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God's Judgment: How It Works

Part 1

By

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"Let the field be joyful, and all that is in it. Then all the trees of the woods will rejoice before the Lord. For He is coming, for He is coming to judge the earth. He shall judge the world with righteousness, And the peoples with His truth." Psalm 96:12-13

"You shall appoint judges and officers in all your gates, which the Lord your God gives you, according to your tribes, and they shall judge the people with just judgment." Deuteronomy 16:18

The Bible is clear about who judges on earth: God and humans He appoints. God is the **Judge** of the earth and has appointed human judges to judge with just judgment. It's important that we understand this as we look at God's future judgments.

[This is not the first time we've published articles about God's Judgment. We will list links to some of our previous articles at the bottom of this eBook.]

Relationship God

Look at some of the many names used for God's "people" in Scripture:

- My people •
- Children •
- Sons •
- Daughters •
- Family •
- Servants •
- Worshippers •
- Friends •
- Israel (God strives) •
- Church (called out assembly) •
- Wife •
- Bride •
- Chosen •

God is a God of relationships. That's important as we consider how God will judge His people.

God the Judge

God is a Creator. He created the heavens and the earth and determined before time began how this new creation and the creatures who live in it would work.

- God judged Adam and Eve guilty of disobedience in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3).
- He judged the wicked people who descended from Adam and Eve and destroyed all of them except for Noah and his family (Genesis 6 - 8).
- God called Abram and established a special people who would call on His Name (Genesis 12:8).
- God called the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob out of Egypt through the ministry of Moses (Exodus 3 – 15).
- God gave Moses the position of chief judge of the people of Israel (Exodus 18:13).
- Moses appointed other men to serve as associate judges to the people of Israel (Exodus 18:22-26)
- Joshua became chief judge of Israel after Moses died (Joshua 1 24).
- God appointed men to judge Israel after Joshua died (Judges 1 1 Samuel 7).
- The people of Israel demanded a king rather than have God and judges rule over them (1 Samuel 8 ff)
- God judged Israel and surrounding countries through kings.

God judging His people through humans He appointed was God's plan for judgment. Did that plan change because of people rebelling against God?

"Therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, because He not only broke the Sabbath, but also said that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God. Then Jesus answered and said to them, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner. For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself does; and He will show Him greater works than these, that you may marvel. For as the Father raises the dead and gives life to them, even so the Son gives life to whom He will. For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son, that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him. Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life. Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live. For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself, and has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man. Do not marvel at this: for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth-those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation. I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and

My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me." John 5:18-30

Judging Through The Son

God the Father "judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son." Why? "... that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father." The "how" of God's of Judgment has not changed through the centuries. God the Son is also the Son of Man – God and Man. Jesus Christ is the Judge.

Jesus Christ has many names and titles:

- Lord of Lords
- King of Kings
- Jesus
- Christ (Messiah)
- Emmanuel
- Master
- Savior
- The Word of God (Logos)
- Lamb of God
- Second Adam
- King of the Jews
- Rabbonì (Teacher)
- Light of the World

- Son of God
- Son of Man
- Son of David

The way God judges has not changed since the beginning. God the Father judges through *God the Son*, Who is also known as the *Son of Man* and the *Son of David*.

We are going to focus on those three names/titles for Jesus Christ in our study as they relate to God's Judgment: *Son of God, Son of Man, Son of David*.

Jesus Christ – Son of God

The first use of the term *Son of God* in the New Testament is by Satan:

"Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry. Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, 'If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.' But He answered and said, 'It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, 'If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: 'He shall give His angels charge over you,' and, 'In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.' Jesus said to him, 'It is written again, You shall not tempt the Lord your God.'" Matthew 4:1-7

The next New Testament reference to Jesus Christ being the *Son of God* was by demons:

"When He had come to the other side, to the country of the Gergesenes, there met Him two demon-possessed men, coming out of the tombs, exceedingly fierce, so that no one could pass that way. And suddenly they cried out, saying, 'What have we to do with You, Jesus, You Son of God? Have You come here to torment us before the time?" Matthew 8:28-29

I find it both interesting and strategic that spiritual beings (Satan and demons) were the first in the New Testament to attest to the fact that Jesus of Nazareth was and is the eternal *Son of God*. Satan and the demons are supernatural beings and knew Christ prior to His Incarnation. They knew He was the *Son of God* and that He was going to **judge** them – "Have You come here to torment us before the time?" They knew that God the Father was going to **judge** them through God the Son.

