



God's judgments, The power of His love

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For **no**
other
foundation
can
anyone
lay than *that*
which *is*
laid, **which**
is
Jesus
Christ.



"AS I LIVE,"
SAYS THE LORD,
"EVERY KNEE SHALL BOW TO ME,
AND EVERY TONGUE
SHALL CONFESS TO GOD."

**OUR
GOD
REIGNS**

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Dear friends,

Generally we don't like the words judgment or judging. Often negative thoughts arising within us regarding this topic. I have good news for you. About The One Who is judging is written: *For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with **justice** and **righteousness** from that time forward, even forever (Isaiah 9:6-7).* In the Greek Bible the same word has been used for judging and justice. The judging of our God is fairly and just and is meant to get as many humans on board! That is really love, endless love, you know "**Amazing grace**" beyond every human imagination.

1. God's intentions.

Besides the work of creation and sending His beloved Son, God has done no work larger and more important than His judgments. Without judging God's purpose for the creation cannot be achieved. You could say that God's plan in His judgments are constructive and not destructive. **God's judgments guaranties the absence of sin and evil on the new heaven and earth.** Later in this study we will see that judgment is an ongoing process with this intension: *The Lord isn't really being slow about his promise, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. **He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent** (2 Peter 3:9).* These intentions are also shown in next verse: *And Jesus said, "For judgment I have come into this world, **that those who do not see may see** (John 9:39)." The word "see" is explained in the Greek Bible: *to turn the eyes to anything, to discover by use, to turn the thoughts or direct the mind to a thing, to consider, contemplate, to look at, to weigh carefully, examine,* which is for sure a choice (a response) from our side.*

2. Who is judging?

For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son (John 5:22). This is clear, **Jesus is judging.** Please come with me inside the book of Revelation regarding this judging.

¹ *And I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals.* ² *Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?"* ³ *And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll, or to look at it.* ⁴ *So I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or to look at it.* ⁵ *But one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals." (Revelation 5:1-5).* Judgment has to be done, but no one in heaven or on earth is able to pay the price, except for the blood of the Lamb. Judgment is often related to fear, but Hallelujah, with the opening of the scroll the judgment of the earth has been started 2000 years ago, Jesus is leading, and He will judge fairly! Another remarkable thing: the representative of the church on earth (one of the elders) is the one who recognise our mediator in heaven.

⁶ *And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth (Revelation 5:6).* Amazing he! John is seeing Jesus (the Lamb) standing between the throne (Father) and the 4 living beings and the 24 elders (the church). **Have a look at our mediator Jesus Christ between us and the Father to set things right!** By the way: because the Lamb is standing here as mediator between the Father and both the 24 elders and 4 living beings the 4 living beings are probably humans and not angels because angels don't need a mediator.

⁷ *Then He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne (Revelation 5:7).* So, the Father has prepared the judgement as written in the scroll and Jesus is taking the scroll out of the Father's hands to start with the judging. The Father is holding the scroll (judgment) in His right hand and in Revelation 1:16 is written that the Son of Man (Jesus) is holding the seven stars (angels of the seven churches) in His right hand. Lucky us that Jesus is holding the church in His right hand and not the Father, otherwise the judgment of the Father should have come on us. Thank You Father for sending Your Son, thank You Jesus for your blood and being our mediator!! **Our judgment came upon our Mighty Saviour, Jesus the Christ and at the same time He is our Judge.** Interesting combination, isn't it? *For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood. This sacrifice shows that God was being fair when he held back and did not punish those who sinned in times past,²⁶ for he was looking ahead and including them in what he would do in this present time. God did this to demonstrate his righteousness, for he himself is fair and just, and he declares sinners to be right in his sight when they believe in Jesus. (Romans 3:25-26).*

So, Jesus is judge, but not alone: *Do you not know that **the saints will judge the world?** And if **the world will be judged by you**, are you unworthy to judge the smallest matters? (1 Corinthians 6:2).* Further in this study we will study our role in the judgment process more precisely, which is preaching of the gospel of the Kingdom in all the world as a witness to all nations (Matthew 24:13). **Most of us do believe that our role in the judgment is only for the final judgment, however this is a huge deception of Satan. Our role is in the here and now by preaching the gospel of the Kingdom!**

Gods (the Father's) anger (wrath) has been fully satisfied, 2000 years ago, by the mighty cross of Christ. That was the biggest deal in history. If you emphasize Gods anger in the New Testament period towards humans you make the 100% work of Jesus a lie!

