

THE

# HARVESTER

*"The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest." (Luke 10:2)*

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## "KNOW YE NOT THAT WE SHALL JUDGE ANGELS?"

1 Cor. 6:3, "Know ye not that we shall judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life?"

We are informed in several passages that wicked angels have already been judged by God and are being reserved:

2 Peter 2:4, "God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell [tartaros], and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment."

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Jude 6, "And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day."

Since the decision has already been made regarding these disobedient angels, it should be obvious that the passage in question has another meaning than that which we ordinarily attach to judging. Take note of how this thought is presented in other passages and circumstances. Matthew 19:28, "And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, JUDGING the twelve tribes of Israel."

Jesus Himself informs us that "he shall sit upon the throne of his glory" at the time of finality. "When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: 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" (Mat. 25:31-32).

But the reign of Jesus must be viewed in its completeness. The time of Jesus' reign in His kingdom began at Pentecost (Acts 11:15, 30 A.D.), and that reign is destined to continue until "the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. The last

enemy that shall be destroyed is death" (1 Cor. 15:24-26). The Colossian letter speaks of "the Father ... who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son" (1:12-13). This was in the First Century, thus showing the presence at that time of Christ's kingdom. Daniel 2:44 predicted that Christ's kingdom would be established during the days of the Roman kings and that it would never be destroyed.

"Regeneration" is identified by Paul in Titus 3:4-6. "But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour."

Even as Jesus alluded to the water of baptism and the presence of the Holy Spirit in John 3:3-5 when He taught Nicodemus about being "born again," so does Paul make that same reference in his letter to Titus. At the time of our new, spiritual birth into Christ we become identified with "the regeneration."

The time of "regeneration," therefore, and the reign of Christ is His kingdom are one and the same and will climax at the end of time. It was in the beginning of this era that Jesus told Peter, "And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be loosed in heaven" (Mat. 16:19).

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Jesus was certainly not saying that whatever Peter taught and did would have the support of God in heaven, but rather that Peter would be used as an agent through which the God of heaven would establish His will. This was true of others inspired, as well (Mat. 18:18). Peter himself acknowledged, *"For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty"* (2 Peter 1:16). To the disciples Jesus said, *"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that receiveth whomsoever I send receiveth me; and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me"* (John 13:20). Paul wrote, *"I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you"* (1 Cor. 11:23) and *"the things that i write unto you are the commandments of God"* (1 Cor. 14:37).

In view of these observations, then, we cannot expect Jesus to mean in His statement regarding *"judging the twelve tribes of Israel"* that the apostles will actually sit in judgment alongside God and Jesus. Their service in judgment is that through their inspired words Jesus declared to all mankind the conditions of

redemption. They judge, therefore, through the instructions Jesus gave them to give us.

But what about the judging of angels? With the same understanding, our judgment of angels is not through any ability or righteousness we possess which is superior to angels. It is rather by way of a contrast demonstrated through our adherence to the word of God, that word which we teach and live by, and the contrary actions of unrighteous angels.

Note the encounter of John with two God-pleasing angels in Revelation: "And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God" (19:9). "Then saith he unto me, See thou do it not: for I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God" (22:19).

Perhaps this principle may be made more easily seen if it were to be shown in an actual Bible happening. Hebrews 11:7 informs us of the obedient action of one whose story is familiar to us all. "By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he CONDEMNED the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith."

We do not find it mentioned, nor do we even suppose, that Noah was attired in a long, black judicial robe and sat in a

large judgment seat while the world filed before him for judgment. We do understand, however, that by his righteous fear, honor, and respect of God he established a vivid precedent through his obedience. In stark contrast with his faithfulness which won God's favor, God Himself passed judgment on the world who didn't follow Noah's example.

With the same approach, Jesus Himself spoke of those in Nineveh, who had long since died, as passing judgment through their obedience. "The men of Nineveh shall rise in JUDGMENT with this generation, and shall condemn it: because they repented at the preaching of Jonas; and, behold, a greater than Jonas is here" (Mat. 12:41).

Similarly, Hebrews records of Abel, "By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead YET SPEAKETH" (Heb. 11:4).

It is through our example of obedience that we establish an obvious contrast between what is right and what is wrong. Judgment results in whether or not God's word is followed.

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**Most of us are confident we could move mountains if somebody would clear the hills out of the way.**

## SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

1. What was the name of the ruler warned in a dream by God that Sarah was Abraham's wife?
2. On what sea were the disciples fishing when Jesus told them to try the other side and they had a miraculous catch?
3. If one draws near to God, how will God respond?
4. What is a man like who boasts of gifts he does not give?
5. What was Rachel doing when Jacob first saw her?

ANSWERS NEXT MONTH ...

and remember last month's questions?

1. Three men appeared to Abraham on the plains of Mamre. Where did he tell them to rest? UNDER A TREE (Gen. 18:4)
2. The devils believe there is one God and they what? TREMBLE (Jas. 2:19)
3. For what spiritual trait were the Thessalonians known? THEIR FAITH (1 Thes. 1:8)
4. What does Proverbs say yields better returns than gold? WISDOM (Prov. 3:14)
5. How many books of the "Minor Prophets" are there? TWELVE (Hosea through Malachi)

# GOSPEL MEETINGS

<u>DATES</u>	<u>PLACE &amp; TIME</u>	<u>SPEAKER</u>
Aug. 31 - - Sept. 5	Ashlock Church Ashlock, KY	James McDonald (Woodbury, TN)
Sept. 12 - 14	Fourth Ave. Church Algood, TN	Gerald Carter (Eubank, KY)
Sept. 12 - 14	Fayetteville Rd. Church Atlanta, GA	James McDonald (Woodbury, TN)
Sept. 19 - 21 (F - Su)	Sun Hill Rd. Church Birmingham, AL 7:00pm Fri & Sat	Wilbur Bass (Auburn, AL)
Sept. 19 - 21 (F - Su)	Lake City Church near Atlanta, GA 7:30pm E.S.T.	Harry Cobb (Wedowee, AL)
Sept. 22 - 26	Mt. Zion Church Crab Orchard, KY	James McDonald (Woodbury, TN)
Sept. 28 - - Oct. 1	Bonaventure Rd. Church Savannah, GA	Harry Cobb (Wedowee, AL)

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THINK ABOUT THIS: If every Christian in their lifetime would convert just one person to Christianity, the size of the church would never decrease. If every Christian in their lifetime would convert just two people, the church would double in size about every 50 years or so. We do not have to convert the world, just two people each in our lifetime!

Submitted by Michael Bishop