

A Study of Jesus Christ

It is proper to review the benefits of Christ sitting at the right hand of the Father after His ascension, before continuing with the study of His return to judge the world.

While at the right hand of the Father, Christ intercedes for us, through His Spirit, with unspeakable groanings, since we don't know how to pray. (Rom 8:26).

By the same Spirit and His Word, He gathers, governs and preserves the church, defends her against all her enemies by rejecting and destruction of all false doctrines and hypocrites within her midst.

By keeping His body, the church, pure He glorifies her and removes all her infirmities.

It stands to reason that Christ rules his church through the ministry of His Word and His Spirit. To rule through the ministry of His Word, He must preserve His ministry and give the church peace and conditions in which she can be sanctified and be productive.

So, His Word is effectual and productive in the sanctification and growth of the church converting the elect and protecting her from false doctrines and infiltrations.

Ultimately the visible church will disappear and the elect will be raised up from the dead at the right time, appearing as the universal, true church assembled before creation when the Father wrote their names into the book of life. All the elect will be delivered from their infirmities; all the elect will be glorified and all their tears will be wiped from their eye. They will be placed on His throne as kings, prophets and priests unto His Father. (Acts 2:33; Eph. 4:7 - 12; Ps. 110:1-2; John 10:27 - 30; Rev 19:11-16)

To obtain all this, Christ will grant unto us every good; He will grant unto us the Holy Spirit, so that we will be quickened and glorified. He will bestow upon us a true knowledge of God, faith, repentance, and every Christian virtue.

Because we have such a High Priest, who sits at the right hand of the Father, there is no reason that we should ever doubt our

salvation, for Christ will preserve it for us and, at the right time, bestow it upon every one of us.

John 10:28 – 30 I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. I and the Father are one.

John 17:24 Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.

The final degree of glorification – “He will judge the living and the dead.”

In all my distress and persecution I turn my eyes to the heavens and confidently await as judge the very One who has already stood trial in my place before God and so has removed the whole curse from me.³

Luk 21:28 "But when these things begin to take place, straighten up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

Rom 8:22-25 For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now. ²³And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body. ²⁴For in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for who hopes for what he already sees? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we wait eagerly for it.

Php 3:20, 21 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; ²¹who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.

Tit 2:11-14 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, ¹²instructing us to deny ungodliness and

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worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, ¹³looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, ¹⁴who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.

He will condemn all his enemies and mine to everlasting punishment: but me and all his chosen ones he will take along with him into the joy and the glory of heaven.⁴

Mat 25:31-46 "But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne.

³²"All the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats; ³³and He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left.

³⁴"Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. ³⁵'For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in; ³⁶naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me.' ³⁷"Then the righteous will answer Him, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry, and feed You, or thirsty, and give You something to drink? ³⁸'And when did we see You a stranger, and invite You in, or naked, and clothe You? ³⁹'When did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?'

⁴⁰"The King will answer and say to them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.'

⁴¹"Then He will also say to those on His left, 'Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels; ⁴²for I was hungry, and you gave Me nothing to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me nothing to drink; ⁴³I was a stranger, and you did not invite Me in; naked, and you did not clothe Me; sick, and in prison, and you did not visit Me.'

⁴⁴"Then they themselves also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry, or thirsty, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not take care of You?' ⁴⁵"Then He will answer them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.' ⁴⁶"These will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

2Th 1:6-10 For after all it is only just for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you, ⁷and to give relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, ⁸dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. ⁹These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, ¹⁰when He comes to be glorified in His saints on that day, and to be marveled at among all who have believed--for our testimony to you was believed.

When we confess that Christ shall return to judge the living and the dead, we are actually looking at two very closely related events, which are Christ's return and the final judgment. In this study we will look at them together since they are so closely intertwined and related in many respects as to their objectives and benefits.

The following thirteen points will clarify issues such as the purpose of Christ's return and the judgment; and the benefits and comforts they hold for us.

- I. Will there be a future judgment?
- II. What is this final judgment?
- III. Who will the judge be?
- IV. From where will the judge come?
- V. In which manner will he come?
- VI. What will the subjects of his judgment be?
- VII. What will the character of the sentence and the execution of this judgment be?
- VIII. What are the objects of his judgment?

