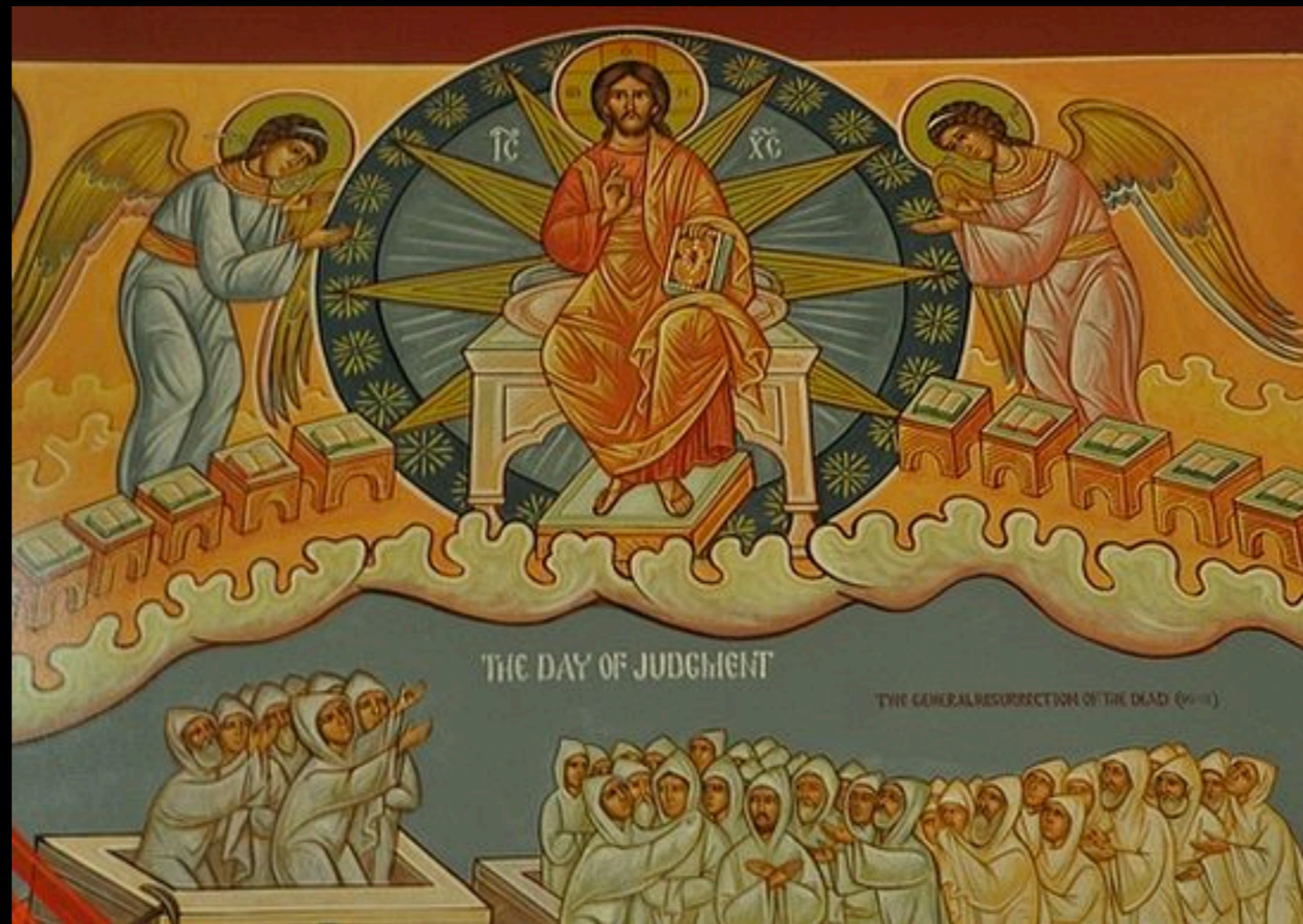


# The Believers With Christ In Heaven

The Judgement Seat of Christ and the Marriage  
Supper of the Lamb

# The Judgment Seat of Christ



# The Judgment Seat of Christ

All believers will one day stand before the judgment seat of Christ (the bema) (Romans 14:8-10; 1 Corinthians 3:11-15; 9:24-27). At that time each believer's life will be examined in regard to deeds done while in the body. Personal motives and intents of the heart will also be weighed.

# The Judgment Seat of Christ

Romans 14:8-12 (HCSB) If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. Therefore, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. 9 Christ died and came to life for this: that He might rule over both the dead and the living. 10 But you, why do you criticize your brother? Or you, why do you look down on your brother? For we will all stand before the tribunal of God. 11 For it is written: As I live, says the Lord, every knee will bow to Me, and every tongue will give praise to God. 12 So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God.

