

Lesson 12 – God’s Court of Justice



Introduction: In our last lesson we learned that Jesus is working (ministering) for us in the heavenly sanctuary. We might call this sanctuary Jesus’ and His Father’s office or court. The ministering angels are their staff. There are many types of work carried on in the sanctuary, but one of the most important is that of judgment. Sometimes we think of judgment in negative terms, but the purpose of this judgment is to declare us “not guilty”—if possible! In this lesson we shall study the work of the judgment as carried on in the heavenly sanctuary.



1. What court summons do we all have pending? 2 Cor. 5:10 [The Further-study verse is Rom. 14:10.]

2 Cor. 5:10

- ¹⁰ For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.
- Romans 14:10, 11
- ¹⁰ But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.
- ¹¹ For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.

Answer: We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ



2. There are three parts to a court case: (1) Investigation, (2) Sentencing, and (3) Execution of the sentence. When will the investigative part of the judgment be done—before or after Jesus comes? Rev. 22:12 Matt. 16:27]

Revelation 22:12

- ¹² And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.

Matthew 16:27

- ²⁷ For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works.

[Answer: Jesus comes WITH the rewards to pronounce sentence, therefore the investigative part of the judgment must already have been done.]



3. Must we appear in person, or is there a record of our lives that will be reviewed? Rev. 20:12 [Mal. 3:16]

Revelation 20:12

¹² And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.



4. With whom does this investigation of people's LIFE-RECORD begin? 1 Peter 4:17

1 Peter 4:17

¹⁷ For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?

[Ans: With the professed followers of God. Daniel 7:22 states: "The Ancient of Days came, and a judgment was made in favor of the saints of the Most High" (NKJV). And the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom.]



5. Though no longer permitted in the sanctuary courtroom, who is the prosecuting attorney who accuses God's people? Rev. 12:9, 10 [Job 1:8-11]

Revelation 12:9, 10

- *⁹ And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.*
- *¹⁰ And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.*

Answer: The Dragon, that old Serpent, called the Devil and Satan



6 . Who is the defense attorney who serves as our advocate? 1 John 2:1

[Rom. 8:33, 34]

1 John 2:1

- ¹ My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:

Romans 8:33, 34

- ³³ Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth.
- ³⁴ Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

[Ans. The Man Jesus Christ]



7. What will happen to the record of the sins of God's people who were converted and who repented of their sins? Acts 3:19 [1 John 1:9]

Acts 3:19

¹⁹ Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord.

1 John 1:9

- ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. .

Answer: They were blotted out!



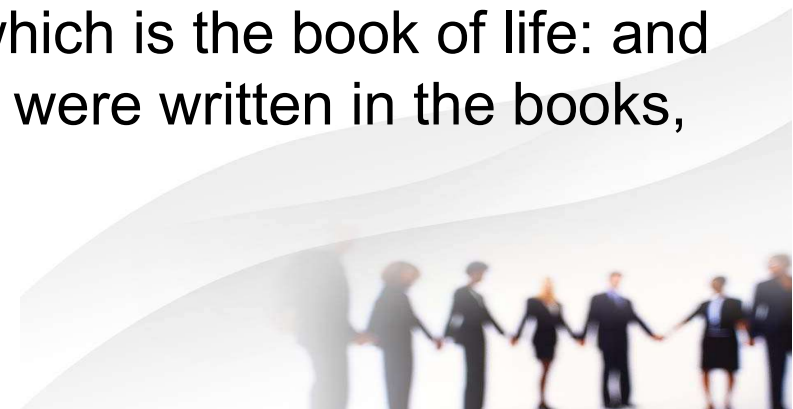
8. There are various books of record in heaven. What is the name of the register that records the names of those who have accepted Jesus as their Savior and Advocate? Rev. 21:27 [Phil. 4:3; Rev. 13:8; 20:12; 22:19]

Revelation 21:27

- ²⁷ And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Revelation 20:12

- ¹² And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.



9. What will happen to those who were once “saved” and registered in this book of life, but who continue to cherish sin? Ex.32:31-33 [Rev. 3:5; Eze. 18:21-24; 33:11-16]

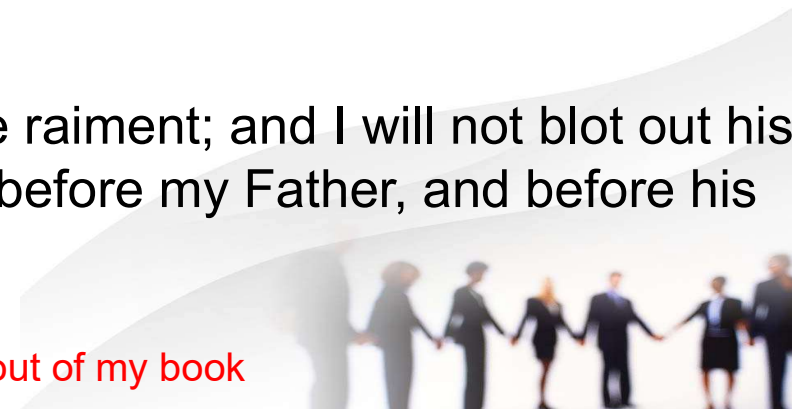
Exodus 32:31-33

- ³¹ And Moses returned unto the LORD, and said, Oh, this people have sinned a great sin, and have made them gods of gold.
- ³² Yet now, if thou wilt forgive their sin--; and if not, blot me, I pray thee, out of thy book which thou hast written.
- ³³ And the LORD said unto Moses, Whosoever hath sinned against me, him will I blot out of my book.

Revelation 3:5

⁵ He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.

