

Part 4 The Judgment Seat of Christ: 7 Types of Eternal Rewards

I. UNDERSTANDING ETERNAL REWARDS

- A. ***Review:*** Each believer will stand before the judgment seat of Christ to give an account of what we did with what God gave us and to receive eternal rewards for it. They are an important part of our destiny. There are many types of heavenly rewards that we receive at the second coming. Revelation 1-3 mentions 22 rewards that Jesus promised. Here, we will look at seven categories.
- ⁸Each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor... ¹²If anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, ¹³each one's work will become clear...it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. ¹⁴If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. (1 Cor. 3:8-14)***
- B. ***Rewards:*** Rewards express how Jesus feels about our love for Him in this life and about working closely with Him in what He calls precious. Jesus desires His Bride to be with Him where He is and doing what He is doing. The saints will have great joy in working closely with Him.
- ²¹I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your Lord. (Mt. 25:21)***
- C. Some in the kingdom will be called the least and some the greatest (Heb. 8:11; Rev. 11:18; 19:5).
- ¹⁹Whoever breaks [consistently] one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches [encourages] them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. (Mt. 5:19)***
- D. There will be a vast difference in heavenly gifts and the measure in which people will experience God's glory in the age to come. They will vary according to the measure of our obedience. The Pistol Star has a mass of over 100 times that of the sun, and it is 10 million times brighter.
- ⁴¹There is one glory of the sun...and another glory of the stars; for one star differs from another star in glory. ⁴²So also is the resurrection of the dead. (1 Cor. 15:41-42)***

II. REWARD #1: RESURRECTED BODIES

- A. God's glory will be manifest, or reflected, in our resurrected bodies in different measures.
- ²Those who sleep in the dust [physical death] of the earth shall awake [resurrection]... ³Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament...like the stars forever and ever. (Dan. 12:2-3)***
- ⁴³The righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. (Mt. 13:43)***
- B. We will receive a resurrected body that is conformed to Jesus' body. His body is full of light that is brighter than the sun (Isa. 24:23; Hab. 3:4; Acts 26:13-14; Heb. 1:3; Rev. 1:16; 21:24; 22:3-5).
- ²¹Will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body... (Phil. 3:21)***
- ²He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun... (Mt. 17:2)***

III. REWARD #2: OUR GARMENTS

- A. Heavenly garments are rewards that express our dedication. They differ with each believer. Our garments begin with the gift of righteousness that is imputed to us by faith (2 Cor. 5:21). We are rewarded for our acts of righteousness done in this age.

⁸*To her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. (Rev. 19:8)*

- B. I believe that each will have varying degrees of brightness with many different types of clothing with their unique design, fabric, coloring, and fragrance. Our garments will be diverse according to the different occasions that we participate in. The brightness will reflect each one's status and stature in the Spirit in the age to come. Each person will have a distinct history in God and will receive clothing that expresses the quality of their devotion to Jesus while "in this present age."

⁵*He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments (Rev. 3:5)*

- C. The word *white* speaks of the brightness of the garments. *White* (Gk. *leukos*) may refer to that which is "shining or glistening" (Mt. 17:2; Rev. 3:4, 5; 6:11; 7:9, 13; 19:14). The white and/or bright robe is only one aspect of our garments in the age to come.

²*He was transfigured before them...His clothes became as white as the light. (Mt. 17:2)*

⁶*Clothed in pure bright linen, and having their chests girded with golden bands. (Rev. 15:6)*

- D. The priestly garments give us insight into the value that God has on garments and how they speak of spiritual things. God designed them to be beautiful and to show His glory and the glory of the priest and the dignity of the priesthood. The OT priestly garments had different colors (red, blue, purple, white, etc.). The breastplate was worn over the ephod and had shoulder-pieces with onyx stones. The ephod was worn over the robe which was worn over the coat and girdle.

²*You shall make holy garments for Aaron your brother, for glory and for beauty... ³*Make Aaron's garments, to consecrate him, that he may minister to Me as priest. ⁴And these are the garments which they shall make: a breastplate, an ephod, a robe, a skillfully woven tunic, a turban, and a sash... ⁴⁰You shall make hats for them, for glory and beauty... ⁴²Make for them linen trousers ...they shall reach from the waist to the thighs. (Exod. 28:2-4, 40-42)**

IV. REWARD #3: AUTHORITY TO REIGN

- A. The eternal functions most emphasized in the Word are priests and kings (Rev. 1:6; 5:10; 20:6). As priests, resurrected saints will worship and intercede and communicate the knowledge of God to others. As kings, ruling will include evaluating the past, determining future action plans, and appointing people who serve in the infrastructure under their authority.

¹⁰*And have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth. (Rev. 5:10)*

⁴*I saw thrones, and they [the saints] sat on them, and judgment [decision-making] was committed to them...and they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. (Rev. 20:4)*

²*The saints will judge the world...the world will be judged by you... (1 Cor. 6:2)*

- B. Our work assignment in reigning with authority over nations and cities will bring us into close proximity to Jesus (Dan. 7:22, 25-27; Mt. 19:28, 30; 20:16, 27; 25:23; Lk. 19:17-19; 22:29-30; 2 Tim. 2:12; Rev. 2:26-27; 3:21). Some will receive greater authority than others. Part of our identity and uniqueness will be seen in the work assignment that God gives us.

