

### **3ABN Sabbath School Panel**

#### **Tuesday's Lesson**

#### **"The Judgement Has Come"**

It happened about 16 years ago, but I remember it like it was yesterday. It was one of the most terrifying days of my life; it was judgment day, and the books were opened. I was guilty of breaking the law. As I stood before the judge with a potential maximum prison sentence of 15 years hanging in the balance, my heart was beating out of my chest. My charges or transgressions were called out and under intense scrutiny by the judge. In court cases like mine, the judge considers criminal history when deciding one's fate. I had my dad by my side, and I had my advocate, also known as my defense attorney. On the left was my accuser, known as the Prosecuting Attorney, who was representing the state. I accepted a plea deal and took two years of probation instead of going to trial and potentially to prison. In retrospect, I think about the people in the courtroom who had nothing to fear because they were on the right side of the law. What's the purpose of me telling you all of this? When it comes to the judgment, we have no need to be fearful because our God is faithful and has made every provision possible for us to spend eternity with Him. We need to ensure we are on the right side of His Law and at one with Him. In our trial, eternity hangs in the balance, but we have an Advocate with the Father, whose name is Jesus Christ.

The lesson starts by instructing us to compare Daniel 7:9-10 with Revelation 14:6-7. What is the similarity between these two passages?

**Daniel 7:9-10: <sup>9</sup>“I watched till thrones were put in place, And the Ancient of Days was seated; His garment *was* white as snow, And the hair of His head *was* like pure wool. His throne *was* a fiery flame, Its wheels a burning fire; <sup>10</sup> A fiery stream issued And came forth from before Him. A thousand thousands ministered to Him; Ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him. The court was seated, And the books were opened.**

Ok, now let's look at **Revelation 14:6-7. <sup>6</sup> Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth—to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people— <sup>7</sup> saying with a loud voice, “Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water.”**

Four similarities stand out:

1. Both passages depict scenes of divine judgment
2. Both passages emphasize God's glory and majesty
3. Both passages reference an eternal kingdom
4. Both passages declare God's sovereignty

One thing that's for sure is there is no escaping judgment. Throughout the hands of time, God has had a message of judgment for the world. I think of Noah and the Ark, Jonah and the Ninevites, Sodom and Gomorrah, and the list goes on.

What standard are we being tested by?

**GC p. 482: The law of God is the standard by which the characters and the lives of men will be tested in the judgment. Says the wise man: “Fear God, and keep His commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment.” Ecclesiastes 12:13, 14. The apostle James admonishes his brethren: “So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty.” James 2:12. GC 482.2**

Let's discuss the books of record before we get too far in our study.

- The Book of Life – “contains the names of all who have ever entered the service of God.”
- “A Book of Remembrance” - “A book of remembrance” is written before God, in which are recorded the good deeds of “them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon His name.” Malachi 3:16. Their words of faith, their acts of love, are registered in heaven. Nehemiah refers to this when he says: “Remember me, O my God, ... and wipe not out my good deeds that I have done for the house of my God.” Nehemiah 13:14. 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. GC 481.1

The Investigative Judgment takes place prior to the Second Coming of Christ. The evidence must be carefully examined before any sentence or judgment is handed out. We serve a just God.

This will be a lengthy quote, but it's too beautiful not to include it. GC p. 483 paragraphs 1 & 2:  
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.

All who have truly repented of sin, and by faith claimed the blood of Christ as their atoning sacrifice, have had pardon entered against their names in the books of heaven; as they have become partakers of the righteousness of Christ, and their characters are found to be in harmony with the law of God, their sins will be blotted out, and they themselves will be accounted worthy of eternal life. The Lord declares, by the prophet Isaiah: "I, even I, am He that blotteth out thy transgressions for Mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins." [Isaiah 43:25](#). Said Jesus: "He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before My Father, and before His angels." "Whosoever therefore shall confess Me before men, him will I confess also before My Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny Me before men, him will I also deny before My Father which is in heaven." [Revelation 3:5](#); [Matthew 10:32, 33](#).

There's going to come a time when it's too late to make a decision for Christ. **Revelation 22:10-12:** <sup>10</sup> **And he said to me, "Do not seal the words of the prophecy of this book, for**

**the time is at hand. <sup>11</sup> He who is unjust, let him be unjust still; he who is filthy, let him be filthy still; he who is righteous, let him be righteous still; he who is holy, let him be holy still.” <sup>12</sup> “And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work.**

In the beginning of this lesson I shared a little about my earthly trial, but something I want you to know is that my record has been wiped clean. My case has been cleared.