

Revelation 11: Rewards at the Judgment Seat of Christ

Revelation 11:18–19 | Sunday, March 5 | Revelation Series

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OVERVIEW

Hal is finishing Revelation 11:18 — the time for the dead to be judged and for God to reward his bond-servants — and he begins by separating two judgments. The judgment seat of Christ, out of 1 Corinthians 3:10–15, is not a judgment of condemnation; only believers are there. It determines rewards. Gold, silver and precious stones are tried by fire against wood, hay and stubble, and the man whose work burns up still comes through saved — though, as Hal puts it, some people are going to smell like smoke. The judgment named in Revelation 11:18 is a different one, and he finds it in Daniel 12 and Matthew 25: the resurrection of the Old Testament saints and the separation of the Gentiles at the Second Coming. Then verse 19 opens the tabernacle in heaven and shows the ark of his covenant, and the rest of the message is spent inside that box — acacia wood and gold, the three reminders of man's rejection, the two angels looking down, and blood on the mercy seat. Hal reads the whole thing as the Gospel told in Israel's own terms.

KEY SCRIPTURES

Revelation 11:18 — The time for the dead to be judged and for God to reward his bond-servants

Revelation 11:19 — The tabernacle of God in heaven opened, and the ark of his covenant appears

1 Corinthians 3:10–15 — Every man's work tried as by fire; he himself shall be saved

Daniel 12 — Michael standing guard; a time of distress; many who sleep in the dust awake

Matthew 25 — The separation of the sheep and the goats — the judgment of the Gentiles

Revelation 9 — The army of two hundred million from east of the Euphrates

Hebrews 8:5 — The tabernacle made after the pattern shown on the mountain

Genesis 37:1–10 — Hal's reading assignment for next time — the sun, the moon and the stars

KEY TERMS

The judgment seat of Christ — not a judgment of condemnation — only believers are there; it determines rewards

Wood, hay and stubble — work that does not survive the fire; the man suffers loss but he himself is saved

The ark of the covenant — acacia wood covered with pure gold — the wood the human nature of Jesus, the gold his deity

The mercy seat — the throne on top of the ark, where the blood was sprinkled and the throne of judgment became mercy

Propitiation — God's justice satisfied by a blood offering

The shekinah glory — the brilliant multicolored light that depicted God's presence over the mercy seat

Manna — Hebrew for "what is it" — and a picture of man's rejection of God's provision

Typology — the symbols God set up in the Old Testament, everything given to Israel carrying a meaning that applied to Jesus Christ

REVIEW QUESTIONS

Answer from the message itself. Every answer is in the teaching.

1. What is the purpose of the judgment seat of Christ, and who stands there?

2. In 1 Corinthians 3, what foundation can be laid, and what is it that gets tried?

3. What two sets of building materials does Hal name, and how does the fire tell them apart?

4. Hal says the judgment named in Revelation 11:18 is a different judgment. Where does he go to find it?

5. What context does Hal want the group to notice around Daniel 12?

6. Whom does Michael stand guard over, and how does Hal establish it?

7. In Matthew 25, what determines whether a person is one of the sheep?

8. What does Hal say about the destruction the prophecies predict, and what happens in Revelation 9?

9. When all these judgments are announced, where does the scene switch, and what appears there?

10. What does the appearing of the ark confirm for Hal about the Church?

11. What three things were put inside the ark, and what does each stand for?

12. What do the two angels over the ark represent, and what changes when the blood is sprinkled?

DISCUSSION AND REFLECTION

1. Hal says the judgment seat of Christ settles rewards, not destiny. Does that make you more relaxed about your work, or less?

2. Gold, silver and precious stones, or wood, hay and stubble — what is the difference, in practice, in an ordinary week?

3. “Some people are going to smell like smoke,” and Hal includes himself. What do you make of a teacher who says that about his own life’s work?

4. The three things inside the ark were reminders of rejection: God’s leadership, God’s law, God’s provision. Which of the three is the live one for you?

5. The angels look down, see the sin, see the blood, and say “I am satisfied.” What would change in your week if you believed God is satisfied about you?

6. Hal says God showed Israelites the ark because a cross would have meant nothing to them yet. Where have you seen God explain himself in terms someone could actually receive?

MEMORY VERSE

“And those who have insight will shine brightly like the brightness of the expanse of heaven, and those who lead the many to righteousness like the stars forever and ever.”

— Daniel 12:3, as Hal reads it in this message