

## **QUESTION: What is the Day of Judgment? Is it one particular day, or one 24-hour day?**

**ANSWER:** No, the term "DAY of judgment" does not refer to a 24-hour day, but it does mean a particular appointed time. Jesus indicates in John 5:29 that there are two judgments, one for Believers in Christ, and one for non-believers, and He calls them the **RESURRECTION of LIFE**, and the **RESURRECTION of CONDEMNATION**. You see, **you cannot really separate the Day of Judgment from the Resurrection**, because everyone will die, and everyone will be resurrected to stand before God and give an account for their life. What you have done with Jesus Christ during your life will determine where you spend eternity: either you will be resurrected to live eternally with God in His heavenly kingdom, or you will be resurrected to suffer eternal punishment in the lake of fire. As Believers in Jesus Christ, **our JUDGMENT for SIN has already fallen on Jesus Christ**. He paid the penalty for our sins, and purchased eternal life for us with His own blood, so technically, our judgment has already happened. We do not have to be judged on Judgment Day to know where we are going - we already know that our "end" or final DESTINATION is EVERLASTING LIFE in God's presence.

- **Romans 6:22** "But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and **the END (destination), EVERLASTING LIFE.**"
- **I John 4:17** "Love has been perfected among us in this: that **we may have boldness in the DAY of JUDGMENT**; because as He is, so are we in this world."
- **John 5:24-25** "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has **EVERLASTING LIFE**, and **shall NOT come into JUDGMENT**, but has passed from death into LIFE. Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will LIVE."
- **John 5:28-29** "Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which **ALL who are in the GRAVES** will hear His voice and come forth - those **who have done GOOD**, to the **RESURRECTION of LIFE**, and those who have done evil, to the **RESURRECTION of CONDEMNATION.**"
- **Daniel 12:1b-2** ".....and at that time your people, everyone who is found written in the Book, will be rescued. And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake, these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace and everlasting contempt (condemnation)."

**Definition: "Those who SLEEP in the DUST of the EARTH"** - This means **those who are PHYSICALLY DEAD** and their bodies are in the grave, buried in the ground. The Bible often refers to death as "sleep" and the dead as "being asleep," **but it is NEVER a SOUL SLEEP**. Only **the physical BODY is "asleep"** and waiting to be AWAKENED at the resurrection. The SOULS of the people have already LEFT their BODIES to either be with God, if they were saved, or for the UNSAVED, to await the JUDGMENT and be thrown into hell. For the believer in Jesus Christ **"to be ABSENT from the BODY"** is **"to be PRESENT with the Lord"** .

- **II Corinthians 5:6 & 8** "Therefore we are always confident, knowing that while we are at home **in the BODY**, we are absent from the Lord." "We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be **ABSENT from the BODY** and to **be PRESENT with the Lord.**"

**Definition: "THOSE WHO HAVE DONE GOOD"** - Wait a minute! I thought salvation was by **GRACE through FAITH**, and NOT of WORKS? **What is "GOOD" in the sight of God**, and what is it that **we MUST DO to be SAVED** and have a part in the RESURRECTION to LIFE? **The only "good work"** that we can do to obtain salvation is **the "work" of BELIEVING in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.**

- **Acts 16:30-31** "And he brought them out and said, 'Sirs, **what must I DO to be Saved?** So they said, 'BELIEVE on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved.....'"
- **John 6:28-29** "Then they said to Him, '**What shall we DO,** that we may WORK the WORKS of God?' Jesus answered and said to them, '**This is the WORK** of (that is pleasing to) God, that you BELIEVE in Him whom He sent.'"
- **Romans 16:25-26** "Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery which was kept secret since the world began, but now has been made manifest, and by the prophetic scriptures has been made manifest to all nations, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, **for OBEDIENCE to the FAITH.**"

Now, when do these TWO RESURRECTIONS occur, the **RESURRECTION of LIFE for BELIEVERS** in Jesus Christ and the **RESURRECTION of CONDEMNATION for NON-BELIEVERS**? The Resurrection for Believers takes place at several different times; it is one resurrection, but it happens in several stages. **Stage 1.)** The Old Testament saints such as Moses, Abraham, David, Elijah, and of course many whose names we do not know, were raised immediately following Jesus's own resurrection (see Matthew 27:51-53). **Stage 2.)** The next phase will be for the Body of Christ. Those who have **DIED believing in Christ** will be resurrected first, and the living Believers will be changed into their resurrection bodies instantly, at the "Rapture" (See I Thessalonians 4:13-18, I Corinthians 15:50-54). This will happen immediately BEFORE the seven years of Great Tribulation. **Stage 3.)** The next phase will be the Tribulation Believers (see Rev. 20:4-5), immediately AFTER the seven years of Great Tribulation and BEFORE the thousand year reign of Christ.

