THE END
JUDGMENT

SUMMARY: We must all appear before the judgment seat as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment. You could characterize that your Father is going to be doing the judging, not your Grandfather.

GENERAL CONTEMPORARY ATTITUDE:

There is a general view today that God is not particularly serious about the instructions in the Bible. We don't actually need to be constrained by what was said to another culture 2000 years ago. We are free to upgrade the Gospel to what is relevant today. Our God is a loving God, not a harsh rule applying God. God will not be cruel enough to condemn anyone to an eternal punishment in Hell. All will be rewarded with a home in Heaven, although some may be a little better off than others. The topics of Hell, judgment, and punishment are not even socially acceptable to talk about today. Various groups can adopt more contemporary teachings as long as you believe in Jesus. Maybe you don't actually need to even believe in Jesus, as long as you do good things.

STARTING POSITION:

This study is predicated upon the starting position that (1) there is a God, (2) that God is Jehovah, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit, and (3) all instructions we have from God today are in the New Testament. If you disagree with that, you need to start a different place before this study.

Given this STARTING POSITION, is the GENERAL COMTEMPORARY ATTITUDE supported in the New Testament? This study first lists the major descriptive verses regarding judgment day.

MAJOR DESCRIPTIVE VERSES REGARDING JUDGMENT DAY

Matthew 7:13-14 NASB: "Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it."

Matthew 25:31-46 NASB: "But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats; and He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in; 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, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry, and feed You, or thirsty, and give

You something to drink? And when did we see You a stranger, and invite You in, or naked, and clothe You? When did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' The King will answer and say to them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me. Then He will also say to those on His left, 'Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry, and you gave Me nothing to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me nothing to drink; I was a stranger, and you did not invite Me in; naked, and you did not clothe Me; sick, and in prison, and you did not visit Me. Then they themselves also will answer, Lord, when did we see You hungry, or thirsty, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not take care of You? Then He will answer them, Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me. These will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

Revelation 20:11-15 NASB: "Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them. And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds. Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire."

VERSES REGARDING THE STRICTNESS OF JUDGMENT

Sodom and Gomorrah: rained fire and brimstone, Gen. 19:24

Lot's wife: instructed to not look back at Sodom and Gomorrah, Gen. 19:17, turned to a pillar of salt because she looked back, Gen. 19:29

Jericho: Joshua 6:17 only Rahab the harlot shall live, Joshua 6:21 destroyed man & women, young and old, ox, sheep, and donkeys

Uzzah: steadied ark when oxen stumbled, died, 2 Samuel 6:1-7 and 1 Chronicles 13:9-12

Rich Man and Lazarus: Teaches of a clear understanding of the outcome in the Hadean world even before judgment day, Luke 16:19-31,

Ananias and Sapphira, Acts 5:1-11 Each lied to God and fell over dead

Heb 10:27 "but a certain terrifying expectation of judgment, and the fury of a fire which will consume the adversaries." (NAS)

James 2:13 “For judgment {will be} merciless to one who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.” (NAS)

James 3:1 “Let not many {of you} become teachers, my brethren, knowing that as such we shall incur a stricter judgment.” (NAS)

2 Thes. 1:9 “These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power” (NASB)

2 Pet 2:4 “For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to pits of darkness, reserved for judgment;” (NAS)

2 Pet 2:9 “{then} the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from temptation, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment for the day of judgment,” (NAS) (Rich man and Lazarus)

2 Pet 3:7 “But the present heavens and earth by His word are being reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.” (NAS)

Jude 1:6 “And angels who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode, He has kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day.”

VERSES REGARDING THE LAXITY OF JUDGMENT

None we can find to support the more contemporary views.

