

The Investigative Judgment

1. WHAT will Christ bestow at His coming? Matt. 16:27; Rev. 22:12.
2. What is the basis of judgment in each case? Rev. 20:12.
3. How many books are referred to in the Bible?
 - (1) Book of Remembrance of Good Deeds. Mal. 3:16.
 - (2) Book of Iniquity. Jer. 2:22.
 - (3) Book of Individual Description. Ps. 139:15, 16. Hairs numbered (Matt. 10:30); place of birth (Ps. 87:4-6).
 - (4) Book of Life. Rev. 20:12.
4. Who are candidates for eternal life? John 3:36.
5. In whose presence is the examination of books made? Dan. 7:9, 10. Note 1.
6. Who is the advocate or mediator? 1 John 2: 1; 1 Tim. 2:5.
7. Who are the witnesses in God's presence? Matt. 18:10.
8. By what standard will all be judged? James 2:12.
9. What law is the law of liberty? James 2:11.
10. What class will be called first? 1 Peter 4:17.
11. Will all who begin the Christian life be saved? Matt. 24:13; Heb. 3:14.
12. If the books of record show that one failed to overcome, what will be his doom? Eze. 18:24; 33:12, 13.
13. What will be done to the name in the book of life? Ex. 32:33; Ps. 69:28; Rev. 3:5.
14. What will Jesus do when this occurs? Matt. 10:33.
15. If records show faithfulness to the end, what will Jesus do? Matt. 10:32.
16. What is done to this name in the book of life? Rev. 3:5.
17. What are blotted out? Acts 3:19.
18. How many have sinned? Rom. 3:23.
19. How only can the sinner escape the death penalty? 1 John 1:9.
20. In view of this solemn investigation, what is our duty? Eccl. 12:13, 14. Note 2.

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Notes on Reading No. 10

NOTE 1.—“During this judgment scene, both the righteous and the wicked dead are still in their graves. The record of each one’s life, however, is in the books of heaven, and by that record their characters and deeds are well known. Christ is there to appear in behalf of those who have chosen Him as their advocate. 1 John 2:1. He presents His blood, as He appeals for their sins to be blotted from the books of record. As the place of judgment is in heaven, where God’s throne is, and as Christ is present in person, it follows that the work of judgment is also in heaven. All are judged by the record of their lives, and thus answer for the deeds done in the body. This work will not only decide forever the cases of the dead, but will also close the probation of all who are living, after which Christ will come to take to Himself those who have been found loyal to Him.”—*Bible Readings for the Home Circle*, p. 246.

NOTE 2.—“There are three phases of the judgment mentioned in the Scriptures,—the investigative judgment, preceding the second advent; the judgment of the lost world and wicked angels by Christ and the saints during the one thousand years following the second advent; and the executive judgment, or punishment of the wicked at the close of this period. The investigative judgment takes place in heaven before Christ comes, in order to ascertain who are worthy to be raised in the first resurrection, at His coming, and who among the living are to be changed in the twinkling of an eye, at the sound of the last trump. It is necessary for this to take place before the second advent, as there will be no time for such a work between the coming of Christ and the raising of the righteous dead. The executive judgment on the wicked occurs after their cases have been examined by the saints during the thousand years. Rev. 20: 4, 5; 1 Cor. 6:1-3. The investigative judgment is that which is announced to the world by the angel’s message of Revelation 14:6, 7.”—*Id.*, p. 249.

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