

GC Chapter 28, p. 479-491

“Facing Life’s Record”

Topic: The Judgment In Brevity

- Daniel 7:9, 10 – I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne was like the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire. A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened.
- Psalm 90:2 – He, God the Father, the Source of all being
(as the Ancient of Days), Presides in the Judgment
- Daniel 7:13,14 – Son of man came to the Ancient of Days to receive a kingdom and dominion and glory. Given Him at the close of His work as a Mediator.

To Perform the Work of

1—the Investigative Judgment

2—to make an atonement for all who are shown to be entitled to its benefits.

- 1 Peter 4:17 – Judgment begins at the house of God.
- Revelation 20:12 – (describes same scene as Dan 7:10), adds the book of life opened to judge the dead, according to their deeds.

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The book of life contains the names of all who have ever entered the service of God.
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- Luke 10:20 – Rejoice that your names are written in heaven.
- Phil 4:3 – {Paul speaks} of his faithful workers,
“whose names are written in the book of life.”
- Daniel 12:1 –Daniel declares “God’s people shall be delivered (during time of trouble)
“everyone that shall be found written in the book.”
- Rev.21:27 –The Revelator says those only shall enter the city of God whose names
“are written in the Lamb’s book of life.”
- Malachi 3:16 –“A book of Remembrance” is written before God in which are recorded the good deeds of “them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon His name.”
- Nehemiah 13:14 –refers to this when he says, “O my Lord, wipe not out my good deeds that I have done for God’s house.”

In the book of God's remembrance:

--every deed of righteousness is immortalized.

There --every temptation resisted

--every evil overcome

--every word of tender pity expressed

- Psalm 56:8 –Put thou my tears into thy bottle: are they not in thy book?

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Record Also of the Sins of Men

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- Eccl. 12:14 – Every work shall be brought into Judgment –good or evil.
- Matthew 12:36,37 – Every idle word men shall speak, they shall give an account.
By thy words thou shalt be justified or condemned.
- 1 Cor.4:5 – God will bring to light the hidden things of darkness and make manifest the counsels of the heart.
- Isaiah 65:6,7 – “Behold, it is written before Me, ... your iniquities, and the iniquities of your fathers’ together, said the Lord.”
- Eccl. 12:13,14 –Fear God and keep His commandments for this is the whole duty of man.
For God shall bring every work into Judgment.
- James 2:12 –So speak ye and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of Liberty.

<p>Those who in the Judgment are “accounted worthy” will have a part in the resurrection of the just.</p>

- 1 John 2:1—If any man sin, we have an advocate (Counsellor, Helper) with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.”
- Hebrews 9:24; 7:25 – “For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us.” Wherefore He is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them.”

As the books of record are opened in the judgment,

the lives of all who have believed on Jesus come in review before God.

Every name is mentioned, every case closely investigated!

Names are accepted, names rejected.

If any have sins remaining on the books...their names will be blotted out of the book of life, and the record of their good deeds will be erased from The book of God's remembrance.

- Exodus 32:33 –“Whosoever hath sinned against Me, him will I blot out of My book.”
- Ezekiel 18:24 –“When the righteous turneth away from his righteousness, and committeth iniquity,...all his righteousness that he hath done shall not be mentioned.”

All who have truly repented of sin, and by faith claimed the blood of Christ as their atoning sacrifice, have had pardon entered against their names in the books of heaven.

- Isaiah 43:25 –“I, even I, am He that blotteth out thy transgressions for Mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins.”
- Rev 3:5 –Said Jesus, “He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before My Father, and before His angels.”
- Matthew 10:32,33 –“Whosoever therefore shall confess Me before men, him will I confess also before My Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny Me before men, him will I also deny before My Father which is in heaven.

The deepest interest manifested among men in the decisions of earthly tribunals but faintly represents the interest evinced in the heavenly courts when the names entered in the book of life come up in review before the Judge of all the earth.

