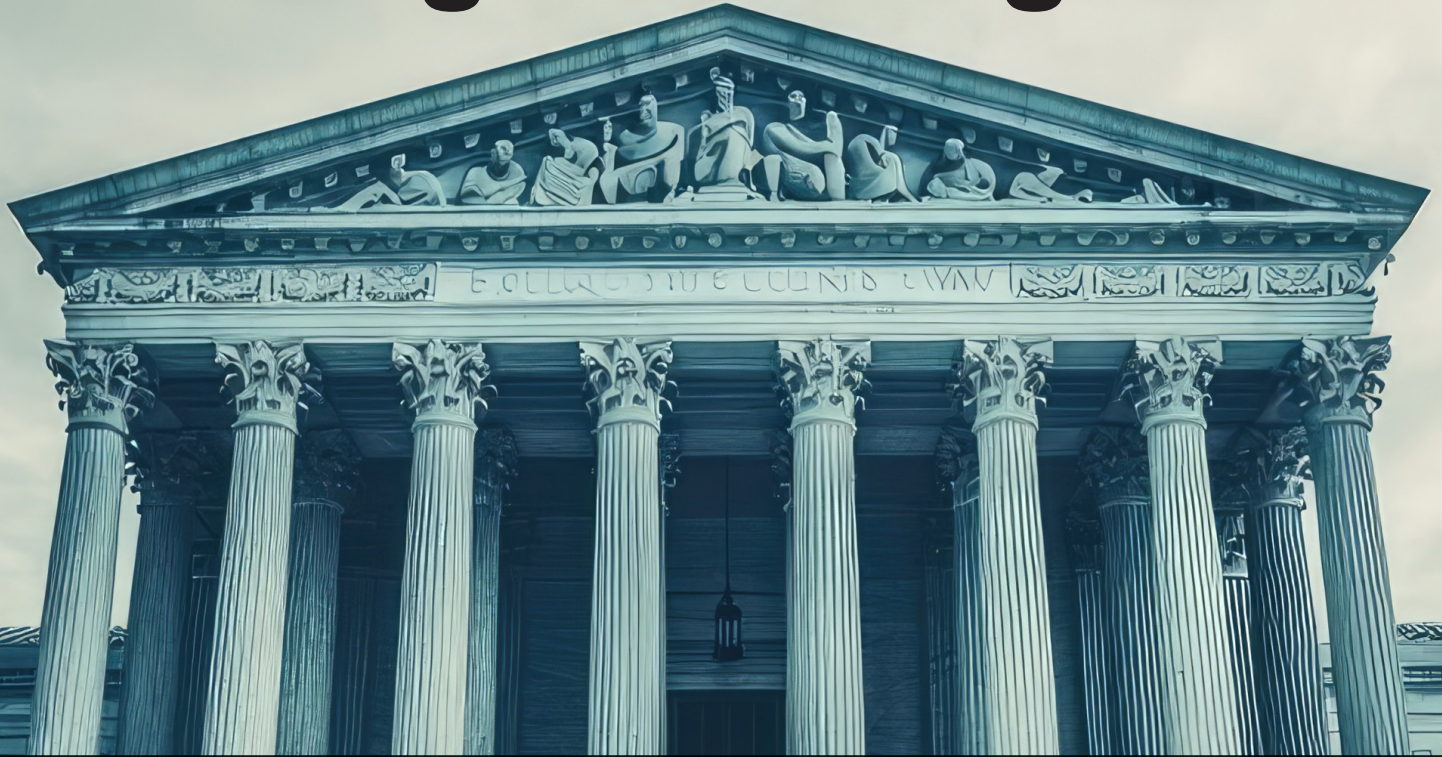


The Pre-Advent Investigative Judgment



JESUS OUR JUDGE

“The investigative judgment reveals to heavenly intelligences who among the dead are asleep in Christ and therefore, in Him, are deemed worthy to have part in the first resurrection. It also makes manifest who among the living are abiding in Christ, keeping the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus, and in Him, therefore, are ready for translation into His everlasting kingdom.

This judgment vindicates the justice of God in saving those who believe in Jesus. It declares that those who have remained loyal to God shall receive the kingdom. The completion of this ministry of Christ will mark the close of human probation before the Second Advent.”

