

Eschatology ABF Series
Judgment Seat of Christ
December 1st & 8th

Review

Questions to Be Answered

1. What are the key passages?
2. Who will appear at the Judgment Seat of Christ?
3. Is it required?
4. In what state are the people?
5. What is the judgment?
6. What are the results of the judgment? Will the Experience of Heaven be exactly the same for all people?
7. Can I lose my rewards?
8. What crowns are mentioned in the Scripture? What is the purpose of crowns? What will I remember from my past life?
9. When & where does it happen?

1. What are the key passages?

II Corinthians 5:10 *“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.”*

Romans 14:10 *“Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God ...”*

2. Who will appear at the Judgment Seat of Christ?

II Corinthians 5:10 *“For **we** must **all** appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that **each one** may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.”*

Romans 14:10 *“Why do you pass judgment on **your brother**? Or you, why do you despise **your brother**? For **we** will **all** stand before the judgment seat of God ...”*

“we” “your brother” certainly refers to believers; see vs. 1, 4, 5, 6, 7

“all” ... “each one” – every believer in Jesus Christ, no-one is left out

3. Is it required?

II Corinthians 5:10 *“For we **must** all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.”*

Romans 14:10 *“Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For **we will all stand** before the judgment seat of God ...”*

“must” ... “we will all stand” – It is required. It is not optional.

4. In what state are the people?

II Corinthians 5:10 *“For we must all **appear before** the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.”*

Implies life & some type of body

5. What is the judgment?

“... the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.”

Bema - Roman judgment seat - Corinthians had one in their Agora {marketplace}. It was a raised stone platform where the governor conducted legal business, and where victorious athletes were rewarded. Paul had earlier appeared before Gallio at the Corinthian Bema and had his case dismissed {Acts 18:12-17.} In athletic games it was like the judging stand; sometimes there is disqualification, sometimes award.



Not to determine whether a person is a believer. All believers have had their sins taken care of by Christ.

Psalm 103:12 *“... as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.”*

Romans 8:1 *“There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”*

Hebrews 10:14 *“For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.”*

Sin is not the issue {not even unconfessed sin}

Rewards & lack of rewards is the issue

All that the believer has done since conversion, some good, some bad {not moral evil or ethical, but worthless}

This is a time of reward, to receive what is one is due. "the reward seat"

Prevailing mood will be one of joy and gratitude. "The judge at the BEMA bestowed rewards to the victors. He did not whip the losers." Kent, pg.86.

Unfaithfulness will go unrewarded. Remorse will be involved

I John 2:28 *"And now, little children, abide in him, so that when he appears we may have confidence and not shrink from him in shame at his coming."*

Reward & grace go together. Because of grace, we can receive rewards.

I Corinthians 3:10-15 *"According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building upon it. Let each one take care how he builds upon it. For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw - each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire."*

I Corinthians 4:5 *"Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive his commendation from God."*

This is a serious event

Christians can spend their lives and not have much of value to show for it.

Evidence of our priorities - time, money

Evidence of our motives - motives seem to be the key issue here

I Corinthians 3:15b *"he himself will be saved, but only as through fire."* This does not sound like an entirely pleasant experience.

I Corinthians 9:24-27 *"Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified."*

6. What are the Results of the Judgment? Will the Experience of Heaven be exactly the same for all people? – Rewards / Loss of Rewards

Reward & grace go together. Because of grace, we can receive rewards.

Will the Experience of Heaven be Identical for Everyone? I want to give you the answer, so we can look for it when we examine the passages.

We've gotten the wrong notion that just because heaven will be wonderful and full of joy, that it will be identical for all. That is simply not the case.

We will see that there will be differing levels of rewards (and the loss of rewards) given at the Judgment Seat.

We'll see that there will be different levels of responsibility & opportunity to serve Jesus throughout eternity.

So, the experiences in Heaven are not going to be the same for everyone.

Difficult statement!

We hear that and picture ourselves reacting sinfully to that situation.

“Why is he ruler over 10 cities and all I get to do is keep the streets of gold clean?” – No, there will be no jealousy!

“I get to rule over 5 cities and all he gets to do is clean harps all day.” – No, there will be no pride!

What we will all experience is: perfect love, perfect contentment, no pain, perfect joy, perfect worship, no sinfulness

What will be different is the level of our responsibilities / opportunities in our service to Christ and our ability to showcase God's grace.

