

When The Thousand Years Are Over

20: 7-15

The Second Coming will also usher in the great final judgment. History will not simply run its course unrestricted, but under the guidance of **God**, will come to a consummation. **His** purposes will be fulfilled in the end. **Jesus** said: **For the Son of Man is going to come in His Father's Shechinah glory with His angels, and then He will reward each person according to what he or she has done (Matthew 16:27)**. **Christ** will be the Judge. **Yeshua** pictured **Himself** as sitting on a glorious throne and judging all the **Gentile nations (Matthew 25:31-33)**. And it appears the believers will share in the judging. In **Matthew 19:28** and **Luke 22:28-30**, **Jesus** suggests that the twelve disciples will judge the twelve tribes of **Isra'el**. We are told that believers will sit on thrones and judge the world (**First Corinthians 6:2-3; Revelation 3:21 and 20:4**).

All humans will be judged (**Matthew 25:32; 2 Cor 5:10; Heb 9:27**). Rabbi Sha'ul warns that **we will all stand before God's judgment seat (see Cc - For We Must All Appear Before the Judgment Seat of Christ)**. Every secret will be revealed; all that has ever occurred will be evaluated. Some have questioned whether the sins of believers will be included - that it would seem to be unnecessary inasmuch as believers have been justified. But the statements concerning the review of sins are universal. The Bible leads us to believe that the sins of believers will be revealed, though they will, of course, be revealed as *pardoned* sins. Therefore, in view of the certainty of the Second Coming and the finality of the judgment that will ensue, it is crucial that we follow **God** and seek **His** will in our lives.

In addition, the fallen **angels** will be judged at this time. **Peter** writes that **God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them in gloomy dungeons to be held for judgment (Second Peter 2:4)**. **Jude 6** makes an almost identical statement. The holy **angels**, on the other hand, will participate in the judgment by gathering together all who are to be judged (see my commentary on **The Life of Christ Fa - The Parable of the Weeds Explained**).

Those who appear will be judged in terms of their earthly lives. **Jesus** said that at the resurrection all will **come out - those who have done good will rise to live, and those who have done evil will rise to be condemned (John 5:29)**. While one might infer from **Matthew 25:31-46** that it is the doing of good deeds that makes the difference, **Yeshua** indicated that some who claim and who even appear to have done good deeds will be told to depart from **Him (Matthew 7:21-23)**.

The standard on which the evaluation will be made is the acceptance or rejection of the **Messiah Himself** and **His Word**. **Jesus** said: **The one who rejects Me and does not accept My words; that very word which I spoke will condemn him at the last day (John 12:48)**. Even those who have not explicitly heard the Torah will be judged: **All who have sinned outside the framework of the Torah will die outside the framework of the Torah; and all who have sinned within the framework of the Torah will be judged by the Torah (Romans 2:12 CJB)**.

Once passed, the judgment will be permanent and irrevocable. The righteous and the ungodly will be sent away to their respective final places. There is no hint that the verdict can be changed. In concluding **His** teaching about the judgment, **Jesus** said that those on **His** left hand **will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life (Matthew 25:46)**.⁴⁴³

Therefore, there are four climatic events in this section. First, Satan returns to deceive **the Gentile nations** one last time **(20:7-10)**. Secondly, after **they** are defeated, **they** will face the Great White Throne Judgment **(20:11-12)**. Thirdly, then there will be the Second Resurrection **(20:13)**, fourthly, the condemned will face the Second Death **(20:14-15)**. These nine verses introduce the judgment at the end of human history and the beginning of the Eternal State (see **Fq - The Eternal State**).⁴⁴⁴