

The Gospel According to John

3-17-2021

1. Last week in order to understand Joh 5:25-32, I taught the *Doctrine of Judgments*, the *Doctrine of Sheol* and when the clock tolled 7:45 P.M. I was about to begin a study of the *Doctrine of the Bema*.
2. I want to review some of that learned and then we will begin new material on page four.
3. Let's again see how Joh 5:25-32 is translated in the NIV.

Joh 5:25 I tell you the truth, a time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live.

Joh 5:26 For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son to have life in himself.

Joh 5:27 And he has given him authority to judge because he is the Son of Man.

Joh 5:28 "Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice

Joh 5:29 and come out -- those who have done good will rise to live, and those who have done evil will rise to be condemned.

Joh 5:30 By myself I can do nothing; I judge only as I hear, and my judgment is just, for I seek not to please myself but him who sent me.

Joh 5:31 "If I testify about myself, my testimony is not valid.

Joh 5:32 There is another who testifies in my favor, and I know that his testimony about me is valid.

The Doctrine of Judgments

Introduction

1. The Scriptures anticipate a coming judgment by God on all men. Such was the expectation of the Psalmist as he wrote Psa 96:11-13.
2. Paul and John both confirm that the Father has committed all judgment to Christ Jesus. Joh 5:22-24; Acts 17:31
3. The subject of judgment is a large one:

- There is a judgment of the cross. (Joh 5:24; Rom 5:9; 8:1; Gal 3:13-14; 2Co 5:21; Heb 9:26-28; 10:10)
- There is a judgment of the believer in chastening. (2Co 11:31-32; Heb 12:5-11; Psa 32:3-11)
- There is a judgment of the believer's production at the Judgment Seat of Christ. (Rom 4:10; 1Co 4:5; 2Co 5:10; 1Co 3:10-15)

4. With the exception of the judgment at the Bema, which has been thoroughly taught in our *Doctrine of the Bema*, all of the above judgments are non-eschatological judgments.

5. It will behoove us to consider the four judgments which have eschatological implications under a single heading.

6. There are several eschatological judgments:

- There is a judgment of the nation Israel. (Eze 20:37-38; Zec 3:8-9; Dan 12:1-3)
- There are judgments for the nations. (Mat 25:31-46; Isa 34:1-2; Joel 3:11-16)
- There is a judgment of the fallen angels who left their first estate by becoming human in order to impregnate the women of planet earth; excepting of course the women of Noah's family. (Jude 1:6; Rev 20:1-3; 20:7-10)
- There is a judgment of all unbelievers at the Great White Throne. (Rev 20:11-15)

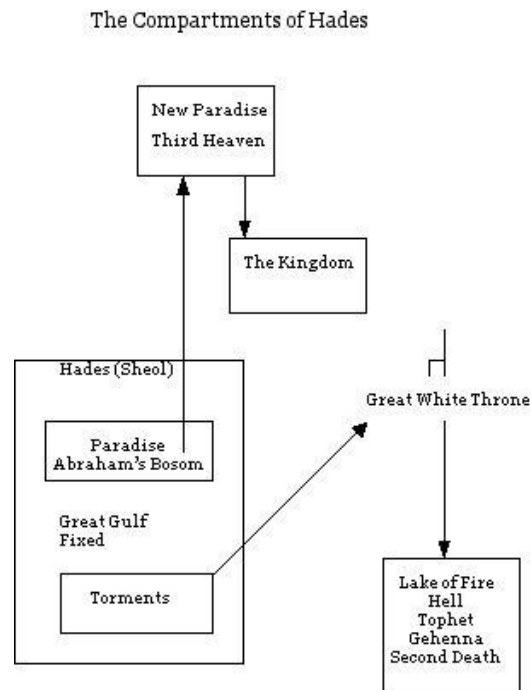
Doctrine of Sheol

1. **Sheol** is a Jewish term for a place where all the pre-resurrection dead once resided.

2. **Sheol** had two compartments, one for believers and one for all unbelievers.