The next reference in Matthew to Jesus Christ being the *Son of God* came from the Lord's disciples who of all human beings knew Him best:

"And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, 'O you of little faith, why did you doubt?' And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, 'Truly You are the Son of God.'" Matthew 14:31-33

Mark's Gospel begins with the fact that Jesus Christ is the Son of God:

"The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God." Mark 1:1

Gabriel the angel who stands before the Almighty God in Heaven said these words to the virgin Mary:

"And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God." Luke 1:35

The angel told Joseph, "son of David," to name Christ "Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21)

Angels announced to shepherds near Bethlehem that Christ was born. The shepherds found Mary, Joseph and the Baby Jesus lying in a manger and "made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child" (Luke 2:8-20).

Simeon and Anna spoke publicly about the Baby Jesus fulfilling prophecy (Luke 2:25-38), but John the Baptist was the first human to publicly announce that Jesus Christ is the *Son of God*:

"And John bore witness, saying, 'I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and He remained upon Him. I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God." John 1:32-34

John the Baptist also warned the Jewish leaders that the Son of God would judge in the future with unquenchable fire:

"But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, 'Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance, and do not think to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones. And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather His wheat into the barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire." Matthew 3:7-12

The Jewish leaders used Jesus' claim to being the *Son of God* as an accusation against Him before Pilate:

"The Jews answered him, 'We have a law, and according to our law He ought to die, because He made Himself the Son of God." John 19:7

The first thing the Apostle Paul (Saul of Tarsus) preached after being saved was that Jesus Christ was the *Son of God*:

"So when he had received food, he was strengthened. Then Saul spent some days with the disciples at Damascus. Immediately he preached the Christ in the synagogues, that He is the Son of God. Then all who heard were amazed, and said, 'Is this not he who destroyed those who called on this name in Jerusalem, and has come here for that purpose, so that he might bring them bound to the chief priests?" Acts 9:19-21

As we read the Apostolic Letters in the New Testament, we find a consistency in reference to Jesus Christ being the *Son of God* through whom God the Father will **judge**.

God's Judgment

"Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace? For we know Him who said, 'Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,' says the Lord. And again, 'The Lord will judge His people.' It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God." Hebrews 10:29-31

"For as many as have sinned without law will also perish without law, and as many as have sinned in the law will be judged by the law (for not the hearers of the law are just in the sight of God, but the doers of the law will be justified; for when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do the things in the law, these, although not having the law, are a law to themselves, who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves their thoughts accusing or else excusing them) in the day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my gospel." Romans 2:12-16

"Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when He had found him, He said to him, 'Do you believe in the Son of God?' He answered and said, 'Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?' And Jesus said to him, 'You have both seen Him and it is He who is talking with you.' Then he said, 'Lord, I believe!' And he worshiped Him. And Jesus said, 'For judgment I have come into this world, that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may be made blind.' Then some of the Pharisees who were with Him heard these words, and said to Him, 'Are we blind also?' Jesus said to them, 'If you were blind, you would have no sin; but now you say, 'We see.' Therefore your sin remains." John 9:35-41

"Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful. But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by a human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. For I know of nothing against myself, yet I am not justified by this; but He who judges me is the Lord. Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels of the hearts. Then each one's praise will come from God." 1 Corinthians 4:1-5

"Therefore it was necessary that the copies of the things in the heavens should be purified with these, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us; not that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood of another— He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation." Hebrews 9:23-28 "Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, 'Be holy, for I am holy.' And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay here in fear; knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you who through Him believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God." 1 Peter 1:13-21

"Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, that he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God. For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries. In regard to these, they think it strange that you do not run with them in the same flood of dissipation, speaking evil of you. They will give an account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. For this reason the gospel was preached also to those who are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit." 1 Peter 4:1-6

Jesus Christ, the *Son of God*, will judge the world justly and in all righteousness and perfection.

