the Lord God does nothing, without revealing His secret to His servants the prophets."

Genesis 6: 1-3. God gave the antediluvians 120 years notice of coming judgment. During this time Noah bore witness of the coming deluge.

Genesis 19:1-13. Sodom was given a message of warning before its overthrow.

Jonah 1:1,2; The people of Nineveh were given opportunity of [Jonah 3: 1-4] escape from impending destruction.

2. The Final Warning Message Preceding the Second Advent.

In harmony with God's working in the past in acquainting men of coming judgment a special message of warning is to be proclaimed to the whole world before the second coming of Christ.

Matthew 24: 14. The end will not come until the gospel of the kingdom has been preached in all the world.

Revelation 14: 6-14. A threefold message is to be heralded to the world prior to the Second Advent.

Revelation 18: 1-5. God's people are called to come out of Babylon before her destruction.

3. "The Hour of His judgment Is Come."

Revelation 14: 6, 7. The special proclamation of the First Angel's Message in Revelation 14 is an announcement that God's judgment hour "has come."

When the Adventists of the mid-nineteenth century arrived at the conclusion that the cleansing of the sanctuary at the close of the 2300 days of Daniel 8:14 referred to the commencement of the investigative judgment in heaven, they became convinced that the message of Revelation 14:6 7, which declared that "the hour of His judgment is come," was due to be given to the world. This conviction gave rise to a movement that has now spread all over the world. It warns men that the final phase of Christ's heavenly priesthood is rapidly drawing to a close, and that soon He is to return to this world as King to reap the harvest of the earth. (Revelation 14: 14.) It calls upon men to be prepared for the end of the world by repentance and sanctification of life.

Revelation 14: 12. The people who are developed by the judgment hour message possess certain distinct characteristics.

4. The Close of Man's Probation.

Revelation 14: 9, 10. The final message warns of judgment about to come that will be unmixed with mercy.

Revelation 15:1. The wrath of God's final judgment is contained in the seven last plagues.

Revelation 15: 8. During the outpouring of the plagues, ministry in the heavenly sanctuary has ceased. This would seem to indicate that the offer of mercy for the sinner has been withdrawn; his probation has closed.

Genesis 6: 3. Probation for the antediluvians closed at the end of 120 years.

Genesis 7: 1-10. There was a brief period between the close of probation for the antediluvians and the beginning of the Flood.

Daniel 12: 1. After Michael stands up, i.e., Christ commences His reign, there will be a time of trouble such as never was. This time of trouble is doubtless caused by the outpouring of the seven last plagues following the close of probation.

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- Revelation 16: 17-21. The seventh plague will culminate in the Second Advent.
(Compare Revelation 6: 14-17.)
- Matthew 25:1-13. We must be prepared before the opportunity passes.

MEMORIZE: Matthew 25: 13.

Questions on the Lesson

1. How does God seek to save men from coming judgment?
2. Give examples of warning messages in the past.
3. When did Jesus say the end of the world would occur?
4. Locate God's final message. Why could we call it the "judgment-hour message?"
5. What final call does God make to His people?
6. How did the Adventists of the nineteenth century come to apply Revelation 14:6,7 to themselves?
7. Characterize the people who heed the judgment-hour message.
8. What warning in the message of Revelation 14 indicates the close of probation?
9. What marks the close of probation?
10. Describe the close of probation in the antediluvian age.
11. How did Jesus emphasize the need of being prepared for the coming of Christ?

33. SATAN'S COUNTERFEIT GOSPEL

1. Satan is in Opposition of the Gospel of Christ.

Revelation 12: 9. Satan is the arch-deceiver.

- 2 Corinthians 11:14, 15. He disguises himself as an angel of light, as do also his followers.

We may be sure that the great enemy of truth would do his utmost to obscure the glorious truths of the gospel so as to keep men from acceptance of Jesus Christ. Especially would he endeavor to keep man in ignorance of the judgment-hour message of warning concerning the second coming of Christ.

"Satan invents unnumbered schemes to occupy our minds, that they may not dwell upon the very work with which we ought to be best acquainted. The arch-deceiver hates the great truths that bring to view an atoning sacrifice and all all-powerful Mediator. He knows that with him everything depends on his diverting minds from Jesus and His truth." – "Great Controversy," page 488.

- Revelation 14: 6-11. The message that should engage the special attention of God's people in the last days is that of "the everlasting gospel," which declares that "the hour of His [God's] judgment is come." One method of obscuring the gospel, and keeping men in ignorance of the judgment, would be by giving a false application of the typical earthly sanctuary and its services.

2. Satan's Master System of Deception.

- 2 Thessalonians 2: 7. Commencing in the first century, Satan began the erection of a counterfeit system of religion called in Scripture "the mystery of iniquity."

- Revelation 17: 1-6. The mystery of iniquity is symbolized in the Book of Revelation as an impure woman.

As a pure woman is used in the same book to symbolize the Christian church (Revelation 12: 1-5), the corrupt woman of Revelation 17 doubtless represents an apostate church.

- Revelation 17: 18. Satan's counterfeit church is said to be "that great city which reigns over the kings of the earth."

The symbolic name of the great city referred to is "Babylon" (See 14:8; 16:19; 18:10), which name John saw inscribed on the woman's forehead.

Just as Jerusalem, the holy city, was used as a symbol of the true Christian church (Revelation 11:2), so Babylon, the ancient enemy and oppressor of ancient Jerusalem, is used to symbolize the false church which opposed and oppressed the people of God during the Christian era.

In Old Testament times Satan's counterfeit system of religion centered in ancient Babylon In the