

Everlasting Gospel Bible Studies

Lesson 14

NOW IS THE DAY OF SALVATION



Before the Flood, God was grieved because of mankind's wickedness. Men's thoughts were "evil continually," and the hardness of their hearts was revealed in their actions. Consequently God, in His mercy, instructed Noah, a man of righteousness, to preach a message of repentance and reformation, for the world would soon be cleansed from all its wickedness by a flood. An ark was built and all were given the opportunity to find there a safe haven. Tragically, only eight responded. The rest ignored the warning, and were soon destroyed in the tempestuous waters.

Christ warned us that "as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be," Matthew 24:37. As the world's inhabitants seek satisfaction in their sin, God's followers are to realize that this lawlessness is a sign of the last days, paralleling the wickedness during the days of Noah. 2 Timothy 3:1-5. Christ is coming soon, and our God is a God of mercy, and He has given us a time of probation in which we may turn from sin, and find freedom from the iniquity of Satan through the power of Christ in our lives. This final probationary period occurs during the time of judgment. This end-time judgment is also called the "investigative judgment." When it is finished, all will have made unchangeable choices either for or against God.



PO Box 755, Hamilton, Victoria, 3300
69-71 King Street, Hamilton, Victoria, 3300
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* Final Call Outreach, P.O. Box 1, Rapidan VA 22733 *

A. THE INVESTIGATIVE JUDGMENT

1. **What aspects of the Day of Atonement tell us that it was a time of investigative judgment? Leviticus 16:16, 30; Leviticus 23:29**

NOTE: The Day of Atonement was a time in which both the sanctuary and the children of Israel were to be cleansed from all sin.

Though the people's sins had been forgiven through the daily sacrifices, only on the Day of Atonement were their sins blotted out.

~ NOTES ~

2. What "is come" to us today? Revelation 14:7

NOTE: In the last lesson we learned that in 1844, at the end of the 2300 days, Jesus began his high-priestly ministry in the heavenly Most Holy Place. He is now blotting out the records of sins already confessed and forgiven. In this process He is judging whether those sins were truly repented, hence we call it the investigative judgment.

3. Who will stand before the judgment seat? Romans 14:10

4. Who is the judge during the judgment? John 5:22; 2 Corinthians 5:10

5. Who is our Advocate? 1 John 2:1; Hebrews 4:14-15

NOTE: Jesus Christ will be His followers' Advocate and Attorney, lovingly interceding on behalf of His faithful, obedient children.

6. What records are available to the judgment? Daniel 7:10

NOTE: The books of heaven record our deeds, good or evil, and determine the decisions of the judgment.

Christ. Let us not give ear to the tempter when he says that God's promises are not for us. The greatest joy that we can give to Jesus is to give Him our sin-polluted heart, and allow Him to change us into His image by His power.

PERSONAL COMMITMENT

Today I choose to accept God's gift of repentance and receive His power of victory over my life.

Signed: _____

7. Identify the following three books:

(1) Revelation 20:12; Revelation 21:27

NOTE: The book of life contains the names of all who have served God.

(2) Malachi 3:16; Nehemiah 13:14

NOTE: The victories gained and our good deeds are contained in the book of remembrance.

(3) Jeremiah 2:22; Ecclesiastes 12:14

NOTE: Our sins are recorded in a book detailing our evil deeds, sometimes called the book of death.

8. What will determine our reward? Matthew 16:27; Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

9. What are God's people to be doing during the investigative judgment? Revelation 3:19

10. Beyond confession of sin, what else does true repentance include? Proverbs 28:13

B. TOO LATE TO REPENT

11. Has God's patience ever reached a limit? Genesis 6:3

12. What is part of the ministry of the Holy Spirit (Ghost)?
John 16:7-8

NOTE: Jesus taught that "Comforter" was another name for the Holy Spirit. John 14:16-17. His ministry is to comfort, but also to reprove of sin, of righteousness and of judgment.

13. What can result from opposing the work of the Holy Spirit?
Matthew 12:31; Ephesians 4:30

NOTE: Grieving of the Holy Spirit occurs when we continually refuse to respond to the Spirit's pleading with us to repent.

14. What will be the words of Christ, our heavenly High Priest, when probation closes for all? Revelation 22:11

NOTE: God honours our right of choice, even to make the wrong choice. He even makes sure that our choice is firm and unshakable,

so that none can claim that they were undecided or misinterpreted. 2 Thessalonians 2:11; Isaiah 66:4

15. When should we turn from sin and come to God? Hebrews 4:7;
2 Corinthians 6:2

16. To how many is the gift of repentance and salvation offered?
2 Peter 3:9

17. How do we turn to God? Acts 3:19

NOTE: The instruction is not to convert, but to be converted. Even this part of salvation is God's gift to us, and we cannot achieve it in our own strength. 2 Corinthians 7:10

18. Why did Christ prepare salvation for us? Jeremiah 31:3;
Hebrews 7:25

SUMMARY

Today is the day of repentance, for tomorrow it may be too late. Soon God's forbearance will end, and He will come to take His redeemed home with Him. Those who continue to live in sin will be destroyed by the "flood" of brightness of the Second Coming of Jesus. 2 Thessalonians 2:8. Now, during this time of probation, Christ's greatest desire is that each of us shall be saved to the uttermost. Let us not continue to rely on our own self for the power to repent, for only His power is sufficient.

Let us not believe Satan when he says that we are too sinful to come to