Jesus Christ – Son of Man

The title *Son of Man* has a special significance for what we learn about Jesus Christ as Judge in the New Testament. God revealed it to a prophet of Israel centuries before Jesus was born in Bethlehem:

"I watched till thrones were put in place, And the Ancient of Days was seated; His garment was white as snow, And the hair of His head was like pure wool. His throne was a fiery flame, Its wheels a burning fire; A fiery stream issued And came forth from before Him. A thousand thousands ministered to Him; Ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him. The court was seated, And the books were opened. 'I watched then because of the sound of the pompous words which the horn was speaking; I watched till the beast was slain, and its body destroyed and given to the burning flame. As for the rest of the beasts, they had their dominion taken away, yet their lives were prolonged for a season and a time. 'I was watching in the night visions, And behold, One like the Son of Man, Coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, And they brought Him near before Him. Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, That all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, Which shall not pass away, And His kingdom the one Which shall not be destroyed." Daniel 7:9-14

Daniel the prophet saw "One like the Son of Man" coming with the clouds of Heaven to the Ancient of Days. The *Son of Man* was given an everlasting dominion, glory and kingdom that all people, nations and languages would serve Him.

The Hebrew words translated "One like the Son of Man" are *kəbar 'ěnāš* (Aramaic *bar enash* – Hebrew *ben enosh*). This is interesting when we remember that Jesus' human lineage came from Adam and Eve's son Seth and grandson Enosh.

"And Adam knew his wife again, and she bore a son and named him Seth, 'For God has appointed another seed for me instead of Abel, whom Cain killed.' And as for Seth, to him also a son was born; and he named him Enosh. Then men began to call on the name of the Lord." Genesis 4:25-26

The Hebrew word translated "dominion" in Daniel 7:14 is *šāləţān* (*sholtan*) and comes from the Aramaic word *shelet*. It means "to have power, rule, have authority."

The *Son of Man* received this "everlasting dominion, glory and kingdom" from the *Ancient of Days*.

The Hebrew words translated "Ancient of Days" are *'attîq yōwmayyā*. This is one of the many Names of God. Daniel used the Name three times, all in Chapter 7. The last usage in Daniel is found in verses 21-22:

"I was watching; and the same horn was making war against the saints, and prevailing against them, until the Ancient of Days came, and a judgment was made in favor of the saints of the Most High, and the time came for the saints to possess the kingdom."

Jesus Christ is the *Son of Man* prophesied in Daniel 7. He used that title for Himself many times while He preached the Gospel in Israel:

"And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head." Matthew 8:20

"But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins'—then He said to the paralytic, 'Arise, take up your bed, and go to your house." Matthew 9:6

"For the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath." Matthew 12:8

"For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth." Matthew 12:40

"He answered and said to them: 'He who sows the good seed is the Son of Man" Matthew 13:37

"When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, 'Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?" Matthew 16:13

"For the Son of Man has come to save that which was lost." Matthew 18:11

"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many." Mark 10:45

"For John the Baptist came neither eating bread nor drinking wine, and you say, 'He has a demon.' The Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, 'Look, a glutton and a winebibber, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' But wisdom is justified by all her children." Luke 7:33-35

"Jesus answered and said to him, 'Because I said to you, 'I saw you under the fig tree,' do you believe? You will see greater things than these.' And He said to him, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man." John 1:50-51

"Most assuredly, I say to you, We speak what We know and testify what We have seen, and you do not receive Our witness. If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things? No one has ascended to heaven but He God's Judgment

who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved." John 3:11-17

"Jesus answered them and said, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled. Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him." John 6:26-27

"When Jesus knew in Himself that His disciples complained about this, He said to them, 'Does this offend you? What then if you should see the Son of Man ascend where He was before? It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life." John 6:61-63

"Then Jesus said to them, 'When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and that I do nothing of Myself; but as My Father taught Me, I speak these things. And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him.' As He spoke these words, many believed in Him." John 8:28-30

