

JOHN 5:22-30
EQUALITY TO JUDGE!

Please turn in your Bibles this morning to John chapter 5 as we continue our in-depth study through the Gospel of John.

Over the last few weeks we have been looking at Jesus showing these Jewish religious leaders that He is equal with God the Father because He is God!

And this was all born out Jesus healing a lame man. And this man had been in that condition for thirty-eight years, and Jesus heals him! The problem was that Jesus had the nerve to do that on the Sabbath. Okay, a little sarcasm there.

If you remember, when the Jewish religious leaders heard that Jesus healed a man on the Sabbath, a day of rest, they wanted to kill Him!

Imagine that. Jesus heals a man, and these Jewish religious leaders want to kill a man because this man, Jesus, did this on a day that they said no work was to be done!

In fact, listen to what we are told in John 5:16, **“For this reason the Jews persecuted Jesus, and sought to kill Him, because He had done these things on the Sabbath.”**

Not only that, but then Jesus claimed equality with the Father, and He told these Jewish religious leaders that His Father has been working, even on the Sabbath and thus, He too can work on the Sabbath.

And their response shows they understood exactly what Jesus was saying. In John 5:18 we are told, **“Therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, because He not only broke the Sabbath, but also said that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God.”**

It is out of their response that Jesus launches into showing them that He is equal with the Father because He is Almighty God, the second person of the Holy Trinity!

And we saw in John 5:17-18 that Jesus is – ***EQUAL IN CREATION!***

In other words, with God the Father and the Holy Spirit, Jesus created all things, again, showing them that He is God! And not only creating them but holding them together!

In our last study we looked at the fact that in Jesus, there is – ***EQUALITY IN POWER!***

Jesus can do and does all that the Father does because Jesus is God. And they are so closely knit together you might say, that all that God the Father does, the Son does as well!

This morning we are going to finish up a section that deals with equality and in this study we will be looking at – ***EQUALITY TO JUDGE!***

Now there are and there have been many people who love to judge and bring judgment upon people, but there is only One who is qualified to do that and that is Almighty God. Thus, if Jesus is qualified to judge, then He is God!

And in our study this morning we are going to be looking at spiritual and physical resurrections of believers and unbelievers and how Jesus judges them.

Now the big questions are, ***“Is there a heaven and hell? Is that where people go when they die, to either place?”***

When you look at people today, most people believe in an afterlife or a place where you go when you die. Others just believe you are absorbed into the material universe, which means you might as well eat, drink and be happy for when you die, it is all over!

Let me say this. Everyone will live forever, you just must choose where!

And that is a problem for many. They have many misconceptions about the afterlife and how you get there. And you don't want to be wrong on this one as we will see!

Let me show you what I mean about the misconceptions that people have about the afterlife. We are told,

Since time began, people have tried to make sense of what happens when we die. Evidence of the earliest humans indicates they buried their loved ones with special items, such as jewelry, tools, and other artifacts, presumably to “take with them” to the next life.

In fact, all major religions on earth believe in some sort of afterlife following physical death. Most of these ascribe to two wildly differing versions: One, a blissful place of rest and joy “heaven” and the other, a place of torment, anguish, and pain, or “hell.”

Every major religion, even those who claim no religion, has some belief about what happens after we die, and all are tied into their ultimate beliefs about the soul, change, and the concept of a supreme being.

Some, like Buddhists and Hindus, believe in reincarnation. Put simply, Hindus believe in the concept of a soul, called *atman*, and they receive a new body and life depending on the good and bad actions of their previous life.

For Hindus, you can be reincarnated as not only humans, but also animals, insects, and plants. Eventually, you achieve Moksha, when you are freed from the cycle of reincarnation and reunited with Braham, their supreme being or Absolute God.

Buddhists, who ascribe to *anatman*, or “no soul,” don’t believe in unchanging, everlasting souls. They believe when we die, we shift into another form or body. The goal is ultimately to achieve Nirvana, an escape from the reincarnation cycle, and the end to suffering. Some equate Nirvana to a heavenly paradise.

Others, such as Muslims, believe that after death, they enter a dreamless sleep until Judgment Day when they will be resurrected, judged by Allah . . . , and then enter paradise or hell.

