

# GOOD NEWS FROM THE COURTROOM

On the day he was to be hanged, he was served a meal of peas, bread, olives and tea. As midnight approached he was led to the gallows. He was pronounced dead at 11:58 pm., May 31, 1962. His body was cremated and his ashes strewn out at sea. The executioners? Jews. The criminal? Adolph Eichmann – the man who orchestrated Hitler’s systematic murder of millions of Jewish men, women and children. However, was there really justice in hanging someone who killed millions of people? No, not really. Only God can provide that kind of justice. The Bible says He will do just that: “For God will bring every work into judgment, with every hidden thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.” (Ecclesiastes 12:14; 2 Cor. 5:10)



The Bible indicates that some sort of judgment takes place before the Second Coming of Christ.

Justice will be done. The Bible says: “And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with

**The Judgement Proves:**

- God has been fair
- He has done everything He can to save each person.

Me, to give to every one according to his work.” (Revelation 22:12) This text implies that there will be some sort of judgment before the Second Coming of Jesus for He will bring His reward with Him.

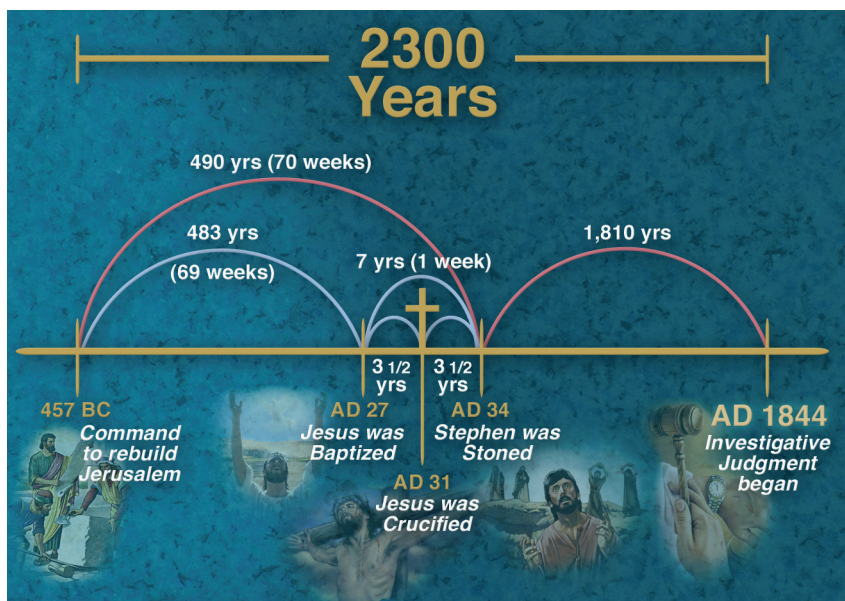
### KEY POINTS

Keep in mind, though, that the judgment is not just about man. It is also about God. In this conflict between good and evil, has God been fair? Has He done everything he can to save each person? Before the on-looking universe, God will prove that He was just and fair in all his dealing with sin and sinners! (1 Cor. 4:9; Eph. 3:10)

Unlike the courts of man, the decisions in God’s court are never wrong. The Bible says even those who reject the salvation God offers will admit in the end that God’s verdict was just. (Rom. 14:11) Let us read the Bible’s clearest description of this pre-advent judgment. “I watched till thrones were put in place, and the Ancient of Days was seated.... His throne was a fiery flame, its wheels a burning fire.... Ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him. The court was seated, and the books were opened.” (Daniel 7: 9, 10) If you read on in the vision, it becomes clear that following this judgment, Jesus returns. Clearly, this is the judgment that takes place just before Jesus returns.

The court described here is clearly a judgment scene. In the Bible, books are often used during a judgment: “And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.” (Revelation 20:12)

Let’s make sure one thing is perfectly clear: Not one of us facing the judgment is worthy of eternal life. So it’s pretty wonderful that in this court, many whose records come up before the Judge of the Universe find the word, “Pardoned!” after their name. They have asked Jesus to forgive their sins and become Lord of their lives.



So essential it is for man to understand how God deals with the sin problem, that He gives us an object lesson in an earthly sanctuary where sins were dealt with. The sanctuary had various compartments and functions:

- Courtyard – Lambs and other animals were brought here to be sacrificed for the sins of the bearer.
- Holy Place - After this, the blood from the animal was taken into the Holy Place, transferring the guilt from the person to the sanctuary by way of the sin-laden blood. This defiled the sanctuary with the sins of the people.
- Most Holy Place - Once a year, on the Day of Atonement, the High Priest went into the Most Holy Place bringing the blood of another sacrifice with which to cleanse the sanctuary. This cleansing of the sanctuary was also known as the great day of judgment. (See Lev. 16) In the Jewish faith it was understood to be the day when every person's case was decided either for or against God.



When Jesus was sacrificed on the cross, all symbols met their fulfillment. The earthly sanctuary service was no longer needed. This was made clear when at the death of Jesus, the veil that separated the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place, was torn in half. (Matt. 27:50-51). Now, salvation history moves from earth to heaven – to the heavenly sanctuary. “We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, a Minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man.” (Hebrews 8:1)

During this final Day of Judgment Jesus stands in the heavenly sanctuary not only as our defense attorney, but also our judge! The Bible tells us, “For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us.” (Hebrews 9:24) That's why the judgment is nothing to fear!

We have learned from Daniel 7 that there is a judgment that takes place before Jesus returns. Can we know when that judgment actually takes place? Yes! Daniel answers that question for us in Daniel 8 and 9. Daniel 8:14 is a key text: “And he said unto me, unto two thousand and three hundred days, then shall the sanctuary be cleansed.”

First, let's remember that in prophetic language a day is equal to a year. (Num. 14:34; Ez. 4:6). The context of this prophecy indicates that the starting date is the same as what we saw with the 70 week prophecy that outlined the probationary time for the Jewish people and the coming of the Messiah. The starting date was 457 B.C. (Dan. 9:25). So, if you add 2300 years to 457 B.C. you will arrive at 1844 A.D. This is the date that God's pre-advent judgment began.

Just as the High Priest, on the earthly day of judgment went into the Most Holy Place, Christ our great High Priest, went into the Most Holy Place in the heavenly sanctuary and began His work of judgment in 1844. When this judgment is completed Jesus will come again! Jesus is coming soon, and His reward will be with Him (Rev. 22:12)

### **TAKE-HOME MESSAGE**

The judgment-hour message is another way for God to tell us that Jesus is coming back soon. We need to be ready because “we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ” (2 Corinthians 5:10 ). The judgment hour message, which began in 1844, is another example of a merciful God calling us to decide for Him, because the judgment is going on right now.

### **BETWEEN YOU AND GOD**

We must remember that the judgment is good news! If you've accepted Jesus as your Savior and Lord, you can rest assured that your name is written in God's Book of Life. When the judgment is finished, then God will stand vindicated before His universe. On that day all will acknowledge that God is loving, merciful and just! Yes, this is the good news that the judgment provides!