Jesus used the title after His Transfiguration:

"Now as they came down from the mountain, He commanded them that they should tell no one the things they had seen, till the Son of Man had risen from the dead. So they kept this word to themselves, questioning what the rising from the dead meant. And they asked Him, saying, 'Why do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?' Then He answered and told them, 'Indeed, Elijah is coming first and restores all things. And how is it written concerning the Son of Man, that He must suffer many things and be treated with contempt? But I say to you that Elijah has also come, and they did to him whatever they wished, as it is written of him." Mark 9:9-13

Jesus told His disciples that He would suffer in Jerusalem at the hands of Jewish leaders:

"And He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again." Mark 8:31 "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and to the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death and deliver Him to the Gentiles; and they will mock Him, and scourge Him, and spit on Him, and kill Him. And the third day He will rise again." Mark 10:33-34 The evening prior to His arrest and death on the Cross, Jesus declared that it would glorify Him and the Father:

"So, when he had gone out, Jesus said, 'Now the Son of Man is glorified, and God is glorified in Him. If God is glorified in Him, God will also glorify Him in Himself, and glorify Him immediately. Little children, I shall be with you a little while longer. You will seek Me; and as I said to the Jews, 'Where I am going, you cannot come,' so now I say to you. A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." John 13:31-35

Jesus used the title *Son of Man* when the high priest interrogated Him prior to the Lord's crucifixion:

"But Jesus kept silent. And the high priest answered and said to Him, 'I put You under oath by the living God: Tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God!' Jesus said to him, 'It is as you said. Nevertheless, I say to you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven.' Then the high priest tore his clothes, saying, 'He has spoken blasphemy! What further need do we have of witnesses? Look, now you have heard His blasphemy!" Matthew 26:63-65 "As soon as it was day, the elders of the people, both chief priests and scribes, came together and led Him into their council, saying, If You are the Christ, tell us.' But He said to them, 'If I tell you, you will by no means believe. And if I also ask you, you will by no means answer Me or let Me go. Hereafter the Son of Man will sit on the right hand of the power of God.' Then they all said, 'Are You then the Son of God?' So He said to them, 'You rightly say that I am.' And they said, 'What further testimony do we need? For we have heard it ourselves from His own mouth." Luke 22:66-71

Jesus answered the high priest and the Sanhedrin (ruling Jews) in such a way that He claimed to be both *Son of God* and *Son of Man*. For that the high priest accused Jesus of blasphemy against God.

Jesus predicted that His death on the Cross would both judge the world and cast out Satan:

"But Jesus answered them, saying, 'The hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified. Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain. He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor. Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save Me from this hour'? But for this purpose I came to this hour. Father, glorify Your name.' Then a voice came from heaven, saying, 'I have both glorified God's Judgment

it and will glorify it again.' Therefore the people who stood by and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, 'An angel has spoken to Him.' Jesus answered and said, 'This voice did not come because of Me, but for your sake. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out. And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself.' This He said, signifying by what death He would die. The people answered Him, 'We have heard from the law that the Christ remains forever; and how can You say, 'The Son of Man must be lifted up'? Who is this Son of Man?' Then Jesus said to them, 'A little while longer the light is with you. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you; he who walks in darkness does not know where he is going. While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light.' These things Jesus spoke, and departed, and was hidden from them." John 12:23-36

Jesus used the title *Son of Man* when He warned people to watch for His coming at the end of the age:

"But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only. But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. Then two men will be in the field: one will be taken and the other left. Two women will be grinding at the mill: one will be taken and the other left. Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect." Matthew 24:36-44

"Now when He was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, He answered them and said, 'The kingdom of God does not come with observation: nor will they say. 'See here!' or 'See there!' For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you.' Then He said to the disciples, 'The days will come when you will desire to see one of the days of the Son of Man, and you will not see it. And they will say to you, 'Look here!' or 'Look there!' Do not go after them or follow them. For as the lightning that flashes out of one part under heaven shines to the other part under heaven, so also the Son of Man will be in His day. But first He must suffer many things and be rejected by this generation. And as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man: They ate, they drank, they married wives. they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all. Likewise as it was also in the days of Lot: They ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built; but on the day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all. Even so will it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed.' In that day, he who is on the housetop, and his goods are in the house, let him not come down to take them away. And likewise the one who is in the field, let him not turn back. Remember Lot's wife. Whoever seeks to save his

