

# **THE COMING “PAYDAY” FOR BELIEVERS**

**What is it?**

**Who is it for?**

**Why have it?**

**What will happen?**

**What are the results?**

## **A WORD FROM THE PAST CONCERNING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST**

**“There is a day of reckoning coming for believers when every child of God shall give an account of his walk, his life, his conduct, his accomplishments, after he was saved. It will not involve salvation, but only rewards or the loss of rewards...we hear very little about those who shall suffer loss...as a result many believers are careless and indifferent, believing that it will make no difference in the end. If they are faithful, they reason, they will be rewarded, but if they fail, well, they are still saved, and will go to heaven in the end and everything will be forgotten.**

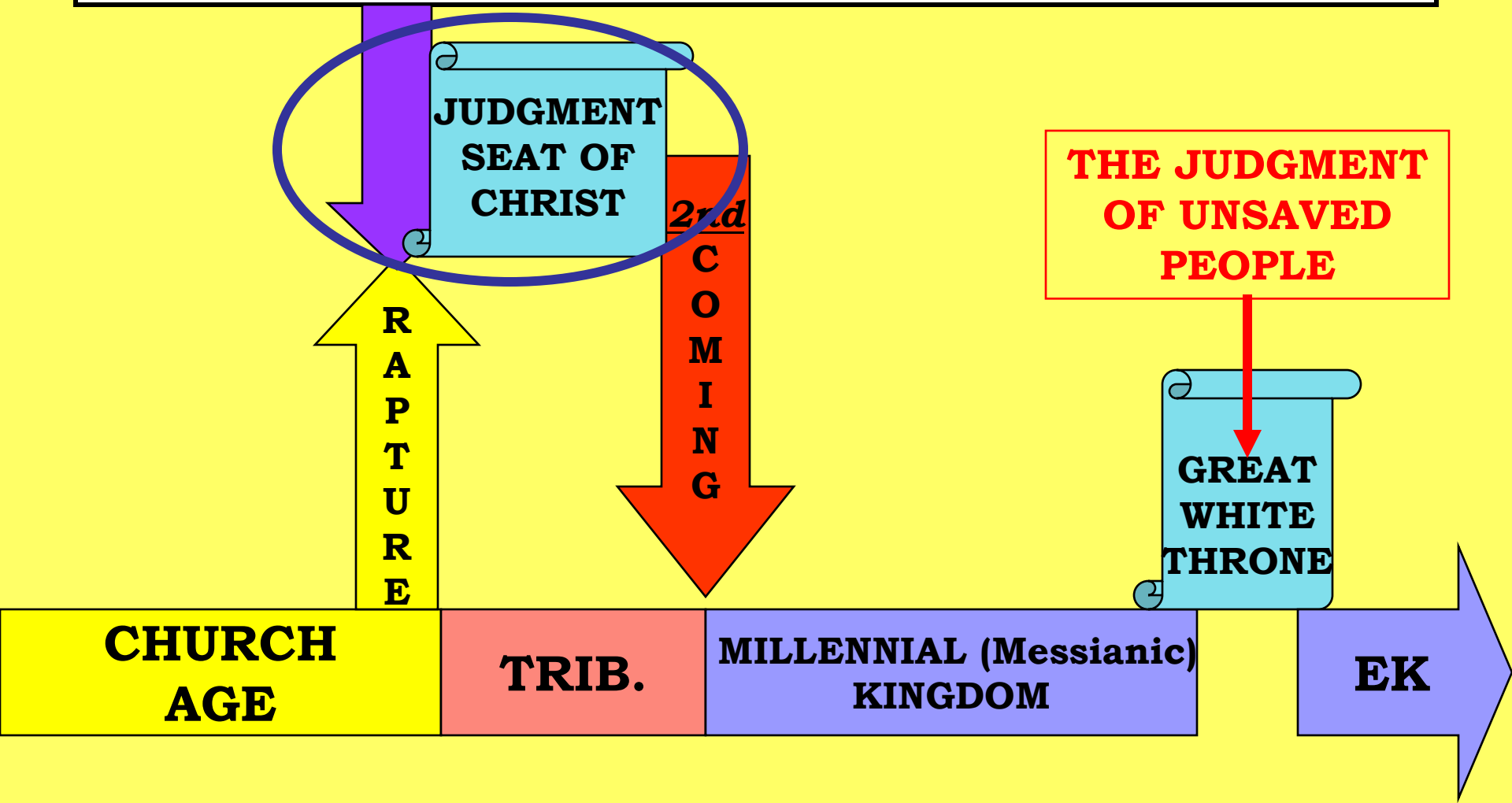
**BUT THE BIBLE TEACHES NO SUCH STRANGE DOCTRINE.”**

**-M.R. DeHaan**

# WHY HAVE A JUDGMENT SEAT?

- (1) THE NEED FOR ACCOUNTABILITY.** Because God is Just/Righteous, He must evaluate all of His creatures on whether or not they have lived according to His moral order. This includes Christians. **1 Peter 1:14-17; 4:17**
- (2) THE IMPORTANCE OF GOOD DEEDS.** Salvation is by faith alone in Christ alone. But good works/deeds are still important to God. **Ephesians 2:8-10**
- (3) THE REALITY OF GOD'S GRACE.** God is not obligated to reward the good works of people, but He has chosen to graciously do so. So even our rewards are a gracious act of our gracious God.

# WHEN WILL IT TAKE PLACE? AN OVERVIEW OF THE FUTURE



# **SOME BASIC FACTS ABOUT THE JUDGMENT SEAT**

- **THE TERM IS “BEMA”. IT WAS USED OF A RAISED PLATFORM WHERE A ROMAN MAGISTRATE SAT TO EVALUATE CASES AS IN **ACTS 18:12.****
- **ALSO A PLACE WHERE REWARDS WERE GIVEN TO THOSE WHO WERE WINNERS AT THE GAMES.**

# THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF JESUS CHRIST

**REV.  
22:12**

**2 COR.  
5:10**

**JUDG.  
SEAT**

**R  
A  
P  
T  
U  
R  
E**

**CHURCH  
AGE**

**INVOLVES CHURCH AGE SAINTS.**

**SALVATION NOT THE ISSUE**

**BELIEVER'S ACCOUNTABILITY**

**DEEDS DONE---GOOD OR BAD**

**REWARDS—RELATED TO KINGDOM**

**INFLUENCES LIFE IN THE  
MESSIAH'S KINGDOM**

**(1) INTIMACY/RELATIONSHIP  
(2) ROLE/RESPONSIBILITY**

# WHAT IS THE BASIS OF OUR REWARDING?

- ❖ **SALVATION (our justification) IS NOT THE ISSUE HERE!**
- ❖ **THE THREE CRITERIA OF OUR EVALUATION (1 Corinthians 3 & 4)**
  - (1) **Did we live/serve according to the standards of the **WORD** of God?**
  - (2) **Were we **FAITHFUL** to what was given to us?**
  - (3) **What were our **MOTIVES** in doing what we did?**

# WHAT REWARDS WILL BE GIVEN?

## (1) THE KING'S COMMENDATION

- “Well done!” (Nothing greater than to have the King praise you)

## (2) RULING WITH THE KING

### 2 TIMOTHY 2

**(2:11)** “IT IS A TRUSTWORTHY STATEMENT: FOR IF WE DIED WITH HIM, WE SHALL ALSO LIVE WITH HIM.”

**(2:12)** IF WE ENDURE

WE SHALL ALSO REIGN WITH HIM.

**(2:12)** IF WE DENY HIM

HE ALSO WILL DENY US.

**(2:13)** IF WE ARE FAITHLESS

HE REMAINS FAITHFUL, FOR HE CANNOT DENY HIMSELF.

# **WHAT REWARDS WILL BE GIVEN?**

## **(3) COMPANIONSHIP WITH THE KING**

- **Entering into joy. Matt. 25:21; Heb. 1:8-9.**
- **Being one of the companions of King Jesus. Heb. 3:14 (1:9)**

## **(4) CROWNS FROM THE KING**

- **The word “crown” (stephanos) is the reward given to one who was victorious. It was a way of honoring a person.**

# WHAT IS THE JUDGMENT SEAT?

- **2 COR. 5:10; ROMANS 14:10.** The **JUDGMENT SEAT** of Jesus Christ will gather **ALL believers** from the **CHURCH AGE** immediately after the **RAPTURE**. The Lord Jesus will then **EVALUATE** and **REWARD** them on the basis of their faithful, obedient living and service of Him.

