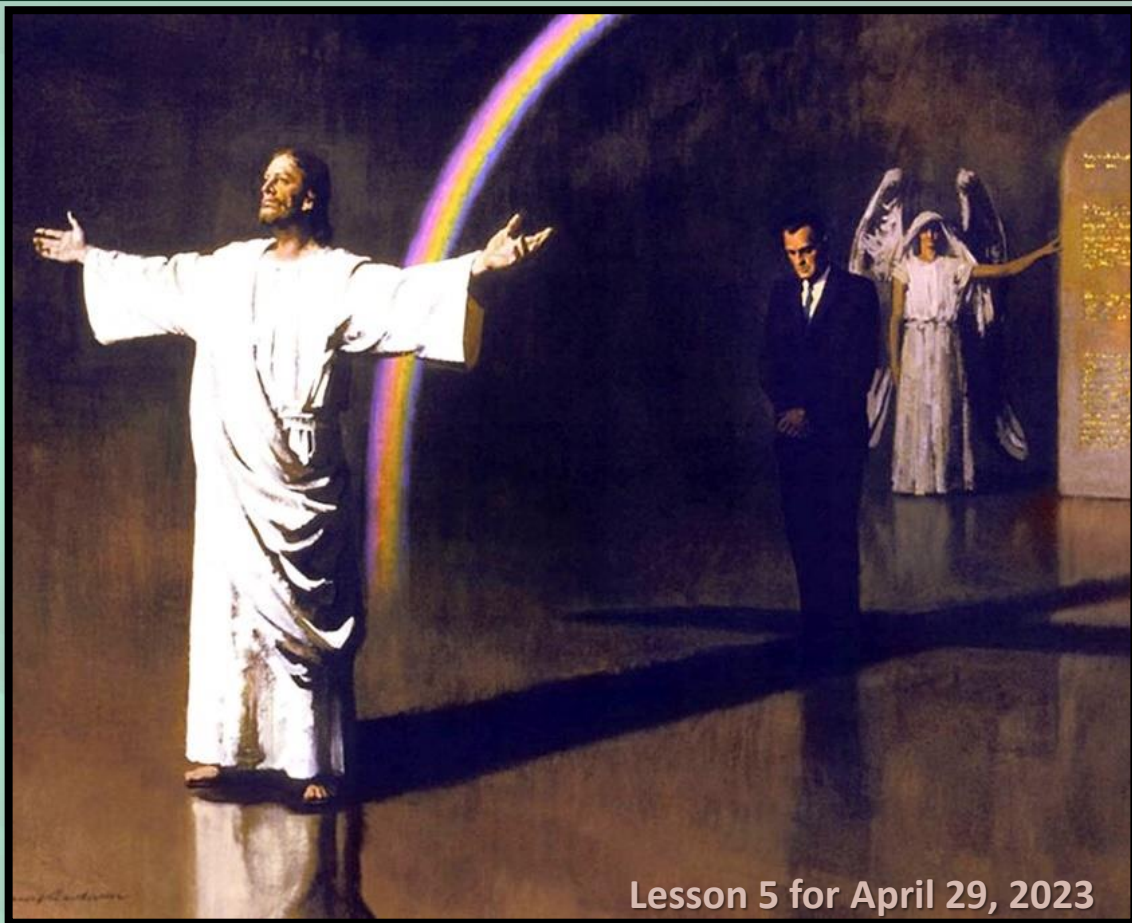


# THE GOOD NEWS OF THE JUDGMENT

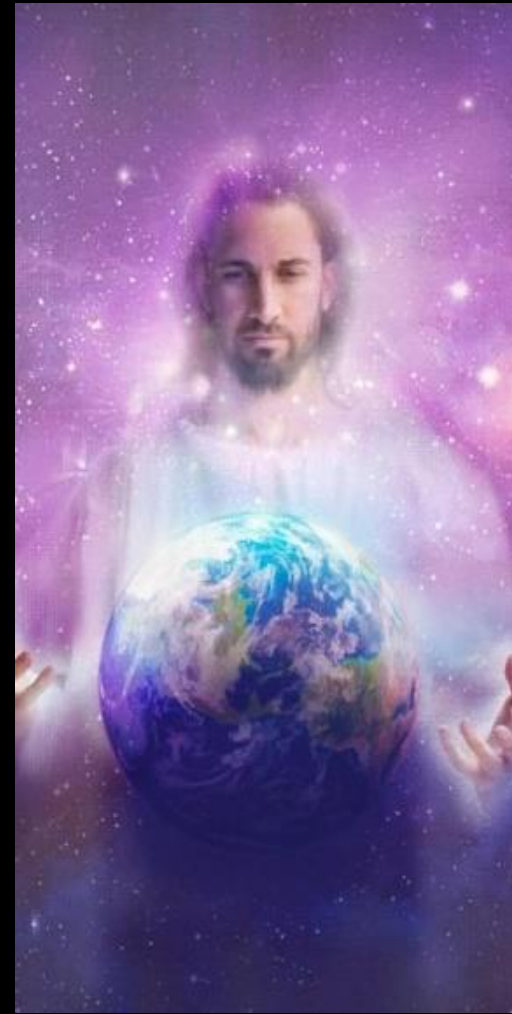



Lesson 5 for April 29, 2023



"Saying with a loud voice,  
'Fear God and give glory to  
Him, for the hour of His  
judgment has come; and  
worship Him who made heaven  
and earth, the sea and  
springs of water'"

(Revelation 14:7)





The angel that carries the everlasting gospel and encourages us to fear God and give Him glory also announces that “the hour of His judgment has come” (Revelation 14:7).

Is this a message of fear or joy? Should we be terrified, or should we have hope? The Bible is clear. The judgment is good news to those who love God: “Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment” (1 John 4:17).

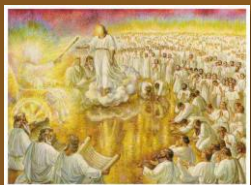
▶ **The good news of the judgment:**

- ➔ **The judgment and the gospel**
- ➔ **The judgment and mercy**

▶ **Scenes of the judgment:**

- ➔ **Daniel 7: The Judge, the Son, and the faithful people**
- ➔ **Revelation 4: The judgment begins with praise**
- ➔ **Revelation 5: The Lamb is worthy of judging**

THE GOOD NEWS  
OF THE JUDGMENT



# THE JUDGMENT AND THE GOSPEL

*"Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin." (Psalm 51:2)*

David had sinned and asked God to blot out his transgression (Ps. 51:1). What does that mean?

David knew that God forgives our sins as soon as we acknowledge our sin (Ps. 51:2-3). David's conclusion was: "That You may be found just when You speak, and blameless when You judge" (Ps. 51:4). Judgment?



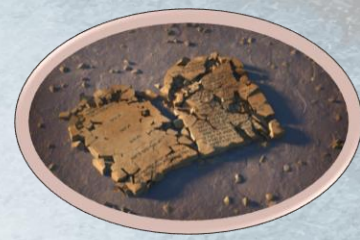
How does God wash our sins away, judges with justice, and is found pure in the judgment?

Thanks to the gospel. That's how our sins are forgiven, our salvation is assured, and we will be victorious in the judgment.