The Jewish faith focuses more on life on earth but acknowledges a “World to Come,” a heavenly paradise. They believe they live and die only once, and the actions they take in life will determine their afterlife. Some believe the afterlife involves the resurrection of body and soul, where they will live on in a sort of heavenly Garden of Eden, while others believe it involves living on in some form through their descendants or others they influence in their lives.

Atheists do not believe in God or gods. However, while some don’t believe in any sort of life after death (when you die, it’s the end), others believe in the existence of spirits and an afterlife realm, or reincarnation.

Modern Paganists have varying beliefs. Some believe in multiple gods, while others hold to animism, which is the belief that a life force runs through all things, including rocks, animals, and trees. Some believe in reincarnation after death, while others believe a person’s energy passes into something else to live on, such as the earth.

Other Pagans, such as Wiccans, hold to a notion of a Wiccan Summerland, which is much like Christians’ concept of heaven. Either way, they believe all life continues on in some way; there is no end. . . .

The Bible repeatedly mentions both a heaven - a place of rest and bliss, where they will be part of God’s kingdom, and a hell - a place of darkness and suffering. Some Christians hold to a literal interpretation of heaven and hell as actual places where the soul resides, while others believe heaven and hell are more of a condition, or a state of mind, such as “peace and happiness with God” or “sadness and torment without God.”

Others, such as Catholic Christians, believe in Purgatory, a place of punishment or a “middle zone” where the dead go prior to heaven if they need to be purified from their sins.

- <https://bit.ly/3lDeRQQ>

As you can see, there are all kinds of ideas out there on what this afterlife is about and how you get there. And most believe that you just have to be good enough in this life, whatever that means, and you will enter into heaven or paradise and if you are not good enough, then you won't!

Now let me be honest with you. I really don't care what various religions have to say. I really don't care what various people have to say.

The only thing that I care about and is important to me is what God has to say about heaven and hell and how we can get to heaven! And the reason I can say that is because God does not lie and thus, what we read in the Bible is truth, from Genesis through Revelation. And I can choose to listen to others and what they believe, or I can believe and trust what God has said in His Word!

I am going to trust what God has to say and Jesus is going to show us that He is not only able to judge because He is God, but He has the power to give us life and, in the end, everlasting life for all who believe in Him!

Like I have said, this study is called – ***EQUALITY TO JUDGE!***

And I have broken these verses we will be looking at this morning into five main points and they are,

JUDGMENT HAS BEEN GIVEN TO THE SON – JOHN 5:22-23

RESURRECTION OF THE LOST – SPIRITUAL – JOHN 5:24-27

RESURRECTION OF BELIEVERS – PHYSICAL – JOHN 5:28-29a

RESURRECTION OF UNBELIEVERS – PHYSICAL – JOHN 5:29b***EQUALITY TO JUDGE – JOHN 5:30***

So with that as our introduction, let's begin reading in John chapter 5, beginning in verse 22 and let's see what the Lord has for us as we look at this topic – ***EQUALITY TO JUDGE!***

JOHN 5**VERSES 22-23**

Sometimes we read through Scriptures, and we don't think much about it, but what John is telling us here is so important. He is showing us that – ***JUDGMENT HAS BEEN GIVEN TO THE SON!***

You see, He alone has the authority, He alone is worthy to judge the world because He is Almighty God, the creator of heaven and earth, the sinless One!

Let me show you what I mean as we read in Revelation that God is going to judge this Christ rejecting world and He alone is worthy to do that.

In Revelation chapter 4, John is in heaven, and He sees the throne of God the Father and God the Father seated upon the throne.

Then, in Revelation 5:1-4 we are told, **“And I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals. Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, ‘Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?’ And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll, or to look at it. So I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or to look at it.”**

Here we see that God the Father is seated on His throne and as John looks, he sees a scroll in His right hand.

The right hand was the place of strength, of power, of authority!

We see this illustrated for us in Isaiah 41:10 where we are told, **“Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.”**

Now, what is this scroll that the Father had in His right hand?

I believe that this scroll is the titled deed to the earth, that was given to Adam when he was created but when he sinned, it was given over to Satan.

You see, it is the Usurper, or Satan, the one who deceived Adam who now has the title deed to the earth.

The Bible calls Satan, **“the god of this age”** (II Corinthians 4:4); Jesus called him **“the ruler of this world”** (John 12:31). You see, Satan holds claim to the earth by reason of Adam’s sin!

