

Future Judgments John 5:28-29; Heb 9:27

Preliminary thoughts:

- Contemplating judgment is not a pleasant thought and, therefore, not a popular concept
 - We deny it
 - We ignore it
- The fact remains, however, that all people will face a judgment day before a Holy and Righteous God

Psalms 96:13 Before the LORD: for he cometh, for he cometh to judge **the earth**: he shall judge **the world** with righteousness, and the people with his truth.

Acts 17:31 Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge **the world** in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto **all men**, in that he hath raised him from the dead.

Hebrews 9:27 And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but **after this the judgment**:

Romans 14:11-12; Jude 14-15

- God's judgment throughout history has been multifaceted and ongoing
 - The curses in the garden of Eden after the Fall
 - The destruction of the world with a global flood
 - The confounding of languages at the Tower of Babel
 - The destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah
 - Judgments brought upon Israel and Judah for disobedience
 - God's judgments brought upon wicked nations and societies throughout history (biblical and secular)
 - Judgment on Christians in the form of chastisement (1 Cor. 11:31-32; Heb. 12:5-11)
- So too, there are multiple future judgments or stages – not just one final judgment

These are the basic future judgments revealed in Scripture as it relates to the end times:

I. The Judgment Seat of Christ (the Bema seat)

2 Corinthians 5:10 For we must all appear before the **judgment seat (βηματος)** 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 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 (βηματι)** of Christ.

- The Subjects of the bema of Christ: only believers (likely church age only?) – **2 Cor. 5; Rom. 14**
- The Timing: immediately following the rapture of the church – **1 Cor. 15:51-52; 1 Thess. 4:13-18 (ff: 2 Cor. 5:1-9)**
- The Location the bema of Christ: in heaven
- The Results of the bema of Christ: rewards or loss of rewards – **2 Cor. 5:10; 1 Cor. 3:11-15**

II. The Resurrection (and Judgment?) of OT/tribulation saints

Revelation 20:4-5 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the **souls of them that were beheaded** for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they **lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years**. (5) But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. **This is the first resurrection.**

Daniel 12:1-3 And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the **children of thy people**: 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. (2) And **many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life**, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. (3) And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.

- The Subjects of judgment: Tribulation saints, possibly OT saints are included
- The Timing of judgment: following the Tribulation, but before the Millennium – **Rev. 20:1-6**
- The Location of judgment: uncertain, probably in heaven
- The Results of judgment: authority to rule and reign with Christ on the earth – **Rev. 20:4, 6**

III. The Judgment of Israel (the nation)

Ezekiel 20:33-38 As I live, saith the Lord GOD, surely with a mighty hand, and with a stretched out arm, and with fury poured out, will I rule over you: (34) And I will **bring you out from the people**, and will **gather you out of the countries** wherein ye are scattered, with a mighty hand, and with a stretched out arm, and with fury poured out. (35) And I will bring you into the wilderness of the people, and there will I plead with you face to face. (36) Like as I pleaded with your fathers in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, so will I plead with you, saith the Lord GOD. (37) And I will cause you to pass under the rod, and I will **bring you into the bond of the covenant**: (38) And I will **purge out from among you the rebels**, and them that **transgress against me**: I will bring them forth out of the country where they sojourn, and they **shall not enter into the land of Israel**: and ye shall know that I am the LORD.

Matthew 25:1-30

- The Subjects of judgment: living Israelite survivors of the Tribulation re-gathered from all the nations
- The Timing of judgment: following the Tribulation and 2nd Advent, but before the Millennium – **Matt. 24:4-31**
- The Location of judgment: on earth, likely in/around Jerusalem – **Zech. 14:4, 9; Ez. 20:34-36**
- The Results of judgment:
 - unsaved Israel will be “purged” (Ez. 20:37-38) and cast into “outer darkness” (Matt. 25:31);
 - saved Israel will enter the earthly Millennial Kingdom (Ez. 20:37; Rom. 11:25-27)

IV. The Judgment of the nations (the Gentiles; the sheep/goats)

Joel 3:1-3 For, behold, in those days, and in that time, when I shall bring again the captivity of Judah and Jerusalem, (2) I will also **gather all nations**, and will bring them down into the valley of Jehoshaphat, and will plead with them **there for my people** and for **my heritage Israel**, whom **they have scattered among the nations, and parted my land**. (3) And they have **cast lots for my people**; and have given a boy for an harlot, and sold a girl for wine, that they might drink.

Matthew 25:31-46 (often referred to as the sheep and goats judgment)

- The Subjects of judgment: living Gentile survivors of the Tribulation
- The Timing of judgment: follows the Tribulation, 2nd Advent, and restoration of Israel, but before the Millennium
- The Location of judgment: on earth, the valley of Jehoshaphat (exact location is uncertain, see Zech. 14:4)

- The Results of judgment:
 - saved Gentiles enter into the Kingdom (Matt. 25:34; Isaiah 55:5; Daniel 7:14; Micah 4:1-5);
 - unsaved Gentiles are “cursed into everlasting fire” (Matt. 25:41)

V. The Judgment of Satan and the fallen angels

Revelation 20:10 And the **devil** that deceived them was cast into the **lake of fire and brimstone**, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be **tormented day and night for ever and ever**.

Jude 1:6 And the **angels** which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath **reserved in everlasting chains under darkness** unto the **judgment of the great day**.

2 Peter 2:4 For if God spared not the **angels that sinned**, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into **chains of darkness**, to be **reserved unto judgment**;

1 Corinthians 6:3 Know ye not that **we shall judge angels**? how much more things that pertain to this life?

- The Subjects of judgment: Satan and his demons
- The Timing of judgment: takes place in three phases/stages...
 - Satan and his angels are cast out of heaven to the earth at the midpoint of the Tribulation (Rev. 12:7-13) – no longer able to accuse the brethren
 - Satan and his angels are bound in the bottomless pit at the end of the Tribulation and prior to the Millennium (Rev. 20:1-3) – no longer able to deceive the nations for 1,000 years
 - Satan and his angels are released, lead a final revolt, and are cast into the Lake of Fire at the end of the Millennium (Rev. 20: 7-10) – no longer able to revolt against God’s rule and plan for the ages
- The Location of judgment: uncertain, possibly heaven/spiritual realm, final judgment possibly on earth
- The Results of judgment: tormented day and night forever and ever

VI. The Great White Throne Judgment

Revelation 20:11-15 And I saw a **great white throne**, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. (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. (13) And the **sea gave up the dead** which were in it; and **death and hell delivered up the dead** which were in them: and **they were judged** every man according to their works. (14) And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is **the second death**. (15) And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

John 5:28-29 Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, (29) And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and **they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation**.

- The Subjects of judgment: all unbelieving people from all nations throughout history
- The Timing of judgment: follows the Millennium and judgment of Satan prior to the eternal state (vs. 5, 12-13)
- The Location of judgment: somewhere between heaven and earth? (vs. 11)
- The Results of judgment: cast into the Lake of Fire

J. Dwight Pentecost concludes,

“The second advent is a climactic event in the program of God. It is climactic in the program in dealing with evil in that Satan will be bound and righteousness will be manifested. It is climactic in the program of judgment in that every living enemy of God’s program is judged. It is climactic for the program for the earth in that the earth can rejoice in the lifting of the curse. It is climactic in the program of resurrection in that all the righteous are raised to share His glory. It is climactic in the program to manifest sovereignty in that the Son is manifested in glory in His kingdom. Such an event can not be minimized nor deleted from its rightful place in God’s program of the ages.”
(Things to Come, p. 426)