

There's a Great Day Coming

INTRODUCTION

- A. "There's a great day coming, A great day coming; There's a great day coming by and by, When the saints and the sinners shall be parted right and left; Are you ready for that day to come?"
- B. There indeed is a great day coming.
 - 1. "All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats" (Mt. 25:32).
 - 2. Rev. 20:12.
- C. This morning, we want to examine what the Scriptures teach about that great day that is coming.

THE SECOND COMING WILL OCCUR IMMEDIATELY BEFORE THE JUDGMENT

- A. Immediately after Jesus comes, the world will stand before him to be judged.
 - 1. "The Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then he will reward each according to his works" (Mt. 16:27).
 - 2. Mt. 25:31-32.
 - 3. The Lord Jesus "will judge the living and the dead at His appearing" (2 Tim. 4:1).
- B. Some teach that the Lord will come, set up a kingdom for a thousand years, and then judge the world. But, the Bible teaches that he will come from heaven and then judge the world.
- C. When Jesus returns to this earth,
 - 1. He will come visibly—"Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him" (Rev. 1:7).
 - 2. The archangel will sound his voice and the trumpet of God will sound (1 Thess. 4:16).
 - 3. All the dead shall be raised—"The hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth" (Jn 5:28-29).
 - 4. "The heavens will pass away with a great noise and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up" (1 Pet. 3:10).

THIS SECOND COMING WILL OCCUR AT AN UNKNOWN TIME

- A. Scripture teaches that no man knows when Jesus will return to this earth.
 - 1. "Of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only" (Mt. 24:36).
 - 2. "Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming (Mt. 25:13).
 - 3. "You yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night" (1 Thess. 5:2).
 - 4. "The day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night" (2 Pet. 3 :10).
- B. There is not a person on this earth who knows when Jesus will return.
 - 1. Many have tried to pinpoint the exact moment that Jesus would return to this earth, but every single one has failed.
 - 2. Illustration about Christopher Columbus predicting in The Book Prophecies that the world would end in 1656, Encyclopedia of 15,000 Illustrations, #6286.

WE WILL ALL BE JUDGED

- A. Scripture teaches that all will stand before God to be judged.
 - 1. "We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may be recompensed

- for his deed the body” (2 Cor. 5:10).
- 2. “It is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment” (Heb. 9:27).
- 3. “I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened” (Rev. 20:12).
- B. Every single person shall be judged by Christ.
 - 1. Every person in this world will stand before God to be judged—George W. Bush will be there, so will Osama Bin Laden, so will Adolf Hitler, so will Timothy McVeigh, so will you, so will I.
 - 2. Illustration about Dwight L. Moody tanking about the Chicago fire, Stories for Preachers and Teachers, “Judgment,” sv “History,” sv “Judgment Day.”

WE SHALL BE JUDGED ACCORDING TO OUR WORKS

- A. Scripture teaches that judgment will be based upon our deeds.
 - 1. “The Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works” (Mt. 16:27).
 - 2. The Father “judges according to each one’s work” without partiality (1 Pet. 1:17).
 - 3. “The dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books” (Rev. 20:12).
 - 4. “Behold I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me to give to every one according to his work” (Rev. 22:12).
- B. The most secret parts of our lives shall be exposed on the Day of Judgment.
 - 1. The Bible teaches this.
 - a. “God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil” (Eccl. 12: 14).
 - b. “Judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels of the hearts” (1 Cor. 4:5).
 - c. “God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my gospel” (Rom. 2:16).
 - 2. Illustration about the Milwaukee woman’s daughter being arrested for her murder when officials decided to do an autopsy at the last minute, Encyclopedia of 15, 000 Illustrations, #6492.
 - 3. Had that body been cremated just moments later, all the evidence of murder would have been destroyed.
 - a. Yet, on the Day of Judgment, that girl’s secret would have been exposed.
 - b. On the Day of Judgment, all of your secrets will be exposed.
 - 1) Are there things in your life you would just die if anyone knew about them?
 - 2) God knows and he will judge those things on the Day of Judgment.

THE JUDGMENT SHALL BE FINAL

- A. When we receive our sentence from the Lord, that sentence shall be final; there will be no appeal.
 - 1. “It is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment” (Heb. 9:27)—once you die and are judged, that’s the end of the matter.
 - 2. When Jesus told of the Rich Man and Lazarus, he told us that there was a gulf fixed between Abraham and Lazarus and the rich man (Lk. 16:26). There was no way the rich man could escape torment.
 - 3. When Jesus told of the Son of Man judging the nations, he depicts himself as handing down the sentence and then immediately sending the wicked into everlasting destruction (Mt. 25:41-46).
- B. There is no court higher than God’s court to which we may appeal his verdict.
 - 1. Illustration Philip, king of the Macedonians, reversing a judgment, 6,600 Classic Sermon Illustrations, p. 517, #10,049. But God will not reverse his judgment.
 - 2. On October 3, 1994, the Supreme Court of the United States opened its 1994-95 term.
 - a. According to the New York Times, the court’s legal business that day could be summed up with “No.”

- b. The court announced that it had refused to hear more than 1,600 cases.
- c. The names and docket numbers of the rejected appeals covered sixty-eight typewritten pages.

WE WILL BE JUDGED BY JESUS CHRIST

- A. Many passages speak of God the Father as the judge of all men.
 - 1. “God shall judge the righteous and the wicked” (Eccl. 3:17).
 - 2. Hebrews 12:23 refers to God as “the Judge of all.”
 - 3. “I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened (Rev. 20:21).
- B. Yet, on closer examination, one learns that God will judge the world vicariously through Jesus Christ.
 - 1. The Bible clearly speaks of Jesus being the Judge.
 - a. “The Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son” (Jn. 5:22).
 - b. “He commanded us to preach to the people, and to testify that it is he who was ordained by God to be Judge of the living and the dead” (Acts 10:42).
 - c. God “has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead” (Acts 17:31).
 - 2. It makes sense that God would judge the world through Jesus Christ.
 - a. It is he who came to this earth.
 - 1) Although he never sinned, he perfectly understands what it is like to be tempted.
 - 2) Jesus “was in all points tempted as we are” (Heb. 4:15).
 - b. He suffered greatly as a man and still lived righteously. At the Day of Judgment, no one will be able to use the excuse “I just had a hard life.”
 - c. He is the Christian’s advocate.
 - 1) As the Christian’s advocate, Jesus serves as both the defense counsel and the judge.
 - 2) “If anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous” (1 Jn. 2:1).
 - 3. Illustration about the boys’ being convicted on their father’s evidence, Stories for Preachers and Teachers, s.v. “Judgment,” sv “Family,” sv, Heart-breaking Justice.”
 - a. Although Jesus loves you, one day he will judge you.
 - b. Will you break his heart when he judges you?

CONCLUSION

- A. Poem, “I Dreamed About Judgment Morning,” Encyclopedia of 15,000 Illustrations, #11075.
- B. What about you? Will you wait until it’s too late?