3. Judgment requirements.

Jesus, who is judging on behalf of the Father continues in John 5 about His way of judging: *I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and **My judgment is righteous**, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me (John 5:30).* Jesus is judging righteous according to the will of the Father and the will of the Father is: **He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent (2 Peter 3:9).** *And I heard another from the altar saying, even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are Your judgments (Revelation 16:7).*

⁴⁶ *I have come as a light into the world, that **whoever believes in Me should not abide in darkness.*** ⁴⁷ *And if anyone hears My words and does not believe, **I do not judge him;** for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world.* ⁴⁸ *He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has **that which judges him—the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day** (John 12:46-48).* Amazing he our Lord, what a Gentleman! He offers light instead of darkness, and you may choose. That is real love, called judgment.

4. Timeframe of the judgment.

Well, we just learned from John 12:46-48 that **the Word**, Jesus has spoken, **the gospel of the Kingdom**, the Scripture, **will judge** those who do not receive (or accept) this message. And John confirms that this judgment will be in the last day. John is also stating here that in the meantime Jesus doesn't judge those who refuse to accept the gospel. So, the period of "the judgment" is the whole period on planet earth in which the gospel is preached, which is the whole NT period between Jesus first- and second coming. We can call this the period of God's mercy. The next verses are confirming this too:

- *And **this gospel of the kingdom** will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come (Matthew 24:14).* Again the timeframe and our role in the judgment: preaching the gospel of the Kingdom. Then the end will come.
- *And when He (the helper, the Holy Spirit) has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment (John 16:8).* When did the Holy Spirit come on all believers? At Pentecost, just after Jesus ascended to heaven. From that time **the judgment (gathering the humans for His Kingdom)** has been started. The same is applicable for next two verses:
- ⁶ *Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth—to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people—⁷ saying with a loud voice, "Fear God and give glory to Him, for **the hour of His judgment has come**; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water (Revelation 14:6-7).* With Jesus first coming the hour of His judgment has come! The angels are having an important role here of preaching the gospel and as also written: *And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other (Matthew 24:31).*
- *Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war (Revelation 19:11).* Christ on a white horse, starting with the judgments and yes, making war. It's also wartime. Satan and his demon angels and spirits have lost the battle and the eternal lake of fire is prepared for them.

My dear friends, judgment is not the final judgment day, please do not focus on that. Judgment is bringing the gospel of light to the world! This is the same as with the Kingdom of God. Don't postpone it. **The Kingdom is now, and the judgments are now. Preach the gospel of the Kingdom!**

5. Relax.

Next verses out of the scripture is making us relaxed, and looking away from our own Church dogma's concerning judgment. **This is the message and role of the Holy Spirit:** *And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:⁹ of sin, because they do not believe in Me;¹⁰ of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more;¹¹ of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged (John 16:8-11).*

- First, we Christians do not have to convict others of sin, righteousness and judgment, but the Holy Spirit will do that. And have a look at the content of His message:
- ***sin, because they do not believe in Me.*** Man, is it that simple? What a manmade theory and doctrine have we made (including myself) around sin in our own lives, within the Church, and specially in our message to the world (those who don't belong to God's Kingdom). Jesus has come to save the world and not to condemn. He loves us so much that it is a sin to miss the Kingdom of God, he wants all humans on board!
- ***righteousness, because I go to My Father.*** You know why Jesus had to leave the earth? To sit on His throne, for He established His spiritual Kingdom on earth to reign with righteousness as written: **"The world has now become the Kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign forever and ever."**¹⁷ *And they said, "We give thanks to you, Lord God, the Almighty, the one who is and who always was, for now you have assumed your great power and have begun to reign (Revelation 11:15-17).* We have a Kingdom message for this world. In Christ heaven and earth are reconciled!! More information in our study "The Kingdom of God".
- ***judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.*** Are you still with me? **Judgment, because Satan is judged when Jesus took the victory.** A guarantee of the absence of evil on the new earth. That's it. I really have to

change my own way of thinking regarding this topic and how I look towards others (and judge them).

- Last but not least: The Holy Spirit is convicting the world (those who still belong to this world). This is not mend for the Church, for we are strangers in this world and are partakers in Gods Kingdom as written: *We are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God in the spiritual Kingdom of God (Ephesians 2:19). We are the People of God, already seated "with Him in the heavenly places" (Ephesians 2:6).*

My dear friends, the Church, have a honest look with honest introspection towards our own sometimes manmade doctrines.