2.1 **Sheol** is best thought of as a duplex, where on one side we find the beggar Lazarus being comforted by Abraham, and on the other side we find the rich man in terrible pain and suffering, begging for a return trip to Earth to warn his brothers.

3. Let's look at a couple of charts describing the events taking place while the Lord was taking care of the sins of the world.



4. During the three days in the grave, Christ made two trips. He went to **Sheol**, or **Hades** as it is also called, to transport the souls of the believers from Abraham's bosom to heaven:

4.1 He also went to **Tartaros** to let the fallen angels who had left their first estate know His victory was complete. For more information about the trip to **Tartaros**, see my *Doctrine of Tartaros*.

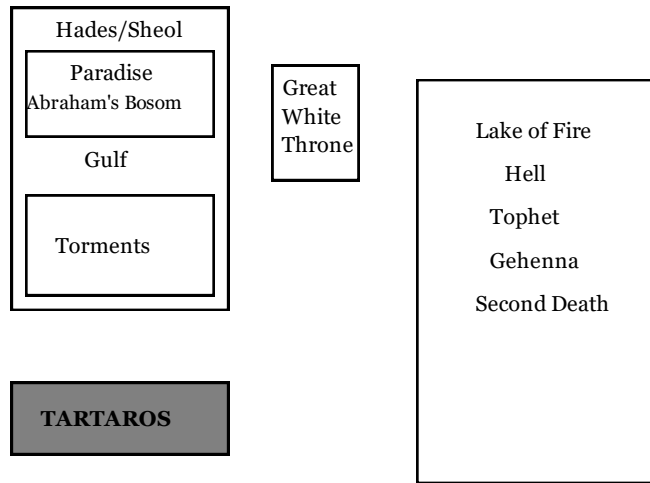
5. The Scriptures teach us that Christ went to **Hades** to transport the believers in the bosom of Abraham, to the Third Heaven.

5.1 The Scriptures do not, however, teach us about the order in which each trip took place.

5.2 It is my view Christ went first to **Tartaros** and then **Hades**. What we do know is Christ did go to **Sheol** and **Tartaros** during His three days in the grave. Eph 4:8-10

6. Let's add **Tartaros** to the chart displayed on page three.

The Compartments of Hades



7. **Sheol**, or its New Testament counterpart **Hades**, is mentioned several times in Scripture. **Sheol** appears in the Old Testament more than sixty times, where it is translated “hell, grave” or “pit.”

Doctrine of the Bema

Introduction

1. At the judgment seat of Christ, or the **Bema** (as it is called in the Greek), crowns will be awarded.

1.1 The **Bema** was a place where a king, judge or procurator might sit to adjudicate a matter or reward an outstanding athlete or military hero. It is from the **Bema** that the judge would issue punishments or rewards.

1.2 It was at the **Bema**, during the Isthmus Games, that a winning contestant received his special reward called a **Stephanos**.

1.2.1 It is to this analogy the New Testament speaks when it describes Church Age believers appearing before the judgment seat of Christ.

Rom 14:10 But why dost thou judge thy brother? Or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.

2Co 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

1.3 The word **Bema** appears several places in the New Testament.

1.3.1 Jesus was brought before Pilate's **Bema**.

Mat 27:19 When he was set down on the "**judgment seat**", his wife sent unto him, saying, Have thou nothing to do with that just man: for I have suffered many things this day in a dream because of him.

Joh 19:13 When Pilate therefore heard that saying, he brought Jesus forth, and sat down in the "**judgment seat**" in a place that is called the Pavement, but in the Hebrew, Gabbatha.

1.3.2 Herod Agrippa made his final speech from a **Bema**. Acts 12:21.

Acts 12:21 And upon a set day Herod Agrippa, arrayed in royal apparel, sat upon his "**throne**", and made an oration unto them.

1.3.3 Gallio, the governor of Achaia, judged Paul from a **Bema**.

Acts 18:16 And he drave them from the "**judgment seat**."