Answer: Whosoever continue in their sins against God, him will I blot out of my book



10. Will all who profess that Jesus is their Savior, and who claim to be saved, ultimately be saved? Matt. 7:21-23 [2 Thess. 2:9-12]

Matthew 7:21-23

- ²¹ Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.
- ²² Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?
- ²³ And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.



**11. Will we be judged by our religious profession or by some other means?
Eccl. 12:13, 14 [James 2:12]**

Eccl. 12: 13,14

- ¹³ Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.
- ¹⁴ For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.

James 2:12

- ¹² So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty.

Answer: By the law of God



12. Although we are saved by grace through faith alone and not by works, for it is by faith that our sins are forgiven and our lives are changed, by what will we be judged? Matt. 16:27 [Rev. 22:12]

Matthew 16:27

- ²⁷ For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works.

Revelation 22:12

¹² And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.

[Answer: Our works show our love for Him. As a result, we will keep God's law.]



13. How do our works reveal our faith? Matt. 7:16-20 [James 2:17]

Matthew 7:16-20

- ¹⁶ Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?
- ¹⁷ Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit.
- ¹⁸ A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.
- ¹⁹ Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.
- ²⁰ Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.

James 2:17

- ¹⁷ Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.

Answer: Ye shall know them by their fruits. Faith without works is dead.



14. When God showed Daniel the future of the earth (Lesson 7), He depicted the rise of Babylon, Persia, Greece, and Rome by four symbolic beasts; and then He used ten horns to depict the splintering of the Roman Empire into European fragments. What did Daniel see happening in the heavenly sanctuary, where God's throne is, sometime after the division of Rome into the European nations? Dan. 7:9, 10 [Rev. 14:6, 7]

Daniel 7:9, 10

- ⁹ I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne was like the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire.
- ¹⁰ A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened.

Revelation 14:6, 7

- ⁶ And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people,
- ⁷ Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.

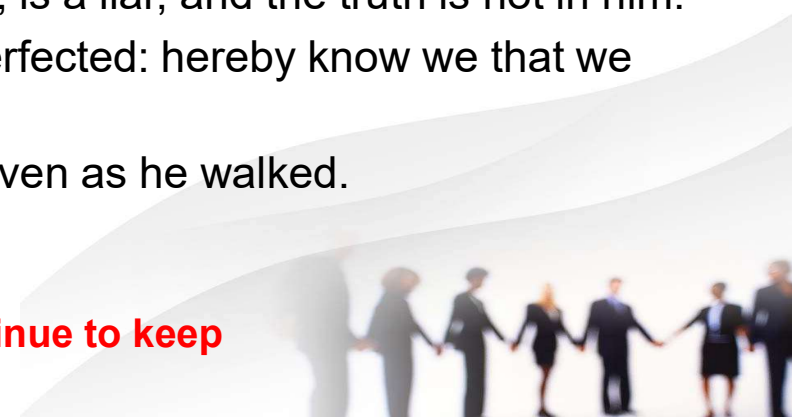


15. Jesus offers to be our advocate in this court of justice, but He does not plead everyone's case. Jesus said He had never "known" (never represented or been the advocate of) those who called Him "Lord" in Matthew 7:21-23. How can we make sure that He will be our advocate and thus win our case, in the judgment? 1 John 2:1-6 [John 15:10; Prov. 28:9]

1 John 2:1-6

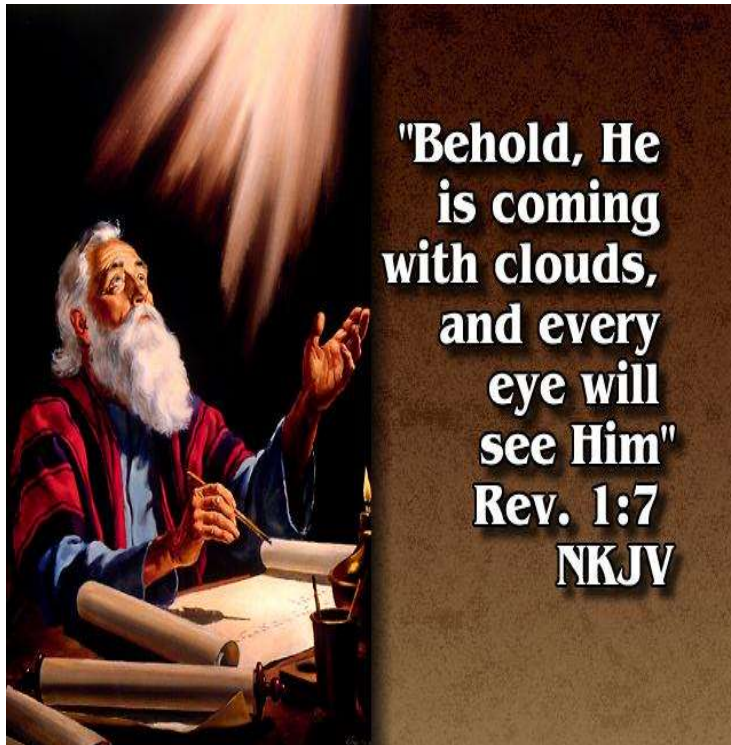
- My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:
- ² And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.
- ³ And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.
- ⁴ He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.
- ⁵ But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.
- ⁶ He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.

Answer: If we confess our sins and turn away from them and continue to keep His commandments, He will be our Advocate in the courtroom



What is the crowning purpose of Jesus' return? John 14:2,3

- To take His children home



- **Commitment:** The judgment in the heavenly sanctuary has eternal consequences for every one of us. Do you desire to have Jesus as your advocate in this judgment? Will you continue to learn from Him and to walk in the light that He is revealing to you so that you may have the assurance of eternal life in Him?