6. Who will be judged?

- *Therefore, as through one man's offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life (Romans 5:18). **Jesus, the Christ, our Mediator has been judged**, resulting in justification for us. Amazing he, the writer is mentioning this work of Jesus: a righteous act and a free gift. Thank you Jesus! That is real love.*
 - *Jesus predicts His death on the cross: Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out.³² **And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself.**"³³ *This He said, signifying by what death He would die (John 12:31-32). When Jesus took the victory at Calvary, **Satan was cut down to the ground**, not able to accuse us anymore. (More information in our study "Know your enemy"). Again here we see that at Calvary the judgment starts as written: Now is the judgment of this world. On another place in the Scripture: **And the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly.** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen. (Romans 16:20). Don't forget: Satan crushed under our feet, shortly (soon)! **And when He (the Holy Spirit) has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:**⁹ *of sin, because they do not believe in Me;*¹⁰ *of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more;*¹¹ *of judgment, **because the ruler of this world is judged** (John 16:8-11).***
- ***And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day** (Jude 1:6). The humans are playing an important role in this judgment as written: *Do you not know that we (Christians) shall judge angels? How much more, things that pertain to this life?* (1 Corinthians 6:3).*
 - *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.***²⁵ *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 5:24-25). I have no words, what an amazing grace, no judgment for those who accept the offer of Jesus! Are you aware of "he who hears My word". Do you love your fellow South Africans? Preach the gospel, they have to know it too!*
 - ***For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad** (2 Corinthians 5:10). This is about the judgment of our works (Christians and non Christians). John 5:24-25 is about our salvation, which is by grace. This is about our works, our loan.*
 - ***But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men** (2 Peter 3:7). Thank you Lord for judging the heavens and the earth and purifying it from evil and suffering. We look forward to that final day and in the meantime: We will built your spiritual Kingdom (heaven on earth) here on earth, in this beautiful Rainbow Nation.*

7. What will be judged?

For those who accepted Jesus as their Savior in this life is written: *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 (John 5:24)*. This is your salvation, a passport to enter the Kingdom, and this is through faith as written: *being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,²⁵ whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, **through faith**, to demonstrate His righteousness (Romans 3:24-25)*. No judgment for those here means: You are a citizen of heaven once you gave your life to Jesus in this earthly body. In that case you passed already these check-up on this side of life. Those who didn't accepted Jesus in this live as their Savior will have this final check on the final judgment day (see later in this study).

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad (2 Corinthians 5:10). This is about **the judgment of our works**. John 5:24-25 is about our salvation, which is by grace and through faith. This is about our works, our loan. **Both those who accepted Jesus as their Savior in this life and those who didn't will be judged according to their works.**

8. Our role as Christians in the judging process!

As seen earlier in this study, our role in the judging process is preaching the gospel for that is what is judging the world as written: ***the word** that I have spoken will judge him in the last day (John 12:48)*. So this is our role:

- *And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature (Mark 16:15)*.
- *And **this gospel of the kingdom** will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come (Matthew 24:14)*. The question is: are you obeying to this or delaying His second coming?
- *And I saw thrones, and **they sat on them**, and **judgment was committed to them**. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. **And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.**⁵ But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection (Revelation 20:4-5). **Don't forget, this is about you, right now!** Once (from that moment) you gave your life to Jesus you are resurrected with Him, which is the first resurrection.*
- *And He **commanded us to preach** to the people, and to testify that it is He (Jesus) who was ordained by God to **be Judge of the living and the dead** (Acts 10:42)*. Again, we have to preach about this judgment, and all will be judged according to their works. This "*living and the dead*" is about the spiritual living and dead, those who accepted Jesus in this life and those who didn't. This implicates that we have to preach also to the Christians (the living) about their (our) judgment of their works!
- *I solemnly urge you in the presence of God and Christ Jesus, **who will someday judge the living and the dead when He appears to set up His Kingdom:**² **Preach the word** of God. Be prepared, whether the time is favorable or not. Patiently correct, rebuke, and encourage your people with good teaching (2 Timothy 4:1-2). Gods judgments start when He appears to set up His Kingdom. This happened more than 2000 years ago! And what is our role? **Preach the Word!***

Most of us do believe that our role in the judgment is only for the final judgment, however this is a huge deception of Satan. Our role is in the here and now by preaching the gospel of the Kingdom!

