

# Bible Study Notes

Thursday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017 - Last Great Day

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## Last Great Day - Final Judgement

1 Pet. 4:17-18

On the day of Pentecost, we learn about those who are specially called to be in the first resurrection at the second coming of Christ. On the Last Great Day, we learn about those who will not be in the first resurrection.

Peter asked, in effect, in I Peter 4:17-18: “What will happen to the billions of people who lived during the 6,000-year period and were never called - who died in their sins, never having received an opportunity for salvation?”

1 Pet. 4:5-6

The answer is that those people - the billions who were never called and who died in their sins - will give an account of their lives to Jesus Christ who is ready to judge the living and the dead. If they had the opportunity to hear the gospel during their first human lifetime, that may help them during their future time of judgement (Mark 6:7-12).

John 6:44-45, 65

It is IMPOSSIBLE for people to have full access to God in this age unless they are specially called by God (Rom. 8:28-30; 9:14-16). But ALL human beings will eventually have the opportunity to be saved - that's where today's meaning comes in.

Matt. 13:10-11, 13-14

Jesus spoke in parables to HIDE the meaning from the general public. Only those specially called could understand. [In another place Jesus compared the process of teaching His disciples to “pouring new wine into new wineskins” (Matt. 9:17). Because they were specially called by God, Jesus' disciples were able to receive His teaching (John 14:17). Others were not. Children of Church of God members, like Jesus' disciples, are able to understand what they are taught about God even if only one of their parents is a believer (I Cor. 7:14).]

Heb. 9:27, Ecc. 3:1-2

Everybody has to die. After this “first death,” those who were not called to salvation in this age will be judged on the Last Great Day. The Church of God is being judged right now (1 Pet. 4:17). The rest of humanity awaits its future time of judgement (Rev. 20:5).

1 Cor. 15:22

Like Adam, all human beings have to die. But like Christ, all will be resurrected!

James 4:11-12

God the Father is the lawgiver. Jesus Christ is the judge (Rom. 14:10) - we are not supposed to judge one another (Matt. 7:1-5).

John 5:19-29

God sets the standard, and Jesus judges based on that standard (Rom. 2:12-16; Luke 12:47-48). Those who have mercy on others will be judged mercifully (Matt. 5:7; James 2:13).

Notice - in these verses (John 5:19-29) Jesus speaks of a great resurrection to judgment. ALL who are in the graves will hear His voice and be brought back to life!

[John 12:37-43, 46-50; John 3:16-19](#)

These verses say that most people are not able to believe God in this age. Notice that Jesus isn't judging them at this time - they will be judged later. Christ didn't come to judge "this present evil world" (Gal. 1:4) which Satan has deceived (Rev. 12:9) and blocked the understanding of God's Word from entering most people's minds (II Cor. 4:4) so that they CAN'T be converted (Matt. 13:14-15). Jesus DID come to save the world (Matt. 1:21; John 1:29; 3:17), but the whole world is obviously not being saved at this time - just the "firstfruits" (James 1:18; I Cor. 15:20-23). There is a process of salvation which involves thousands of years and is pictured by God's annual Holy Days. Jesus will judge the vast majority of humanity on The Last Great Day, and offer them salvation at that time!

[Acts 10:34-43](#)

Acts 10 tells the story of God calling the first Gentile - Cornelius. Peter was explaining the things of God to these people. Notice verse 42 - it can't get much plainer than this - Jesus has been appointed by God to be the Judge of the living and the dead.

[Acts 17:30-32](#)

Paul concurred with Peter in this. Jesus has been designated by God to be the Judge of all mankind. There is no other name under heaven by which men may be saved (Acts 4:12)

[Rom. 14:10-13](#)

All will stand before the judgement seat of Christ. On one hand, we in the Church of God are standing before the judgement seat of Christ right NOW (1 Pet. 4:17). We will be rewarded according to our works (as explained in the parables of the talents and the pounds - Matt. 25:14-30; Luke 19:11-27).

How does Jesus judge? He judges righteously, based on the words of the Bible (Rev. 20:12; John 12:48). He is perfect in judgement (Isa. 11:2-4). He judges people based on how they judge others, forgiving us as we forgive others (Matt. 7:1-5; 6:12, 14-15; 5:7; James 3:17). We need to love mercy as God does (Mic. 6:8; 7:18). God is the perfect combination of love (1 John 4:16) and justice (Heb. 12:5-11; Ex. 34:6-7).

[Ezek. 37:1-14](#)

This Scripture portrays the resurrection of all Israelites who have ever lived and died - to physical, mortal life. God causes their bones to be covered with skin, tendons, etc. and gives them the breath of life, as when God created Adam from the dust of the ground (Gen. 2:7). At the time of their resurrection, they will be given God's Holy Spirit and the opportunity to know God. [See 1 John 5:18-21 - God's people today DO know God, while the rest of the world lies under the sway of Satan. See also John 17:14-20 - this present evil world lies in wickedness, while the Church of God understands God's truth.] The masses will be called to salvation later.

[Jer. 16:19](#)

The Gentile nations will realize that their former religion was a pack of lies. They will be given irrefutable proof that what they held to be true during their first human lifetime was false. They will be reeducated to think the way the true Church of God does today!

[Rom. 11:26-33](#)

All Israel will be saved. This is the time spoken of in Ezekiel 37 - at their resurrection to mortal life. They were “carnal minded” during their first lifetime (Ezek. 2-3; Rom. 8:5-9), but will become “converted” in the future (Matt. 18:2; Acts 3:19) through the receiving of God’s Holy Spirit (Ezek. 11:19-20).