Seventh-day Adventist Biblical Belief #24

DECODING THE DECEPTION



PRE-ADVENT INVESTIGATIVE JUDGMENT

1 Peter 4:17 (NKJV) “For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God?”

Judgment has a Starting Point – Before the Second Coming

- Peter writes that “the time has come” – meaning judgment is already in process.
- This aligns with **Daniel 7:9–10**, where the heavenly court is convened before the Son of Man receives His kingdom (**Daniel 7:13–14**).
- In the Pre-Advent Judgment, this began in 1844 with Christ entering the final Phase of His Ministry to review the lives of believers before returning.

Some use **Ephesians 1:12-13** as evidence that justification, accomplished at the cross, secures our salvation making the pre-advent investigation unnecessary.

Ephesians 1:12-13 (NKJV) “That we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory. (13) In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise.”

Verse 12 – Believers who **first trusted in Christ** bring glory to God.

Verse 13 – After hearing the gospel and believing, they were **sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise**.

What does “Sealed with the Spirit” Mean?

- The “**seal**” is **God’s mark of ownership and authenticity** (2 Tim. 2:19):
- 2 Timothy 2:19 (NKJV) “Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: “The Lord knows those who are His,” and, ‘Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity.’” (**Sanctification**)
- The Seal is a pledge or down payment of future inheritance (**Eph. 1:14**).
- The Spirit’s seal guarantees God’s faithfulness, but it also requires believers to “depart from iniquity.”

Paul further clarifies this in **Ephesians 4**:

Ephesians 4:22-23 (NKJV) “That you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, (23) and be renewed in the spirit of your mind.”

Justification delivers us from the penalty of our former conduct. Sanctification is the power to “put off” – former conduct.

Romans 13:14 (NKJV) “But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.”

Sanctification always follows Justification. (being made holy in life).

Example: Romans 5:1–2 (justification) flows into Romans 6 (sanctification).

Justification: Is the **Pardon by God’s Grace because of Jesus Christ.**

Sanctification: Is the **Power to Grow in God’s Grace through of Jesus Christ.**

This describes the **beginning of the Christian life: hearing, believing, receiving** the Spirit. That is the “**Holy Spirit’s**” sealing.

Are believers being sanctified? Have they “put off” the old life? The Pre-Advent Investigative Judgment answers that question.

Romans 8:14 (NKJV) “For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.”

This is the purpose of the **Pre-Advent Investigative Judgment.**

- The **Pre-Advent Investigative Judgment** is often seen in a distorted light.

- Many Christians see it as “**frightening**” and some see it as “**unnecessary**.”
- My aim is to **clarify the Pre-Advent Investigative Judgment is a blessing.**

Before Jesus returns, heaven conducts a transparent review of the records of every professed believer. This is not because God needs information—He knows all things—but so angels, unfallen worlds, and ultimately the redeemed can see that God’s decisions are fair, righteous, and consistent.

1. **To Demonstrate God’s Justice and Mercy Before the Universe.**

Revelation 14:7 (NKJV) “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.’”

This verse is **dual in its application**:

- **God is being judged based on His Justice, Mercy, and Fairness.**
- **God’s children are being judged. Their works and life are being examined.**

Acts 17:31 (NKJV) “Because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.”

The resurrection of Jesus assures there will be a **Pre-Advent Investigative Judgment.**

It begins with Professed Believer: 1 Peter 4:17 (NKJV) “For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God?”

The Pre-Advent Investigative Judgment has two outcomes:

1 Peter 4:18 (NKJV) “Now ‘If the righteous one is scarcely saved, where will the ungodly and the sinner appear?’”

Psalms 1:5-6 (NKJV) “Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. (6) For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, But the way of the ungodly shall perish.”

Many have misunderstood and maligned the character God

Ezekiel 33:20 (NKJV) “Yet you say, ‘The way of the LORD is not fair.’ O house of Israel, I will judge every one of you according to his own ways.”

The **purpose of the Judgment** is to **correct the distortion about God**:

Romans 3:4 (NKJV) “Let God be true but every man a liar. As it is written: ‘That you may be justified in your words, and may overcome when you are judged.’”

2. To Determine Who Will Receive Eternal Life at the Second Coming:

EMP: As exams precede final grade, Judgment precede Reward.

Revelation 22:12 (NKJV) “And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work.”