So as John looks, he sees no one stepping forward to take the title deed to the earth out of the Father’s right hand!

Now isn’t this strange. We are told that there was **“no one”** who stepped forward!

How can that be?

The reason is simple, and I want you to pay attention to what is said and what is not said.

You see, many people throughout history were ***WILING*** to step forward and try to rule the world. We have seen Satan who is still trying, and men like Nebuchadnezzar, Attila the Hun, Genghis Khan, Lenin, Stalin, Hitler, Mussolini and others.

Alexander the Great thought that he had conquered the world, and in a sense, he did but he did not create a utopia. And sadly, after all of his efforts, at the age of 32, he wept because there were no more worlds to conquer.

Because of that he drank himself to death and his empire disintegrated! It was never as powerful as it was under the leadership of Alexander the Great!

And when you think about it, you can go all the way into the future, the *NEAR* future I believe, and see that the Antichrist is willing to do this!

They, as well as many others were *WILLING!*

But that is not the question here.

The question was “**who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?**”

You see, none of those men were *WORTHY*, even though they were *WILLING!*

And the point being made is that no celestial being, no terrestrial being, not even a subterranean being was worthy to step forward and take the scroll out of God the Father’s right hand!

All were impotent in this matter. None had the power or the authority to do so. In other words, they were not *WORTHY!*

As John continues to observe all this and he sees the inability of anyone being worthy to do this, he begins to weep.

The Greek word is KLAIO, (klah’-yo) and it means to weep aloud, to weep convulsively.

It is the same Greek word that is used in Luke 19:41 as Jesus wept over Jerusalem and in Luke 22:62 as Peter wept bitterly after his betrayal of the Lord.

You see, it is the utter despair, the utter hopelessness of the situation that John sees before him.

I like the way that W. A. Criswell explains this. He wrote,

[John's tears] represent the tears of all God's people through all the centuries. Those tears of the Apostle John are the tears of Adam and Eve, driven out of the Garden of Eden, as they bowed over the first grave, as they watered the dust of the ground with their tears over the silent, still form of their son, Abel.

Those are the tears of the children of Israel in bondage as they cried unto God in their affliction and slavery.

They are the tears of God's elect through the centuries as they cried unto heaven.

They are the sobs and tears that have been wrung from the heart and soul of God's people as they looked on their silent dead, as they stand beside their open graves, as they experience in the trials and sufferings of life, heartaches and disappointments indescribable.

Such is the curse that sin has laid upon God's beautiful creation; and this is the damnation of the hand of him who holds it, that usurper, that interloper, that intruder, that alien, that stranger, that dragon, that serpent, that Satan-devil.

"And I wept audibly," for the failure to find a Redeemer meant that this earth in its curse is consigned forever to death. It meant that death, sin, damnation and hell should reign forever and ever and the sovereignty of God's earth should remain forever in the hands of Satan.

- W. A. Criswell, Expository Sermons on Revelation, p. 3:69-70

In knowing that I think you can understand why John is weeping uncontrollably. He sees the earth and its inhabitants doomed, the title deed to the earth in the hands of Satan forever!

You see, according to Jewish law, the law of the forfeiture of property, if you lost your property, like Adam did, it would remain with the new owner for a period of six years.

Then, in the seventh year you could redeem it back or purchase it back as long as you could fulfill the requirements that were written on the scroll and sealed.

The problem of course, is that man could not purchase back this earth because he was not worthy to do so!

But we are not left in utter despair as John was not left there weeping. We are told in Revelation 5:5-7, **“But one of the elders said to me, ‘Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals.’ And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth. Then He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne.”**

What we see here is that one of the elder’s steps forward and he tells John to stop weeping, or chill out, relax.

Why did he do that?

Because the tears that John was shedding were inappropriate or out of place for this situation.

You see, don’t look at the situation but look at the Lion from the tribe of Judah who is not only worthy to take the scroll, but He is more than able to get the victory! He can redeem man back and not only man, but all of creation.

You see, what was impossible for man to do, what was impossible for all of creation to do, Jesus was able to prevail and conquer!

And in this scroll is the seal judgments or the judgments of God that will be poured out upon a Christ rejecting world, which will lead into the trumpet judgments and then the bowl judgments and on into the setting up of the Kingdom here on earth!