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life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it. I tell you, in that night there will be two men in one bed: the one will be taken and the other will be left. Two women will be grinding together: the one will be taken and the other left. Two men will be in the field: the one will be taken and the other left.' And they answered and said to Him, 'Where, Lord?' So He said to them, 'Wherever the body is, there the eagles will be gathered together." Luke 17:20-37

"And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring; men's hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near." Luke 21:25-28

"But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly. For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth. Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man."Luke 21:34-36 Jesus used the title as He taught about the Parable of the Wise and Foolish Virgins:

"Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish. Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept. 'And at midnight a cry was heard: 'Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!' Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise answered, saying, 'No, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves.' And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut. 'Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open to us!' But he answered and said, 'Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.' 'Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming." Matthew 25:1-13

Jesus used the title when describing His coming for the Elect from around the world:

"But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars of heaven will fall, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory. And then He will send His angels, and gather together His elect from the four winds, from the farthest part of earth to the farthest part of heaven." Mark 13:24-27

Jesus used the title when describing His judgment at the end of the age:

"Therefore as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of this age. The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness, and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth." Matthew 13:40-42

"For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and is himself destroyed or lost? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, of him the Son of Man will be ashamed when He comes in His own glory, and in His Father's, and of the holy angels." Luke 9:25-26

"Also I say to you, whoever confesses Me before men, him the Son of Man also will confess before the angels of God. But he who denies Me before men will be denied before the angels of God." Luke 12:8-9

Jesus Christ, Son of Man, will judge the nations harshly:

"When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another,

as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; 36 I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.' 'Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.' 'Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; I was a stranger and vou did not take Me in. naked and vou did not clothe Me. sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.' 'Then they also will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?' Then He will answer them, saying, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.' And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life." Matthew 25:31-46

Jesus also used the title when describing His giving of rewards at the end of the age:

"For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works." Matthew 16:26-27

Stephen, one of the original deacons, was giving a defense of the Gospel of Jesus Christ before the high priest and other leaders of Israel when he saw Jesus Christ standing at the right hand of God in Heaven:

"When they heard these things they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed at him with their teeth. But he, being full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God, and said, 'Look! I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!' Then they cried out with a loud voice, stopped their ears, and ran at him with one accord; and they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul. And they stoned Stephen as he was calling on God and saying, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.' Then he knelt down and cried out with a loud voice, 'Lord, do not charge them with this sin.' And when he had said this, he fell asleep." Acts 7:54-60 Even as Jesus' claim that He was the *Son of Man* helped lead to His murder, so Stephen's identifying Jesus as the *Son of Man* helped lead to his murder as well.

The Apostles of Christ rarely referred to Jesus as the *Son of Man*. However, the Apostle John used the title twice in the Revelation:

"Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands, and in the midst of the seven lampstands One like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band. His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire; His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters; He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength. And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, 'Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death." Revelation 1:12-18

"Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and on the cloud sat One like the Son of Man, having on His head a golden crown, and in His hand a sharp sickle. And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to Him who sat on the cloud, 'Thrust in Your sickle and reap, for the time has come for You to reap, for the harvest of the earth is ripe.' So He who sat on the cloud thrust in His sickle on the earth, and the earth was reaped." Revelation 14:14-16

Jesus Christ – Son of David

"The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham." Matthew 1:1

We are introduced to Jesus Christ being the **Son of David** in the first verse of the New Testament. Matthew began writing his Gospel account with the genealogy (family lineage) of Jesus by calling Him *Son of David* and *Son of Abraham*. That would have had special significance to a Jewish audience. Abraham was the great patriarch of Israel and David was the great king. Jesus was a direct descendant of both.

Matthew recorded six times that people referred to Jesus as the Son of David, demonstrating that the title was an important one to the Jewish people.

