

CARAVAN TO MIDNIGHT

THE WORLD TO BE

SEGMENT 1- MAY 29

EVENTS AS PREDICTED IN THE BIBLE

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When I wrote the book "The World That Was" I talked about the past, events that took place long before Adam and Eve came into existence. Now I want to explore what is going to take place in the future and the criteria for this will be from the Bible. We do know that the next major event to take place is the coming of the Antichrist, which will lead us into the time of the Great Tribulation, followed by the second return of Christ and the ushering in of the thousand-year kingdom. The thousand-year kingdom will end with a devastating war, the last war to be fought on this planet. Then follows the Great White Throne Judgment, which will be horrible for all unsaved people. The final event for this earth and this entire universe is that it shall be dissolved and exist no more. All believers in Christ and holy angels will be moved to the new universe, where there will be a new planet earth, unlike the one we now live on. The New Jerusalem will be flown from heaven and settled on the new earth and then we are into eternity, living for ever without any end to our lives.

But what happens to believers in Christ who dies before the future events, where do they go and what happens to them? Let us begin to examining what takes place, when a human being dies.

THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST

Every year, the average birth rate for the world is around 140 million babies born. During the year 2023, 61 million people died in the world. Currently there are 7.95 billion people living on our planet and of these 2.4 billion are classified as Christians. Evangelical/Pentecostal Christians (born again) represent 26% of the total Christian population, which is 660 million. The death rate for evangelical Christians is 15.9 million per year.

Using these numbers mean that the holy angels who are running hell (God's jail) are processing 45.1 million people per year and the angels in heaven are processing 15.9 million born again people per year.

The population in hell is increasing with 45.1 million people per year and the population in heaven is increasing with 15.9 million people per year.¹

It is the apostle Paul that was given insight into the Judgment Seat of Christ, which is located in heaven.

For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire. (1Cor. 3:11-15)

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. Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences. (2Cor. 5:10-11)

In the letter to the Romans Paul emphasize that each believer in Christ will appear before the Judgment Seat of Christ.

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. For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God. (Rom 14:10-12)

It is in the epistle to the Hebrews that Paul writes a strong warning to believers in Christ.

For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries. He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace? For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. (Hebrews 10:26-31)

Jesus did not hold back in his warning to his followers. He told the story of the unjust servant that owed a huge sum of money he had stolen from his master. He asked for forgiveness and this was granted. This servant had loaned a small amount of money to another servant, and when the latter asked to be forgiven, he was cast into prison.

¹ These statistics are not very good and it shows that the evangelization by Christians is dismissal. I am sure that Jesus is grieved over that his church on earth is so ineffective. The number of people are estimates.

When the master heard what the first servant had done, he was wroth and he delivered him to the tormentors, until he had been punished enough to pay of this debt.

Then Jesus stated, that this will be done to believers in Christ, if they do not forgive people their trespasses. This indicates that there will be tormenting angels in heaven, who will carry out the punishment that has been meted out at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

Then his lord, after that he had called him, said unto him, O thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou desiredst me: Shouldest not thou also have had compassion on thy fellowservant, even as I had pity on thee? And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him. So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses. (Matt. 18:32-35)

The good news is that as Christians we can judge ourselves and repent for the sins we have committed after salvation. When we repent of these sins, they will never show up at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep. For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged. (1Cor. 11:27-31)

When will a Christian be taken to the Judgment Seat of Christ?

There is no place in the New Testament that informs us when the judgment seat judgment takes place for the believers. We do know that it takes place before the Marriage Feast of the Lamb.

And after these things I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying, Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God: For true and righteous are his judgments: for he hath judged the great whore, which did corrupt the earth with her fornication, and hath avenged the blood of his servants at her hand. And again they said, Alleluia. And her smoke rose up for ever and ever. And the four and twenty elders and the four beasts fell down and worshipped God that sat on the throne, saying, Amen; Alleluia. And a voice came out of the throne, saying, Praise our God, all ye his servants, and ye that fear him, both small and great. And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. (Rev. 19:1-8)

We are told that the believers in Christ have made themselves ready, which indicates that each one has been to the Judgment Seat of Christ. Just like every person at the Great White Throne Judgment is judged individually, so it will be done at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

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. 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. (Rev. 20:12-13)

Every day 44,167 born again believers arrive in heaven and my personal belief is that they are processed at the Judgment Seat of Christ after their arrival in heaven. I base this on the fact, that when the believers in Christ are seated at the Marriage Feast of the Lamb, they are prepared and have taken care of all things that was done or not done on earth.

