

J U D G E

John 5:21 For as the Father raises the dead and gives life to *them*, even so the Son gives life to whom He will.

John 5:22 For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son,

John 5:23 that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.

Scholars have identified as many as 700 titles and names for Jesus in the Bible.

Jesus said of Himself that He was the Alpha and the Omega. Those are the first letter and the last letter of the Greek alphabet. We would say that Jesus is A-to-Z. He's the entire alphabet. He is everything God wants to say to you – the entire language of God.

We've been going through our alphabet to identify some of the 700 titles and names. We're going, as it were, from A-to-Z. So far we've looked at these biblical names, from A through I:

1. The Last **A**dam
2. The **B**ridegroom
3. The **C**omforter
4. The **D**oor
5. The **E**xpress Image of God.
6. The **F**irstborn from the dead
7. **G**od
8. The **H**ead of the Body
9. **I**ntercessor

That brings us to “**J**.” Our text in John gives Jesus the title **Judge**. He is mentioned as Judge especially in relation to those whom He raises from the dead. Since every single person will, at one time or another, be raised from the dead... Jesus is the Judge of each and every person individually.

Some popular schools of Christian theology suppose that there is a coming single day of judgment for everyone. You'll find this view

reflected in literature and art through history. However, a careful reading of the Bible indicates that there are a series of separate, major judgments of various groups of people recorded in Scripture. Scholars have identified as many as eight separate judgments. Five are most familiar to us:

1. First Corinthians 6:2-3 mentions a judgment of angels. Jesus has promised to return to earth. At His Second Coming, He will establish a one thousand year kingdom on the earth. In many passages of Scripture you are told that Christians – *you and I* – will rule and reign with Jesus! We will sit in judgment over the people who inhabit the kingdom, and over fallen angels.
2. Joel 3 and Matthew 25 describe a judgment of the nations of the world. Matthew pictures it as a separation of sheep from goats – believers from unbelievers. It, too, occurs after the Great Tribulation and before the one thousand year kingdom. (The basis of this judgment is how the nations treated God's chosen nation, Israel).
3. Israel, too, will be judged as a nation – but with a stricter standard due to the multitude of revelations given to them. The period of time called the Great Tribulation is part of that judgment.

By far the two judgments we most think of when we remember Jesus as Judge of all are at the Great White Throne, and at the Reward Seat of Christ.

The Great White Throne judgment is a terrifying, final disposition of all unbelievers from all time. It occurs after the one thousand year kingdom – just prior to the creation of the new heavens and earth. Unbelievers who had been judged previously, and all the unbelieving dead, will be judged one last time. Listen to it:

Revelation 20:11 Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them.

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.

Revelation 20:13 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.

Revelation 20:14 Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

Revelation 20:15 And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

The Bible mentions various books:

1. The Book of the Wars of the Lord (Numbers 14).
2. The Book of the Living (Psalm 69:28 & Isaiah 4:3).
3. The Book of Remembrance (Malachi 3:16).
4. The Lamb's Book of Life.
5. There may also be many books in keeping the record of an individual's life.

The Great White Throne judgment will reveal the failure of their works to earn salvation for all those who refused the grace of God. The Law of God will reveal how far short they fell of the perfect standard God requires for entrance into Heaven. Standing there, in only their own self-righteousness, unbelievers will be cast alive into Hell for all eternity.

Will their entire lives be played back? All the times they could have trusted Christ? Whatever happens will reveal God as merciful and longsuffering. The Lord is not willing that any should perish, but that all come to salvation;

Act 17:26 And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation;

Act 17:27 That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us:

We instead are looking forward to the Reward Seat of Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 3:10 According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it.

1 Corinthians 3:11 For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 3:12 Now if anyone builds on this foundation *with* gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw,

1 Corinthians 3:13 each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is.

1 Corinthians 3:14 If anyone's work which he has built on *it* endures, he will receive a reward.

1 Corinthians 3:15 If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

As terrifying as a judge can be, so can he be wonderful. If you were in a human court, falsely accused but in jeopardy... Think of the relief and joy when the judge pronounces you *Not guilty*.

How much more so when you stand before Jesus – because you are guilty! You're a sinner, deserving of a guilty verdict; you're staring at the ultimate death penalty – eternal death, which is separation from God. But you are declared *Not guilty* by the grace of God, having put your faith in Jesus Christ.

Beyond being declared *Not guilty*, you are rewarded. You are also in a perfect glorified body that will exist forever on into eternity. You will be free from the presence of sin; and from the power of sin.

Television producers have thrown a lot of judges at us lately: Wopner... Judy... Joe Brown... You can watch Court TV; or any number of other programs dealing with criminals and court cases. We seem fascinated by judges and their judgment.

Judge Jesus is seated at the right hand of His Father. Soon every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess that He is Lord.

Communion... procedures... worship & sharing...