We have seen a similar situation in the days of Noah. Noah was building the ark to prepare God's judgments. This judgment of the flood was also meant to purify the earth from sin. The Lord was waiting with the rain and waters to cover the earth until Noah was finished with his ark. In the same way the Lord is waiting for you to preach the gospel in the whole earth before He is able to come back and purify this earth from sin and evil. Are you looking forward to Jesus second coming, to the new earth and heaven? Cool! What's your contribution for the beautiful Rainbow Nation today?

At the same time: **Do not judge before the time** as written: *Therefore **judge** nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels of the hearts. Then each one's praise will come from God (1 Corinthians 4:5).* The Lord isn't judging us too in the meantime, so do we. Preach the gospel, that will bring judgment, and don't forget, you (who surrendered already to Jesus) will also be judged according to your works. There will be no difference in judgment. This is also confirmed in following verses: ¹² *So then each of us shall give account of himself to God.* ¹³ *Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather resolve this, not to put a stumbling block or a cause to fall in our brother's way (Romans 14:12-13).* **This is the law of love!**

9. An offer of salvation for formerly disobedient people.

Once you start studying the Scripture you will be amazed every time about new things you didn't know, and about things you thought you did understand, however you are changing your opinion. Always study with an open mind and ask the Holy Spirit for guidance. Next topic is such a topic. Let the adventure begin!

Where were those who died in the Old Testament and didn't accept Jesus as the coming Messiah, after Jesus took the victory 2000 years ago? They were waiting on the dark side of the Hades as written: ²³ *And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.* ²⁴ *"Then he cried and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.'* ²⁵ *But Abraham said, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are tormented.* ²⁶ *And besides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot, nor can those from there pass to us.'* (Luke 16:23-26).

Jesus went into the Hades during His first coming as written: ¹⁸ *For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit,* ¹⁹ *by whom also He went and preached to the spirits in prison (Hades),* ²⁰ ***who formerly were disobedient***, when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water (1 Peter 3:18-20) and ⁷ *But to each one of us **grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift.*** ⁸ *Therefore He says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive (out of the Hades), and gave gifts to men."* ⁹ *(Now this, "He ascended"—what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? ¹⁰ He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.) (Ephesians 4:7-10)* and ⁸ *You have ascended on high, You have led captivity captive; You have received gifts among men, **even from the rebellious**, That the LORD God might dwell there (Psalm 68:18).* Jesus went into the Hades, **preached there to those who formerly were disobedient / rebellious**, gave / received gifts to / from them (*grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift*, which is amazing grace), which means that He led captives out of the Hades along with Him when He ascended on high.

This is such a weird idea to me, an offer of salvation after you left your earthly body. Your and my local Church would probably say: you are going astray my brother or sister. But my dear friends, I don't believe that. The more I study the Scripture the more I see a red line of amazing and endless love from the side of our great Governor, Yahweh. His

judgments are right and just and based on righteousness and justice. Endless love beyond every human imagination. As we read in 1 Peter 3:18-20 God offered salvation in the Hades to those who were formerly disobedient. Later we will see that it is all about bowing down for the King of Kings and we will see a similar situation arising with Jesus second coming.

10.1 The final judgment.

Chapter 25 of the book of Matthew is giving us a proper view of the judgment on the final day: ³¹ "When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. ³² All the nations (Greek = **foreign nations not worshipping the true God, pagans**) will be gathered (Greek = **those previously separated**) before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. ³³ And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. ³⁴ Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you 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 food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; ³⁶ I was naked 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, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? ³⁸ When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? ³⁹ Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' ⁴⁰ And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.' ⁴¹ "Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: ⁴² for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; ⁴³ I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.' ⁴⁴ "Then they also will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?' ⁴⁵ Then He will answer them, saying, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.' ⁴⁶ And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life." (Matthew 25:31-46). **This is the final judgment of those who didn't bow down for the King of Kings in this life**, this is about the (spiritual) death (*foreign nations not worshipping the true God, pagans*). This is the final judgment, the gathering of "those previously separated". This is not about Christians, for they will judge the world (spiritual death) together with Christ. Later in this chapter we will study the final judgment of the works of the Christians, which will be after the rapture. **This judgment of the spiritual death here is only about their works! No single word about their salvation or accepting Jesus.** These 'sheep' and 'goats' can't be 'Christians' and 'non-Christians' in the final judgment, for Christians are not coming into final judgment anymore once they gave their life to Jesus as written: *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 (John 5:24)***. And what's more here in Matthew 25 it's about final judgment, only about works and we will not receive salvation according to our works, so this is not about judgment of Christians. Please come first with me into the Scripture regarding believe.

