

Boldness in the Day of Judgment

1. **Rev 14:6-7**---contains the announcement that the “hour” of judgment is come; contrast this with Paul’s description of it in his time as “day” of judgment (**Acts 17:31**)
 - a. “day” of **Acts 17:31** not literal 24-hour period, not even prophetic day but a length of time set aside by God to conduct a work of judging the lives and character of every human being on earth; it is an unspecified length of time which will continue as long as there is a human being needing to be judged;
 - b. This time of Judgment was still future in the time of Paul: hence Paul could speak of it FIGURATIVELY as a “day” of judgment that is still far away during his time; but those living today have reached not just the “day” of judgment but the very “hour” of its coming;
2. **The hour of his judgment has come**---present reality; not during 2nd coming
3. **Eccl 12:13, 14; Matt 12:36; Eze 1-10**;—the judgment is pictured in Scripture as a very solemn and fearful time;

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.

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.**

Three Ways to Deal with the Judgment

4. In light of the fact that the Judgment is a fearful and solemn event, how do we propose to go through it? In other words, how are we to obtain confidence and assurance to stand in such a judgment? Who will be able to stand such a terrifying event?
5. Different people have dealt with the judgment in one of three ways:
 - a. **Deny the existence of the judgment**---easiest option; deny the existence of the investigative judgment; if this is true then 1844, the cleansing of the sanctuary goes out the window

"But what about the Investigative Judgment?" Yes, indeed, what about it? In truth, there is no responsibility resting on me to say anything about it, because in the entire Bible, from Gen. 1:1 to Rev. 22:21, inclusive, there is never once any mention of such a thing. A long time ago I

found that the only way to avoid misunderstandings in Bible discussions was to keep clear of theological terms not found in Scripture, and hence not susceptible of Bible explanation. —*E. J. Waggoner, Confession of Faith, May, 1916.*

- i. **Eccl 12:13-14, Dan 7:9-10, Acts 17:31, 2 Cor 5:10**, etc. all talk about a judgment even though the term “investigative” is not used;
- b. **Exempt the believers from the judgment**---Don’t deny the existence of the pre-advent investigative judgment but teach that the saints or believers are excluded (**John 5:24**); after all such a teaching of a future judgment robs the believer who has possession of present salvation of confidence and assurance (sounds like “once saved-always saved” idea);

“Fears concerning personal standing in the investigative judgment have cut the nerve of joyous witness for many church members. Legalism is one result, and lack of assurance another, when the judgment is traditionally presented, for the primacy of grace and imputed righteousness is usually forgotten” —**words of Desmond Ford.**

- i. If this is true then I don’t have to be worried about the investigative judgment; I don’t even have to study about it anymore; forget 1844, the cleansing of the sanctuary, the blotting of sin
 - ii. This argument flies in the face of texts such as **Acts 17:31** and **2 Cor 5:10**;
 - iii. Also. John would contradict himself in the light of what he says in **1 John 4:17** that even the saints face the judgment;
- c. **Face the judgment squarely, head on, but with boldness (1 John 4:17)**---the most sensible and logical option to take; Don’t make the fatal assumption that there is no such thing as an investigative judgment (just because the term is not used in the Bible) and then don’t presume that the saints are exempt just because of a faulty understanding of **John 5:24**; **1 John 4:17** does not sound like the saints are exempt;

Obtaining Boldness in the Hour of Judgment

6. How to obtain confidence and boldness in the time of Judgment? There is one way and absolutely one way only to obtain confidence and boldness in the hour of judgment—and that is to be absolutely certain about and be confident in what God has revealed concerning the work of Jesus as High Priest in the second apartment of the heavenly sanctuary ;
 - a. It is to be absolutely certain about the meaning of the change of ministration from the holy place to the most holy place of the heavenly sanctuary for the purpose of making a final atonement to cleanse the sanctuary (**Dan 8:14**)
 - b. Faith and assurance in the judgment naturally grows out of hearing and understanding the significance of Christ’s Priestly ministration (**Rom 10:17**), especially the grasping the significance of the change in ministration in the heavenly sanctuary from the Holy to the Most Holy Place
 - c. Failing to understand His work as high Priest fulfilling His final atonement means failing to obtain a basis of faith which is so needful in the time of judging;

- d. Adventists lose much in this regard by no longer focusing on the work of Jesus in the heavenly sanctuary; this is the most serious mistake Adventists are making individually and as a church!
7. The close connection between the knowhow of the sanctuary service and the investigative judgment is found in the following statement by EGW:

The subject of the sanctuary and the investigative judgment should be clearly understood by the people of God. All need a knowledge for themselves of the position and work of their great High Priest. Otherwise it will be impossible for them to exercise the faith which is essential at this time or to occupy the position which God designs them to fill. Every individual has a soul to save or to lose. Each has a case pending at the bar of God. Each must meet the great Judge face to face. How important, then, that every mind contemplate often the solemn scene when the judgment shall sit and the books shall be opened, when, with Daniel, every individual must stand in his lot, at the end of the days. **GC 488.**

The Breastplate of Judgment

8. The breastplate (ornament) of judgment--the most striking and brilliant part of the high priest's garment; **Exo 28:1-4, 29-30;**
- a. **also the most sacred part** because it represented the close connection between God and His children (**PP 351**)

Over the ephod was the breastplate, the most sacred of the priestly vestments. This was of the same material as the ephod. It was in the form of a square, measuring a span, and was suspended from the shoulders by a cord of blue from golden rings. The border was formed of a variety of precious stones, the same that form the twelve foundations of the City of God. Within the border were twelve stones set in gold, arranged in rows of four, and, like those in the shoulder pieces, engraved with the names of the tribes. The Lord's direction was, "Aaron shall bear the names of the children of Israel in the breastplate of judgment upon his heart, when he goeth in unto the holy place, for a memorial before the Lord continually." Exodus 28:29. So Christ, the great High Priest, pleading His blood before the Father in the sinner's behalf, bears upon His heart the name of every repentant, believing soul. Says the psalmist, "I am poor and needy; yet the Lord thinketh upon me." Psalm 40:17. **PP 351.**

- b. **Considerable space devoted to a detailed description** of this part of the High Priest's garments (Exo 28:15-30) indicating its significance and importance
- c. **Gems engraved on the breastplate** contained the names of the 12 tribes and illustrate the value of men and women in the sight of God irrespective of their status in life (Matt 10:42);
- d. **Upon his heart**---to indicate His great love and affection for His children, especially the downtrodden ones (**Matt 10:42**); Christ has accepted the burden and responsibility of saving His people at whatever cost to Himself; he is touched with the feelings of our infirmities and feels our sorrows (**Heb 2:14-18; Heb 4:14-16**)
- e. **For a memorial before the LORD continually.** Thus, the LORD will be reminded of his people continually. (**Mal 3:17**)