The point I want to bring out here is that Jesus is worthy to take the scroll, to bring forth the judgment of God and not only this judgment, but the judgment of the righteous and the wicked. And please understand that they are different judgments as we will see.

But make no mistake about it, as much as we are not worthy, we may be willing to judge, but not worthy to judge, Jesus is, and He will judge!

Now is this that important?

You bet, because it is showing that Jesus is Almighty God and if you don't honor God the Son then you can't honor God the Father who sent the Son.

And think about it, if Jesus is not God, then why would we honor Him or worship Him? We wouldn't but just as we honor the Son we honor the Father, they go hand-in-hand!

Alford put it like this, *“All must honour Him with equal honour to that which they pay to the Father – and whosoever does not, however he may imagine that he honours or approaches God, does not honour Him at all; because He can only be known or honoured by us as ‘THE FATHER WHO SENT HIS SON.’”*

So we have seen that – ***JUDGMENT HAS BEEN GIVEN TO THE SON!***

As we read on, we are going to look at the – ***RESURRECTION OF THE LOST – SPIRITUAL!***

VERSES 24-27

Remember what Jesus said in John 5:21, **“For the Father raises the dead and gives life to them, even so the Son gives life to whom He will.”**

He is speaking of resurrection life and that is our first point here – *RESURRECTION OF THE LOST – SPIRITUAL!*

Paul spoke of this resurrection life in Ephesians chapter 2. He said in Ephesians 2:1-3, **“And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.”**

In other words, we were dead in sin, and God made us alive or resurrected our dead spirits, He made them alive again.

The Bible is very clear on this. Before we were saved, we were dead in sin. Paul said that **“In Adam all die . . .”** (I Corinthians 15:22)

We are dead spiritually speaking and we will die apart from Christ. Our sin has separated us from God. Every person born into this world, except for Jesus, were alive physically but spiritually we were all dead, our spirit was insensitive to the things of God!

Remember the warning that God had given in Ezekiel and really to Adam as well, that **“the soul that sins shall die.”** (Ezekiel 18:20, Genesis 3:3)

And when Adam sinned, his spirit died and keep in mind that Adam was created in the image of God. After that we see man created in the image of Adam. What that means is this. We all were created with a sin nature, from Adam, and we because of that we sin. (Genesis 5)

Paul makes that point very clear when he said, “**for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.**” Romans 3:23.

That means there are no good people who are on their way to heaven, but we are condemned sinners, and we all are on our way to hell!

That is what Jesus said to Nicodemus in John 3:17-18, “**For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.**”

That is the bad news, that we are condemned outside of Christ. But the good news, the words that Jesus spoke to Nicodemus He is speaking to us. Remember what He said in John 3:3, “**. . . ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.’**”

In other words, your spirit is dead, dead to the things of God and you must be born again, born of the spirit and that can only happen as you repent of your sins and ask Jesus to be Lord and Savior of your life!

Remember what Paul said in I Corinthians 15:22, “**For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.**”

Death in Adam and we are all born in Adam or with that sin nature like Adam.

But in Christ we are made alive, we are born again, our spirit is brought back to life, and we are now sensitive to the things of God, our fellowship with the Father has been restored!

That is what Jesus is speaking about here, those who are dead in sin and when they hear the Gospel message and receive it, they are made alive again, their spirits are resurrected!

Remember what Jesus said in John 5:25, **“Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live.”**

Make no mistake about it, people today want to have that eternal life but for them to obtain it, they have their own ideas. Some want to live in these bodies forever! Others see the path to eternal life is by being good, doing this, doing that! Others feel you just need to believe in something and that will get you eternal life!

Jesus is not liberal with this; He is very conservative.

In fact, He is saying that He alone is the path to eternal life. In John 14:6 we are told by Jesus, **“I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”**

And here in John 5:24 Jesus tells us we need to hear and believe the words He is saying to us if we want eternal life. But what must I do to obtain it?

Jesus said, **“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.”** John 3:16-17.

In other words, ***“Pay attention”*** or ***“Listen carefully and get this straight!”*** If you want everlasting life, you must not only hear the Words of God, but believe them and what they teach, that Jesus is the Messiah, our Savior and you must receive Him into your life to obtain this everlasting life, that abundant life that is only found in Him!