The sacrifice of Jesus showed the whole Universe that God is fair in the way He deals with sin.

# THE JUDGMENT AND MERCY

“Also to You, O Lord, belongs mercy; for You render to each one according to his work.” (Psalm 62:12)



Justice demands the death of those who have broken God’s Law (Ro. 6:23; 1Jn. 3:4). God could’ve abolished or changed His Law.

However, He didn’t. The wicked will be judged and punished by their works (Rev. 20:13). Those who transgressed the Law will be condemned (Rev. 20:15).



How can we find hope in the judgment? By God’s mercy, Jesus gave His life for us. We just have to accept Him as our Savior (Eph. 2:4-5; James 2:13).

“Christ alone can make an effectual plea in our behalf. He is able to silence the accuser with arguments founded not upon our merits, but on His own.”

(Testimonies for the Church, vol. 5, pp. 471, 472)



# SCENES OF THE JUDGMENT

# THE JUDGE, THE SON, AND THE FAITHFUL PEOPLE

**“But the court shall be seated, and they shall take away his dominion, to consume and destroy it forever.” (Daniel 7:26)**

Daniel saw a vision about God’s judgment and its consequences (Daniel 7):



**God begins the judgment seated on a throne of fire (v. 9)**



**Millions are attending the judgment, and the books are opened (v. 10)**



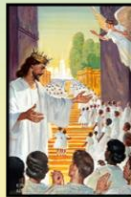
**Jesus attends the judgment as our representative (v. 13)**



**At the end, Jesus receives “dominion and glory and kingdom” (v. 14)**



**The judge orders the destruction of the wicked (v. 26)**



**Jesus gives His kingdom “the people, the saints” (v. 27)**



**The judgment brings evil to an end. Satan’s accusations against God have been proven false. God has been vindicated, His people have been forgiven, and Jesus has received the kingdom. Then, He will come back to give us the kingdom He has received.**



