



## The Judgments Series Part 22

### The Examiner or Judge at the *Bema*



This is none other than the Lord Jesus who is even now examining our lives and will bring to light the true nature - of our walk and works when we stand before Him at the *Bema* (Rev. 1-2; 1 Cor. 4:5f; 2 Cor. 5:10; 1 John 2:28).

### Revelation 1-2 NIV:

#### Prologue

**1** The revelation from Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John,

2 who testifies to everything he saw—that is, the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ.

3 Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near.

## **Greetings and Doxology**

4 John,

To the seven churches in the province of Asia:

Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits<sup>[a]</sup> before his throne,

5 and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood,

6 and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father—to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.

7

“Look, he is coming with the clouds,”<sup>[b]</sup>

and “every eye will see him,  
even those who pierced him”;

and all peoples on earth “will mourn because of him.”<sup>[c]</sup>  
So shall it be! Amen.

8 “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.”

## **John's Vision of Christ**

9 I, John, your brother and companion in the suffering and kingdom and patient endurance that are ours in Jesus, was on the island of Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.

10 On the Lord's Day I was in the Spirit, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet,

11 which said: "Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea."

12 I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands,

13 and among the lampstands was someone like a son of man,<sup>[d]</sup> dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest.

14 The hair on his head was white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire.

15 His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters.

16 In his right hand he held seven stars, and coming out of his mouth was a sharp, double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance.

17 When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: "Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last.

18 I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.

19 “Write, therefore, what you have seen, what is now and what will take place later.

20 The mystery of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand and of the seven golden lampstands is this: The seven stars are the angels<sup>[e]</sup> of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.

## **To the Church in Ephesus**

**2** “To the angel<sup>[f]</sup> of the church in Ephesus write:

These are the words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands.

2 I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked people, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false.

3 You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary.

4 Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first.

5 Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place.

6 But you have this in your favor: You hate the practices of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

7 Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.

## **To the Church in Smyrna**

8 “To the angel of the church in Smyrna write:

These are the words of him who is the First and the Last, who died and came to life again.

9 I know your afflictions and your poverty—yet you are rich! I know about the slander of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.

10 Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you life as your victor’s crown.

11 Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The one who is victorious will not be hurt at all by the second death.

## **To the Church in Pergamum**

12 “To the angel of the church in Pergamum write:

These are the words of him who has the sharp, double-edged sword.

13 I know where you live—where Satan has his throne. Yet you remain true to my name. You did not renounce your faith in me, not even in the days of Antipas, my faithful witness, who was put to death in your city—where Satan lives.

14 Nevertheless, I have a few things against you: There are some among you who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin so that they ate food sacrificed to idols and committed sexual immorality.

15 Likewise, you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans.

16 Repent therefore! Otherwise, I will soon come to you and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.

17 Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give that person a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to the one who receives it.

## **To the Church in Thyatira**

18 “To the angel of the church in Thyatira write:

These are the words of the Son of God, whose eyes are like blazing fire and whose feet are like burnished bronze.

19 I know your deeds, your love and faith, your service and perseverance, and that you are now doing more than you did at first.

20 Nevertheless, I have this against you: You tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophet. By her teaching she misleads my servants into sexual immorality and the eating of food sacrificed to idols.

21 I have given her time to repent of her immorality, but she is unwilling.

22 So I will cast her on a bed of suffering, and I will make those who commit adultery with her suffer intensely, unless they repent of her ways.

23 I will strike her children dead. Then all the churches will know that I am he who searches hearts and minds, and I will repay each of you according to your deeds.

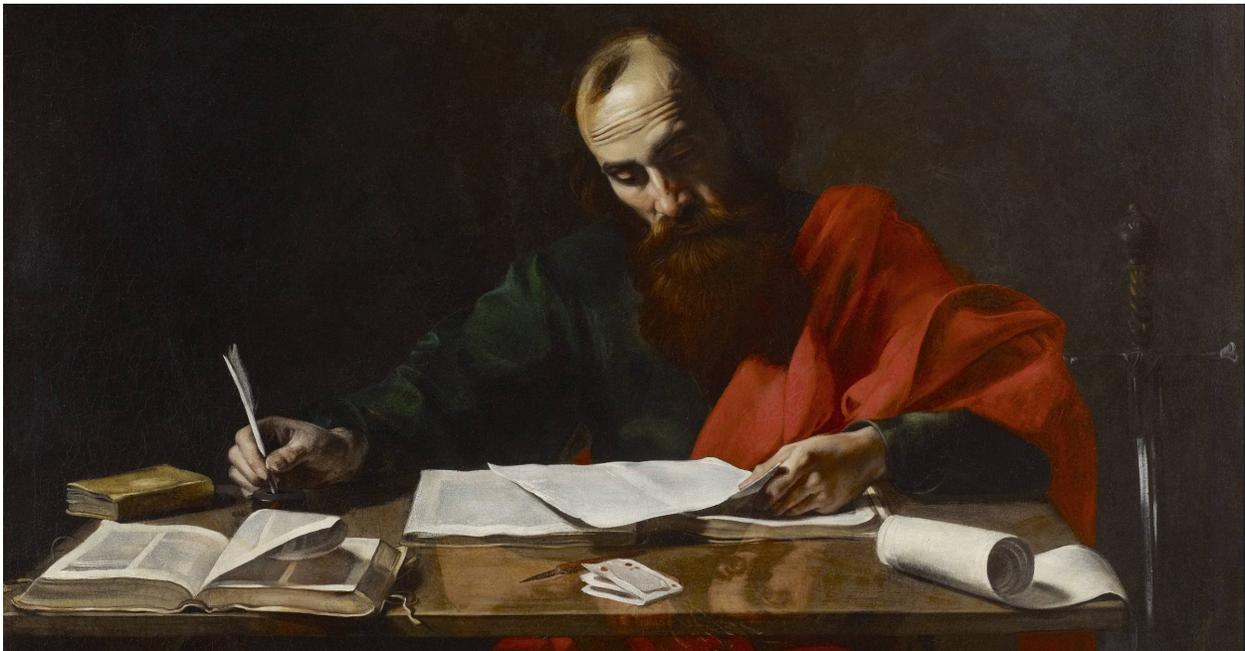
24 Now I say to the rest of you in Thyatira, to you who do not hold to her teaching and have not learned Satan's so-called deep secrets, 'I will not impose any other burden on you,

25 except to hold on to what you have until I come.'

