

“And the Books Were Opened”

Hebrews 9:27

INTRODUCTION:

A. Have you thought of the reality of the judgment day?

1. Judgment day is a real day!
2. Judgment day is a future day!
3. Judgment day is a final day!
4. Judgment day is a revealing day!
5. You will be there . . . we all will be there . . . Everyone who has ever lived will be there.

B. What does the Bible say about the judgment?

1. It is a day of certainty. **Hebrews 9:27** - “And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment.”
2. It is an appointed day. **Acts 17:31** - “Because 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.”
3. It is an all-inclusive day. (All included and none excluded). **2 Corinthians 5:10** - “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.”
4. It will be an accountable day. **Romans 14:10-12** - “But why do you judge your brother? Or why do you show contempt for your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment 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.”

5. It will be a dividing day. **Matthew 25:31-33** - “When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, and then He will sit on the throne of His glory.”

All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats.

And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left.”

6. It will be a reading day. **Revelation 20:12** - “And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.”

C. Alexander Campbell used Revelation 20:12 as a text to suggest six possible types of books that might be opened at the judgment.

1. The Book of Nature.
2. The Book of Remembrance.
3. The Old Testament.
4. The New testament.
5. The Record of Every Man's Works.
6. The Book of Life.

1st Book - **THE BOOK OF NATURE**

A. The Scriptures speak concerning **THE BOOK OF NATURE**.

1. **Psalm 19: 1-2** - "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork. Day unto day utters speech, and night unto night reveals knowledge."
2. **Romans 1:20** - "For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse."
3. **Acts 14:17** - "Nevertheless He did not leave Himself without witness, in that He did good, gave us rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness."

B. But there is no such thing as forgiveness in nature. The book of nature does not reveal Christ.

2nd Book - **THE BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE**

A. The Scriptures speak concerning **THE BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE**.

1. **Malachi 3:16** - "Then those who feared the LORD spoke to one another, and the LORD listened and heard them; so a book of remembrance was written before Him for those who fear the LORD and who meditate on His name."
2. **Isaiah 30:8-9** - "Now go, write it before them on a tablet, and note it on a scroll that it may be for time to come, forever and ever: That this is a rebellious people, lying children, children who will not hear the law of the LORD."
3. **1 Corinthians 4:5** - "Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels of the hearts. Then each one's praise will come from God."
4. **Luke 8:17** - "For nothing is secret that will not be revealed, nor anything hidden that will not be known and come to light."
5. **Romans 2:16** - "In the day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my gospel."

B. Note: There are some things God will not remember.

1. **Jeremiah 31:31-34** - “Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah--

not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the LORD.

But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.”

2. What the record books contain is determined by what God decides to remember and what He decides to forget.

3rd Book - **THE OLD TESTAMENT**

A. The great, continuing witness of all ages is the Bible. The Old Testament continues to be the most impressive witness of the deity and godhead of Christ in that it establishes His credentials historically for ages prior to the Incarnation.

B. The Scriptures speak concerning the Old Testament.

1. **John 5:34** - “Search the scriptures . . . for these are they that testify of me.”
2. **Luke 24:44** - “Then He said to them, These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me.”
3. **Luke 24:25** - “Then He said to them, O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken!”
4. **Matthew 22:29** - “Jesus answered and said to them, You are mistaken, not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God.”

4th Book - **THE NEW TESTAMENT**

A. The Scriptures speak concerning the New Testament.

1. **Matthew 7:24, 26** - “These sayings are mine.”
2. **Matthew 28:18-20** - “Whatsoever I have commanded you.”

3. **John 12:48** - “My words will judge him in the last day.”
4. **1 Peter 1:35** - “The word of the Lord (the gospel) endures forever.”
5. **Matthew 24:35** - “See, I have told you beforehand.”
6. **Hebrews 2:3** - “How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him”
7. **2 Peter 3:2** - “That you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior.”
8. **John 6:68** - “But Simon Peter answered Him, “Lord, to whom we shall go? You have the words of eternal life.”

5th Book - **THE RECORD OF EVERY MAN’S WORKS**

- A. All the sacred writers make it clear that men shall be judged according to their works. Modern theology is very uncomfortable in the light of this truth; but the record of every man’s deeds will surely enter into the judgment which he shall receive.
- B. The Scriptures speak concerning **THE RECORD OF EVERY MAN’S WORKS**.
 1. Jesus taught this:
 - a. **John 5:26-29** - “For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself,
And has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man.
Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice
And come forth-- those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.”
 - b. **Matthew 25:31-46** - The great judgment scene.
 2. The apostle Paul taught this:
 - a. **Romans 2:5-6** - “But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, who “will render to each one according to his deeds.”
 - b. **2 Corinthians 5:10** - “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.”
 3. Peter taught this:
 - a. **Acts 10:34** - “But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him.”

4. James taught this:
 - a. **James 2:26** - “. . . “So faith without works is dead also.”
5. John taught this:
 - a. **1 John 2:4-5** - “He, who says, I know Him, and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.
But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him.”
 - b. **1 John 3:23-24** - “And this is His commandment: that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, as He gave us commandment.
Now he who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.”
6. The Revelation letter taught this:
 - a. **Revelation 2:5** - (Ephesus) “Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lamp stand from its place-- unless you repent.”
 - b. **Revelation 14:13** - “Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, ‘Write: ‘Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.’” ‘Yes,’ says the Spirit, ‘that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them.’”

6th Book - **THE BOOK OF LIFE**

- A. **Philippians 4:3** - “And I urge you also, true companion, help these women who labored with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the Book of Life.”
- B. **Revelation 13:8** - “All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.”
- C. **Revelation 20:12-15** - “And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.
The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works.
Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.
And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.”

E. **Revelation 21:27** - "But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life."

CONCLUSION:

A. **2 Timothy 4:1** - "I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom."

B. Friends, the judgment day is real and the judgment day is coming. God has given us a Bible and a lifetime to prepare for it. Are you ready for the books to be opened?

C. "So then everyone of us shall give account of himself to God." (**Romans 14:12**)

This verse should arrest the attention of anyone who reads it. The verse addresses an event which we need to ever keep in our mind. The event is the giving of an account of our lives. To examine this text we note the people who will give an account, the personalness in giving an account, and the Person to whom we will give an account.

PEOPLE. "Everyone of us." This matter of giving an account of our lives is an event every person will have to do. No one is exempt here. Every person in every land in every age in the history of the world will have to give an account of his life. Many people live as though they do not have to answer to anyone for the way they live. They may be exempt from having to answer to men, but that does not exempt them from having to give an account someday, somewhere. If there is anything you ever need to prepare for, it is to give an account of yourself.

PERSONALNESS. "Give account of himself." The focus in this matter of giving an account is upon yourself. You do not have to answer for how other people act. This giving of an account concerns your own actions and your own life, not the actions and lives of other people. It matters not what other people have done, what matters in this account giving is what you have done in your life.

PERSON. "To God." This is the scary part if you are not right with God. You have to answer to God for your actions. You must give an account to God for your life. Giving an account to man can be difficult and make one squirm, but giving an account to God can be even more traumatic, for God knows all. You will not be able to deceive God about your life. You will not be able to fabricate a good life story to make yourself look good before God like

some people fabricate their resumes when applying for a job. The truth will come out when you give an account to God. What sort of an account will you be able to give Him? Will it be a life of faithfulness to Him or a life of disobedience?

C. God's Plan for Man's Salvation