

# God's Judgment Seat

## Introduction:

A judgment seat is the platform or throne from which kings and officials administer justice. God presently exercises judgment from his heavenly throne, symbolized in the Old Testament by the ark of the covenant, and will one day bring all peoples before his judgment seat to give account of their lives and to receive their due reward.

- **Examples of earthly seats of judgment**

**Proverbs 20:8 (KJV) — 8** A king that sitteth in the throne of judgment Scattereth away all evil with his eyes.

**John 19:13 (KJV) — 13** When Pilate therefore heard that saying, he brought Jesus forth, and sat down in the judgment seat in a place that is called the Pavement, but in the Hebrew, Gabbatha.

- **Extra Texts:**

**Exodus 18:13–14 (KJV) — 13** And it came to pass on the morrow, that Moses sat to judge the people: and the people stood by Moses from the morning unto the evening.

**14** And when Moses' father in law saw all that he did to the people, he said, What is this thing that thou doest to the people? why sittest thou thyself alone, and all the people stand by thee from morning unto even?

- **Extra Texts:**

**1 Kings 7:7 (KJV) — 7** Then he made a porch for the throne where he might judge, even the porch of judgment: and it was covered with cedar from one side of the floor to the other.

**Psalms 122:5 (KJV) — 5** For there are set thrones of judgment, The thrones of the house of David.

**Proverbs 31:23 (KJV) — 23** Her husband is known in the gates, When he sitteth among the elders of the land.

## • Extra Texts:

**Acts 12:21 (KJV) – 21** And upon a set day Herod, arrayed in royal apparel, sat upon his throne, and made an oration unto them.

**Acts 23:3 (KJV) – 3** Then said Paul unto him, God shall smite thee, thou whited wall: for sittest thou to judge me after the law, and commandest me to be smitten contrary to the law?

## • **Extra Texts:**

**Acts 25:23 (KJV) — 23** And on the morrow, when Agrippa was come, and Bernice, with great pomp, and was entered into the place of hearing, with the chief captains, and principal men of the city, at Festus' commandment Paul was brought forth.

Extra Texts:

**James 2:6 (KJV) — 6** But ye have despised the poor. Do not rich men oppress you, and draw you before the judgment seats?

# 1 Kings 3:27,28

27. Then the king answered and said, Give her the living child, and in no wise slay it: she is the mother thereof.

Extra Texts:

28. And all Israel heard of the judgment which the king had judged; and they feared the king: for they saw that the wisdom of God was in him, to do judgment.

- God's judgment seat  
God judges from his throne

**Psalm 9:4–5 (KJV) — 4** For thou hast maintained my right and my cause; Thou satest in the throne judging right.  
**5** Thou hast rebuked the heathen, thou hast destroyed the wicked, Thou hast put out their name for ever and ever.



## • **Extra Texts**

**Psalm 11:4–7 (KJV)** — 4 The LORD is in his holy temple, the LORD'S throne is in heaven: his eyes behold, his eyelids try, the children of men. 5 The LORD trieth the righteous: but the wicked and him that loveth violence his soul hateth. 6 Upon the wicked he shall rain snares, fire and brimstone, and an horrible tempest: this shall be the portion of their cup. 7 For the righteous LORD loveth righteousness; his countenance doth behold the upright.

- # Extra Texts

**Psalm 45:6 (KJV) — 6** Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: The sceptre of thy kingdom is a right sceptre.

**Psalm 97:2 (KJV) — 2** Clouds and darkness are round about him: Righteousness and judgment are the habitation of his throne.

# The ark as a symbol of God's throne

**Exodus 25:22 (KJV) — 22** And there I will meet with thee, and I will commune with thee from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubims which are upon the ark of the testimony, of all things which I will give thee in commandment unto the children of Israel.

## • **Extra Texts**

**1 Samuel 4:4 (KJV) — 4** So the people sent to Shiloh, that they might bring from thence the ark of the covenant of the LORD of hosts, which dwelleth between the cherubims: and the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were there with the ark of the covenant of God.

**2 Kings 19:15 (KJV) — 15** And Hezekiah prayed before the LORD, and said, O LORD God of Israel, which dwellest between the cherubims, thou art the God, even thou alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth; thou hast made heaven and earth..

# God's future judgment

**2 Corinthians 5:10 (KJV) — 10** For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

# JOEL 3:14

Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision: for the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision.

## GC480.2

The books of record in heaven, in which the names and the deeds of men are registered, are to determine the decisions of the judgment. Says the prophet Daniel: “The judgment was set, and the books were opened.” The revelator, describing the same scene, adds: “Another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.”  
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The book of life contains the names of all who have ever entered the service of God. Jesus bade His disciples: “Rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.” Luke 10:20. Paul speaks of his faithful fellow workers, “whose names are in the book of life.” Philippians 4:3. Daniel, looking down to “a time of trouble, such as never was,” declares that God's people shall be delivered, “everyone that shall be found written in the book.” And the revelator says that those only shall enter the city of God whose names “are written in the Lamb's book of life.” Daniel 12:1; Revelation 21:27.

GC480.3

## **future judgment is exercised through Jesus Christ**

**Revelation 20:11–13 (KJV) — 11** And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. **12** And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. **13** And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

# Ancient of Days

**Daniel 7:9–10 (KJV) — 9** 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. **10** 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.

# DAN.7:13,14

I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him.

14And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.

- ## Extra Texts

**Joel 3:12 (KJV) — 12** Let the heathen be wakened, and come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat: For there will I sit to judge all the heathen round about.

**Matthew 25:31–32 (KJV) — 31** When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: **32** And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats:

# Investigated and Judged

DAN.5:27

TEKEL; Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting.

# • **Extra Texts**

**Romans 14:10 (KJV) – 10.** But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ..

11. For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.

12. So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

# LUKE20:35.36

But they which shall be accounted worthy to obtain that world, and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry, nor are given in marriage:

36Neither can they die any more: for they are equal unto the angels; and are the children of God, being the children of the resurrection.



# **Believers will share Jesus Christ's judgment throne**

**Matthew 19:28 (KJV) — 28** And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

**Luke 22:30 (KJV) — 30 That ye may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.**

**Revelation 20:4 (KJV) — 4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.**

# JAMES 1:4

But let patience have her perfect work,  
that ye may be perfect and entire,  
wanting nothing.

**In the parable of Matthew 22 the same figure of the marriage is introduced, and the investigative judgment is clearly represented as taking place before the marriage. Previous to the wedding the king comes in to see the guests, to see if all are attired in the wedding garment, the spotless robe of character washed and made white in the blood of the Lamb.**

**Matthew 22:11; Revelation 7:14.**

**He who is found wanting is cast out, but all who upon examination are seen to have the wedding garment on are accepted of God and accounted worthy of a share in His kingdom and a seat upon His throne. This work of examination of character, of determining who are prepared for the kingdom of God, is that of the investigative judgment, the closing work in the sanctuary above. GC 428.1**