# **NOT ALL WILL BE THE SAME: 2 INHERITANCES**

## **INHERITANCE #1**

**OURS BECAUSE WE  
ARE CHILDREN OF  
GOD. THIS IS OUR  
SECURE POSITION  
IN JESUS CHRIST  
e.g. 1 Peter 1:3-5**

## **INHERITANCE #2**

**OURS IF WE HAVE  
BEEN FAITHFUL TO  
THE LORD JESUS IN  
THIS LIFE  
e.g. Romans 8:17;  
Gal. 5:21; Eph. 5:5;  
Col. 3:24-25; 2 Tim. 2:11**

# TWO INHERITANCES

- **THE OLD TESTAMENT SPEAKS OF TWO INHERITANCES. ONE DEPENDS ON THE LORD AND ONE DEPENDS ON OUR OBEDIENCE.**
- **THIS SAME DISTINCTION IS MADE IN THE NEW TESTAMENT FOR THOSE WHO ARE BELIEVERS IN CHRIST.**

# ROMANS 8:17

- **“...AND IF CHILDREN, HEIRS ALSO OF GOD, AND FELLOWHEIRS WITH CHRIST IF INDEED WE SUFFER WITH HIM IN ORDER TO BE GLORIFIED WITH HIM.”**
- **“IF CHILDREN” = SINCE THIS IS TRUE OF US, WE ARE HEIRS OF GOD. THIS INHERITANCE (our salvation) IS A SECURE THING.**
- **“IF INDEED” = EMPHASIZES THE CONDITIONAL NATURE OF ANOTHER INHERITANCE.**
- **THIS IS DEPENDENT ON SUFFERING WITH HIM.**

# THE APOSTLE PAUL'S STATEMENTS

- **GALATIANS 5:21**
- **IF WE (believers in Christ) CHOOSE TO LIVE ACCORDING TO THE FLESH, WE WILL LOSE OUR INHERITANCE.**

- **EPHESIANS 5:5**
- **IF BELIEVERS CHOOSE TO LIVE LIKE UNSAVED PEOPLE, WE WILL LOSE OUR INHERITANCE.**
- **Also Col. 3:23-24 and 1 Cor. 6:9-10.**

# **“REST” IN THE OLD TESTAMENT**

- ❖ **CONNECTED WITH THE LAND (cf. Deut. 3:18-20; 12:9-10; Joshua 1:13-15)**
- ❖ **CONNECTED WITH ISRAEL’S “INHERITANCE”**
- ❖ **IT WOULD BE OBTAINED BY ENTERING, CONQUERING AND SETTLING.**
- ❖ **“REST” IS THE REWARD THAT GOD GIVES WHEN WE FAITHFULLY COMPLETE THE TASKS HE HAS GIVEN TO US.**
- ❖ **“REST” = **REWARD****
- ❖ **Note: Rest is something we work for (it is therefore not ‘salvation’); and it is said in Heb. 4 that God experiences it.**

# **THE TRUTH ABOUT REWARDS**

- **MANY, MANY SCRIPTURES SPEAK OF THE REWARDS GIVEN TO LOYAL BELIEVERS: e.g. Rev. 22:12**
- **4 CROWNS ARE MENTIONED AS ILLUSTRATIONS OF REWARDS.**
- **COMMENDATION OF “well done”.**
- **ENTERING HIS “JOY”/metochoi**

# **THE TRUTH ABOUT THE LOSS OF REWARDS**

- **1 CORINTHIANS 3:15**
- **COLOSSIANS 3:24-25**
- **2 JOHN 1:8**
- **REVELATION 3:11**
- **LUKE 19:24**
- **HEBREWS 10:19-36**

# **THE “SIN FACTOR” AT THE JUDGMENT SEAT**

- (1) SIN WAS COMPLETELY PAID FOR AT THE CROSS.** Jesus “put away” sin by the sacrifice of Himself. Heb. 9:24-28. John 3:16
- (2) HOWEVER, SIN STILL AFFECTS THE BELIEVER’S LIFE TODAY.** Sin does have an impact on our fellowship with Christ.
- (3) SIN CAN HAVE AN IMPACT ON OUR REWARDING AT THE JUDGMENT SEAT.** Especially true of persistent, unconfessed sin.

# **THE DURATION OF THE REWARDS**

- **A MISUNDERSTANDING OF REVELATION 4:10.**
- **CLEARLY THEIR CONSEQUENCES WILL BE SEEN IN THE REIGN OF CHRIST (Millennium). Luke 19**
- **PERHAPS IN THE ETERNAL STATE. 2 Cor. 5:17; Heb. 12:25-29. Dan. 2:44.**

# **SOME QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS**

- **SHOULDN'T WE BE MOTIVATED BY OUR LOVE FOR CHRIST AND NOT BY THE DESIRE FOR REWARDS?**
- **AREN'T REWARDS REALLY PART OF GOD'S GRACE?**
- **SOMEHOW DIFFERENCES AMONG BELIEVERS DOESN'T SEEM RIGHT. WON'T THAT CAUSE JEALOUSY?**