# The Judgment Seat of Christ

1 Corinthians 9:24-27 (HCSB) 24 Don't you know that the runners in a stadium all race, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way to win the prize. 25 Now everyone who competes exercises self-control in everything. However, they do it to receive a crown that will fade away, but we a crown that will never fade away. 26 Therefore I do not run like one who runs aimlessly or box like one beating the air. 27 Instead, I discipline my body and bring it under strict control, so that after preaching to others, I myself will not be disqualified

# The Judgment Seat of Christ

The idea of a judgment seat goes back to the athletic games of Paul's day. After the games concluded, a dignitary took his seat on an elevated throne in the arena. One by one the winning athletes came up to the throne to receive a reward — usually a wreath of leaves, a victor's crown. In the case of Christians, each of us will stand before Christ the Judge and receive (or lose) rewards. (Ron Rhodes)

# The Judgment Seat of Christ

Christ's judgment of us will not be in a corporate setting—like a big class being praised or scolded by a teacher. Rather, it will be individual and personal. “We will all stand before the judgment seat of God” (Romans 14:10). Each of us will be judged on an individual basis. (Ron Rhodes)

# The Judgment Seat of Christ

This judgment has nothing to do with whether the Christian will remain saved. Those who have placed faith in Christ are saved, and nothing threatens that. Believers are eternally secure in their salvation (John 10:28-30; Romans 8:29-39; Ephesians 1:13; 4:30; Hebrews 7:25). This judgment rather has to do with the reception or loss of rewards.



# The Judgment Seat of Christ

1 Corinthians 3:11-15 (HCSB) 11 For no one can lay any other foundation than what has been laid down. That foundation is Jesus Christ. 12 If anyone builds on that foundation with gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay, or straw, 13 each one's work will become obvious, for the day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire; the fire will test the quality of each one's work. 14 If anyone's work that he has built survives, he will receive a reward. 15 If anyone's work is burned up, it will be lost, but he will be saved; yet it will be like an escape through fire.

# The Judgment Seat of Christ

What do these building materials represent? Gold, silver, and costly stones may refer to things we accomplish by the power of the Holy Spirit, things we do with Christ-honoring motives and godly obedience. Wood, hay, and straw, however, refer to perishable things and may represent carnal attitudes, sinful motives, pride-filled actions, and selfish ambition.

# The Judgment Seat of Christ

Fire in Scripture often symbolizes the holiness of God (Leviticus 1:8; Hebrews 12:29) and His judgment upon that which His holiness has condemned (Genesis 19:24; Mark 9:43-48). At the judgment seat, God will examine our works and test them against the fire of His holiness. If our works are built with good materials—precious metals and stones—our works will stand. But if our works are built with less valuable materials—wood, hay, or straw—they will burn up.

Perhaps the figure is intended to communicate that those works performed with a view to glorifying God are the works that will stand. Those works performed with a view to glorifying self, performed in the flesh, are those that will be burned up.

# The Judgment Seat of Christ

Some believers at the judgment seat of Christ may experience a sense of deprivation and suffer some degree of forfeiture and shame. Indeed, certain rewards may be forfeited that otherwise might have been received, and this will involve a sense of loss. Second John 8 thus warns us, “Watch yourselves, so that you may not lose what we have worked for, but may win a full reward” (compare with 1 John 2:28).

# The Judgment Seat of Christ

The Scope of the Judgment:

The Christian's judgment will focus on his personal stewardship of the gifts, talents, opportunities, and responsibilities given to him in this life. The very character of each Christian's life and service will be laid bare under the unerring and omniscient vision of Christ, whose eyes are like a flame of fire (Revelation 1:14).

# The Judgment Seat of Christ

The Scope of the Judgment:

**Actions.** Numerous Scripture verses reveal that each of our actions will be judged before the Lord. The psalmist said to the Lord, “You will render to a man according to his work” (Psalm 62:12; see also Matthew 16:27). In Ephesians 6:7-8 we read that “whatever good anyone does, this he will receive back from the Lord.”

# The Judgment Seat of Christ

The Scope of the Judgment:

*Thoughts.* At Christ's judgment seat, He will scrutinize more than just our actions. He will also judge our thoughts. In Jeremiah 17:10 God said, "I the LORD search the heart and test the mind, to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his deeds." The Lord "will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart" (1 Corinthians 4:5). The Lord is the one "who searches mind and heart" (Revelation 2:23).

# The Judgment Seat of Christ

The Scope of the Judgment:

*Words.* Finally, the scope of the believer's judgment will include all the words he has spoken. Christ said that "people will give account for every careless word they speak" (Matthew 12:35-37) Though in the context - he was addressing the Pharisees. This is an important aspect of judgment, for tremendous damage can be done through the human tongue (see James 3:1-12).



# The Judgment Seat of Christ

Scripture often describes the rewards Christians receive at the judgment as crowns that we wear. In fact, there are a number of different crowns that symbolize the various spheres of achievement and award in the Christian life.

