

Help Our Unbelief

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Part 8: "...from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead."

Scripture: Matthew 25:31-46

What is Jesus telling us? There will be **Judgement**. But there is a long **History** here.

- I. Where does **Authority** come from?
 - A. For us today, we **Elect** and **Appoint** the judiciary.
 - B. In the OT or ancient world, the **Ruler** had the **Authority**, not the people.
 - C. The **Israelites** wanted a ruler. 1 Samuel 8:1-7 (it did not go well for them)
 - D. Who then can judge? *"Many that live deserve death. Some that die deserve life. Can you give it to them? Then do not be too eager to deal out death and judgement. For even the very wise cannot see all ends."* **JRR Tolkien**.
- II. What has happened? Genesis 3:1-7 - The **Fall**. We wanted to be like **God**. This started the path we are all on, desiring to know **Good** and **Evil**. We want to **Judge**.

- A. We have **Sinned** - Romans 3:22-23
 - B. We are not **Worthy**, we have been **Separated**. Isaiah 59:1-4
 - C. We need to be **Reconnected** to God. Colossians 1:21-23
- III. What do we know?
- A. God will be **Just** - as always. Psalm 75:6-7, James 4:12
 - B. God has **Reserved** judgement for himself. Genesis 4:13-16
 - C. God will **Triumph** and **Restore**. Joel 3:1-3
 - D. Some will **Die**, some will **Live**. Revelation 20:11-15, Colossians 3:3

“If men will not understand the meaning of judgement, they will never come to understand the meaning of Grace.” Dorothy Sayers, *Creed or Chaos*

- IV. What do we do now?
- A. Confess the **Authority** of God and Jesus over our lives. Matthew 28:18
 - B. Admit our **Sin**. Psalm 69:5
 - C. Accept God’s **Help**, through Christ. 1 John 1:9
 - D. Trust in **Jesus**. Hebrews 10:12-13, John 14
 - E. **Trust** and **Rest**. Psalm 118:1, Psalm 37:3-4
 - F. But what if God **Doesnt?** Numbers 14:18, Jonah 4:1-2
 - G. God **Will**. *We believe in the forgiveness of sins...*
- V. What have we to **Fear?**

Questions for Discussion & Thought:

1. Is God mad at me, or just disappointed?
2. Does God punish me here and now for my sins?
3. If Jesus is God, why is Jesus loving and God always seems so angry?
4. How do I give justice and equity to the world?