

## JUDGMENT FOR THE SAVED: PART II

**“Beloved, we are [even here and] now God’s children; it is not yet disclosed (made clear) what we shall be [hereafter], but we know that when He comes and is manifested, we shall [as God’s children] resemble and be like Him, for we shall see Him just as He [really] is.”**

– 1 John 3:2

The truth of our freedom from judgment is beautifully captured in 1 John 3:2: when Jesus returns, we will be made to be like Him. Jesus is free from judgment, and when we are transformed to be like Him, we too will be free from judgment. Jesus Himself taught this, assuring us that those who believe in Him already possess eternal life and will not face condemnation.

**“I assure you, most solemnly I tell you, the person whose ears are open to My words [who listens to My message] and believes and trusts in and clings to and relies on Him Who sent Me has (possesses now) eternal life. And he does not come into judgment [does not incur sentence of judgment, will not come under condemnation], but he has already passed over out of death into life.”**

– John 5:24

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## WHEN DOES JUDGMENT DAY OCCUR?

A key question to consider is this: what is the time frame between Jesus’ return and Judgment Day?

**“Blessed (happy, to be envied) and holy (spiritually whole, of unimpaired innocence and proved virtue) is the person who takes part (shares) in the first resurrection! Over them the second death exerts no power or authority, but they shall be ministers of God and of Christ (the Messiah), and they shall rule along with Him a thousand years.”**

– Revelation 20:6

When Jesus returns, all who have been called and chosen will be made like Him. Those who have died in Christ will rise first, and those who are alive will be caught up with them. Together, we will reign with Jesus for a thousand years.

**“For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a loud cry of summons, with the shout of an archangel, and with the blast of the trumpet of God. And those who have departed this life in Christ will rise first. Then we, the living ones who remain [on the earth], shall simultaneously be caught up along with [the resurrected dead] in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air; and so always (through the eternity of the eternities) we shall be with the Lord!”**

– 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

Judgment Day, as described in Revelation, takes place a thousand years after Christ's return. By this time, believers will have already been glorified, transformed into the likeness of Jesus, and reigning with Him.

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## **WHO IS JUDGED ON JUDGMENT DAY?**

**“I [also] saw the dead, great and small; they stood before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is [the Book] of Life. And the dead were judged (sentenced) by what they had done [their whole way of feeling and acting, their aims and endeavors] in accordance with what was recorded in the books. And the sea delivered up the dead who were in it, death and Hades (the state of death or disembodied existence) surrendered the dead in them, and all were tried and their cases determined by what they had done [according to their motives, aims, and works]. Then death and Hades (the state of death or disembodied existence) were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire.”**

– Revelation 20:12-14

Notice that on Judgment Day, John only describes the dead being judged. Nowhere does he mention the glorified believers, who had already been raised a thousand years earlier.

If Christians were to be judged on Judgment Day, it would require undoing everything that had occurred at Jesus' return. Glorified bodies would have to be taken away, believers would have to die again, and they would need to be resurrected once more. For this to be true, Jesus Himself would also have to face judgment, as He lived as a man. This contradicts the entire message of the Gospel and the victory of Christ.

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## **THE GLORIOUS TRUTH FOR BELIEVERS**

The truth is that believers have already passed from judgment into eternal life. We are no longer subject to condemnation because of Christ's finished work. His grace has freed us from judgment, and we now live in His eternal life.

**“In this [union and communion with Him] love is brought to completion and attains perfection with us, that we may have confidence for the day of judgment [with assurance and boldness to face Him], because as He is, so are we in this world.”**

– 1 John 4:17

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## **CONCLUSION**

Judgment Day is not for the saved. Those who are in Christ have already been made like Him and share in His eternal life. The victory of Jesus ensures that His followers are free from condemnation, now and forever.

We rejoice in this glorious truth: through grace, we have passed from death to life, from judgment to freedom. Jesus' victory is complete, and because of His love and mercy, we now live in the fullness of eternal life, reigning with Him forever.