"When Jesus departed from there, two blind men followed Him, crying out and saying, "Son of David, have mercy on us!" Matthew 9:27

"And all the multitudes were amazed and said, "Could this be the Son of David?" Matthew 12:23 "And behold, a woman of Canaan came from that region and cried out to Him, saying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! My daughter is severely demon-possessed." Matthew 15:22

"And behold, two blind men sitting by the road, when they heard that Jesus was passing by, cried out, saying, "Have mercy on us, O Lord, Son of David!" Matthew 20:30

"Then the multitudes who went before and those who followed cried out, saying: 'Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!" Matthew 21:9

"But when the chief priests and scribes saw the wonderful things that He did, and the children crying out in the temple and saying, 'Hosanna to the Son of David!' they were indignant." Matthew 21:15

Even though the spiritual leaders of Israel were indignant at what the people were saying about Jesus, they knew that the title of Son of David belonged to Messiah.

"While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, saying, 'What do you think about the Christ? Whose Son is He?' They said to Him, 'The Son of David.' He said to them, 'How then does David in the Spirit call Him 'Lord,' saying: 'The Lord said to my Lord, 'Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool.' If David then calls Him 'Lord,' how is He his Son?' And no one was able to answer Him a word, nor from that day on did anyone dare question Him anymore." Matthew 22:41-46

Son of David in History

God spoke to the prophet Nathan and told him that the throne of King David would "be established forever" (2 Samuel 7:16). God told Nathan to tell David that He would set up his "seed" after him, "who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom" (2 Samuel 7:12).

Important question: did that happen?

As we look at the kings that came from the lineage of David, do we see any that established a throne forever? The short answer is **no**. The last king in the Davidic lineage was Zedekiah and he died in disgrace after losing the kingdom to Babylon.

The united Kingdom of Israel divided into two kingdoms (Northern and Southern) after King Solomon, David's son, died. The Northern Kingdom was known as Israel and the Southern Kingdom was known as Judah. The kings of the Northern Kingdom were not from David's lineage.

King Jeroboam was the first Northern king. He served King Solomon for a time, but rebelled against Solomon. Why would Jeroboam do that? Because of a prophecy –

God's Judgment

"Now it happened at that time, when Jeroboam went out of Jerusalem, that the prophet Ahijah the Shilonite met him on the way; and he had clothed himself with a new garment, and the two were alone in the field. Then Ahijah took hold of the new garment that was on him, and tore it into twelve pieces. And he said to Jeroboam, 'Take for yourself ten pieces, for thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: 'Behold, I will tear the kingdom out of the hand of Solomon and will give ten tribes to you (but he shall have one tribe for the sake of My servant David, and for the sake of Jerusalem, the city which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel), because they have forsaken Me, and worshiped Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, Chemosh the god of the Moabites, and Milcom the god of the people of Ammon, and have not walked in My ways to do what is right in My eyes and keep My statutes and My judgments, as did his father David. However I will not take the whole kingdom out of his hand, because I have made him ruler all the days of his life for the sake of My servant David, whom I chose because he kept My commandments and My statutes. But I will take the kingdom out of his son's hand and give it to you—ten tribes. And to his son I will give one tribe, that My servant David may always have a lamp before Me in Jerusalem, the city which I have chosen for Myself, to put My name there. So I will take you, and you shall reign over all your heart desires, and you shall be king over Israel. Then it shall be, if you heed all that I command you. walk in My ways, and do what is right in My sight, to keep My statutes and My commandments, as My servant David did, then I will be with you and build for you an enduring house, as I built for David, and will give Israel to you. And I will afflict the descendants of David because

of this, but not forever.' Solomon therefore sought to kill Jeroboam. But Jeroboam arose and fled to Egypt, to Shishak king of Egypt, and was in Egypt until the death of Solomon." 1 Kings 11:29-40

After Solomon died, Jeroboam led ten tribes of Israel to revolt against the house of David. Jeroboam became the first king of the Northern Kingdom, known as Israel. The capitals of the Northern Kingdom included Shechem, Penuel, Tirza, and Samaria. **None** of the 19 kings who ruled Israel after Jeroboam's rebellion were related to King David.