What is believing?

- **What is believing?** *Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen (Hebrews 11:1).*
- **How important is believing?** *But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him (Hebrews 11:6).*
- **In whom do we have to believe to get saved?** *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life (John 3:16).*
- **A challenge to prove your faith:** ¹⁴ *What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? ¹⁵ If a*

brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food,¹⁶ and one of you says to them, "Depart in peace, be warmed and filled," but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit?¹⁷ **Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.**¹⁸ But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.¹⁹ You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble!²⁰ But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?²¹ Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar?²² **Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect?**²³ And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." And he was called the friend of God.²⁴ **You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only.**²⁵ Likewise, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out another way?²⁶ For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also (James 2:14-26).

- **This is the call for all those who bow down for the King of Kings, who's salvation is secure:** And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure (1 John 3:3).

Definition of dead and life: We must understand this definition to understand the final judgment of the (spiritual) **dead**. *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*** (Revelation 20:6). Do you know what the first resurrection means? *If then **you were raised with Christ**, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God* (Colossians 3:1). You are having part in the first resurrection = you were raised with Christ = being born again. This is also confirmed in next verse: *This means that anyone who belongs to Christ **has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!*** (2 Corinthians 5:17). See also Romans 6:1-14.

Difficult he, to find balance between faith and deeds and to understand the final judgment. One thing for me is sure: **Our works are so important!** Let's continue with the book of Revelation regarding the final judgment and pray that the Holy Spirit will reveal the balanced and biblical answer after this.

¹¹ 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.¹² 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.¹³ The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works.¹⁴ Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.¹⁵ And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire (Revelation 20:11-15). The great white throne judgment, final judgment day. Thank you Lord for judging fairly, thank you for your amazing grace, thank you for the cross. In Revelation 20:6 we have seen that over those who had part in the first resurrection, the second death has no power. This all is asking a more detailed study regarding the different judgments:

1. ¹² And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened (Revelation 20:12). First, who are standing here in Revelation 20 before the throne to be judged? The dead. As we have seen the definition of life is: If you know Jesus the Christ as your saviour, you are alive. So, these group standing before the throne didn't bow for the King in their life here on earth and they are also humans. This is about the final judgment of the dead, the spiritual dead. We are not spiritual dead as written in Revelation 20:6. No these 'dead' in Revelation 20:12 are explained in the Greek Bible: *ἔσχατος, a {es-khat'-oce}, the last in a*

- row, which **are about to finally die**. Well, these are the ones who until the last day didn't bow down for Jesus the King. But where are those (spiritual) alive?
2. As we learned already those who are alive in Christ are the ones who are fulfilling the judgments together with the Lord. This is somewhere the moment for the so called rapture as described in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18: ¹⁶ *For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.* ¹⁷ *Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.* ¹⁸ *Therefore comfort one another with these words.* So, at the moment of the final judgment they are with the Lord.
 3. *And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life (Revelation 20:12b)*. This is not the judgment of the dead, but the already past judgment of those alive in Christ. Therefore this is called the book of life (those already spiritual alive). This is also fair judgment, for the price has been paid by the mighty cross of Christ, which means absolution, not guilty, written in the book of life! So, those who bow down for the King during their walk on earth are not in this judgment of Revelation 20, but judging others (the spiritual dead). They are already Kingdom citizens from the moment they gave their life to Christ. They will not come into judgment for their salvation anymore. Only their works will be judged after the rapture as written: ¹¹ *For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.* ¹² *Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw,* ¹³ *each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is.* ¹⁴ *If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward.* ¹⁵ *If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; **but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire** (1 Corinthians 3:11-15).*
 4. *And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books (Revelation 20:12b)*. This is interesting. This judgment is not about the question if they did bow down in their life on earth before the King of Kings. No, this is only about their works. The works of the spiritual dead are following them, same as for those who are spiritual alive! As we saw during the transition from the old covenant to the new covenant there was a kind of "last or final offer for salvation" while Jesus preached in the Hades, gave / received gifts to / from men, and took prisoners (*who formerly were disobedient*) with Him ascending in heaven. This is a similar situation here in Revelation 20:12b. The purpose of judgment of the humans is not punishment (He loves all humans) but bowing down for the King. You know, AMAZING GRACE. Anyway in this particular verse there is only judgment of their works and in verse 15 there will be the check-up whether their names are in the book of life (they still have to enter through the gate, Jesus the door, the only way to salvation). Now the following verses are applicable: ³⁴ *Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you 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 food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink;* (Matthew 25:34-35). Those on His right hand (the sheep's, non Christians who have done good works in their lives) are at the last final moment invited to enter the Kingdom, to go through the gate, Jesus, to bow down finally for the King. Amazing he! For sure this invitation on the very last day to enter the Kingdom is not mend for those who bowed down in this very life for the King of Kings, for they are Kingdom citizens from the moment they bowed down (reborn) and never have to leave the Kingdom, they will only transfer from a spiritual Kingdom on this side, to a Kingdom in its full glory. This final offer of salvation on the last day for non-Christians is also confirmed with next verse: *I have come as a light into the world, that whoever believes in Me should not abide in darkness.* ⁴⁷ *And **if anyone hears My words and does not believe, I do not judge him**; for I did not come to judge the world but **to save the world**.* ⁴⁸ *He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which*