# The Judgment Seat of Christ



- The crown of life is given to those who persevere under trial and especially to those who suffer to the point of death (James 1:12; Revelation 2:10).
- The crown of glory is given to those who faithfully and sacrificially minister God's Word to the flock (1 Peter 5:4).
- The imperishable crown is given to those who win the race of temperance and self-control (1 Corinthians 9:25).
- The crown of righteousness is given to those who long for the second coming of Christ (2 Timothy 4:8).

# Preparing for the Judgment Seat of Christ

2 Corinthians 5:6-10 (HCSB) 6 So, we are always confident and know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord. 7 For we walk by faith, not by sight, 8 and we are confident and satisfied to be out of the body and at home with the Lord. 9 Therefore, whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to be pleasing to Him. 10 For we must all appear before the tribunal of Christ, so that each may be repaid for what he has done in the body, whether good or worthless.

# Preparing for the Judgment Seat of Christ

You can prepare for the Judgment Seat of Christ by:

Walking by faith and not by sight (2 Corinthians 5:7)

Developing a Longing for Heaven (2 Corinthians 5:8)

Make it your chief aim in life to please the Lord (2  
Corinthians 5:9)

Keep the Judgment seat of Christ in view (2 Corinthians  
5:10)

# The Judgment Seat of Christ



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# The Marriage Supper of the Lamb



# The Marriage Supper of the Lamb

Scripture describes the relationship between Christ and the church as a marriage. Christ is the Bridegroom, and the church is the bride. Jesus Christ, the Lamb, frequently referred to Himself as a bridegroom (see Matthew 9:15; 22:2-14; 25:1-13; Mark 2:19-20; Luke 5:34-35; 14:15-24; John 3:29). The church is regarded as a virgin bride awaiting the coming of her heavenly bridegroom (2 Corinthians 11:2). While she waits, she keeps herself pure, unstained from the world.

# The Marriage Supper of the Lamb

Revelation 19:7–9 (HCSB)

7 Let us be glad, rejoice, and give Him glory, because the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has prepared herself. 8 She was given fine linen to wear, bright and pure. For the fine linen represents the righteous acts of the saints. 9 Then he said to me, “Write: Those invited to the marriage feast of the Lamb are fortunate!” He also said to me, “These words of God are true.”



# The Marriage Supper of the Lamb

As individuals living during the church age come to salvation, they become a part of the church, the bride of Christ, which is betrothed to Christ, the Bridegroom. If you trust in Christ anytime during the church age, you are in!

# The Marriage Supper of the Lamb

In the Pre-millennial/Pre-Tribulational view, The Bridegroom (Jesus Christ) then comes to claim His bride at the rapture, at which time He takes His bride to heaven, the Father's house, where He has prepared a place to live (John 14:1-3). The actual marriage takes place in heaven sometime after the church has been raptured and prior to the second coming (Revelation 19:11-16).

# The Marriage Supper of the Lamb

Arnold Fruchtenbaum, in his book *The Footsteps of the Messiah*, suggests that the marriage ceremony necessarily takes place after the judgment seat of Christ.

The marriage ceremony takes place in heaven and involves the church. That it must take place after the judgment seat of Messiah is evident from [Revelation 19:8], for the bride is viewed as being dressed in white linen, which is the righteous acts of the saints. This means that all the wood, hay, and stubble has been burned away and all the gold, silver, and precious stones have been purified. Thus, following the rapture of the church in which the Bridegroom brings the bride with Him to His home, and following the judgment seat of Messiah which results in the bride having the white linen garments, the wedding ceremony takes place.

1 Arnold Fruchtenbaum, *The Footsteps of the Messiah* (San Antonio: Ariel Ministries, 2003), n.p.

# The Marriage Supper of the Lamb

The bride is dressed beautifully. As Bible expositor Thomas Constable notes, “God graciously enabled her to clothe herself in fine linen... ‘Bright’ indicates divine glory, and ‘clean’ reflects purity... This is dress appropriate for God’s presence. 2 John MacArthur adds, “Such dazzling garments were worn earlier in Revelation by angels (15:6), and will be the clothing of the armies of heaven (made up of both angels and the redeemed saints) that accompany Christ when He returns to earth (v. 14).” 3

2 Thomas Constable, “Notes on Revelation.” Available online at [www.soniclight.com/constable/notes/pdf/revelation.pdf](http://www.soniclight.com/constable/notes/pdf/revelation.pdf).

3 John MacArthur, *The MacArthur Study Bible* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2006), n.p.

# The Marriage Supper of the Lamb

Dr. Lehman Strauss writes, “Has it ever occurred to you.... That at the marriage of the Bride of the Lamb, each of us will be wearing the wedding garment of our own making?”

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