# HEBREWS 4

## WARNING AND HOPE

- **WARNING**
- DON'T COME SHORT OF IT
- DON'T BE LIKE THE EXODUS GENERATION
- **HOPE**
- A PROMISE REMAINS
- BE DILIGENT "TODAY"
- YOU CAN BE A "PARTAKER"

# HEBREWS 3:14

## “PARTAKERS OF CHRIST”

- NOT “IN CHRIST” (NIV), BUT “OF CHRIST (NASB)
- NOT LOOKING AT OUR POSITION IN CHRIST!
- THERE IS A CLEAR, STATED CONDITION FOR BEING A “PARTAKER”

# “PARTAKERS OF CHRIST”

(continued)

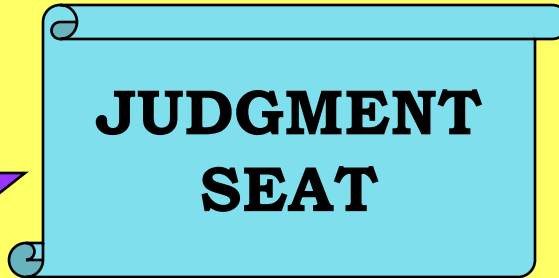
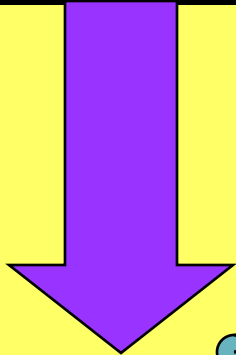
- THE CONDITION INDICATES THIS WILL NOT BE TRUE OF ALL OF US
- A “PROFESSED BELIEVER” NOT IN THE CONTEXT
- “PARTAKER” = A SHARER OR COMPANION...HABITUALLY IN THE COMPANY OF ONE ANOTHER

# ON BECOMING A “PARTAKER” (3:14)

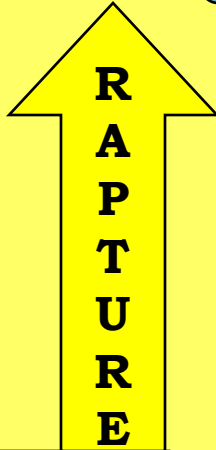
- THE NEED FOR DILIGENCE IN OUR CHRISTIAN LIVING (3:14; 4:11)
- THE NEED WE HAVE OF OTHER BELIEVERS (3:12-13)
- A FOCUS ON THE FUTURE (4:9, 11)
- A FOCUS ON “TODAY” (3:13; 4:7)
- THE NEED TO AVOID UNBELIEF AND DISOBEDIENCE (3:12, 18, 19)

# THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF JESUS CHRIST

REV.  
22:12



**JUDGE JESUS**  
**CHURCH AGE**  
**BELIEVERS**



**CHURCH**  
**AGE**

**THOSE NOT AT THE**  
**JUDGMENT SEAT:**  
**-O.T. SAINTS**  
**-UNBELIEVERS**

# THE PLAN OF GOD: IN THE BEGINNING

- **THE ORIGINAL PLAN:** Only Man was made in the **IMAGE OF GOD**.
  - (1) **PRIVILEGE:** fellowship w/ God-  
Gen.1:26/3:8
  - (2) **PRIORITY:** man to rule the earth-  
Gen.1:26; Ps.8:3
  - (3) **PLACE:** in a physical paradise-Gen.2:8-17
- **THE ORIGINAL PLAN** was ruined by **SIN**.
- **MAN'S DECISION** caused the loss of his **PLACE, PRIORITY & PRIVILEGE**
- **GOD'S DECISION** was either to destroy or to restore/reconcile.
- God chose to restore the **ORIGINAL PLAN**.

# **GOD'S PURPOSES RESTORED**

- (1) FELLOWSHIP RESTORED AT THE CROSS (Rom. 3:23; 21-24) BUT REALIZED COMPLETELY IN THE FUTURE. (Revelation 21:3; 22:3-4)**
- (2) RULERSHIP RE-ESTABLISHED THROUGH MESSIAH THE GOD-MAN (Rev. 11:15-18; 19:6,11-16) and THOSE WHO WILL CO-RULE WITH HIM (Heb. 2:5-8; 1:9; 3:14; 2 Tim. 2:11-13; Rev. 20:4; 22:5).**
- (3) PARADISE RESTORED IN THE MESSIANIC KINGDOM AND THE NEW EARTH (Isa.35; Rom. 8:19-23; Rev.21:1)**