Solomon's son Rehoboam became king after his father died, but was left with a very small kingdom after Jeroboam's rebellion. Rehoboam became the first king of the Southern Kingdom, known as Judah. The capitals of the Southern Kingdom were Hebron and Jerusalem. **All** of the 19 kings who ruled Judah after Jeroboam's rebellion were related to King David.

The words of the people who followed Jeroboam is most interesting in light of the question about the Davidic lineage –

"Now when all Israel saw that the king did not listen to them, the people answered the king, saying: What share have we in David? We have no inheritance in the son of Jesse. To your tents, O Israel! Now, see to your own house, O David!' So Israel departed to their tents. But Rehoboam reigned over the children of Israel who dwelt in the cities of Judah." 1 Kings 12:16-17 Their words were certainly prophetic: "What share have we in David? We have no inheritance in the son of Jesse."

The Northern Kingdom ended a little more than 200 years after Jeroboam's rebellion when the Assyrian Kingdom removed King Hoshea.

"In the ninth year of Hoshea, the king of Assyria took Samaria and carried Israel away to Assyria, and placed them in Halah and by the Habor, the River of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes." 2 Kings 17:6

What happened to the Northern Kingdom after Assyria conquered Israel?

"Then the king of Assyria brought people from Babylon, Cuthah, Ava, Hamath, and from Sepharvaim, and placed them in the cities of Samaria instead of the children of Israel; and they took possession of Samaria and dwelt in its cities." 2 Kings 17:24

What about Judah, the Southern Kingdom? Since the kings were of the seed (lineage) of David, did God establish a forever kingdom with them? No. The Kingdom of Judah was conquered by the king of Babylon about 136 years after the Assyrians conquered the Northern Kingdom of Israel. The Davidic lineage ended with Zedekiah about 586 BC.

But what about King Herod the Great? We've all heard the story of how wise men from the East came to Jerusalem looking for the baby Jesus.

"When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born." Matthew 2:3-4

Was Herod from the lineage of David? No. Herod's father, Antipater, was an Edomite who converted to Judaism. No relation to King David.

The Jewish people living in Israel at the time of Jesus knew their history and they knew that Nathan's prophecy about the throne of David being "established forever" was still future. They were looking for the *Son of David* who would fulfill the prophecy. The fact that so many of them believed Jesus was the Son of David demonstrates the power of what Jesus was doing in their midst.

Son of David in Judgment

What did the Jewish people believe the Son of David would do? They believed he would rule and reign Israel, which included judgment.

The idea of a **judging king** began during the time of the "Judges" in Israel. Here's the back story –

Samuel made his sons judges over Israel, but they were not good men like their father. They took bribes and perverted justice (1 Samuel 8:3). The elders approached Samuel and told him they didn't want his sons to judge them. They wanted a "king to judge us like all the nations" (1 Samuel 8:5). Samuel was against it, but God said -

"Heed the voice of the people in all that they say to you; for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me, that I should not reign over them. According to all the works which they have done since the day that I brought them up out of Egypt, even to this day—with which they have forsaken Me and served other gods—so they are doing to you also. Now therefore, heed their voice. However, you shall solemnly forewarn them, and show them the behavior of the king who will reign over them." 1 Samuel 8:7-9

Samuel told the people what a terrible thing it would be for them to have a king, but they didn't listen to him. They still wanted a king to "judge us and go out before us and fight our battles" (1 Samuel 8:19-20).

The idea of a "judging king" was deeply embedded in the history of Israel's choice of the type of leader they wanted.