1.3.4 Paul was brought before a **Bema** (the judgment seat of Festus) on his way to Rome.

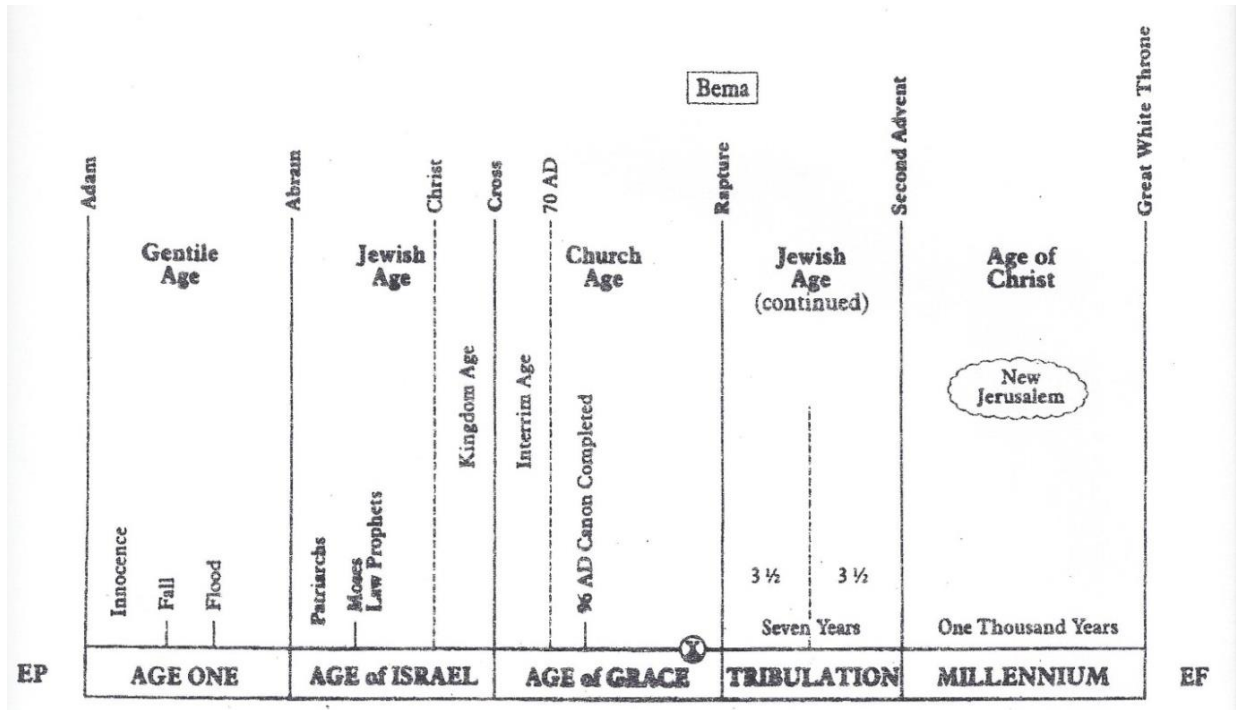
Acts 25:6 And when Festus had tarried among them more than ten days, he went down unto Caesarea; and the next day sitting on the "**judgment seat**" commanded Paul to be brought ...

Acts 25:10 Then said Paul, I stand at Caesar's "**judgment seat**", where I ought to be judged: to the Jews have I done no wrong, as thou very well knowest ...

1.3.5 Let's look at crowns as they relate to the judgment seat of Christ. The judgment is for believers of the Church Age.

Crowns Definition and Concept

1. A judgment takes place just after the Rapture. The judgment seat is called the **Bema**.



2. Paul describes the events taking place at the **Bema**, where crowns are awarded, in 1Co 3:11-15.

1Co 3:11 For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

1Co 3:12 Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble;

1Co 3:13 Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.

1Co 3:14 If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.

1Co 3:15 If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

3. The word for crown in the New Testament is **Stephanos**. The **Stephanos** in ancient Rome was a wreath given to both athletes and military heroes who had distinguished themselves.

