

Sure Word

Bible Lessons



Lesson 17

THE INVESTIGATIVE JUDGMENT

Revelation 10 describes the bitter disappointment of those who expected Jesus to come in 1844 (See lesson 16). When He did not come, their question was, "Where is the God of judgment?" The Bible's answer was, "The Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple." Jesus moved in 1844 into the most holy place of the heavenly sanctuary to begin His work of investigative judgment, His final work before coming to earth to receive His bride.

From **Daniel 8:19** we learned that the sanctuary would be cleansed "at the time appointed." Commenting on that, Paul says, "He hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world." **Acts 17:31**. The appointed time for the judgment to begin was October 22, 1844, the fulfillment of the 2300 days prophecy.

21. What is the Lord's work during this time? **Malachi 3:3.**
22. What will not happen to the names of the overcomers? **Revelation 3:5.**
23. What will be blotted from their record? **Acts 3:19.**
24. In the ceremonial day of atonement, where did the live goat symbolically take the sins, thus permanently removing them from the sanctuary? **Leviticus 16:21.**
25. When the work of cleansing the heavenly sanctuary is finished, what will be poured out upon the earth? **Revelation 15:5-16:1.**

"And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book." **Daniel 12:1.**

Considering God's Sure Word...

Do you understand that Christ's present work in the heavenly sanctuary involves the investigation of your life, and that this judgment will be completed before Christ comes to bring his rewards?

Is it your desire for sin to be overcome in your life and blotted out of your record in heaven?

1. Paul taught what three subjects concerning the faith of Jesus? **Acts 24:24, 25.**
2. Will only the wicked be judged? **Ecclesiastes 3:17.**
3. Who must appear before the judgment seat of Christ? **2 Corinthians 5:10.**
4. How closely are our lives investigated? **Ecclesiastes 12:14.**
5. What kind of things will come up in the judgment? **Matthew 12:36.**

"To him that ordereth his conversation aright will I shew the salvation of God."
Psalms 50:23.

6. Where will judgment begin? **1 Peter 4:17, 18.**
"The house of God, which is the church of the living God." **1 Timothy 3:15.**
7. Who does the judging? **John 5:22.**
8. What will Christ bring with Him when He comes? **Revelation 22:12.**

The judgment for all who have ever entered Christ's service takes place before He comes. This is illustrated in **Matthew 22** in the parable of a marriage. Before the wedding begins, the king inspects the guests to see if all are clothed with the wedding garment (**verse 11**). Notice the parallel in **Revelation 19:7, 8.**

In the parable, having that robe determined whether one was accepted or cast out (see **Matthew 7:21; Revelation 3:4, 5; 7:14**).

This character examination is performed by Christ in the heavenly sanctuary. When His investigation is completed, everyone's destiny will be sealed. He will then announce:

"He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still. And behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be." **Revelation 22:11, 12.**

9. What is the message that is to arouse the world today? **Revelation 14:7.**

Paul spoke of "judgment to come" (**Acts 24:25**).

The message for today is that "judgment is come" (**Rev. 14:7**).

And finally when Jesus comes, "*He hath judged*" (**Rev. 19:2**).

This investigative judgment, which evaluates the lives of all who have ever professed faith in Christ, is completed before Jesus comes. It should not be confused with the judgment of the wicked by Christ and His saints, which occurs during the millennium; or the final judgment and punishment of the wicked, which takes place at the end of the 1000 years.

10. What did Jesus say we were to "rejoice" over? **Luke 10:19, 20.**
11. Where are the names of God's people recorded? **Philippians 4:3.**
12. Are the good deeds of God's children recorded? **Malachi 3:16.**
13. What about sins, are they marked before the Lord? **Jeremiah 2:22.**
14. Where has God written a description of everyone? **Psalms 139:16.**

Everything we do is recorded in God's books. Some of the direct or implied references to the heavenly books of record include **Nehemiah 13:14; Job 16:19; Psalm 56:8; Hebrews 12:23; Revelation 13:8; 17:8; 21:27; and 22:19.**

15. In the judgment, what are opened? **Daniel 7:9, 10.**
16. What are the books used for in the judgment? **Revelation 20:12.**
17. If the books of record show that one turned back to sin, what will be their reward? **Ezekiel 18:24.**
18. What will happen to the backslider's name? **Exodus 32:33.**

"Let them be blotted out of the book of the living, and not be written with the righteous." **Psalms 69:28.**

19. In the end, what will happen to him? **Revelation 20:15.**
20. What happened in Daniel's vision of the judgment? **Daniel 7:13.**

This movement of Christ does not describe His coming to the earth, but rather to "the Ancient of days." The same scene is described by the prophet Malachi. Notice the question that is asked, and its answer:

"Where is the God of JUDGMENT? Behold I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his TEMPLE." **Malachi 2:17-3:1.**