

The End Times – Resurrection & Final Judgement

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Need

- Greek philosophers viewed the body as evil and a hindrance to the individual's full existence
- The body disintegrates while the soul lives on; no hope for bodily resurrection
- Both the incarnation and the bodily resurrection of Christ prove that the body is not evil. Man is not complete apart from his body
- 1 Corinthians 15:12-19
- 1 Corinthians 15:26 - This resurrection of believers is a necessary aspect of Christ's mediatorial work, for "the last enemy to be destroyed is death" → How is death destroyed? Through resurrection.

Resurrection (Resurrection of Life vs. Judgement)

- Daniel 12:2 - "And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting shame"
- John 5:28-29 - "Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear this [the Son of man's] voice and come forth, those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of judgment"
- Acts 24:14-15 - "...there will be a resurrection of both the just and unjust"
- Revelation 20:11-15 - "...if anyone's name is not found in the book"
- Nature → Our earthly bodies are fit for this world; the resurrection body will be fit for eternity—in either heaven or hell
 - Philippians 3:20-21 "...that we may be conformed to the body of his glory..."
 - our current bodies are of "humiliation" because of the result of sin
 - "fashion anew" - this can speak to those who have been cremated or eaten
 - 1 Corinthians 15
 - Vv12-14 - Response to the denial of bodily resurrection which would have been a Greek influence. "...and if one denies the resurrection of Christ, his faith is in vain--he is still in his sin"
 - Vv35-38 - "But someone will ask, how are the dead raised? with what kind of body do they come? You foolish man! what you sow does not come to life unless it dies and what you sow is not the body which is to be, but a bare kernel, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body."
 - Vv42-44 - "So also is the resurrection of the dead. It [the body] is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption: it is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power: it is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body"
 - Natural and spiritual - this does not mean our bodies will be non-physical; if it were so then the devil would have victory because this would not be considered a complete resurrection. It would also mean that matter is evil.
 - When Paul says, "flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom" he is referring to our state of being and that's why there must be a change.

- What about the bodies of unbelievers?
 - People in hell will have a body of some kind
 - Luke 16 - the rich man and Lazarus
 - The rich man had a body
 - Place of torment.

Judgment – Revelation 20:11-15

Present Condemnation/Judgment

- Those who believe in Him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil (John 3:18,19)
- Necessity/purpose of final judgment
 - Is the purpose of this judgment to determine man's final destiny?
 - No, because God already knows the final destiny of a person. John 10:27-28 tells us that Christ as The Shepherd knows His sheep.
 - There will be no person in hell who does not think he/she is supposed to be there.
- 3 points (Hoekema)
 - To display the sovereignty of God and the glory of God in the revelation of the final prayer destiny of each person. The destiny of each human will be revealed, along with the faith each one had or did not have, the deeds each one did, and the life each one lived. In the publication of the deeds, God's grace will be magnified in the salvation of His people, and His justice will be magnified in the condemnation of His enemies. Therefore, what is central on the day of judgment is not the destinies of individuals, but the glory of God.
 - To reveal the degree of reward or degree of punishment which each person will receive; since these degrees are intimately related to the lives people have lived, this matter must be settled at the time of the final judgment.
 - To execute God's judgment on each person. God will now assign to each person the place where the person will spend eternity: either the new earth or the final place of punishment.

Note: It is important not to apply the analogy of human tribunals too literally. Humans will not be put on trial but will be judged by the omniscient Judge who has no need of evidence to convince Him of the character and history of those who stand before Him.

Time of the Final Judgment

2 Peter 3:7

- And by the same word, the present heavens and earth have been stored up for fire. They are being kept for the day of judgment when ungodly people will be destroyed. NLT
 - Implies that the judgment will be before the new heavens and the new earth
 - Matthew 13:40-43 - Jesus's explanation of the parable of the weeds - "Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire so will be at the end of the age." (v40)
 - Matthew 25:21-32, "When the Son of man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate them one from another..."