3.1 With it went a large monetary stipend, a parade honoring the recipient (much like a ticker-tape parade for the team winning the World Series), a significant land grant such as 1000 acres on the Brazos between Waco and Bryan and a lifetime exemption from taxation for self and family.

3.1.1 Your right pastor-teacher will be with you at the **Bema**, for it is his evaluation too.

Phi 4:1 Therefore, my brothers, you whom I love and long for, my joy and **crown**, that is how you should stand firm in the Lord, dear friends!

4. The word **Stephanos** appears in Scripture to describe:

- Jesus' crown of thorns

Mat 27:29 And when they had platted a "**crown**" of thorns, they put it upon his head, and a reed in his right hand: and they bowed the knee before him, and mocked him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews!

- something of value

1Co 9:25 And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible "**crown**;" but we an incorruptible.

Phi 4:1 Therefore, my brothers, you whom I love and long for, my joy and "**crown**", that is how you should stand firm in the Lord, dear friends!

1Th 2:19 For what is our hope, our joy, or the "**crown**" in which we will glory in the presence of our Lord Jesus when he comes? Is it not you?

2Ti 4:8 Now there is in store for me the "**crown**" of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day--and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

Jam 1:12 Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the "**crowns**" of life that God has promised to those who love him.

Rev 2:10 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 (church at Smyrna - 100-300 A.D.), and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the "**crowns**" of life.

1Pe 5:4 And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the "**crowns**" of glory that will never fade away.

Rev 3:11 I am coming soon to you, the church at Philadelphia - the church just before the rapture). Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your "**crowns**".

the church resident in heaven--casting their crowns before the throne of God

Rev 4:4 Surrounding the throne were twenty-four other thrones, and seated on them were twenty-four elders. They were dressed in white and had "**crowns**" of gold on their heads.

Rev 4:10 the twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne, and worship him who lives forever and ever. They lay their "**crowns**" before the throne and say ...

power given the Antichrist

Rev 6:2 And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a "**crowns**" was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer.

demon warriors

Rev 9:6 During those days men will seek death, but will not find it; they will long to die, but death will elude them.

Rev 9:7 The locusts looked like horses prepared for battle. On their heads they wore something like “**crowns**” of gold, and their faces resembled human faces.

Rev 9:8 Their hair was like women's hair, and their teeth were like lions' teeth.

Israel divided into twelve tribes

Rev 12:1 And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a "**crown**" of twelve stars:

the royalty of Jesus just before He returns

Rev 14:14 I looked, and there before me was a white cloud, and seated on the cloud was one like a son of man with a "**crown**" of gold on his head and a sharp sickle in his hand.

5. In addition to the crowns awarded for divine good, there are special crowns awarded to believers of the Church Age.

a crown of righteousness

2Ti 4:7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

2Ti 4:8 Now there is in store for me the **crown** of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day--and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

5.1 Col. R. B. Thieme says of this crown, "It would seem to be available to those who have acquired enough doctrine to appreciate and anticipate the Rapture and the blessed events following."

5.2 The crown of righteousness is mentioned only once in Scripture where Paul speaks of his acquiring it because he anticipates his death at the hand of Nero.

a crown of life

Rev 2:10 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 the **crown** of life.

5.3 The crown of life is available to all believers who not only reach maturity but are able to hold that level even amid significant pressures.

5.4 There are those who see this crown as available only to believers of the Tribulation. This, however, flies in the face of the fact that in every age believers are deluged with pressure and testing from old Satan under the permissive will of God.

5.5 Its appropriateness for believers in all ages would seem to be strengthened by the fact that James mentions the crown of life.

Jam 1:12 Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the **crown** of life that God has promised to those who love him.

a crown of glory

5.6 The crown of glory is available only to the pastor-teacher who is faithful to the task of studying and teaching, both when it is convenient and when it is not convenient.

1Pe 5:2 Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers--not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve;

1Pe 5:3 not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock.

1Pe 5:4 And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the **crown** of glory that will never fade away.