And how many people today, religious people, can know that they have eternal life?

There really are none because religion does not save. Religion tells you to do this and do that and nobody knows how much or even what to do.

But for us as Christians, we can know that we have eternal life! Again, if we believe that Jesus is Lord and Savior, if we receive Him into our lives, we can be assured that we have eternal life!

Clarke put it like this, **“Has changed his country, or place of abode. Death is the country where every Christless soul lives. The man who knows not God lives a dying life, or a living death; but he who believes in the Son of God passes over from the empire of death, to the empire of life.”**

Praise God for the gift of life that He has given to us!

Here we see the – ***RESURRECTION OF THE LOST – SPIRITUAL!***

This happens at the moment we give our lives to Jesus; we are saved!

And this resurrection that is spoken of here in John we see happening all around the world, every single day, and praise God for that!

Dead spiritual beings, dead in their trespasses and sins, have been made alive in Christ, resurrected you might say because they have placed their faith in Christ!

Remember what Paul wrote in Ephesians 2:1, **“And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins.”**

That is what Jesus has done for us, ***HE MADE US ALIVE AGAIN – SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING!***

The next resurrection life we are going to look at is this – ***RESURRECTION OF BELIEVERS – PHYSICAL!***

VERSES 28-29a

As I have said, and as the song goes, ***“Everyone lives forever, you just have to choose where!”***

Both believers and unbelievers, every person who has ever lived and died on this earth, will be resurrected from the dead one day, and that is what is spoken of here.

As we will see, John 5:29 speaks of those who have done good and those who have done evil will be raised. One to life the other to condemnation or eternal separation from God and we will look at this second one as we move on in a few minutes.

Now this resurrection of life, it seems that it is based on good works, but I thought we are not saved by good works but by faith in Jesus!

The Bible is very clear on that, that we are saved by faith, as Paul wrote in Romans 3:20, **“Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.”**

And in Romans 3:27-29 Paul wrote, **“Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? Of works? No, but by the law of faith. Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law.”**

You see, the Law can’t save us, it can only show us how far short we come to what God requires and that is perfection, and we miss it by a million miles!

It is as Paul said in Ephesians 2:8-9, **“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.”**

Then what is Jesus saying here?

The good works we do don't save us, but they are the fruit or the evidence of our faith in Christ. James hit that hard and heavy in his letter. If you say you are a Christian and live like the Devil, I doubt that you are saved because your works show where your heart is at!

Morris put it like this, *“This does not mean that salvation is on the basis of good works, for this very Gospel makes it plain over and over again that men enter eternal life when they believe on Jesus Christ. But the lives they live form the test of the faith they profess.”*

Exactly!

So what we see here is Jesus is speaking of those who came to the faith, are saved and they will be resurrected one day, physically speaking!

You see, the resurrection of life is for all those that come to Jesus and receive Him as Lord and Savior. That started at the resurrection of Jesus and will continue on through the Tribulation Period into the 1,000-year reign of Christ, that is the resurrection of life!

It is as Revelation 20:6 says, **“Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.”**

Now let me say this. This resurrection of life is not a single event but there are several of these resurrections, depending on when you come to the faith, who you are. Let me explain.

Listen to what Paul said in I Corinthians chapter 15 regarding these resurrections and their order. He wrote, **“But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming.”** I Corinthians 15:20-23.

There is an order spoken of here.

First, we see the resurrection of Jesus, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep! And when the Bible speaks of Christians who have died, it speaks of them sleeping!

Now, with the Feast of Firstfruits, an offering was given to God of the firstfruits of the harvest and as they did that God would give them a bountiful harvest!

And here is our assurance of resurrection life, eternal life in a new body. Since Jesus offered Himself, we will be part of that future harvest, and it will be bountiful! Jesus said in John 14:19, **“A little while longer and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you will live also.”**

After that, what is next in this resurrection, is the believers from when the church began in Acts chapter 2 until that last Gentile is saved and the Lord calls us home, the Rapture of the church and the close of the Church Age!

That is what Paul tells us in I Thessalonians 4:13-16, **“But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.”**

When we die now as Christians our spirit and soul go to be with the Lord as Paul said back in II Corinthians 5:8, “**. . . to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord.**”

But at the Rapture we will get our new bodies, our resurrection bodies that will never fade away!