Saul, the first king of Israel, was an example of the kind of king Samuel warned the people. David, the second king of Israel, was an example of the kind of king that pleased God. He ruled and judged righteously –

"So David reigned over all Israel; and David administered judgment and justice to all his people." 2 Samuel 8:15 Judging the people was part of sitting on the throne –

"Where the tribes go up, The tribes of the Lord, To the Testimony of Israel, To give thanks to the name of the Lord. For thrones are set there for judgment, The thrones of the house of David." Psalm 122:4-5

God told King Solomon to ask what he wanted and it would be given him -

"And Solomon said to God: 'You have shown great mercy to David my father, and have made me king in his place. Now, O Lord God, let Your promise to David my father be established, for You have made me king over a people like the dust of the earth in multitude. Now give me wisdom and knowledge, that I may go out and come in before this people; for who can judge this great people of Yours?' Then God said to Solomon: 'Because this was in your heart, and you have not asked riches or wealth or honor or the life of your enemies, nor have you asked long life—but have asked wisdom and knowledge for yourself, that you may judge My people over whom I have made you king wisdom and knowledge are granted to you; and I will give you riches and wealth and honor, such as none of the kings have had who were before you, nor shall any after you have the like." 2 Chronicles 1:8-12 Here we see God stating that one of King Solomon's primary duties as king of Israel was to "judge My people over whom I have you king." The Jewish people understood that judging them was one of the things Solomon would do as their king. They understood that the Son of David would rule and judge Israel in the same way as past kings in the Davidic line.

Types of Judges

What do you think of when you hear the word Judge? Punishment? Reward? Both are true.

The Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines a judge as:

"one who makes judgments: such as -

- a public official authorized to decide questions brought before a court •
- one appointed to decide in a contest or competition •
- one who gives an authoritative opinion •
- CRITIC •
- a tribal hero exercising leadership among the Hebrews after the • death of Joshua"

Jesus Christ acts as the **Ultimate Judge** for both punishment and reward, as we'll see in these important examples below.

Jesus Christ Judges the World

"Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead." Acts 17:30-31

The Apostle Paul, speaking in Athens, made clear to those who heard him that God has appointed a day on which He will judge the world. Paul also made it clear that God will judge world in righteousness "by the Man whom He has ordained." What "man" you ask? By the Man God raised from the dead. That is Jesus Christ.

Paul also wrote that "God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my gospel" (Romans 2:16).

The Apostle Peter, preaching to Cornelius and his family and friends, said this about Christ's judgment to come:

"And He commanded us to preach to the people, and to testify that it is He who was ordained by God to be Judge of the living and the dead." Acts 10:42

As we consider that Jesus will one day "judge the world in righteousness," it would help to understand who makes up the "world" that He will judge.

Jesus Christ Judges the Nations

"When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.' 'Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.' 'Then He will also say to those on the left hand. 'Depart from Me. you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.' 'Then they also will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?' Then He will answer them, saying, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.' And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life." Matthew 25:31-46

"We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is fitting, because your faith grows exceedingly, and the love of every one of you all abounds toward each other, so that we ourselves boast of you among the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that you endure, which is manifest evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you also suffer; since it is a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you, and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, when He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe, because our testimony among you was believed." 2 Thessalonians 1:3-10

"Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS." Revelation 19:11-16

Jesus Christ Judges Israel

"Then Jesus said to His disciples, 'Assuredly, I say to you that it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. And again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.' When His disciples heard it, they were greatly astonished, saying, 'Who then can be saved?' But Jesus looked at them and said to them. 'With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.' Then Peter answered and said to Him, 'See, we have left all and followed You. Therefore what shall we have?' So Jesus said to them, 'Assuredly I say to you, that in the regeneration, when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My name's sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last first." Matthew 19:23-30

"But you are those who have continued with Me in My trials. And I bestow upon you a kingdom, just as My Father bestowed one upon Me, that you may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel." Luke 22:28-30

Jesus Christ Judges His Church

"Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are well known to God, and I also trust are well known in your consciences." 2 Corinthians 5:9-11

"For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire." 1 Corinthians 3:11-15

"But why do you judge your brother? Or why do you show contempt for your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. For it is written: 'As I live, says the Lord, Every knee shall bow to Me, And every tongue shall confess to God.' So then each of us shall give account of himself to God. Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather resolve this, not to put a stumbling block or a cause to fall in our brother's way." Romans 14:10-13

We will continue looking at how Jesus answered His disciples' question about when He would establish His Kingdom in the next part of our special eBook series, *God's Judgment: How It Works*.

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