will rejoice around the throne of God. They are people of all ages resurrected at
the time of Christ’s resurrection and ascended to heaven with Him (Matthew
27:52; Ephesians 4:7–8).

This is good news! There are some of earth’s redeemed around the throne of
God. They experience the same challenges and temptations in life that we face.
Through the grace of Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit, they overcome. We
give praise to Jesus our all-powerful Creator.

But in Revelation 5:1, the scene dramatically changes: “And I saw in the right
hand of Him who sat on the throne a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed
with seven seals.” Notice the throne once again and a scroll written on both sides.
It is sealed with the divine seal, and no one in heaven or earth can open the scroll.

Verse 2 asks, “Who is worthy to open the scroll and its seals?” Heavenly
beings tremble. The issue is serious. If no one in heaven can open the judgment
scroll; all humanity will be lost. No angelic being can represent humanity in earth’s
final judgment.

4. Why does John weep when he looks into heaven, and what is the
solution to his tears? (Revelation 5:1–7)

Jesus, the Lamb of God who has sacrificed His life for the salvation of all
humanity, takes the scroll of judgment and opens it. All of heaven bursts forth
in rapturous praise. His victory over Satan’s temptations, His resurrection, His
high priestly ministry provide salvation for all who choose by faith to respond
to His grace.

Our Debt Is Paid

God cannot overlook sin. Justice must be served, and the sentence pro-
nounced, but Christ Himself pays the debt. The sinner is free. In the final judg-
ment, Jesus stands before the whole universe and declares that our debt is paid.

The judgment is incredibly good news for the people of God. It speaks of the
end of the reign of sin and the deliverance of God’s people. Can anything be more
encouraging? Jesus stands for us in the judgment. His perfect righteous life covers
our imperfections. His righteousness works within us to make us new. His grace
pardons us, transforms us, and empowers us to live godly lives.

We need not fear. In the judgment, the powers of hell are defeated. Judgment
is passed in favor of the people of God. The purpose of the judgment is not to find
out how bad we are but to reveal how good God is. He sacrificed His life for us. He is
our Savior, our Redeemer, our slain Lamb, our interceding High Priest, our living
Christ, and our coming King. Christ is all we need and everything our heart desires.
The judgment has arrived. It is a present tense judgment. The hour of God's judgment is here. John declares in no uncertain terms in Revelation 14:7 that “the hour of His judgment has come.” Here is an urgent, present-truth message for the entire world. Notice our text does not say that “the hour of His judgment will come.” It emphatically announces that “the hour of His judgment has come”—in the present tense. Revelation declares, “And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work” (Revelation 22:12). If Christ is coming to give out the rewards, there must, of necessity, be a judgment before He comes to determine who receives which reward when He arrives.

A Magnificent Scene in Heaven

After describing Babylon, Media-Persia, Greece, Rome, the break-up of the Roman Empire, and the union of church and state throughout the centuries, God focuses Daniel's mind on a glorious celestial event that will set all things right.

1. In your own words describe the courtroom scene. (Daniel 7:9, 10, 13)

_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________

The destiny of all humanity is decided in heaven's courtroom. The oppressive powers that persecuted God's people are judged. Right prevails. Truth triumphs. Justice reigns.

2. What is the ultimate result of this heavenly judgment? (Daniel 7:14, 22, 27)

_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________

Jesus is worthy to receive the kingdom. Love conquers. Grace is greater than sin. Right triumphs over wrong. Justice prevails. The judgment reveals the saving righteousness of Jesus and His triumph over the principalities and powers of hell. Let us study this point more deeply.

Read Revelation 4:1: “After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven and a voice calling, “Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this.” Jesus invites us to look through the open door in heaven's sanctuary to view eternal scenes in the great controversy between good and evil. What do we see when we look through heaven's open door? What issues are being decided in heaven's celestial court?

We notice in Revelation 4:4 that 24 elders are around God's throne. Who are these 24 elders? In 1 Peter 2:9, the apostle declares that we are a “chosen generation, a royal priesthood.” These 24 elders represent all the redeemed that one day...