Luke 19:11-26 (“mina”/“pound” - 60 shekels or 1-1¼ pounds) *“As they heard these things, he proceeded to tell a parable, because he was near to Jerusalem, and because they supposed that the kingdom of God was to appear immediately. He said therefore, “A nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom and then return. Calling ten of his servants, he gave them ten minas, and said to them, ‘Engage in business until I come.’ But his citizens hated him and sent a delegation after him, saying, ‘We do not want this man to reign over us.’ When he returned, having received the kingdom, he ordered these servants to whom he had given the money to be called to him, that he might know what they had gained by doing business. The first came before him, saying, ‘Lord, your mina has made ten minas more.’ And he said to him, ‘Well done, good servant! Because you have been faithful in a very little,*

you shall have authority over ten cities.’ And the second came, saying, ‘Lord, your mina has made five minas.’ And he said to him, ‘And you are to be over five cities.’ Then another came, saying, ‘Lord, here is your mina, which I kept laid away in a handkerchief; for I was afraid of you, because you are a severe man. You take what you did not deposit, and reap what you did not sow.’ He said to him, ‘I will condemn you with your own words, you wicked servant! You knew that I was a severe man, taking what I did not deposit and reaping what I did not sow? Why then did you not put my money in the bank, and at my coming I might have collected it with interest?’ And he said to those who stood by, ‘Take the mina from him, and give it to the one who has the ten minas.’ And they said to him, ‘Lord, he has ten minas!’ ‘I tell you that to everyone who has, more will be given, but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away.’”

Matthew 25:21 (talents - 3000 shekels or 75-88 pounds) – *“His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’”*

Luke 6:23a *“Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven; for so their fathers did to the prophets.”*

Luke 6:35 *“But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil.”*

Luke 14:13-14 *“But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the just.”*

Mark 9:41 *“For truly, I say to you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you belong to Christ will by no means lose his reward.”*

Jesus is keeping track of even the little acts of service

Hebrews 10:35 *“Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward.”*

I Corinthians 9:24-27 *“Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box*

as one beating the air. But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.”

7. Can I Lose My rewards? (Alcorn - 125)

Revelation 3:11 *“I am coming soon. Hold fast what you have, so that no one may seize your crown.”*

I Corinthians 9:27 *“But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.”*

I Corinthians 3:15 *“If anyone’s work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire.”*

Matthew 25:28-29 (unbeliever) *“So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away.”*

Matthew 6:5-6 *“And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.”*

II John 1:8 *“Watch yourselves, so that you may not lose what we have worked for, but may win a full reward.”*

8. What Crowns are Mentioned in the Scripture? What is the Purpose of Crowns? What Will I Remember from My Past life?

Five Crowns are specifically mentioned in the Scriptures; remember, crowns represented authority. The question becomes, are these separate crowns, or descriptions of the nature of our crown (reward)?

1. The Crown of Life – for faithfulness to Christ in persecution or martyrdom

James 1:12 *“Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.”*

Revelation 2:10 *“Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life.”*

2. The Incorruptible Crown – for determination, discipline and victory in the Christian life

I Corinthians 9:24-25 *“Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable.”*

3. The Crown of Glory – for faithfully representing Christ in a position of spiritual leadership

I Peter 5:1-4 *“So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.”*

4. The Crown of Righteousness – for purifying and readying ourselves to meet Christ at His return

II Timothy 4:6-8 *“For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.”*

5. The Crown of Rejoicing – for pouring ourselves into others in evangelism & discipleship.

I Thessalonians 2:19 *“For what is our hope or joy or crown of boasting before our Lord Jesus at his coming? Is it not you?” (ASV)*

“For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Is it not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming?” (KJV)

This crown may relate to Daniel 12:3 *“And those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky above; and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.”*

There may be any number of other crowns and rewards unrelated to crowns for other kinds of good deeds, but these are the ones that are mentioned.

What is the Purpose of Crowns?

We will keep them - we will not cast them down at His feet - they will demonstrate throughout eternity God's glory and grace

Revelation 4:9-11 *"And whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to him who is seated on the throne, who lives forever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall down before him who is seated on the throne and worship him who lives forever and ever. They cast 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.'"*

What Will I Remember from My Past life?

"Heaven's joy is not dependent on an erased mind, but a renewed mind." Alcorn pg. 87

"Heaven's happiness will not be dependent on our ignorance of what happened on earth. Rather, it will be enhanced by our awareness of God's grace and justice ..." Alcorn pg. 93

Revelation 6:9-10 *"When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the witness they had borne. They cried out with a loud voice, 'O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?'"*

Luke 16:27-28 *"And he said, 'Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house - for I have five brothers - so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.'"*

The difference is that these memories won't be filled with pain, or any type of sinfulness (anger, pride).

9. When & Where Does it Happen?

Hebrews 9:27 *"And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment,"*

It happens after we die.

I Thessalonians 4:17 *"Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord."*

It happens after the rapture if we don't die.

Revelation 19:7-8 *"Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready; it*

was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure”—for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.”

It happens before we return with Christ at the Second Coming.

Two possibilities:

1. It happens right after a believer dies for that individual believer. There's nothing in the language that demands this to be a single, long event, where everyone gets in line for judgment.
2. It happens at an unknown time, while the Tribulation period is taking place.

Where Does it Happen?

It must be in Heaven. That's where we are after we die and that's where Jesus' throne is.