At the Rapture, all believers, from the time the church began in Acts chapter 2 until that last Gentile gets saved, as I have said, will receive their resurrection bodies!

Then there are the Tribulation saints or those who came to Christ during the Tribulation Period! The greatest revival will take place during the Tribulation Period as millions of people come to Christ and most will be martyred for their faith!

It is at the end of the seven-year Tribulation Period and the beginning of the Kingdom Age we see these Tribulation Saints resurrected or receive their resurrection bodies.

In Revelation 20:4 we are told, “**And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.**”

What about the Old Testament saints, those who were looking to the coming Messiah, when do they get their resurrection bodies?

Listen to what we are told in Daniel 12:1-2, **“At that time Michael shall stand up, The great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people; And there shall be a time of trouble, Such as never was since there was a nation, Even to that time. And at that time your people shall be delivered, Every one who is found written in the book. And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, Some to everlasting life, Some to shame and everlasting contempt.”**

It would seem that these Old Testament saints will get their resurrected bodies at the end of the Tribulation Period as well.

Now there is one more group of people and that are those who survived the Tribulation Period, have come to Christ, and have entered into that thousand-year reign of Christ. Also, keep in mind that death will occur in the Kingdom Age, but not like we see it today. It will be rare.

And for those who died during the Kingdom Age, they may be raised up instantaneously to continue on in the Kingdom Age. That is very possible.

And for those who live through this period of time, after Satan’s short rebellion, they will get their resurrected bodies and enter into the eternal state!

Thus, what we see here is the – ***RESURRECTION OF BELIEVERS – PHYSICAL!*** Or they receive their resurrection bodies, in an order as we have seen.

But there is one more group that we have not spoken of and that is the – ***RESURRECTION OF UNBELIEVERS – PHYSICAL!***

VERSE 29b

I think that most people today don't believe in the judgment of God or if they do, they think that they will escape it because they are good people or they have done many good things in their life and thus, they will escape this judgment.

The problem with that, and it is a big problem, it is not true. You don't escape the judgment of God because you are good.

You see, the problem is you are already bad and thus, no amount of goodness is going to erase that badness in your life and yes, you are not perfect, but that is what God requires of you –

PERFECTION!

Now for many, they don't believe in judgment, they don't believe in hell! Let me show you what I mean from this New York Times article from January 1, 2020. And just listen to the opening line, and wow, how wrong they are! Again, this is what the writer had to say,

The idea of eternal damnation is neither biblically, philosophically nor morally justified. But for many it retains a psychological allure.

[We will deal with this, but it is very Biblical and not to warn people of it just shows you don't care for them. Or to come up with unbiblical teaching on it gives people a false hope!]

Once the faith of his youth had faded into the serene agnosticism of his mature years, Charles Darwin found himself amazed that anyone could even *wish* Christianity to be true. Not, that is, the kindlier bits - "Love thy neighbor" and whatnot - but rather the notion that unbelievers (including relatives and friends) might be tormented in hell forever. . . .

[I love how they always gravitate towards love, and they ignore the judgment of God!]

I've published many books, often willfully provocative, and have vexed my share of critics. But only recently, in releasing a book challenging the historical validity, biblical origins, philosophical cogency [persuasiveness] and moral sanity of the standard Christian teaching on the matter of eternal damnation, have I ever inspired reactions so truculent, uninhibited and (frankly) demented. . . .

On the other hand, many New Testament passages seem - and not metaphorically - to promise the eventual salvation of everyone. For example: "Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men." (Romans 5:18) Or: "For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive." (1 Corinthians 15:22) Or: "He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world." (1 John 2:2) (Or: John 13:32; Romans 11:32; 1 Timothy 2:3-6; 4:10; Titus 2:11; and others.) . . .

[Again, he loves to use the Bible and take passages out of context to make his point and to ignore the ones that speak against what he is saying. That is evil and it is wrong!]

An old monk on Mount Athos in Greece once told me that people rejoice in the thought of hell to the precise degree that they harbor hell within themselves. By which he meant, I believe, that heaven and hell alike are both within us all, in varying degrees, and that, for some, the idea of hell is the treasury of their most secret, most cherished hopes - the hope of being proved right when so many were wrong, of being admired when so many are despised, of being envied when so many have been scorned.