²⁶***He who overcomes...I will give power over nations—²⁷“He shall rule them.” (Rev. 2:26-27)***

²¹***To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My Throne... (Rev. 3:21)***

- C. Jesus promised the apostles that because of their obedience they would sit on thrones, judging Israel (Mt. 19:28; Lk. 22:29-30). Not all believers will have governmental positions.

²⁷***“We [the apostles] have left all and followed You. Therefore what shall we have?” ²⁸Jesus said to them, “Assuredly I say to you, that in the regeneration [re-birth of the earth beginning in the Millennium], 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.” (Mt. 19:27-28)***

²⁹***I bestow upon you a kingdom... ³⁰that you may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel. (Lk. 22:29-30)***

- D. Some will receive greater authority than others. Not all will have governmental positions.

¹⁷***Because you were faithful in a very little, have authority over ten cities. ¹⁸And the second came... ¹⁹likewise he said to him, “You also be over five cities.” (Lk. 19:17-19)***

V. REWARD #4: CROWNS

- A. Some will be rewarded with various crowns and some will not. Receiving a crown is not the same as having the free gift of eternal life that all born-again believers automatically receive by faith. It is not related to salvation, but to one's honor and sphere of function. Receiving a crown is like winning a gold medal. God will only give this crown to believers who are worthy of it.

¹¹***I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown. (Rev. 3:11)***

- B. There are two Greek words describing two different types of crowns in the New Testament. One is the crown of a ruler (Gr. *diadem*); the other is the crown of a victor (Gr. *stephanos*), as in one who won a race in the Ancient Olympic Games.

- C. The Greek word *stephanos* or crowns is used in 1 Cor. 9:25; Phil. 4:1; 1 Thes. 2:19; 2 Tim. 2:5; 4:8; Heb. 2:7, 9; Jas. 1:12; 1 Pet. 5:4; Rev. 2:10; 3:11; 4:4, 10; 9:7; 12:1; 14:14. Twice the crown is referred to with the descriptive title, the “crown of life” (Jas. 1:12, Rev. 2:10); once as the “crown of righteousness” (2 Tim. 4:8); once, the “crown of glory” (1 Pet. 5:4).

- D. Those who endure or persevere against lust so as to overcome it shall receive a crown. Crowns of authority are only given to those who endure in resisting temptation until the end.

¹²***Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved [found consistent], he will receive the crown of life...promised to those who love Him. (Jas. 1:12)***

VI. REWARD #5: OUR COMMUNION WITH JESUS

- A. Our communion with Jesus will vary according to the degree that we have the spiritual capacity to receive from Him. We will each receive a varying measure of revelation to encounter God in intimacy. Jesus will reward some by writing the name of the Father and His own new name on them (Rev. 3:12; 19:12). This speaks of receiving increased revelation of God.

¹²*I will write on him the name of My God...and I will write on him My new name. (Rev. 3:12)*

- B. “Morning star” is a reference to Jesus (Num. 24:17-19). His face shines like the sun (Rev. 1:16). Jesus giving us the morning star is a promise of deeper relationship with Himself. Each believer will experience varying capacity to receive more of Jesus (Rev. 2:28; 22:16; Gen. 15:1).

²⁸*I will give him the morning star. (Rev 2:28)*

¹⁶*I, Jesus...am the Bright and Morning Star. (Rev 22:16)*

VII. REWARD #6: PRAISE FROM GOD

- A. Believers will receive varying praise from God (Jn. 12:26; 1 Pet. 1:7; Mt. 25:21, 1 Cor. 4:5).

⁵*The Lord comes who will...reveal the counsels of the hearts. Then each one's praise [affirmation] will come from God. (1 Cor. 4:5)*

⁷*That the genuineness of your faith [response to God]...may be found to praise [affirmation], honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus... (1 Pet. 1:7)*

²¹*Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things... (Mt. 25:21)*

- B. Jesus will confess the names of those who overcome before His Father and His angels. This is not a reference to being saved, but of Jesus speaking about our love, exploits, and obedience before the Father. The story of our loving devotion to Jesus will be retold by Jesus and other saints (like when we enthusiastically tell the story of others after we read their biography).

⁵*I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels. (Rev 3:5)*

- C. The name written on the white stone is comparable to having your name engraved on a personal award. The new name indicates achievements in love that describe our relationship with Jesus.

¹⁷*I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written... (Rev. 2:17)*

VIII. REWARD #7: HEAVENLY GOLD, RICHES, AND TREASURE

- A. Jesus called us to seek to gain treasure in heaven and to be rich (Mt. 5:12; 6:4, 6, 18, 20; 10:41-42; 16:27; 19:21; Mk. 9:41; 10:21; Lk. 6:23, 35; 12:21, 33; 16:11; 18:22; Rev. 2:9; 3:18; 22:12).

²⁰*Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven... (Mt. 6:20)*

²¹*So is he who...is not rich toward God...* ³³*Provide yourselves money bags which do not grow old, a treasure in the heavens that does not fail. (Lk. 12:21, 33)*