After our resurrection, we as Believers in Christ must appear before the Judgment Seat of Christ, in order to be judged on our works. This judgment for Believers, however, is ONLY to see whether we will receive rewards or not. **Remember, the Believer's judgment for SIN has already fallen on Jesus Christ,** Jesus has already taken our punishment, and we will not have to suffer the wrath of God (see II Cor. 5:18-21, I Thess. 5:9, I Thess. 1:10, and Isaiah 53:5-6 & 10-12).

- **II Corinthians 5:10** "For we must **ALL** appear before **the JUDGMENT SEAT of Christ,** that each one may receive [*rewards or judgment for*] the things DONE in the BODY, according to what he has DONE, whether GOOD or BAD."
- **Romans 14:10-12** "But why do you judge your brother? Or why do you show contempt for your brother? For **we shall ALL stand before the JUDGMENT SEAT of CHRIST.** For it is written, 'As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to Me, and every tongue shall confess to God.' So then each of us shall **give account** of himself to God."
- **Matthew 6:19-21** "Do not lay up for yourselves TREASURES on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but **lay up for yourselves treasures in HEAVEN,** where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your TREASURE (REWARD) is, there your HEART will be also."
- **Read I Corinthians 3:11 & 14-15** "For no other **foundation** can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is JESUS CHRIST." "If anyone's WORK which he has built on it (*on the foundation of Christ*) endures, **he will RECEIVE a REWARD.** If anyone's WORK is burned, he will suffer loss; but **he HIMSELF will be SAVED,** yet so as through fire."

For the unsaved, there is one SPECIFIC day of resurrection and judgment, but not a 24-hour day as we know it. It is an appointed TIME of judgment, which may take hundreds of years in time as we know it, because billions and billions of people will be judged, and their lives and works will be read from the books and weighed and judged by God. Time in hours, days and years is only a measuring system for the age we are in, and God will not need to use "time" as a measure for the rest of eternity (II Peter 3:7-9). The **RESURRECTION of CONDEMNATION** will take place immediately after the thousand years are over (Rev. 20:5)

and is **for unbelievers only**. This is also referred to as "The Great White Throne Judgment" (see Rev. 20:11). They will then be **judged on the basis of their WORKS** and their **WORKS will NOT be enough to save them**. Because they have REJECTED CHRIST and His atonement, they must bear their own punishment for their sins, and they will be thrown into the lake of fire (also called "The Second Death" - see Rev. 20:12-14, Rev. 21:8). The Anti-Christ and his false prophet are the first ones to be thrown in the Lake of Fire, and they are the only ones thrown into it BEFORE the Millennium (see Rev. 19:20). Interesting note: **they are still there AFTER the 1,000 years** are finished. They are NOT consumed in the fire, but are still conscious!

- **Romans 2:16** "In the **DAY** when God will **JUDGE** the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my gospel."
- **Acts 17:31** "Because He has appointed a **DAY** on which He will **JUDGE** the **world** in righteousness by the Man (Jesus) whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead."
- **Revelation 20:6 & 10** "Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first **RESURRECTION**. Over such the second DEATH has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a THOUSAND years." "And the DEVIL, who deceived them, was **cast into the LAKE of FIRE** and brimstone where the beast (Anti-Christ) and the false prophet ARE, and **they will be TORMENTED day and night FOREVER and ever.**"
- **Revelation 11:1** "The nations were angry, and **Your wrath** has come, and **the TIME of the dead, that they should be JUDGED**, and that You should **REWARD Your servants** the prophets and the saints, and those who fear Your name, small and great, and should destroy those who destroy the earth."
- **Revelation 20:11-15** "Then I saw a **great white THRONE** and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and **books were opened**. And another book was opened, which is **the Book of Life**. And the dead were **judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books**. The sea gave up the dead [*bodies*] who were in it, and Death (the grave) and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were JUDGED, each one according to his works. Then death and Hades were cast into the Lake of Fire. This is the second death. And anyone who was NOT found written in the BOOK of LIFE was cast into the LAKE of FIRE."
- **II Thessalonians 2:12** "That they all may **be condemned** (judged) who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness."
- **Psalms 1:4-5** "The ungodly are not so, but are like the chaff which the wind drives away. Therefore the ungodly **shall not stand in the judgment**, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous."