- IX. When will it take place?
- X. What are the reasons why we should expect it?
- XI. Why is the time of the final judgment unknown?
- XII. Why is it deferred?
- XIII. May we desire it and look forward to it?

I. Will there be a future judgment?

The Scriptures teach us that in the last days there will be scoffers who will say that Christ's return is only a fable.

They say 2Pe 3:4-12 "...Where is the promise of His coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation." ⁵For when they maintain this, it escapes their notice that by the word of God the heavens existed long ago and the earth was formed out of water and by water, ⁶through which the world at that time was destroyed, being flooded with water. ⁷But by His word the present heavens and earth are being reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men. ⁸But do not let this one fact escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day. ⁹The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance. ¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up. ¹¹Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, ¹²looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat!

The certainty of this doctrine depends solely upon the teachings of Scripture as embodied in the promises of God. Since man has

lost the ability to know the righteousness, goodness and truth of God, it cannot be left to man to conclude whether there will be any future judgment, or when it will be, much less the circumstances in which it will be concluded.

We are therefore, forced to accept the truth of this doctrine entirely upon the testimony of Scripture.

Well, if Scripture is then our only testimony about such an important event, let's look at Scripture for this proof:

We can divide the testimony of Scripture about the return and judgment of Christ into six distinct categories:

1. Scripture's specific declarations about the matter.
2. God's decree that it would happen.
3. God's omnipotence.
4. God's justice.
5. The reason God created man.
6. God's glory.

1. Scripture's specific declarations about the matter.

As we have said many times in the past, these things are not inventions of the New Testament, but they have been foretold and prophesied for many thousands of years, and as all prophecies about things that have happened have been fulfilled, so these prophecies will be fulfilled.

The Old and New Testaments clearly and explicitly teach the doctrine of a future judgment. And if there will be a future judgment, it is inevitable that Christ will return to render that judgment.

Dan 7:9 - 14 I kept looking Until thrones were set up, And the Ancient of Days took His seat; His vesture was like white snow And the hair of His head like pure wool. His throne was ablaze with flames, Its wheels were a burning fire. 10A river of fire was flowing And coming out from before Him; Thousands upon thousands were attending Him, And myriads upon myriads were standing before Him; The court sat, And the books were opened.

11Then I kept looking because of the sound of the boastful words which the horn was speaking; I kept looking until the beast was slain, and its body was destroyed and given to the burning fire. 12As for the rest of the beasts, their dominion was taken away, but an extension of life was granted to them for an appointed period of time. 13I kept looking in the night visions, And behold, with the clouds of heaven One like a Son of Man was coming, And He came up to the Ancient of Days And was presented before Him. 14And to Him was given dominion, Glory and a kingdom, That all the peoples, nations and men of every language Might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion Which will not pass away; And His kingdom is one Which will not be destroyed.

Jude 1: 14 – 25 It was also about these men that Enoch, in the seventh generation from Adam, prophesied, saying, "Behold, the Lord came with many thousands of His holy ones, ¹⁵to execute judgment upon all, and to convict all the ungodly of all their ungodly deeds which they have done in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him."

¹⁶These are grumblers, finding fault, following after their own lusts; they speak arrogantly, flattering people for the sake of gaining an advantage. ¹⁷But you, beloved, ought to remember the words that were spoken beforehand by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁸that they were saying to you, "In the last time there will be mockers, following after their own ungodly lusts." ¹⁹These are the ones who cause divisions, worldly-minded, devoid of the Spirit.

²⁰But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, ²¹keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting anxiously for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life. ²²And have mercy on some, who are doubting; ²³save others, snatching them out of the fire; and on some have mercy with fear, hating even the garment polluted by the flesh.

²⁴Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great

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joy, ²⁵to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

Acts 17: 30, 31 Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent, ³¹because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead.

1Th 4: 16, 17 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord.

Heb 9: 27, 28 And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment, ²⁸so Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time for salvation without reference to sin, to those who eagerly await Him.

Rev 20: 11, 12 Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them. ¹²And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds.