



The Judgment Day

DO YOU KNOW: That the thought of the Judgment Day causes *dread* in many, usually because they were mistaught that it is a 24-hour day, when, amid great convulsions of nature—literal earthquakes, graves opening, *etc.*—Christ *calls* from heavenly bliss and horrible torture the billions of the dead, *places them back into the old bodies* they had at death, *sentences* them and then *sends them back*, some to eternal joy in heaven, but the vast majority to eternal torture by fireproof devils—accordingly, the Judgment Day has been termed *Doomsday* (see Dictionary)?

- That this view, that originated in the Dark Ages, makes the Judgment Day quite purposeless—a *farce*?

- That because Adam disobeyed, God sentenced him (and the race in his loins) to *death*, but that God in His great love caused His Son to be "made flesh," "a little lower than the angels for the suffering of *death* ... that he by the grace of God should taste death for *every man*" (Gen. 2: 17; 3: 17-19; Rom. 5: 6-19; Matt. 20: 28; John 1: 14; 3: 14-18; Heb. 2: 9)?

- That these "good tidings of great joy, which shall be to *all* people," center in Jesus, the "ransom for *all*, to be testified in due time"; they guarantee to "*every man*" one (no *second* chance for any of Adam's race) full, fair *opportunity* for *everlasting* life (either in this life or after being awakened from the dead—John 5: 28-29, ASV), for God "will have *all* men to be saved [from Adamic condemnation; but *all* will not be saved *eternally*], and to come unto the knowledge of the truth" (Luke 2: 10; 1 Tim. 2: 3-6; 4: 10)?

- That the term *day* is often used to mean a period much longer than 24 hours, both in common usage (*e.g.*, Luther's day) and in Scriptural usage (Gen. 2: 4; Heb. 3: 8, 9; Psa. 95: 7-10; 2 Cor. 6: 2)?

DO YOU KNOW: That the Gospel Age has been the Church's judgment day (2 Thes. 1: 4, 5; 1 Pet. 4: 17), but that also God "hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness"—"the day of judgment and perdition [destruction] of ungodly men; but ... be not ignorant of [*forget not*, ASV] this one thing, that *one day is with the Lord as a thousand years*" (Acts 17: 31; 2 Pet. 3: 7, 8; Psa. 90: 4)?

- That Satan, "the god of this world," has for centuries blinded the minds of the vast majority (2 Cor. 4: 4), that darkness has covered the earth, "gross darkness the people," but that in the world's great judgment day he is bound, "*that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled*" (Isa. 60: 2; Rev. 20: 2, 3, 7)?

- That "in that day," the 1,000-year reign of Christ, when He will judge mankind, "the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea"; then "it shall be said ... Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, and he will save us ... we will be glad and rejoice in his salvation" (Isa. 11: 9, 10; 25: 6-9; 40: 5; 52: 10; Jer. 31: 34; Hab. 2: 14)?

- That the word *judge* as used in the Scriptures does not mean merely to *sentence*, but includes (1) *instruction* (Psa. 19: 7-11; 25: 8, 9; 106: 3; 119: 108; Isa. 33: 5; 56: 1; 59: 4, 8-15; Ezek. 22: 2; Matt. 12: 18-20; 23: 23; Col. 2: 16), (2) *testing* (Psa. 26: 1-3, comp. Psa. 139: 23, 24; Jer. 11: 20, comp. Jer. 20: 12; 2 Thes. 1: 4, 5), (3) *chastisement for correction* (Isa. 26: 9; 1 Cor. 11: 31, 32—comp. Luke 12: 47, 48; Heb. 12: 5-11; Rev. 3: 19), and (4) *passing a sentence* (Matt. 7: 1, 2; John 7: 24; Deut. 1: 16; Psa. 17: 2)?

- That Jesus "shall judge [by these 4 processes] the quick [the living] and the dead at [during] his appearing and his kingdom"; "he must reign [in His 1,000-year reign], till he hath put all enemies under his feet; the last enemy that shall be destroyed is death" (2 Tim. 4: 1; 1 Cor. 15: 24-26; Psa. 72: 1-4; Isa. 11: 1-6; 32: 1; Jer. 23: 5, 6; Hos. 13: 14; Rev. 20: 11-15)?

DO YOU KNOW: That Christ's "Bride" and Joint-heir, the true Church, will rule with Him over the earth in the 1,000-year judgment day and assist in judging the world, offering to them "the water of life freely" (1 Cor. 6: 2; Obad. 1: 21; Matt. 19: 28; Luke 22: 29, 30; Rom. 8: 16-21; 2 Tim. 2: 11, 12; Rev. 3: 21; 5: 9, 10; 20: 4, 6; 22: 17)?

- That according to God's Oath-bound promise, Abraham's Seed, *i.e.*, Christ and the Church, will bless "all the families of the earth"; and this will be during their 1,000-year reign (Gen. 12: 3; 22: 16-18; Gal. 3: 7-9, 16, 29; Heb. 6: 13-20; Acts 3: 19-25)?

- That those to be blessed include *the dead* as well as *the living*—that the dead will be awakened from their "sleep" in death (Psa. 6: 5; 146: 4; Dan. 12: 2; John 5: 28-29, ASV; 11: 11-14; 1 Thes. 4: 14; 2 Pet. 3: 4) and will then be given an exact knowledge of the truth and a full *opportunity* to gain *everlasting* life?

- That eventually "God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things [things of Satan's reign, including the curse of sin and death] are passed away" (Rev. 21: 1-4; 22: 1-3; Isa. 35: 10; 65: 17-25)?

- That "when the Son of man shall come in his glory ... then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: and before him shall be gathered all nations: and [under the testings of that great judgment day] he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats"; and that those with good characters, pictured as sheep, will be given everlasting life and "inherit the kingdom" on earth (the meek shall inherit it—Matt. 5: 5), whereas those who will not have proved worthy, pictured as goats, will "go away into everlasting punishment [Greek, *kolasin*, *cutting off*], the Second Death, never to live again—"all the wicked will he destroy"; "they shall be as though they had not been" (Matt. 25: 31-46; Psa. 145: 20; Obad. 1: 16; Matt. 10: 28; 2 Pet. 2: 1, 12; Jude 1: 12)?

DO YOU KNOW: That the destruction of the wicked is symbolized by their being cast into "the lake of fire," "which is the second death," into "everlasting fire [fire is an apt symbol, not of

preservation, but of *destruction*], prepared for the devil [who is to be *destroyed, annihilated*—Heb. 2: 14; Ezek. 28: 19] and his angels" (Rev. 20: 14, 15; 21: 8)?

- That "the wages of sin is *death*; but the gift of God is *eternal* life through Jesus Christ," that "the soul that sinneth, it shall die," that eventually "every soul, which will not hear [obey] that prophet [Christ], shall be destroyed from among the people" (Rom. 6: 21, 23; John 3: 36; 1 John 5: 12; Psa. 37: 38; Ezek. 18: 4, 20; Acts 3: 19-23)?

- That the Bible shows that the world's judgment day is not *Doomsday*, but *Salvation Day*, when God's Kingdom will rule on earth; so we should rejoice greatly as we see it approaching— "Let the earth be glad ... for he [God] cometh to judge the earth: he shall judge the world with righteousness, and the people with his truth"; "all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God," and shall fear (reverence) Him (Psa. 96: 1-13; 98: 1-9; 67: 1-7; Isa. 26: 9; Num. 14: 21)?