**Definition: "The UNGODLY shall not STAND in the JUDGMENT"** - At first glance, it sounds like the ungodly will not be judged. But actually, it says they will not STAND in the judgment, meaning they will be swept away (like chaff, see Psalm 1:4) and thrown into the lake of fire. The congregation of the righteous will STAND before God, because God is able to make us stand (Romans 14:4).

**Definition: "They were JUDGED, each one according to his WORKS"** - At first glance, this might seem like there is a chance for some people to be saved by their good works. However, the Bible says there is only one kind of work that a spiritually dead person can do, and that is DEAD WORKS. Dead works are **religious works** or **good deeds** done in the **power of the flesh**, and a person who is operating in their FLESH, and not in FAITH and the power of the Holy Spirit, **CANNOT** do ANYTHING that will be pleasing to God (Rom. 8:8). Before we are born again by faith in Jesus Christ, we are all DEAD in our sins, and **ALL our works are DEAD works**. This is why there is no salvation apart from Jesus Christ, because it is NOT the keeping of laws, ordinances, rules, commandments, or ANY OUTWARD

CONDUCT that makes a person RIGHTEOUS. There must be **an INWARD CHANGE, a NEW BIRTH, a CREATION by GOD** of a completely NEW PERSON, for someone to become alive spiritually. You must then be under the control of the Holy Spirit and cleansed by the blood of Jesus in order to produce any works that will be considered GOOD by God, and you must REPENT of the DEAD WORKS you did before. (John 3:3, Ephesians 2:1-5 & 8-9).

- **Hebrews 9:14** "How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, purge (cleanse) your conscience **from DEAD works** to serve the living God?"
- **Hebrews 6:1** "Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of **repentance from DEAD WORKS** and of faith toward God."
- **Matthew 16:2** "For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will REWARD each according to his WORKS."

### **What Is the Basis for Rewards for Believers?**

- **I Corinthians 3:12-15** "Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one's work will become manifest; for the Day (of judgment) will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and **the fire will test each one's work**, of what sort it is. If anyone's WORK which he has built on it (*on the foundation of Christ*) endures, **he will RECEIVE a REWARD. If anyone's WORK is burned**, he will suffer loss; but he HIMSELF will be SAVED, yet so as through fire."
- **Matthew 3:11-12** ".....He (Jesus) will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly purge His threshing floor, and gather His wheat into the barn; but **He will BURN UP the chaff with unquenchable FIRE.**"

Obedience to God's commands is what He considers "good works," but God sees what motive is behind the works we do, and that inner motive and attitude of the heart is as important as the outward deed. Deuteronomy 28:47 says the Israelites were under the curse not only because of their disobedience, but **because they "did not serve God with joy and a glad heart"** and their attitude was wrong. Works done with wrong motives are "wood, hay, and straw" - no rewards!

- **Revelation 2:23** ".....And all the churches shall know that I am He who **searches the minds and hearts**. And I will give to each one of you according to your works."
- **Ephesians 6:6-8** "Not with eye-service, as men-pleasers, but as servants of Christ, doing **the will of God from the HEART, with GOOD WILL doing service, as to the Lord**, and not to men, knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord...."
- **Revelation 2:2-3** "**I know your works**, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil.....and you have persevered and have patience, and have **labored for My name's sake** and have not become weary."
- **Revelation 3:1b-2** ".....I know **your WORKS**, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead. Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for **I have NOT found your WORKS perfect** before God."
- **Revelation 22:12** "And behold, I am coming quickly, and **My REWARD is with Me**, to give to every one according to his work."