The divine Intercessor presents the plea that all who have overcome through faith in His blood be forgiven their transgressions, that they be restored to their Eden home, and crowned as joint heirs with Himself to “the first dominion.” -Micah 4:8

While Jesus is pleading for the subjects of His grace, Satan accuses them before God as transgressors.

Jesus does not excuse their sins, but shows their penitence and faith, and, claiming for them forgiveness, He lifts His wounded hands before the Father and the holy angels, saying: I know them by name. I have graven them on the palms of My hands.

- Psalm 51:17 –"The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, Thou wilt not despise."
- Zech. 3:2 –"The Lord rebuke thee, O Satan; even the Lord that hath chosen Jerusalem rebuke thee: is not this a brand plucked out of the fire?"

Christ will clothe His faithful ones with His own righteousness, that He may present them to His Father.

- Ephesians 5:27 –"a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing."
- Rev 3:4 –"They shall walk with Me in white: for they are worthy."
- Jeremiah 31:34; 50:20 –"I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more." "In those days, and in that time, saith the Lord, the iniquity of Israel shall be sought for, and there shall be none; and the sins of Judah, and they shall not be found."
- Isaiah 4:2,3 –"In that day shall the branch of the Lord be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the earth shall be excellent and comely for them that are escaped of Israel. And it shall come to pass, that he that is left in Zion, and he that remaineth in Jerusalem, shall be called holy, even everyone that is written among the living in Jerusalem."

In the typical service the high priest, having made the atonement for Israel, came forth and blessed the congregation. So Christ, at the close of His work as mediator, will appear,

- Hebrews 9:28 –"without sin unto salvation" (Hebrews 9:28), to bless His waiting people with eternal life.

The scapegoat, bearing the sins of Israel, was sent away

- Leviticus 16:22 – "unto a land not inhabited."

So Satan, bearing the guilt of all the sins which he has caused God's people to commit, will be for a thousand years confined to the earth, which will then be desolate.

At the time appointed for the judgment--the close of the 2300 days, in 1844--**began the work of investigation** and **blotting out** of sins. All who have ever taken upon themselves the name of Christ must pass its searching scrutiny. Both *the living* and *the dead* are to be judged.

- Rev. 20:22 – “out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.”

How Solemn is the thought! Day after day, is passing into eternity, bears its burden of records for the books of heaven.

As the features of the countenance are reproduced with unerring accuracy on the polished plate of the artist, so the character is faithfully delineated in the books above.

Could the veil which separates the visible from the invisible world be swept back, and the children of men behold an angel recording every word and deed, which they must meet again in the judgment, how many words that are daily uttered would remain unspoken, how many deeds would remain undone.

In the judgment the use made of every talent will be scrutinized.

- How have we employed the capital lent us of Heaven?
- Will the Lord at His coming receive His own with usury?
- Have we improved the powers entrusted us, in hand and heart and brain, to the glory of God and the blessing of the world?
- How have we used our time, our pen, our voice, our money, our influence?
- What have we done for Christ, in the person of the poor, the afflicted, the orphan, or the widow?

God has made us the depositaries of His holy word; what have we done with the light and truth given us to make men wise unto salvation?

Yet it is **love alone** which in the sight of Heaven makes any act of value. Whatever is done from love, however small it may appear in the estimation of men, is accepted and rewarded of God.

- The hidden selfishness of men stands revealed in the books of heaven.
- There is the record of unfulfilled duties to their fellow men,
- The record of forgetfulness of the Saviour's claims.
- There they will see how often were given to Satan the time, thought, and strength that belonged to Christ.
- Sad is the record which angels bear to heaven.

**but few are the moments devoted to prayer,
to the searching of the Scriptures,
to humiliation of soul and confession of sin.**

Satan invents unnumbered schemes to occupy our minds, that they may not dwell upon the very work with which we ought to be best acquainted. The archdeceiver hates the great truths that bring to view **an atoning sacrifice** and an **all-powerful mediator**. He knows that with him everything depends on his diverting minds from Jesus and His truth.