*judges him—the word that I have spoken will **judge him in the last day** (John 12:46-48). Judgment will not take place after we leave our earthly body, but on the last day! Our earthly body is not important, this is just a temporarily housing (dust), the Lord didn't come to save our earthly body, for we will receive a new body (housing), but He came to save our spiritual part, our souls! **And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death** (Greek = θάνατος, *n* {than'-at-os}: the death of the body, that separation of the soul and the body by which the life on earth is ended, with the implied idea of future misery in hell) **nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love.** ³⁹ No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 8:38-39). **So, even the implied idea of future misery in hell for those who died without Christ, is not being able to separate those from God's love.***

5. What happened to the goats on His left hand in Matthew 25:32, the ones who didn't bow down for Jesus in this life and who also haven't done good works? ⁴¹ "Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: ⁴² for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; ⁴³ I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.' ⁴⁴ "Then they also will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?' ⁴⁵ Then He will answer them, saying, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.' ⁴⁶ And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life." (Matthew 25:41-46).
6. ¹³ The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works (Revelation 20:13). These are again all humans who didn't bow down for the King during their life on earth and all evil power from the unseen world (Satan and his demon angels). The sea is the so called "spiritual place" for evil spirits.
7. ¹⁴ Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death (Revelation 20:14). Finally death and all evil will be banned from the new heaven and earth.
8. ¹⁵ And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire (Revelation 20:15). It is interesting that this is the last final verse about judgments in the scripture. Psalm 68 is a perfect example of His fairly judgment (love, power and punishment): ¹ Rise up, O God, and scatter your enemies. Let those who hate God run for their lives. ⁵ Father to the fatherless, defender of widows—this is God, whose dwelling is holy. ⁶ God places the lonely in families; he sets the prisoners free and gives them joy. But he makes the rebellious live in a sun-scorched land. ¹⁹ Praise the Lord; praise God our saviour! For each day he carries us in his arms. ²⁰ Our God is a God who saves! The Sovereign LORD rescues us from death. ³⁵ God is awesome in his sanctuary. The God of Israel gives power and strength to his people. Praise be to God!
9. Some last additional information about judgments: ¹⁴ Even Gentiles, who do not have God's written law, show that they know his law when they instinctively obey it, even without having heard it. ¹⁵ They demonstrate that God's law is written in their hearts, for their own conscience and thoughts either accuse them or tell them they are doing right. ¹⁶ And this is the message I proclaim—that the day is coming when God, through Christ Jesus, will judge everyone's secret life (Romans 2:14-16). Herewith the question is answered about those who have never heard about the law or Jesus. Last verse about all children (of both believers and unbelievers) regarding judgment: ¹⁴ When Jesus saw what was happening, he was angry with his disciples. He said to them, "Let the children come to me. Don't stop them! For the Kingdom of God belongs to those who are like these children (Mark 10:14). The Kingdom belongs to all those who are like these children. Actually this

means to all those who are not (yet) able by themselves to choose for Jesus as kids until a certain age, mental handicapped people etc.

Now I am quoting a press article. *A joke is stating that the Japanese people have three religions: They marry as a Christian, live as a Shinto and die as a Buddhist. Culture wise ancestors are playing an important role. If you tell a Japanese that only by believing in Jesus the risen Christ he or she will receive eternal life, the first response will be: and how about my father and mother who didn't believe that message? Evangelists who determine that indeed their parents probably get lost, are facing strong resistance. A Japanese prefers to have an eternal stay in hell together with their ancestors, instead of being alone in heaven. In one of the bigger Japanese churches a different view arose concerning hell and Hades. **The core of this view is that people who died and have lived "well" without knowing the message of Jesus the Christ, still do receive a final offer after death to enter heaven, go through the gate, which is Jesus, and finally bow down for the King of Kings.***

One last word about a final offer of salvation on the last day for those who did not bow down for the King of Kings in this very life. As we in the Church all do agree that **everyone (Christians and non-Christians) will be judged according to their works**, imagine following situation of a non-Christian standing for the Lord on the last day to be judged: John or Marry, you are here to be judged according to your works on earth, and I must say, they can stand the fire, they were in line with My will. Thank you for your good deeds, anyway the eternal fire is waiting for you, go to hell. Take your own conclusions! This is too crazy for words.

10.2 Final judgment of the Christians.

Let us study now more precisely the judgment of the Christians. When will the Christians (those who accepted salvation on this side of life) be judged according to their works? This will probably occur at the point of the Rapture (or the resurrection of the righteous):

- *for you shall be repaid at the resurrection of the just (Luke 14:14).*
- *and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away (1 Peter 5:4).*
- *For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more (Hebrews 8:12).*

So this is our attitude: **Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him.** ¹⁰ *For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad (2 Corinthians 5:9-10).*

Christians are not saved by works (Ephesians 2:8-9), but our good works, and the motives from which they are done, will determine our eternal rewards. Therefore, because of this and other reasons, let's adopt Paul's teaching: "Keeping God's commands is what counts" (1 Corinthians 7:19). *Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal;* ²⁰ *but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.* ²¹ *For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also (Matthew 6:19-21).* Jesus wants you to be rich with heavenly treasures! These heavenly treasures cannot and will not ever be exhausted or depleted, as earthly treasures are: *Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will not be exhausted, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys (Luke 12:33).* **How rich will you be in God's eternal Kingdom?** You are now determining the answer to that question by your faithful labors for His Kingdom or lack thereof.

This is my conclusion: **Don't be selfish.** ¹¹ *For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.* ¹² *Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw,* ¹³ *each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's*

work, of what sort it is. ¹⁴ *If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. ¹⁵ If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire (1 Corinthians 3:11-15).* My dear friend, if you accepted Jesus Christ into your life as your saviour, who died for your sins, you are saved. Your salvation is secure as written: *"For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ"*. But Jesus is not only your Saviour He is also your Deliverer and your King and wants you to bear fruit and built His Kingdom here on earth. It is my strong desire that the Church understands following words. Never ever let it happen that following will be applicable to you: *If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire (1 Corinthians 3:15).* If this is your case than you will only first taste the maturity of the Kingdom after your death, you will miss the Kingdom benefits here in your walk on this earth, you didn't worked on your heavenly treasures and you are not bringing other fellow South Africans into His Kingdom. Don't you love your fellow South African brothers and sisters? **No, instead bear fruit that remains, works that can stand the fire, and take it as a reward with you into heaven, your works will follow you! We love you Lord, we love you beautiful Rainbow Nation!**

Sin? Where are you talking about? ²⁵ *"I—yes, I alone—will blot out your sins for my own sake and will never think of them again (Isaiah 43:25).* ¹² *He has removed our sins as far from us as the east is from the west (Psalm 103:12).* ¹⁹ *Once again you will have compassion on us. You will trample our sins under your feet and throw them into the depths of the ocean! (Micah 7:19).* *And I will forgive their wickedness, and I will never again remember their sins (Hebrews 8:12).* God's anger has been satisfied for 100% at the mighty cross of Christ, already 2000 years ago. Here in Hebrews 8:12 is written that once our wickedness is forgiven He will never again remember our sins. Are you making our Lord a liar and having the courage to say that on the final day on a big screen all our sins will be projected for the whole world? What kind of father will welcome his own child at the gate of eternal life (your Fathers house) with such a crazy show: Welcome my dear son or daughter, lets discuss all the sins you did in your life and show them to everyone, and 1 second after this has been done, by the way you can enter the Kingdom for I paid for you. **Once you are born again, you entered the Kingdom and you will never have to leave that!!! You are a Kingdom citizen!** For more information see our study "The Kingdom". Don't let it steal by the enemy for there is written: ¹⁶ *And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him. 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. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love (1 John 4:16-18).* Also remember in the Old Testament when the Israelites offered a lamb for their sins, this Lamb should be without defect. The priest was checking the lamb and not the sins of the Israelites! **Watch our Lamb, Jesus the Christ!**