# THE JUDGMENT BEGINS WITH PRAISE

**"Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne set in heaven, and One sat on the throne." (Revelation 4:2)**

**John also saw the magnificent scene of the Judgment (Rev. 4).**



**God is seated on His throne (v. 1-3)**



**24 elders are gathered around the throne as the jury (v. 4)**



**Lightnings, thunders, and voices are heard:  
the judgment begins (v. 5)**



**The witnesses appear: the cherubs represent the angels  
that have been with us (v. 6-8)**



**God is praised before proceeding (v. 9-11)**

**Praise is the core of this judgment scene. The heavenly beings praise God because He is worthy of judging and ending sin. "You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created" (Rev. 4:11).**



To sum up, Revelation 4 and 5 tell the beginning of the investigative judgment in 1844.

When the book is opened, humans are judged according to the contents of the book.

Chapters 6 to 11 tell the development of the judgment.

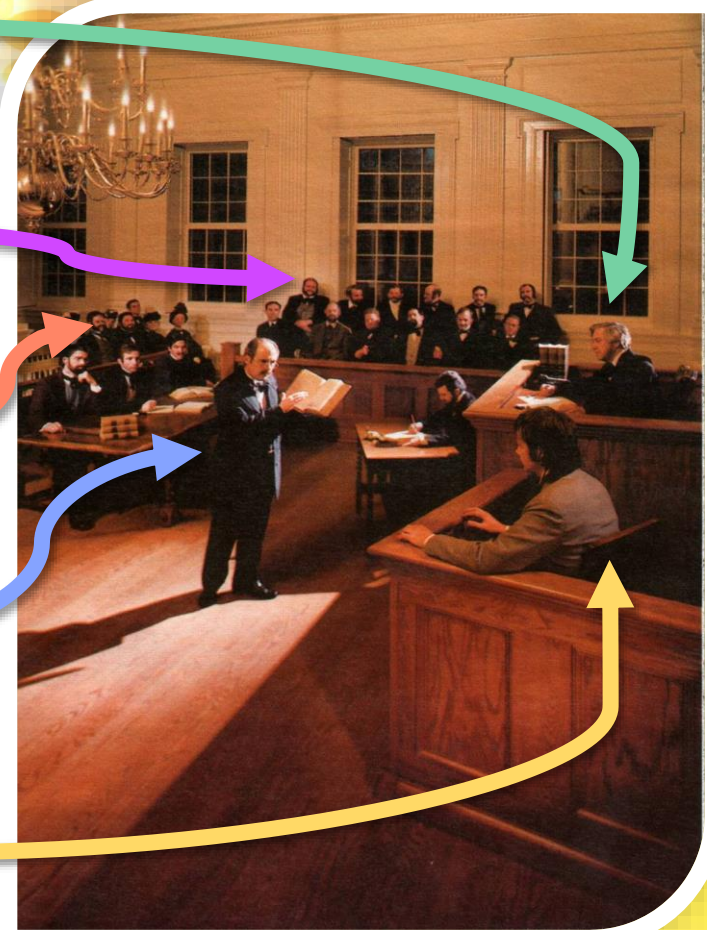
The Judge  
The Father

The jury  
The 24 elders

The attendees  
The angels

The attorney  
Jesús

The witnesses  
The 4 beings



# THE LAMB IS WORTHY OF JUDGING

"And they sang a new song, saying: 'You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation.'" (Revelation 5:9 NIV)



The Father has a scroll in his hand. Its contents will be examined during the judgment. However, no one is worthy of opening its seals and judging fairly (Rev. 5:1-4).

Only Jesus is worthy, the Lamb of God that was slain for us. He is our representative in the judgment. His perfect and upright life covers us (Rev. 5:5-7).

Heavens burst into praises to Jesus before this amazing act of love (Rev. 5:8-14 NVI).

The purpose of the judgment is not to find out how bad we are but to reveal how good God is.



**“Satan urges before God his accusations against them [...] ‘Are these,’ he says, ‘the people who are to take my place in heaven and the place of the angels who united with me? [...] Look at the sins which have marked their lives. Behold their selfishness, their malice, their hatred toward one another.’**

**[...] ‘Will God banish me and my angels from His presence, and yet reward those who have been guilty of the same sins? [...]’**

**But while the followers of Christ have sinned, they have not given themselves to the control of evil. They have put away their sins, and have sought the Lord in humility and contrition, and the divine Advocate pleads in their behalf. He who has been most abused by their ingratitude, who knows their sin, and also their repentance, declares: “The Lord rebuke thee, O Satan.” I gave My life for these souls. They are graven upon the palms of My hands.”**