

End-Time Prep Series
3 Books In The Judgment
 Bible Sermon Study Notes: Cary Rodgers, Jr., pastor

We are living in the MOST solemn times in earth's history. According to the rapid fulfillment of Bible prophecy there is no doubt that we are the last generation on this planet.

Did you know that Jesus summarizes the core of the everlasting gospel in John 16:8-11 when He referred to the mission of the Holy Ghost, the Comforter, to His disciples?

(Summary verse 8)

John 16:8-11

8 And when he is come, he will reprove [GK: convict / rebuke] the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:

9 Of sin, because they believe not on me;

10 Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more;

11 Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.

What is the summary of the mission of the everlasting gospel of the Three Angels' Message?

Convict the world of...

- 1) Sin (Breaking of God's law, sin = everlasting death)
- 2) Righteousness (Jesus cleanses us from sin and standard of righteousness)
- 3) Judgment (We are living in the hour of the investigative judgment)

What is the urgency of the message investigative judgment today?

Revelation 14:6-7

6 And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people,

7 Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.

We are living in the hour of the investigative judgment! After the investigative judgment is complete and every case has been decided, Jesus will come again. Based on the events of Bible prophecy we are living at the closing "hour" of the investigative judgment.

What are used in the investigate judgment?

Daniel 7:9-10

9 I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days [God the Father] did sit, whose garment *was* white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne *was like* the fiery flame, *and* his wheels *as* burning fire.

10 A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and the **books were opened**.

What books are opened that Daniel 7:10 refers to during the investigative judgment?

"The **books of record** in heaven, in which the names and the deeds of men are registered, are to determine the decisions of the judgment. Says the prophet Daniel: 'The judgment was set, and the books were opened.' The revelator, describing the same scene, adds: 'Another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead

were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.' Revelation 20:12."
GC 480

1) **The Book of Life** - contains the names of the faithful servants of God

Jesus speaking to the seventy workers, **Luke 10:20** **Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.**

Paul speaks of his faithful fellow workers, "whose names are in the book of life." **Philippians 4:3**

Daniel 12:1

1 And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy **people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book (book of life).**

Revelation 21:27

27 And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Revelation 20:15

15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

The book of life is the ultimate book in which your name has to be recorded in order to be saved. What are some other books that are opened during the investigative judgment?

2) **Book of Remembrance** - all of deeds of God's faithful are recorded in this book.

Malachi 3:16

16 Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a **book of remembrance** was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name.

What is in the book of remembrance?

Nehemiah 13:14

14 Remember me, O my God, concerning this, and wipe not out **my good deeds** that I have done for the house of my God, and for the offices thereof.

"In the book of God's remembrance every deed of righteousness is immortalized. There every temptation resisted, every evil overcome, every word of tender pity expressed, is faithfully chronicled. And every act of sacrifice, every suffering and sorrow endured for Christ's sake, is recorded. Says the psalmist: 'Thou tellest my wanderings: put Thou my tears into Thy bottle: are they not in Thy book?' Psalm 56:8." - Ellen White, Great Controversy p. 481

3) **Record Book of Sins (unconfessed)** – all deeds of unconfessed sins

Ecclesiastes 12:14

14 For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good (**book of remembrance**), or whether it be evil (**Record of sins**).

Matthew 12:36-37

36 But I say unto you, That **every idle word that men shall speak**, they shall give **account (calculated)** thereof in the day of judgment.

37 For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.

1 Corinthians 4:5

5 Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the **hidden things of darkness**, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God.

The hidden things of the wicked are recorded and will be brought to light during the **sentencing phase of judgment** when the faithful are in judgment with Christ during the one thousand years in Heaven after the Second Coming of Jesus according to Revelation 20:4.

Isaiah 65:6-7

6 Behold, it is written before me: I will not keep silence, but will recompense, even recompense into their bosom,

7 Your iniquities, and the iniquities of your fathers together, saith the LORD, which have burned incense upon the mountains, and blasphemed me upon the hills: therefore will **I measure their former work** into their bosom.

God records the wicked's actions in which they are measured with God's standard of righteousness.

Review - 3 books of Judgment: Book of Life, Book of Remembrance, and the Record of Sins.

“Every man's work passes in review before God and is registered for faithfulness or unfaithfulness. **Opposite each name in the books of heaven is entered with terrible exactness every wrong word, every selfish act, every unfulfilled duty, and every secret sin, with every artful dissembling. Heaven-sent warnings or reproofs neglected, wasted moments, unimproved opportunities, the influence exerted for good or for evil, with its far-reaching results, all are chronicled by the recording angel.**” Great Controversy p. 482

“As the books of record are opened in the judgment, the lives of all who have believed on Jesus come in review before God. Beginning with those who first lived upon the earth, our Advocate presents the cases of each successive generation, and closes with the living. Every name is mentioned, every case closely investigated. Names are accepted, names rejected. When any have sins remaining upon the books of record, unrepented of and unforgiven, their names will be blotted out of the book of life, and the record of their good deeds will be erased from the book of God's remembrance. The Lord declared to Moses: ‘Whosoever hath sinned against Me, him will I blot out of My book.’ Exodus 32:33. And says the prophet Ezekiel: ‘When the righteous turneth away from his righteousness, and committeth iniquity, . . . all his righteousness that he hath done shall not be mentioned.’ Ezekiel 18:24.” GC 483

Is there any record of sin ignored or forgotten during the investigative judgment? Can any sin be hidden from God?

