

Judgement day

Key verses

- “For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgement to the Son.” John 5:22
- “The nations were angry; and Your wrath has come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that You should reward your servants the prophets and the saints, and those who fear Your name, small and great, and should destroy those who destroy the earth.” Rev.11:18
- “He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.” Acts 17:31

When is judgement day?

- “For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works.” Matt.16:27
- “And give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.” 2 Thess.1:7-8

When Jesus returns the first form of judgement will be to gather together and reward His resurrected or currently living faithful followers (His household) and condemn those who have not been faithful to Him (John 5:28-29; Mark 13:27). The next form of judgement will be to punish an ungodly world who have not obeyed His Gospel (Psa.ch2, ch110; 2 Thess.1:7-8; Rev.11:18).

Our vision of judgement day

- “But why do you judge your brother? Or why do you show contempt for your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgement seat of Christ. For it is written: ‘As I live, says the LORD, every knee shall bow to Me, and every tongue shall confess to God.’ So then each of us shall give account of himself to God.” Rom.14:10-12

See also 2 Cor.5:10

When Paul penned the above words he was writing to Roman and Corinthian believers who **understood judgement in Roman terms**. The phrase “judgement seat” is more literally translated “judgement steps”. In Roman times a person would stand on a step leading up to the judges throne in order to hear the final decision. **This is how Roman and Corinthian believers understood judgement**. These verses should not be used to form an opinion on how the last judgement will be organised. If Paul was writing to us today he would probably say that we will all have to appear before the ‘High Court’ of Jesus, and we would immediately realise that he was simply indicating that this would be the **final decision for us**, and not a literal description of how the judgement will take place.

All Scripture quoted on this sheet is from the N.K.J.V.

Should we fear judgement day?

- “Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgement; because as He is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear...” 1 John 4:17-18

John says that we should have “boldness in the day of judgement”, and that “perfect love casts out fear.” Those who have **obeyed Jesus’ Commandments** have nothing to fear on judgement day, as this day for them will be a joyous occasion when they receive words similar to those depicted in the parable, “**well done good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of your Lord.**” (Matt.25:14-30). There is no evidence in Scripture to support the idea that those accepted at judgement day will have to recycle and wear some kind of punishment for the sins they have committed, and this makes sense, seeing that those accepted must have already **ask for and been granted forgiveness in Jesus name**. Any other opinion on this matter has the effect of placing limits on Jesus’ forgiveness.

- “There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus...” Rom.8:1.

Judged by our words

- “For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.” Matt.12:37

How are we to understand Jesus’ Words, “...every idle word men may speak, they will give account (logos) of it in the day of judgement.” (Matt.12:36). The word “idle” here means “barren” or “useless”. **Bad language would be in this category**. The Greek Diaglott renders this “a day of judgement”, so Jesus may be referring to a local court problem for us if we utter words to the detriment of others. Even if this verse refers to the last judgement, when read in context it is obviously referring to **evil men** who in the previous verse are said to **bring forth evil things** contrasted with the **good man who brings forth good things**. Giving account of ourselves before the Son of God will be a happy occasion for the “good and faithful servants” but a very sad time for the “wicked and slothful servants” (Matt.25:14-30).

What we can and can't judge

- “For judgement is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgement.”

James 2:13

We are told by Jesus that we are **not to judge others** (Matt.7:1). In the same chapter though, we are told to **observe the “fruits”** that other people bring forth (v15-20). So although we are not to judge **people’s motives** and certainly not the **final outcome** for them, we must judge whether people are doing good or evil and we must be able to **discern between right and wrong**. We are also told in Scripture to keep good company (Prov.12:26), and to shun those who practice evil ways (Prov.14:7; 1 Cor.5:11).