- <https://nyti.ms/3zvVKgC>

Interesting enough, David Bentley Hart, the author, most recently wrote a book, ***“That All Shall Be Saved: Heaven, Hell, and Universal Salvation.”***

I guess you can see where he is coming from and why he has to ignore the passages that speak of eternal damnation for those who have rejected Jesus!

Make no mistake about it, there is a day of reckoning coming when they will have to stand before God and give an account for the lives they lived upon the earth. That is what Jesus is speaking of here!

What does Jesus mean when He says, **“those who have done evil.”**?

This is speaking of those who have rejected Jesus, turned their backs on the truths of God found in the Word of God, rejected the grace of God. And there are none who have done good, the Bible tells us, no, not even one! (Romans 3:10-12)

C. S. Lewis gives us some insight here. He wrote,

God is going to invade this earth in force. But what is the good of saying you are on His side then, when you see the whole natural universe melting away like a dream, and something else - something it never entered your head to conceive - comes crashing in; something so beautiful to some of us, and so terrible to others, that none of us will have any choice left?

For this time it will be God without disguise; something so overwhelming that it will strike either irresistible love or irresistible horror into every creature.

It will be too late then to choose your side. There is no use saying you choose to lie down when it has become impossible to stand up. That will not be the time for choosing; it will be the time when we discover which side we have really chosen, whether we realized it before or not.

Now, today, this moment, is our chance to choose the right side. God is holding back, to give us that chance. It will not last forever. We must take it or leave it.

- C. S. Lewis

You see, for those who reject Christ, they are part of the second death, or the resurrection of the dead which will take place at the Great White Throne Judgment after the Millennial reign of Christ, and they will be eternally separated from Christ in the Lake of Fire.

A very sobering thought.

We see this played out for us in Revelation 20:11-15 where we are told, **“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. 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.”**

Once again, this is what Jesus called, **“the resurrection of condemnation”** (John 5:29b).

And please understand that this word, **“condemnation”** in the Greek speaks of judgment, a punitive judgment rendered in a court of law and here it is God’s righteous judgment in His court of law!

One writer summed up this judgment spoken of in Revelation chapter 20 like this. He wrote,

This remarkable passage introduces to us the final judgment - the end of human history and the beginning of the eternal state. We can be sure of this: no mistakes will be made in our hearings because we will be judged by a perfect God (Matthew 5:48; 1 John 1:5). This will manifest itself in many undeniable proofs.

First, God will be perfectly just and fair (Acts 10:34; Galatians 3:28).

Second, God cannot be deceived (Galatians 6:7).

Third, God cannot be swayed by any prejudices, excuses or lies (Luke 14:16-24).

As God the Son, Jesus Christ will be the judge (John 5:22). All unbelievers will be judged by Christ at the “great white throne,” and they will be punished according to the works they have done.

The Bible is very clear that unbelievers are storing up wrath against themselves (Romans 2:5) and that God will “give to each person according to what he has done” (Romans 2:6). (Believers will also be judged, at a different judgment called the “judgment seat of Christ” (Romans 14:10), but since Christ’s righteousness has been imputed to us and our names are written in the Book of Life, we will be rewarded, not punished, according to our deeds.)

At the final judgment the fate of the unsaved will be in the hands of the omniscient God who will judge everyone according to his soul’s condition.

For now, our fate is in our own hands. The end of our soul’s journey will be either in an eternal heaven or in an eternal hell (Matthew 25:46). We must choose where we will be by accepting or rejecting the sacrifice of Christ on our behalf, and we must make that choice before our physical lives on this earth come to an end.

After death, there is no longer a choice, and our fate is to stand before the throne of God, where everything will be open and naked before Him (Hebrews 4:13). Romans 2:6 declares that God “will give to each person according to what he has done.”

- <https://bit.ly/2W6PggO>

The choice is ours to receive Jesus or reject Him, but if you reject Him then you will see the judgment of God upon your life.

This is a physical resurrection of all those who have rejected Jesus and they will be cast into the Lake of Fire and be eternally separated from God!

Again, people can deny this judgment, but it is very real and just denying something doesn't make it untrue. Jesus talked about it, the Old Testament prophets spoke of it and the New Testament writers wrote about it!