Psalms 44:21

21 Shall not God search this out? for he knoweth the secrets of the heart.

Jeremiah 23:24

24 Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? saith the LORD. Do not I fill heaven and earth? saith the LORD.

Romans 2:16

16 In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel.

Hebrews 4:13

13 Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.

What else will be closely scrutinized and examined?

“In the judgment the use made of every talent will be scrutinized. How have we employed the capital lent us of Heaven? Will the Lord at His coming receive His own with usury? Have we improved the powers entrusted us, in hand and heart and brain, to the glory of God and the blessing of the world? How have we used our time, our pen, our voice, our money, our influence? What have we done for Christ, in the person of the poor, the afflicted, the orphan, or the widow? God has made us the depositaries of His holy word; what have we done with the light and truth given us to make men wise unto salvation? No value is attached to a mere profession of faith in Christ; only the love which is shown by works is counted genuine. Yet it is love alone which in the sight of Heaven makes any act of value. Whatever is done from love, however small it may appear in the estimation of men, is accepted and rewarded of God.” GC 487

“The hidden selfishness of men stands revealed in the **books of heaven**. There is the record of unfulfilled duties to their fellow men, of forgetfulness of the Saviour's claims. There they will see how often were given to Satan the time, thought, and strength that belonged to Christ. Sad is the record which angels bear to heaven. Intelligent beings, professed followers of Christ, are absorbed in the acquirement of worldly possessions or the enjoyment of earthly pleasures. Money, time, and strength are sacrificed for display and self-indulgence; but few are the moments devoted to prayer, to the searching of the Scriptures, to humiliation of soul and confession of sin.” GC 487

What should God's honest faithful servants doing in the hour of judgment?**Luke 21:36**

36 Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.

We cannot allow Satan to distract us away from God's truth. The work of Christ as our High Priest, the sanctuary message and investigative judgment should be deeply studied and understood by the faithful. Daily study, prayer, forsaking sin, and doing the will of God will keep you faithful as you abide in Christ.

“We are now living in the great day of atonement. In the typical service, while the high priest was making the atonement for Israel, all were required to afflict their souls by repentance of sin and humiliation before the Lord, lest they be cut off from among the people. In like manner, all who would have their names retained in the book of life should now, in the few remaining days of their probation, afflict their souls before God by sorrow for sin and true repentance. There must be deep, faithful searching of heart. The light, frivolous spirit indulged by so many professed Christians must be put away.” GC 489-490

We must closely examine ourselves in relation to the Bible and the character of Jesus Christ. This is a serious work of reflection that we all must do individually. Is my life totally hid in Christ? Have I confessed and forsaken ALL sin and worldliness out of my life? Have I created an atmosphere of truth for me and my family? Have I placed ALL my time, talents, and money in the hands of Jesus? Does my actions reveal that I truly believe that Jesus' coming is extremely soon?

What will Jesus say at the close of the investigative judgment, when He has made His final decision?

Revelation 22:11

11 He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still.

“The righteous and the wicked will still be living upon the earth in their mortal state--men will be planting and building, eating and drinking, all unconscious that the final, irrevocable decision has been pronounced in the sanctuary above. Before the Flood, after Noah entered the ark, God shut him in and shut the ungodly out; but for seven days the people, knowing not that their doom was fixed, continued their careless, pleasure-loving life and mocked the warnings of impending judgment. "So," says the Saviour, "shall also the coming of the Son of man be." Matthew 24:39. Silently, unnoticed as the midnight thief, will come the decisive hour which marks the fixing of every man's destiny, the final withdrawal of mercy's offer to guilty men." GC 491

Endure, don't be allured away from the truth. What will you be doing when God pronounces your judgment in the end. This is not the time to be allured and distracted by the entertainment and amusements of this world. We must stay firm on the platform of truth. **Remember we are on the battleground, not a playground.** We must fight for TRUTH and there will be great resistance but we must remain faithful. DO NOT look to others as your standard in this fight of faith. Remember the great number of professed Christians will try to allure you on the "Carnival" cruise ship full of amusements and pleasures that please the flesh. **Stay on the battleship of truth.** Amen....

We are living at the end of the judgment. Are you ready? Are you ready? You must be ready NOW. You do not know the day in which you name will go before the judgment seat of God. Based on the rapid fulfillment of Bible prophecy that day can be any day now.

Appeal...

“ ‘Watch ye therefore: . . . lest coming suddenly He find you sleeping.’ Mark 13:35, 36. Perilous is the condition of those who, growing weary of their watch, turn to the attractions of the world. While the man of business is absorbed in the pursuit of gain, while the pleasure lover is seeking indulgence, while the daughter of fashion is arranging her adornments--it may be in that hour the Judge of all the earth will pronounce the sentence: ‘Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting.’ Daniel 5:27.” GC 491