6. Fittingly, in our new natures we are seen in heaven casting our **crowns** at the feet of Christ.

Rev 4:10 the twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne, and worship him who lives forever and ever. They lay their **crowns** before the throne and say:

Rev 4:11 "You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being."

7. Now let's see what we can learn from Joh 5:33-46.

KJV

Joh 5:33 Ye sent unto John, and he bare witness unto the truth.

Joh 5:34 But I receive not testimony from man: but these things I say, that ye might be saved.

Joh 5:35 He was a burning and a shining light: and ye were willing for a season to rejoice in his light.

Witness of Works-We witness with our works as well as with our words.

Joh 5:36 But I have greater witness than that of John: for the works which the Father hath given me to finish, the same works that I do, bear witness of me, that the Father hath sent me.

Witness of the Father-The Father indwelling in the Son and controlling all things provides a witness re: The Son and His role as the Messiah.

Joh 5:37 And the Father himself, which hath sent me, hath borne witness of me. Ye have neither heard his voice at any time, nor seen his shape.

Joh 5:38 And ye have not his word abiding in you: for whom he hath sent, him ye believe not.

Witness of the Scripture-The Old Testament foretold of the coming and what the Christ would do.

Joh 5:39 Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.

Joh 5:40 And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life.

Joh 5:41 I receive not honour from men.

Joh 5:42 But I know you, that ye have not the love of God in you.

Joh 5:43 I am come in my Father's name, and ye receive me not: if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive.

Joh 5:44 How can ye believe, which receive honour one of another, and seek not the honour that cometh from God only?

Joh 5:45 Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father: there is one that accuseth you, even Moses, in whom ye trust.

Joh 5:46 For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me; for he wrote of me.

Joh 5:47 But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words?

8. Now let's see how our verses look in the NIV.

NIV

Joh 5:33 "You have sent to John and he has testified to the truth.

Joh 5:34 Not that I accept human testimony; but I mention it that you may be saved.

Joh 5:35 John was a lamp that burned and gave light, and you chose for a time to enjoy his light.

Joh 5:36 "I have testimony weightier than that of John. For the very work that the Father has given me to finish, and which I am doing, testifies that the Father has sent me.

Joh 5:37 And the Father who sent me has himself testified concerning me. You have never heard his voice nor seen his form,

Joh 5:38 nor does his word dwell in you, for you do not believe the one he sent.

Joh 5:39 You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me,

Joh 5:40 yet you refuse to come to me to have life.

Joh 5:41 "I do not accept praise from men,

Joh 5:42 but I know you. I know that you do not have the love of God in your hearts.

Joh 5:43 I have come in my Father's name, and you do not accept me; but if someone else comes in his own name, you will accept him.

Joh 5:44 How can you believe if you accept praise from one another, yet make no effort to obtain the praise that comes from the only God?

Joh 5:45 "But do not think I will accuse you before the Father. Your accuser is Moses, on whom your hopes are set.

Joh 5:46 If you believed Moses, you would believe me, for he wrote about me.

Joh 5:47 But since you do not believe what he wrote, how are you going to believe what I say?"

1. I think the best way to study these verses is to review several points from the *Doctrine Witnessing*.

Doctrine of Witnessing

1. Witnessing is the responsibility of every believer.
2. Witnessing is the normal exhale of doctrine inhaled.
3. Witnessing will be effective regardless of the motivation of the one witnessing.
4. The power is in the Word.

Rom 10:17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Isa 55:11 So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

5. The convincing of sin, righteousness and judgment is the responsibility of God the Holy Spirit.

Joh 16:7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.

Joh 16:8 And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:

Joh 16:9 Of sin, because they believe not on me;

Joh 16:10 Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more;

Joh 16:11 Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.

6. Some false concepts of witnessing

- Assuming the lost will not be saved if we do not witness
- Assuming you are spiritual because you witness

- Assuming you are spiritual because you witness "effectively"
 - Assuming you must ask people to accept Christ in your presence
 - Assuming God is not using you if God does not lead you to a "target"
6. God will make certain every believer gets the gospel.

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