WHAT WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST

Jesus taught very clearly in the parable of the talents, that he expects born again Christians to be faithful and develop our Christian life on earth after we have been saved. Each one of us have been given gifts and talents and he inspect us to use them for the development of the kingdom on earth. Those who have been faithful will be rewarded in heaven. Matt. 25:14-31

The apostle Paul had understood what Jesus had taught while on earth and Paul urged the believers in Christ to work out their salvation with fear and trembling. Phil.2:12-15

Most major Christian denominations do not really want to talk about the Judgment Seat of Christ and thus they are doing a disservice to their members. It would be like parents telling their children that education is not necessary to get a good job when they are grown. By the time the child reaches the age of 18 and wants to join the work force, but that child does not know how to read, write and have no knowledge of the basic mathematics of adding, subtracting, multiply and divide. The only job that 18 year old is qualified for, is manual labor.

Most Christians arriving in heaven after their bodies have died on earth are totally uneducated in spiritual matters and the only jobs they qualifies for in heaven is manual labor, like polishing the golden streets in the new Jerusalem. My understanding from reading the Bible is, that it is on earth that we grow and develop spiritual maturity and that when we enter heaven, we will have to live with the maturity we acquired on earth.

It is on the earth that we are facing the Devil, evil spirits and hardships. It is here we have to battle sickness, wars and tragedies. By dealing with these obstacles on earth, we are growing spiritually. This can only be done if Christians read their Bibles, spend time in prayer and fasting and are willing to do the work of God.

THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST WILL BE BRUTAL

The apostle Paul makes it clear that when we are judged by Jesus, it will cover all things we have done after our salvation, good or bad – 2Cor.5:10

He also speaks about the terror of the Lord – verse 11

But it is in the letter to the Hebrews that Paul is given a revelation from the Holy Spirit, what is going to take place at the Judgment Seat of Christ and that there will be a punishment for the sins Christians did not repent of, while they were on earth. Look at these verses:

For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries. He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace? For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people. (Hebrews 10:26-30)

When a person is saved, born again, all his sins are forgiven, past, present and future. If this was not so, there would be no salvation. Eternal life is given to the person at the moment of salvation – John 10:27-30

But we are responsible for every action we take after salvation and we will be judged upon what we did in our lives after we were born again. The Bible tells us that we are not going to be sinless and perfect, until we leave the physical body at death – Romans 7:13-25

The beautiful thing is that we can judge ourselves while we are still living on earth and by repenting and asking God to forgive us, these sins are washed away by the blood of Jesus – 1Cor.11:26-31; 1John 1:7-10

Every Christian has the ability to keep a short sin account, and when we do sin, we need to repent, renounce the sin and ask God to help us to not repeat it again. With other words “WE CAN PRE-JUDGE OURSELVES.”

A Christian will come to the Judgment Seat of Christ, because he is saved!
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THERE WILL BE A PUNISHMENT FOR UNCONFESSED SINS

Every sin that a believer in Christ committed after his salvation and he did not repent off, will bring a punishment. This will not be a slap on the wrist, there will be some serious pain that will be applied for a period of time, until that sin is paid for.

Jesus laid it out the parable of the wicked servant – Matt.18:23-35

When the wicked servant was sentenced by his lord, he was turned over to the tormentors, who would torment him until he had paid his debt. Jesus said that our heavenly Father will do the same thing to everyone, who does not from his heart forgive others their trespasses.

And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him. So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses. (Matt. 18:34-35)

The apostle Paul talks about “sorer punishment, fiery indignation,” and that it is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. He also talks about the “terror of the Lord.”

The conclusion we can draw from these passages in the Bible is that each believer in Christ when they arrive in heaven, will have an appointment to appear before the Judgment Seat of Christ. Just like holy angels are running hell, so there are holy angels in heaven, who have been assigned to execute the sentence meted out by Jesus. We are not told how long the punishment or torture will last, but it is not eternal and when a believer has paid for his sins, he will allowed to join the rest of the saved people in heaven, as they stand before the throne of God and worshipping him.

Luke also recorded the warning Jesus gave about being hauled before the judge – Luke 12:58-59

Personally, I have a great respect for the Judgment Seat of Christ, I do not want to be tormented and I am doing the best I can to make sure that I have not any unforgiven sins in my life. I am also mindful that since I am responsible for my actions on earth, I work out my salvation with fear and trembling.

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC PURGATORY

Since Lucifer has been running the Roman Catholic Church since the 4th century A.D. he has developed his slant on the Judgment Seat of Christ. He named it Purgatory.²

At the time of the Reformation of Martin Luther (1483-1546) the Pope in Rome had monetized the doctrine of purgatory, and people were told that they could pre-pay for their sins, by giving money to the Roman Catholic Church, and if they gave enough money, there would be no purgatory for them. Later that was dropped and instead members in the Catholic church are told, that to help their relatives who have died and are in purgatory, they can buy special candles at the Catholic church buildings, then place them in the church building and this will expedite their relatives time in purgatory.

²(Roman Catholic doctrine) a place or state of suffering inhabited by the souls of sinners who are expiating their sins before going to heaven.