26 To the one who is victorious and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations—

27 that one 'will rule them with an iron scepter and will dash them to pieces like pottery'<sup>[g]</sup>—just as I have received authority from my Father.

28 I will also give that one the morning star. 29 Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.



In **Romans 14:10** the Apostle called this examining time the *Bema of God* while in **2 Corinthians 5:10** he called it the *Bema of Christ*.

## **Romans 14:10 NIV:**

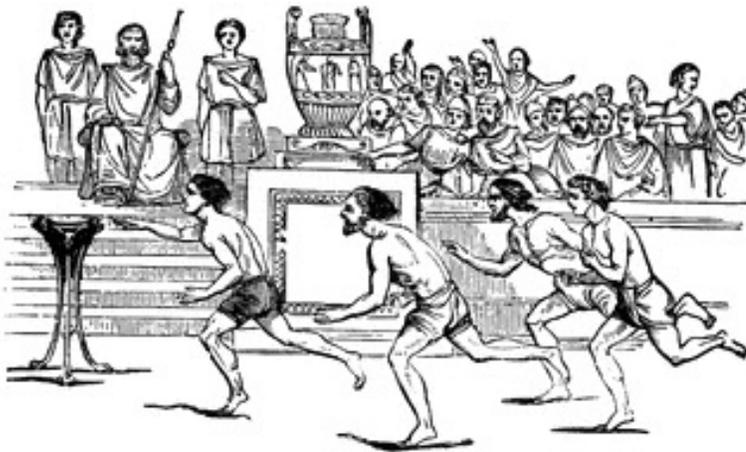
**10** You, then, why do you judge your brother or sister[a]? Or why do you treat them with contempt? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat.

## **2 Corinthians 5:10 NIV:**

**10** For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.

**The Point: Jesus who is God is our examiner and rewarder.**

## **The Purpose and Basis of the *Bema***



The purpose and the basis is the most critical issue of all and brings us face to face with the practical aspects of the *Bema*.

## Some crucial questions are:

Why are we brought before the *Bema*?

Is it only for rewards or their loss?

Will any punishment be meted out?

Will there be great sorrow?

What's the basis on which the *Bema* is conducted?

Is it sin, good works, or just what?

## The Problem

Within the church, there exists a good deal of confusion and disagreement concerning the exact nature of the *Bema*.

The use of the term “**judgment seat**” in most translations, ignorance of the historical and cultural background concerning the *Bema*, and foggy theology regarding the finished work of Christ have all contributed to several common misconceptions which, in one way or another, see God as giving out just retribution to believers for sin, or at least for our unconfessed sin.

## Three Views of the *Bema*

For a summary of three major views, let me quote:

### **Samuel L. Hoyt from Bibliotheca Sacra.**

Some Bible teachers view the judgment seat as a place of intense sorrow, a place of terror, and a place where Christ display all the believer's sins (or at least those unconfessed) before the entire resurrected and raptured church.

Some go even further by stating that Christians must experience some sort of suffering for their sins at the time of this examination.

At the other end of the spectrum another group, which holds to the same eschatological chronology, views this event as an awards ceremony.

Awards are handed out to every Christian.

The result of this judgment will be that each Christian will be grateful for the reward which he receives, and he will have little or no shame.

Other Bible teachers espouse a mediating position.

They maintain the seriousness of the examination and yet emphasize the commendation aspect of the judgment seat.

They emphasize the importance and necessity of faithful living today but reject any thought of forensic punishment at the *Bema*.

Emphasis is placed on the fact that each Christian must give an account of his life before the omniscient and holy Christ.

All that was done through the energy of the flesh will be regarded as worthless for reward, while all that was done in the power of the Holy Spirit will be graciously rewarded.

Those who hold this view believe that the Christian will stand glorified before Christ without his old sin nature.

He will, likewise, be without guilt because he has been declared righteous.

There will be no need for forensic punishment, for Christ has forever borne all of God's wrath toward the believer's sins.

This last view I believe to be the one that is in accord with Scripture.

Reasons for this will be set forth and developed as we study the nature, purpose, and basis for the *Bema*.

But for now, lest we draw some wrong conclusions, we need to be ever mindful that God's Word clearly teaches there are specific and very serious consequences, both temporal and eternal, for sin or disobedience.

Though we will not be judged in the sense of being punished for sin at the *Bema* since the Lord has born that for us, we must never take sin lightly because there are many consequences.

## **How do we obtain the Forgiveness of our Sins?**



How do we get right with God, regardless of our individual sins?

Just say this Prayer and all of your sins will be forgotten, and you will have Eternal life, with Christ Jesus, in Heaven:

Lord Jesus, I repent of all my sins, and I ask you to come into my life a be my Lord and Savior.

Friends, if you prayed that prayer, I believe that you are born again, and you have ever lasting life, get in a good bible teaching church, and may you keep growing, in the Lord, and may HE use you to help save many souls for His Kingdom !

In, Jesus Mighty Name!

Rev. Jesus Del Rio, Ed