The return of Jesus is not to decide who will be saved, but to give the reward already determined in heaven’s judgment. The Pre-Advent Judgment reveals who truly abides in Christ and whose faith has endured to the end.

Matthew 24:13 (NKJV) “But he who endures to the end shall be saved.”

Titus 2:11-12 (NKJV) “For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, (12) teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age.”

The **Pre-Advent Investigative Judgment** reveals our **Sanctification**.

1. How we live: Romans 8:1 (NKJV) “There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.”

Titus 1:16 (NKJV) “They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work.”

2. Whether we endure: Matthew 13:20-21 (NKJV) “But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; (21) yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles.”

Satan’s aim is to work on us so intently that we decide to turn away from following Christ and His truth. In other cases, the enemy wants to convince us that how we live does not matter.

Matthew 3:8 (NKJV) “Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance.”

Matthew 7:20 (NKJV) “Therefore by their fruits you will know them.”

The Pre-Advent Investigative Judgment reveals our level of commitment.

When we daily commit ourselves to the Lord we have assurance:

John 10:28-29 (NKJV) “And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. (29) My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father’s hand.”

Commitment to Christ is not an occasional act, but a daily one.

1 Corinthians 15:31 (NKJV) “I affirm, by the boasting in you which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily.”

After we are freed from the penalty of sin, Sanctification begins. Jesus does not just “impart” His pardoning Grace, He also “imputes” His Transforming Grace. The Pre-Advent Investigative Judgment proves that.

We must remember, in our commitment to Jesus there is assurance.

Philippians 1:6 (NKJV) “Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.”

1 John 3:2 (NKJV) “Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.”

3. To Vindicate the Saints Before the Universe:

Revelation 3:5 (NKJV) “He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.”

Daniel 12:1 (NKJV) “...Your people shall be delivered, every one who is found written in the book.”

Satan is the “**accuser of the brethren**” (Revelation 12:10), who **constantly charges God’s people with unworthiness.**

The **judgment publicly clears the names of the faithful, showing that their sins are covered by Christ’s blood and their lives transformed by His Spirit. The Verdict is in their favor.**

Daniel 7:22 (NKJV) “Judgment was made in favor of the saints of the Most High, and the time came for the saints to possess the kingdom.”

4. The Pre-Advent Investigative Judgment settles the Great Controversy.

Ecclesiastes 12:14 (NKJV) “For God will bring every work into judgment, Including every secret thing, Whether good or evil.”

2 Corinthians 5:10 (NKJV) “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.”

The thought of the judgment **has made more Christians tremble than any other.**
Christians don't need to fear the judgment for the following reasons.

Jesus is our Advocate: 1 John 2:1 (NKJV) “My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.”

Jesus is our Defense Attorney: Hebrews 9:24 (NKJV) “For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us.”

In the judgment Christians can have confidence for the following reason:
Acts 3:19 (NKJV) “Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord.”

Jesus is Merciful: Hebrews 8:12 (NKJV) “For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.”

Jesus is Thorough: Psalm 103:12 (NKJV) “As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us.”

Micah 7:19 (NKJV) “He will again have compassion on us, and will subdue our iniquities. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.”

MOD: There is **an eternal benefit only available to the people of God:**

Matthew 1:21 (NKJV) “And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.”

MOD: When we have Jesus as our Savior, we don't **need to crawl on our knees begging** Him to forgive us: Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) “Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”

MOD: The **Righteousness of Jesus accomplishes two things:**

Imputed Righteousness (Our Standing),

Imparted Righteousness (Our Living)

1 John 4:17 (NKJV) “Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world.”

The wicked won't have the same outcome. Our sins will be blotted out while their names are blotted out.

Psalm 9:5 (NKJV) “You have rebuked the nations, you have destroyed the wicked; You have blotted out their name forever and ever.”

“Christians do not need to fear the Pre-Advent Investigative Judgment, because the judgment is not against us but for us. In that heavenly courtroom, Jesus is not only our Judge but also our Advocate, our High Priest, and our Substitute. His blood has already secured our pardon, and His righteousness is credited to our account. The books of heaven reveal not our failures, but His victory in us. Therefore, when the judgment is set and the books are opened, the verdict will be in favor of the saints. If we are in Christ, we can face the judgment with confidence, not trembling—for there is now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus.”