#### Rev. 20:12

“The books were opened” - the expression in Rev. 20:12 is similar to that found in Daniel 7:10. It means that the Bible will be opened to peoples’ understanding for the first time in their lives. God is a merciful judge. Some have thought that because human beings didn’t obey God in the past, therefore they will find no mercy in the future. But that’s not how God operates. These people will be given an opportunity to learn God’s Way, and to live a life of repentance, obedience and faith (Ezek. 37:11-14)! The kind of character which is worthy of eternal life takes TIME and EXPERIENCE to develop.

There is a note of seriousness here. Hebrews 6:4-12 and Hebrews 10:26-31 show that there is such a thing as an “unpardonable sin” that will cause some people to inherit eternal death in the lake of fire (Rev. 20:15; 21:8). These are those who, in full knowledge of God’s Way, will never repent. God gives everybody free moral agency and the opportunity to choose between life and death (Deut. 30:15, 19). Perhaps through incorrigible wickedness, utter neglect, or complete unwillingness to forgive others, they will have to die for all eternity. God will not allow them to make themselves and others miserable forever.

From the Bible Correspondence Course:

So what is a willful or an unforgivable sin?

If a person has been given spiritual understanding of God’s way and has experienced the blessings of that way, but decides he no longer wants it, changes his attitude, deliberately chooses a life of rebellion, despising God’s laws, then his sin is unforgivable because he will not repent of it! God will not give eternal life to anyone who insists on living Satan’s way.

Such people have been specially called by God and given His Spirit, yet at some point in time they purposely, knowingly rejected it! Perhaps through bitterness, refusal to forgive others, or neglect of prayer and Bible study, they stopped allowing God to build His character in them.

Like the servant who did nothing with his talent (Matt. 25:24-30), some failed in God’s purpose for them. They became so calloused to their negligence and their sins that no matter what God could do to try to correct them, they will never want to repent.

God gives everyone all the help, encouragement and opportunity for success they need to inherit eternal life. God will never quit helping anyone! But these people have quit on God! They show by their actions that they don’t really want eternal life in God’s Family-and so God, in love, will not give it to them.

To guarantee peace, prosperity, happiness and success throughout all eternity, God can’t allow these selfish people to make life miserable for others around them. Although God certainly has no pleasure in the death of the wicked (Ezek. 18:31-32), these sinful people must be put out of the way. They must not be allowed to make themselves and others unhappy any longer.

Rev. 20:15; Mark 9:42-48

This is speaking of the “Gehenna fire” that awaits those few wicked who can no longer be worked with (Luke 13:6-8).

Here is the conclusion of the Last Great Day lesson (Lesson 31 of the Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course), which summarizes and concludes all of God’s annual Holy Days:

Let’s briefly summarize the meaning of God’s seven annual festivals. They picture God’s plan of redemption or salvation-the divine plan by which God is reproducing Himself.

The Passover pictures the death of Christ, the Lamb of God, in payment for the penalty of human sins that are repented of. The seven days of the Feast of Unleavened Bread picture the Church coming out of sin, even as Israel came out of Egypt. The day of Pentecost, originally called Feast of Firstfruits, pictures the Church as the first to be begotten and born as children of God during the Church age.

The Feast of Trumpets pictures the Second Coming of Christ to take over earth’s throne and to rule all nations. The Day of Atonement pictures the putting away of Satan. The seven days of the Feast of Tabernacles picture the 1,000-year reign of Christ and the Spirit-born children of God. The Last or Final Great Day pictures the final judgment, when salvation will be made available to all those who never had an opportunity in their first life.

God’s festival days, unlike the holidays of man, have tremendous significance.

What we want to remember, we must continually review. As true Christians observe each annual festival and Holy Day in season, we are reminded of God’s Master Plan and our individual part in it.

God’s annual Holy Days give us the opportunity to “act out” God’s plan each year. By doing this, our goal is constantly kept in front of our minds. It is renewed for us because we are symbolically “reliving” it every year.

God Almighty, in His loving mercy, has revealed this wonderful knowledge. To achieve the purpose for which we were born, we must-either now or later-keep the Holy Days that point out that purpose. What we do with this knowledge is up to us.

Those who believe God’s Word will want to meet-in obedience to God’s command found in Hebrews 10:24-25-with brethren of like understanding on God’s annual Holy Days.

If you are yielded to God’s inspired Word and have repented of your old ways, if you sincerely want to keep God’s annual Holy Days where He has placed His name, then you may write to our office nearest you for further information.

From the last sections of “Mystery of the Ages”:

What are we going to do then? These scriptures indicate we shall impart life to billions and billions of dead planets, as life has been imparted to this earth. We shall create, as God directs and instructs. We shall rule through all eternity! Revelation 21 and 22 show there will then be no pain, no suffering, no evil, because we shall have learned

to choose God's way of good. It will be an eternal life of accomplishment, constantly looking forward in super-joyous anticipation to new creative projects, and still looking back also on accomplishments with happiness and joy over what shall have been already accomplished. We shall never grow tired and weary. Always alive-full of joyous energy, vitality, exuberant life and strength and power!

With God's great master plan of seven thousand years finally completed - the mystery of the ages finally revealed, and with the re-creating of the vast universe and eternity lying ahead, we come finally to THE BEGINNING.

Isaiah 9:7 tells us that Christ's Kingdom will never stop expanding, never cease to grow. How exciting, and what a wonderful future awaits us!