The Judgment

“The Day of Judgment”

- (Matthew 11:22) - “that day” (Matthew 7:22; 2Thessalonians 1:10; 2Timothy 1:12) “the day of wrath” (Romans 2:5)
- Will this be a 24-hour period? No, we do not have warrant to assume that; it could be much longer.

Who will judge?

- Christ will be the Judge (John 5:22) “The Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son...”
- Saints and angels will play a part. (1Corinthians 6:2-3; Luke 22:30; Matthew 24:31; 25:31).

Who will be judged?

- Spiritual beings (2Peter 2:4; Jude v6)
- All human beings (Roman 2:5-6) - “...For he renders to every man according to his works...”
 - This includes believers; however, they do not need to fear of the day of judgment (Romans 8:1).

What will be judged?

- All things that have been done during our earthly life. 2Corinthians 5:10 - “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.”
- Ephesians 6:8 - “Knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same again from the Lord, whether he is slave or free”. Some people may be surprised when slaves are placed over (in terms of role) some teachers, pastors, preachers, etc.
- Our words - Matthew 12:36 - “I tell you, on the day of judgment men will render account for every careless word they utter.”
- Our motives - Not just what we did but why we did it.
 - So do not make judgments about anyone ahead of time—before the Lord returns. For He will bring our darkest secrets to light and will reveal our private motives. Then God will give to each one whatever praise is due (1Corinthians 4:5)
- There is nothing now hidden which will not be revealed on the Day of Judgment (Luke 12:2; Matthew 6:4, 6, 18; 10:26; 1Timothy 5:24-25)
- 2Corinthians 3:10-15 - “...and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done...”

What standard?

- Matthew 11:20-22
- Romans 2:12, 14-16
- Luke 12:47-48 - In accordance with the will of the master; to whom much is given much is required.

Faith & Works

- John Calvin noted, "It is...faith alone which justifies, and yet the faith which justifies in not alone."
- Matthew 7:21 - "Not everyone who says to me 'Lord, Lord' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven"
- James 2:26; 18 - "Just as the body is dead without the spirit, so faith is dead without works."; "...show me your faith apart from your works and I will show you my faith by my works."
- Matthew 25:31-46
 - Separation of sheep and goats
 - The works of the sheep is evidence of their faith - something the goats failed to show.

Rewards

- Luke 19:12-27 - Parable of the Ten Minus - we must be faithful with what God has given us
- 1Corinthians 3:10-15 - "...if the work which any man has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire."
 - Both builders are saved by grace, since both have built on the foundation which is Jesus Christ.
 - But the builder whose work passes the test and survives will receive a reward. The builder whose work fails to pass through the fire will suffer loss.
 - This is in regard to the quality of the individual's Christian life.

Jesus

- Matthew 5:11-12; 6:19-21; Luke 6:35; Mark 9:41; Matthew 25:23
- Luke 17:10 - "So also you when you have done all that is commanded you, say 'we are unworthy servants; we have only done what is our duty.'
 - This reward is not earned, but it is a gift of grace.

Crowns

- Revelation 4:10-11 - Describes the Elders who fall before the throne and worship by casting their crowns before the throne saying, "Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created."
 - A beautiful picture of all things being unto Him – even what is in our possession
- The purpose of these crowns is to worship God in the great eternal service in heaven. The believers will throw their rewards and their crowns at the feet of Jesus when they realize that He is awesome and worthy of everything that they could provide.
- The incorruptible crown (1Corinthians 9:25)
- The crown of righteousness (2Timothy 4:8)
- The crown of life (James 1;12)
- The crown of glory (1Peter 5:4)
- The crown of rejoicing (1Thessalonians 2:19).

Final Observations

- The history of the world is not an endless succession of meaningless cycles, but is a movement toward a goal
- The Day of Judgment will finally reveal that salvation and eternal life (as opposed to eternal death) will depend on one's relationship to Jesus Christ
- The Day of Judgment means the final triumph of God and His redemptive work in history -- the final and decisive conquest of all evil, and the final revelation of the victory of the Lamb that was slain.
- The Day of Judgment will reveal, beyond a shadow of a doubt, that in the end the will of God will be perfectly done.

Revelation 21:1-5

- True reward of heaven is God Himself.