And the last point we are going to look at is – ***EQUALITY TO JUDGE!***

VERSE 30

When critics of the Bible and those who try to deny the deity of Jesus read John 5:30, they feel that this is proof enough to say that Jesus is not Almighty God!

Their rational goes like this.

“If Jesus is God, then He could do whatever He wants. But this verse clearly shows that Jesus can't do whatever He wants, He can only do what God the Father tells Him to do!”

That just tells me that people will use Bible verses, take them out of context and ignore what the rest of the Scriptures have to say to prove their point. That is what they are doing here if they use this to deny that Jesus is God.

The funny thing is that in John 5:17-29 Jesus clearly shows us that He is Almighty God, He has given to us His testimony that He is Almighty God! But they reject that and hold onto this verse without looking at what it really is speaking of.

Keep in mind that in the Incarnation Jesus emptied Himself of some of His Godly attributes. (Philippians 2:5-8)

Not only that, but Jesus is not going to do something that is contrary to the Father, He is not going to do something that is wrong, he is not going to sin! We need to take that into consideration as well!

I like the way that William MacDonald sums this up for us. He wrote,

This verse has often been used by false teachers to support their claim that Jesus Christ was not God. They say that because He could not do anything of His own self, therefore He was just a man. But the verse proves the very opposite.

Men can do the things they want, whether they are in accordance with the will of God or not. But because of who He was, the Lord Jesus could not so act. It was not a physical impossibility, but a moral impossibility.

He had the physical power to do all things, but He could not do anything that was wrong - and it would have been wrong for Him to have done anything that was not the will of God the Father for Him.

This statement sets the Lord Jesus apart from every other man who ever lived.

As the Lord Jesus listened to His Father and daily received instructions from Him, so He thought, taught, and acted.

The word "judge" does not here have the sense of deciding on legal matters but rather of deciding what was proper for Him to do and say.

Because the Savior had no selfish motives, He could decide matters fairly and impartially. His one ambition was to please His Father and to do His will - nothing was allowed to stand in the way of this.

- William MacDonald

I hope that clears up that misconception of what this verse is not saying and clearly show you what it is saying, in accordance with what Jesus has just been saying, that He is God.

And because He is God, He has the – ***EQUALITY TO JUDGE!***

And please understand that God's judgments are always fair, they are always righteous.

In Psalm 9:8 we are told, "**He shall judge the world in righteousness, And He shall administer judgment for the peoples in uprightness.**"

Never forget that – His judgments are perfect; He does not judge unfairly or in an unrighteous manner!

Thus, we go to heaven not because of the good that we have done, but because of the good that He has done, the grace that He has extended to us through His shed blood on the cross of Calvary.

If you reject Him, you will spend eternity in Hell and you will be judged or punished in Hell according to all that you have done in this life!

Again, what we have seen here is that Jesus has defended Himself as Almighty God by showing He and the Father are equal. He did this by showing us,

EQUALITY IN CREATION!

EQUALITY IN POWER!

EQUALITY TO JUDGE!

As we continue on here in John, we are going to see Jesus give to us now four witnesses to give testimony that He is God Incarnate! They are,

Testimony of John the Baptist – John 5:31-35

Testimony of Miraculous Works – John 5:36

Testimony of the Father – John 5:37-38

Testimony of the Scriptures – John 5:39-47

Again, if you go through these studies and you come to the conclusion that Jesus never said that He was Almighty God, it is not because the evidence is not there, you just have chosen not to believe.

And I will close with this. One pastor wrote,

And so, Christ claims equality of person, works, power, sovereignty, judgment and honor. And may I say to you that either this is a shocking startling blasphemous claim by an unrivaled mad man - or else it is true. The Jews decided to believe it was blasphemous.

You have that same choice. And I want you to notice verse 24 and see what your choice determines. *“Truly, truly I say unto you, he that heareth My word and believeth on Him that sent Me . . . hath everlasting life.”* That’s the gift for those who believe. *“And shall not come into judgment but is passed from death unto life.”*

There’s the two options. If you’re going to take the side that Jesus Christ was the world’s greatest liar and blasphemer, then your inheritance is death and judgment.

If you receive Christ as Savior, it’s life and eternal life.

The choice is yours. The same choice that confronted those Jews. I pray to God you choose better than they.