11. Judging inside the Church.

Immorality defiles the Church as written: ¹ *It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and such sexual immorality as is not even named among the Gentiles—that a man has his father's wife! ² And you are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he who has done this deed might be taken away from among you. ³ For I indeed, as absent in body but present in spirit, have already judged (as though I were present) him who has so done this deed. ⁴ In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when you are gathered together, along with my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁵ deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus ⁶ Your glorying is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? ⁷ Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us. ⁸ Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth (1 Corinthians 5:1-8).*

Immorality inside the Church must be judged as written: ⁹ *I wrote to you in my epistle not to keep company with sexually immoral people.* ¹⁰ *Yet I certainly did not mean with the sexually immoral people of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world.* ¹¹ *But now I have written to you not to keep company with anyone named a brother, who is sexually immoral, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or an extortioner—not even to eat with such a person.* ¹² *For what have I to do with judging those also who are outside? Do you not **judge those who are inside?*** ¹³ ***But those who are outside God judges.*** Therefore "put away from yourselves the evil person (1 Corinthians 5:9-13).

12. Every Knee shall bow to Me.

"As I live, says the LORD, every knee shall bow to Me, and every tongue shall confess to God." (Romans 14:11). These words are appearing on several places in the Scripture: Psalm 22:27-29, Psalm 72:8-11, Isaiah 45:22-23, Philippians 2:9-11. All these verses have some in common: It is about the Kingdom and Kingship of Jesus our Lord and that finally every single person (the human race) will confess (acknowledge) that Jesus is Lord of Lords and King of Kings. This is about the judging process between Jesus first and second coming and the final judgment. Next verses are confirming the reason of "every knee shall bow to Me": ¹⁰ *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.* ¹² *So then each of us shall give account of himself to God.* ¹³ *Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather resolve this, not to put a stumbling block or a cause to fall in our brother's way (Romans 14:10, 12-13).* **Every knee shall bow to Me = we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.**

13. Comparing two options.

Option 1: You are bowing down for the King of Kings in this very life. As a result after your death you will stay (your spiritual part) in the Kingdom of God (the heavenly places) until His second coming and not in the Hades (the porch of the hell). If you didn't do good works of justice at the same time here on this side of life and shouldered your cross, you miss in this life the Kingdom benefits and what to say about the fruit you produced? And what about your heavenly treasures? How rich are you in heaven? How much did you stored up in heaven? That's not a smart choice, for you only lived here for 80 years, worked on your earthly treasures and your stay in eternity will be more than 80 years. This is a bit short term thinking, however you're on board!

Option 2: You are not bowing down for the King of Kings in this very life. As a result after your death you will probably stay (your spiritual part) in the Hades (the porch of the hell) until His second coming. Hmmm, not attractive, a place of *outer darkness with weeping and gnashing of teeth (Matthew 22:13)*. At the same time you did good works of justice here on this side of life. Well, you worked on your heavenly treasures. You are rich in heaven! We could say, this is a more long term investment but still less attractive. On the final judgment day you will be a sheep, on His right hand and you will receive again the invitation to enter the Kingdom, just on the last day. So, you still have to bow down (enter through the gate, which is Jesus) for the King to finally enter the Kingdom, eternal life. I wouldn't take that risk and wouldn't like to probably wait for His second coming in the porch of the hell.

Be smart: Bow down for the King of Kings and work on your heavenly treasures.

14. Final word.

Great and marvelous are Your works, Lord God Almighty! Just and true are Your ways, O King of the saints! ⁴ *Who shall not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy. For all nations shall come and worship before You, for Your judgments have been manifested (Revelation 15:3-4).* Come, sing along this beautiful song of Moses, the servant of God, the song of the Lamb.

¹⁶ And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him. 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. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love (1 John 4:16-18).

Yours in His service,
Kees
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