*Those who would share the benefits of the **Saviour's mediation** should permit nothing to interfere with their duty to perfect **holiness in the fear of God**.*

The precious hours, instead of being given to pleasure, to display, or to gain seeking, should be devoted to an earnest, prayerful study of the word of truth.

The subject of **the sanctuary** and **the investigative judgment** should be clearly understood by the people of God. All need a knowledge for themselves of the position and work of their **great High Priest**. Otherwise it will be impossible for them to **exercise the faith** which is essential at this time or to occupy the position which God designs them to fill.

Every individual has a soul to save or to lose.
Each has a case pending at the bar of God.
Each must meet the great Judge face to face.

How important, then, that every mind contemplate often the solemn scene when the judgment shall sit and the books shall be opened, when, with Daniel, every individual must stand in his lot, at the end of the days.

All who have received the light upon these subjects are to bear testimony of the great truths which God has committed to them.

The sanctuary in heaven is the very center of Christ's work in behalf of men. It concerns every soul living upon the earth. It opens to view the plan of redemption, bringing us down to the very close of time and revealing the triumphant issue of the contest between righteousness and sin.

It is of the utmost importance that all should thoroughly investigate these subjects and be able to give an answer to everyone that asketh them a reason of the hope that is in them.

The intercession of Christ in man's behalf in the sanctuary above is as essential to the plan of salvation as was His death upon the cross.

By His death He began that work which after His resurrection He ascended to complete in heaven. We must by faith enter within the veil,

➤ Heb. 6:20 – “whither the forerunner is for us entered.”

The salvation of man is accomplished at an infinite expense to heaven; the sacrifice made is equal to the broadest demands of the broken law of God.

- Proverbs 28:13 --"He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy."

Satan works to gain control of the whole mind, and he knows that if these defects are cherished, he will succeed. Therefore he is constantly seeking to deceive the followers of Christ with his fatal sophistry that it is impossible for them to overcome. But Jesus pleads in their behalf His wounded hands, His bruised body; and He declares to all who would follow Him:

- 2 Corinthians 12:9 -- "My grace is sufficient for thee."
- Matthew 11:29, 30 – "Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light."

In like manner, all who would have their names retained in the book of life should now, in the few remaining days of their probation, afflict their souls before God by sorrow for sin and true repentance.

Solemn are the scenes connected with the closing work of the atonement.
Momentous are the interests involved therein.

The judgment is now passing in the sanctuary above. For many years this work has been in progress. Soon--none know how soon--it will pass to the cases of the living.

In the awful presence of God our lives are to come up in review.
At this time above all others it behooves every soul to heed the Saviour's admonition:

- Mark 13:33 --"Watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is."
- Revelation 3:3 -- "If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee."

When the work of the investigative judgment closes, the destiny of all will have been decided for life or death.

Christ in the Revelation, looking forward to that time when probation would close, declares:

- Revelation 22:11, 12 – "He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still. And, behold, I come quickly; and My reward is with Me, to give every man according as his work shall be."

The righteous and the wicked will still be living upon the earth in their mortal state--men will be planting and building, eating and drinking, all unconscious that the final, irrevocable decision has been pronounced in the sanctuary above.

When Noah entered the ark, God shut him in and shut the ungodly out; but for seven days the people, knowing not that their doom was fixed, continued their careless, pleasure-loving life and mocked the warnings of impending judgment.

"So," says the Saviour,

- Matthew 24:39 – "shall also the coming of the Son of man be."

Silently, unnoticed as the midnight thief, will come the decisive hour which marks the fixing of every man's destiny, the final withdrawal of mercy's offer to guilty men.

- Mark 13:35, 36 "Watch ye therefore: . . . lest coming suddenly He find you sleeping."

Perilous is the condition of those who, growing weary of their watch, turn to the attractions of the world.

While the man of business is absorbed in the pursuit of gain
While the pleasure lover is seeking indulgence
While the daughter of fashion is arranging her adornments

--it may be in that hour the Judge of all the earth will pronounce the sentence:

- Daniel 5:27 – "Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting."