

# THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

June 4

2023

## The Judgment

The advocates of the A.D. 70 doctrine do not teach what the Bible teaches about the judgment. Let's take a look at some biblical teaching concerning the judgment:

**1. All Will Be At the Judgment.** The judgment scene says, "And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats" (Matt. 25:32). All means all, right? "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body" (2 Cor. 5:10). Are you a part of all nations? If so, then you would have been at the judgment! Were you?

**2. Every Knee Bows/Every Tongue Confesses.** The judgment will find every knee bowing and every tongue confessing, as, ". . . every one of us shall give account of himself to God" and "every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God" (Rom. 14:11-12). If the judgment took place in A.D. 70 then you bowed your knee and confessed to God. Did you do that?

**3. Judgment Will Be the Last Day.** Jesus said, "He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth

him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day" (John 12:48). If the judgment occurred in A.D. 70, all men have been judged and days ceased then. Are days still coming and going?

**4. The Crown of Life Will Be Handed Out At the Judgment.** As Paul came to the close of his earth life, he penned, "Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing" (2 Tim. 4:8). Did Paul receive the crown of life in A.D. 70? Paul said his crown would be received when Christ would appear as judge. Have you received a crown of life? If not, since you, as a faithful child of God have been promised ". . . the crown of life" (Rev. 2:10). will you receive it? If the A.D. 70 doctrine be true, the crown of life has already been handed out!

**5. Life Eternal/Punishment At the Judgment.** Matthew 25 is a picture of judgment. The reading of the verdict of the saved and the lost reads, "And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal" (Matt. 25:46). If the judgment took place in A.D. 70, then all of us either have eternal life or eternal punishment. Do you now have either of these?

**6. The End.** Paul told the Romans, "But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life" (Rom. 6:22). The end will find the "kingdom" being "delivered up to God" (1 Cor. 15:24). Do you think the church has been delivered up to God? The earth will be "burned up" at the end (2 Pet. 3:10-12). Has this earth been burned up or is the earth still here? It is pretty evident that the A.D.70 doctrine is far from the truth.

*Johnie Edwards*

## Watch and Be Ready

For many years, the subject referring to the return of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ has been one of absorbing interest. For instance, many have often wondered and asked questions such as, “Will Christ return again? How will He return? When will He return?” However, the good news is, we can find the answers to these questions in the all inspired word of God.

Now, although many have been and are skeptical about the return of Jesus Christ, we can find assurance in God’s word of the fact that our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will someday return. For instance, in 2 Peter 3:3-4, we learn that there will be some skeptics concerning the return of Christ. However, notice what the inspired apostle Peter says about this, *“The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance”* (2 Peter 3:9).

Friend, the Lord is not slack concerning His promise. Therefore, Jesus Christ will someday come again, just as He told His apostles He would (John 14:3). We also learn from the Scriptures that while the apostles watched Christ ascend into heaven, they were told by two men in white apparel, *“This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven”* (Acts 1:11). Also, the Bible tells us in Hebrews 9:28, *“so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.”* So, you see, the Bible clearly tells us that Jesus Christ will come again. *“Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord”* (James 5:7).

Not only does the Bible inform us of the fact that Jesus Christ will someday return, but we also learn from the Bible how He will return. Beginning with, we are told that Christ will return without warning (1 Thessalonians 5:2; 2 Peter 3:10). His return will be visible (Acts 1:9-11; Revelation 1:7). His return will be audible

(1 Thessalonians 4:17). He will return on the clouds of heaven (Acts 1:9-11; 1 Thessalonians 4:17; Revelation 1:7), and we are informed that in His return He will be accompanied by His angels (Mark 8:38; 2 Thessalonians 1:7). My friends, these are just a few examples from God’s word, which assure us that the return of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will not go unnoticed.

My friends, we know that Christ will someday return, and that His return will not go unnoticed, but what we do not know is when He will return. You see, although some try to predict the return of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, there is no one who knows the day of His return, but only our Father in heaven (Mark 13:32-33). Therefore, we must all watch and be ready for the return of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (Matthew 24:42-44). For, as the Bible tells us, Christ is coming (Matthew 25:13), He will someday return to judge the living and the dead (2 Timothy 4:1), and we will all be judged according to our deeds (Romans 2:5-10, 14:10-12; 2 Corinthians 5:10). Therefore, watch and be ready for the return of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

✍ Brad Phillips

### Belleville church of Christ

5635 S County Rd 200E - Belleville, IN - (317) 539-5258

[www.bellevillechurch.net](http://www.bellevillechurch.net)

#### Schedule of Services

Sunday Bible Study .....	9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship .....	10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship .....	4:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study .....	7:00 p.m.

#### Evangelist

Brad Phillips ..... (765) 720-2816