

FOUNDATIONS

LESSON 74: THE FINAL JUDGMENT

Main Idea: *Jesus Christ will righteously judge all people, fixing their eternal destiny based on whether they confess Him as Lord and Savior, and determining their reward or punishment based on their deeds.*

I. Principles for Interpreting End-Times Passages

- A. Do not shy away, but approach in humility, and be comfortable with lack of certainty, especially in details (2 Pet. 1:21; Rev. 1:3; Rev. 22:6-7)
- B. Interpret in light of the full counsel of Scripture.
- C. Be grateful!

II. Organization of the Final Judgment

- A. The Timing
 - 1. Will occur in the future on a day that God has fixed (Acts 17:30-31; Heb. 9:27; Rev. 20:11)
 - 2. Will occur after the millennium and Satan's defeat, and before the eternal state (Rev. 20:1-21:27)
 - 3. One judgment or multiple judgments? (Matt. 25:31-46; 2 Cor. 5:10-11; Rev. 20)
- B. The Summons
 - 1. All people will be called forth and will stand before God in judgment (Rom. 14:10-12; 1 Pet. 4:5)
 - 2. Those who have died will be resurrected to judgment (Matt. 25:31-32; Mark 9:47-48; John 5:25-29; James 5:1-3; Rev. 20:13)
- C. The Judge(s)
 - 1. Jesus Christ will judge (Matt. 25:31-33; John 5:22, 26-27; Acts 10:42; Acts 17:30-31; 2 Cor. 5:10; 2 Tim. 4:1; Rev. 1:18)
 - 2. Believers have a role to play (Matt. 19:28; Luke 22:28-30; 1 Cor. 6:2-3; Rev. 20:4)
- D. The Witnesses (Matt. 6:4, 6, 18; Matt. 10:32-33; Matt. 12:41-42; Luke 12:8-9; John 5:45-46; Rom. 2:15; 1 Cor. 4:5; James 5:1-5; Rev. 3:5)
- E. The Accuser? (Rev. 20:10-11)

III. Execution of the Final Judgment

- A. Two sets of determinations: eternal state, and degree of reward/punishment (Dan. 7:9-10; Rev. 20:11-15)
- B. Judgment for Believers
 - 1. Eternity: Those whose names are written in the book of life will receive eternal life (Matt. 13:24-30, 36-43, 47-50; Matt. 20:1-16; Matt. 25:31-40; Luke 10:20; Rom. 6:23; Eph. 1:11-14; Phil. 4:3; Heb. 9:15; 1 Pet. 1:3-5; 1 John 2:25; 1 John 5:11-13; Rev. 3:5; Rev. 17:8; Rev. 20:12, 15)

FOUNDATIONS

- a. Eternal life is based on faith in Christ alone (John 3:16, 36; John 5:24; John 6:40, 47; John 11:25; Rom. 3:21-26; Rom. 10:9-10; Eph. 2:8-9; Titus 3:4-7; 1 John 5:11-13)
 - b. Eternal life is not based on religiosity or works (Matt. 7:21-23; John 5:39-40; Gal. 3:1-9)
 2. Reward: Believers will receive a reward based on a comprehensive review of their deeds (Matt. 6:4, 6, 18; Matt. 12:36-37; Matt. 16:27; Rom. 10:12; 2 Cor. 5:10; 1 Tim. 5:25; Rev. 11:18)
 - a. Believers' sins are forgiven, so there is no condemnation (Ps. 32:1-2; Heb. 8:12; Rom. 4:6-8; Rom. 8:1, 33-34)
 - b. Rewards will exist for Gospel ministry (1 Cor. 3:8, 14-15; Heb. 13:17; James 3:1); for suffering (Matt. 5:12; Luke 6:22-23; 2 Cor. 4:17); for faithfulness (Matt. 25:14-30; Luke 19:11-27); and for other good works (Matt. 10:41-42; Luke 6:35; Luke 14:13-14; 1 Tim. 6:18-19; Heb. 10:34-36).
 - c. The nature of the reward is *at least* being in the presence of God in the eternal kingdom; there may even be other treasures for enjoyment in the kingdom too (Matt. 6:19-20; Matt. 20:20-23; Matt. 25:14-30; 1 Cor. 4:5; 2 Tim. 4:8; Rev. 21:1-22:5)
 - d. Rewards are distributed justly and graciously, not equally (Matt. 5:12; Matt. 10:40-42; Matt. 11:11; Matt. 19:30; Matt. 25:28-29; Luke 6:23, 35; Luke 17:7-10; Luke 19:24-26; 1 Cor. 3:8-15; 2 Cor. 5:10; Rev. 22:12)
- C. Judgment for Unbelievers
1. Eternity: Those whose names are not written in the book of life are thrown into hell, which is eternal conscious torment away from God's presence in fiery darkness (Isa. 66:24; Matt. 13:47-50; Matt. 18:8; Matt. 25:41, 46; Mark 9:47-48; 2 Thess. 1:9; James 2:10-11; Jude 7, 13; Rev. 14:11; Rev. 20:15)
 - a. Because unbelievers did not trust in Christ, they are judged and condemned based on works, and will not be found righteous (Rom. 2:12; Rom. 3:23; Gal. 2:15-16; Gal. 3:10)
 - b. God's judgment is piercing and comprehensive (Ps. 130:3; Matt. 12:36-37; Luke 12:2-3; 1 Cor. 4:5; Eph. 5:11-14; Rom. 2:16; Heb. 4:12-13)
 - c. All people are without excuse (Rom. 1:18-23; Rom. 2:12-16)
 2. Punishment: The degree of punishment varies to some degree, but is always separation from God and eternal conscious torment (Matt. 11:20-24; Matt. 16:27; Matt. 18:6; Matt. 25:30; Matt. 26:24; Mark 9:42; Mark 14:21; Luke 10:12-14; Luke 12:47-48; Luke 17:2; 2 Cor. 11:15; Heb. 10:29; James 3:1; 2 Pet. 2:3, 17; Jude 13; Rev. 6:15-17; Rev. 20:15; Rev. 22:12)
- D. Judgment and Defeat of Satan, the Beast, the False Prophet, Fallen Angels, and Death (Ps. 37:12-13; 2 Pet. 2:4; 1 Cor. 15:54-57; Jude 6-7; Rev. 19:20; Rev. 20:10, 14)

IV. Purposes of the Final Judgment

- A. The final judgment will glorify God (Rom. 3:26; 2 Thess. 1:5-10; Rev. 19:1-3)
- B. The final judgment will exalt Jesus Christ (John 5:22-23; Phil. 2:9-11)
- C. The final judgment will usher in the eternal state (Rev. 21:1-22:5)