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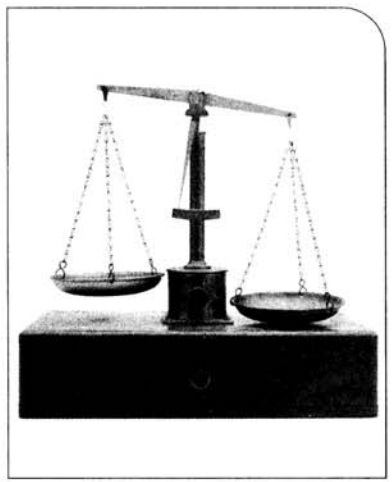
IT IS WRITTEN TELEVISION PRESENTS:

SEARCH FOR Certainty

GQ

A Date With Destiny: The Judgment

Choices in the 21st Century



We have discovered an amazing truth. We are living in judgment hour. The Bible refers to the judgment more than 1,000 times. In 1844 God's prophetic time clock struck the hour. Revelation's angelic messenger announced, "The hour of [God's] judgment has come" (Revelation 14:7, NKJV).* In the judgment, Christ is revealed as fully just and loving in His handling of the sin problem. Each case is decided for life or death. The entire universe recognizes that God has done everything possible to save every single person.

In the judgment God's heart of infinite love asks, "Is there anything more I could have done?" There is nothing more. Love has done all it could. The entire universe sings with one accord, "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and blessing!" (Revelation 5:12, NKJV).

God's matchless love is revealed in the judgment. All of heaven pauses to consider the choices each individual has made in the light of God's incredible desire to save them. Today's lesson unfolds the importance of our choices in the twenty-first century.

God's matchless love is revealed in the judgment.

1. How does the Bible describe the awesome scene of God's judgment in the heavenly courts? Daniel 7:9, 10

Complete each expression below:

a. Thrones were _____

b. The Ancient of Days was _____

c. Thousands upon thousands _____

d. The court was _____

e. The books were _____

All heaven is interested in this judgment. The destiny of the entire human race will be settled forever. The honor of God's throne is at stake.

2. How universal is God's judgment? 2 Corinthians 5:10; Romans 14:12

The Bible answer: _____

_____

3. What records are kept that will provide an accurate description of our lives in the judgment? Revelation 20:12

The Bible answer: _____

_____

Millions of pieces of information can be stored in the memory of sophisticated computers. God can easily preserve our character decisions.

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Jesus and His law are inseparable. To willfully disobey it is to wound Him. Will you not say in your heart, "Lord, I love You. Cover my sins with Your righteousness. Forgive me of my rebellion. Take away my desire to disobey. I choose now to be Your obedient child."

MY DECISION

❒ *Loving Jesus with all my heart, I choose to obey Him now and forever.*

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4. Whose names are in the book of life? Philippians 4:3; Revelation 3:5

The Bible answer: _____

When we accept Jesus we pass from spiritual death to spiritual life. Without Christ we are dead in sin. Since the "wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23), we have no possibility of living eternally without Christ. When we come to Jesus we receive the gift of eternal life from Him, and our names are placed in the book of life.

5. What does God record in His "book of remembrance"? Malachi 3:16

The Bible answer: _____

God clearly records a faithful record of our characters. His record books reveal what we actually are. There is no pretense or make-believe with God.

6. Are our sins actually recorded before God? Jeremiah 2:22

The Bible answer: _____

7. How detailed is the judgment? How deeply does it probe into individual lives? Matthew 12:36, 37; Ecclesiastes 12:13, 14

The Bible answer: _____

8. Will anything remain hidden from God? 1 Corinthians 4:5

The Bible answer: _____

_____

9. Does God consider the circumstances of our lives in the judgment? Psalm 87:5, 6; John 9:41; Luke 12:48

The Bible answer: _____

_____

The judgment reveals not only our actions but also our attitudes. It delves into our motives. It considers our opportunities and the privileges God has given us.

10. Who will preside during these proceedings? John 5:22

The Bible answer: _____

_____

11. Who is our defense lawyer? 1 John 2:1

The Bible answer: _____

_____

Jesus is both our lawyer and our judge. He stands in our behalf in the judgment. Jesus longs for us to be saved. In the judgment He is for us, not against us. He created us. He redeemed us, and now He lives for us. Hebrews 7:25 says, "Therefore He is able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He ever lives to make intercession for them" (NKJV).

12. When Satan condemns us in the judgment, what does Jesus say to him? Zechariah 3:1, 2

The Bible answer: _____

_____

13. What type of clothing is Joshua wearing and what new clothing does our Lord give him? Zechariah 3:3, 4

The Bible answer: _____

_____

As we commit our lives to Christ, Satan condemns us. He accuses us of all the sins we have ever committed. Jesus stands in our behalf rebuking Satan. Our Saviour takes away our filthy garments of sin and clothes us with the garments of His own righteousness.

14. What is God's standard in the judgment? James 2:12

The Bible answer: _____

_____

We are not saved by God's law. We are saved by God's grace. In the judgment, God does not weigh our good deeds against our bad deeds. We are accepted on the basis of Christ's righteousness, not ours. When Christ accepts us, He leads us to obedience. Obedience is the evidence of a changed life. Obedience is the evidence that our faith is genuine. The basic question asked in the judgment is: "Has this person accepted the saving grace of Christ? Is this acceptance evidenced by a changed relationship to the law? Is the attitude one of obedience or rebellion?"

Those saved by grace can say with the psalmist, "I delight to do Your will, O my God, and Your law is within my heart" (Psalm 40:8, NKJV). It hurts them if they hurt Jesus by breaking His law. Deep within their heart they have chosen the way of obedience, not the way of rebellion.