

Lesson 5

The Bema Seat (The Believer's Judgment)

Part 1

Introduction

The next phase of our End Times study will cover the Bema Seat or the Believers Judgment. This great event is second in importance to a Christian's life, the first being the day they received the Lord Jesus as their Savior and were born again as a child of God. Meeting Jesus face-to-face will be the second most extraordinary day of a believer's life; and for some that day will reap inexpressible joy and for others a profound poverty. For on that day, Jesus will call before Himself each person who belonged to the Church, and one by one they will present their life's work as His servant. He will either reward them for their service or remove potential rewards for their lack of service unto Him.

Understanding the Bema Seat, with its ramifications of gaining eternal rewards or the loss of rewards, is one of the most important biblical doctrines for a believer to be absolutely clear on. Many Christians are completely unaware of this judgment seat before which they will have to appear. They are asleep in the light or blinded by ignorance believing they have salvation and that's all they need to be concerned with; or, as one man said to me: "I have my ticket to heaven, I have trusted in Christ as my Savior." What that man expressed is the attitude a lot of Christians have about their salvation. But what he and many others fail to realize is that when Christ became their Savior, He also became their Master. And as their Master, He will one day call all of His servants into account for the service they rendered unto Him. On that day, He will use His divine nature and authority to examine every thought and action of one's life to pronounce His judgment of loss or reward, for which there will be no appeal but will reap eternal results. That day will take place at the Bema Seat, the judgement seat of Christ.

Now, with that as our introduction to the subject, we shall open our Bibles and discover what this important event in our future holds for us.

1. What is the issue of the judgment about?

2. What New Testament words describe the Bema Seat judgment?

a. *Criterion*

b. *Bema*

3. When does the Bema Seat judgment take place?

4. Where does the Bema Seat take place?

5. Who will take part in the Bema Seat judgment?

a.

a.

6. What are some passages that address the Bema Seat judgment?

a. Romans 14:10

b. 1 Cor. 3:10-15

c. 1 Cor. 4:1-5

d. 1 Cor. 9:24-27

e. 2 Cor. 5:10

f. 1 Thess. 2:19

g. 2 Tim. 4:8

h. Heb. 13:17

i. James 1:12

j. 1 Peter 5:4

k. 2 Peter 1:10-11

l. 2 John 8

7. Why is this judgment necessary?

a.

b.

a.

8. What will be judged at the Bema Seat?

a. A believer's works

b. A believer's words

c. A believer's worship

d. A believer's will

e. A believer's witness

f. A believer's thoughts

g. A believer's conscience

h. A believer's self-discipline

i. A believer's money

j. A believer's faithfulness

9. What will be the results of the Bema Seat judgment?

a. Rewards will be _____.

b. Rewards will be _____.

10. What are some differences between salvation that is offered to an unbeliever and rewards offered to a believer?

a. An unbeliever is offered eternal life (John 3:16; 4:14); a believer is offered eternal rewards (1 Cor. 4:5).

b. Salvation is offered because of God's choice and will (Eph. 1:4; James 1:18); rewards are given because of a believer's choice and will (1 Cor. 9:26-27).

c. Salvation is a gift of God apart from any works (Rom. 4:5; Eph. 2:8-9); rewards are gifts of God solely based on works (1 Cor. 3:13-15).

d. Salvation presupposes all unbelievers deserve wrath (Rom. 2:5); rewards presuppose all believers may be deserving of rewards.

- a. Salvation offers a state of equality for all heavenly citizenship; rewards offer a condition of distinction that will honor some and shame others.

- b. Salvation is given to every unbeliever who will believe in Christ; rewards are given to every believer who bears fruit for Christ.

- c. Salvation is a present possession to everyone who believes; rewards are future prizes to honor faithful service unto Christ.