Romans 2:14-16 “14 For when Gentiles who do not have the Law do instinctively the things of the Law, these, not having the Law, are a law to themselves, 15 in that they show the work of the Law written in their hearts, their conscience bearing witness and their thoughts alternately accusing or else defending them, 16 on the day when, according to my gospel, God will judge the secrets of men through Christ Jesus.” (NAS) This is a contemporary statement by the Apostle Paul in current tense which suggests that on judgment day they will be judged by a law written on their hearts. This can be interpreted that if they had never heard of Jesus or baptism, they might be judged by God’s natural moral laws. It would not have applied to Paul’s readers as by definition they had heard of Jesus, so would not be suggesting any laxity to the hearers of the Gospel.

As you can lie, cheat and steal today without any immediate punishment would tend to give comfort to the idea of an easy judgment. It is certainly taken that way.

The word “love” is found in the Bible 348 times, whereas the word “judgment” is only found 158 times.

John 3:16 NASB “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.” Sounds like a serious

loving statement, but also embodies the determined will of God to send His son to the earth to be crucified.

John 5:24 “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life”

WHEN IS JUDGMENT DAY

The term “day of judgment” is listed in the New Testament (NASV) 9 times (Matt. 10:15, 11:22, 11:24, 27:19; Mark 6:11; Acts 25:6; Romans 2:5; 2 Peter 2:9, 3:7; 1 John 4:17, and Jude 6). We would naturally tend to think of this in 24-hour terms.

Consider there are more than 6 billion people on the planet today and each gets one second for judgment. That would be 6,000,000,000 people / 60 min. / 60 sec. / 24 hours / 365.25 days = 190.1 years. Then there are all the people who have already died. If everyone is judged in a single day in sequence, it is going to be a long day.

Consider further what 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 (NASB) says: “For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord.”

That would make it sound like all the “dead in Christ” will arise at once to meet Christ in the air. It sounds like shortly afterwards those “alive in Christ” will be caught up to the clouds also. Functionally to determine who is “in Christ”, everyone has to be judged.

The would imply that judgment will not be 24 hours or 190.1 years, but instantaneous for everyone. We would not all be judged in sequence, but in parallel or at the same time.

That would say judgment day is likely whenever Christ returns, and all probably happens at that time very quickly.

THINGS TO CONSIDER:

JUDGMENT WILL BE STRICT

ALL HUMANS WILL BE JUDGED EXCEPT JESUS, ENOCH, AND ELIJAH

THE NT TEACHES ETERNAL REWARD

THE NT TEACHES ETERNAL PUNISHMENT

WILL KEEP UNRIGHTEOUS UNDER PUNISHMENT - RICH MAN AND LAZARUS

6 BILLION+ WILL BE JUDGED

WHEN CHRIST RETURNS, SAVED WILL MEET HIM IN THE AIR

The following is a listing of all instances of the word "judgment" in the New American Standard New Testament:

Matt 10:15 "Truly I say to you, it will be more tolerable for {the} land of Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment, than for that city." (NAS)

Matt 11:22 "Nevertheless I say to you, it shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in {the} day of judgment, than for you." (NAS)

Matt 11:24 "Nevertheless I say to you that it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in {the} day of judgment, than for you." (NAS)

Matt 12:36 "And I say to you, that every careless word that men shall speak, they shall render account for it in the day of judgment." (NAS)

Matt 12:41 "The men of Nineveh shall stand up with this generation at the judgment, and shall condemn it because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and behold, something greater than Jonah is here." (NAS)

Matt 12:42 "{The} Queen of {the} South shall rise up with this generation at the judgment and shall condemn it, because she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and behold, something greater than Solomon is here." (NAS)

Matt 27:19 "And while he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent to him, saying, 'Have nothing to do with that righteous Man; for last night I suffered greatly in a dream because of Him'." (NAS) (Pilate)

Luke 10:14 "But it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in the judgment, than for you." (NAS)

Luke 11:31 "The Queen of the South shall rise up with the men of this generation at the judgment and condemn them, because she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and behold, something greater than Solomon is here." (NAS)

Luke 11:32 "The men of Nineveh shall stand up with this generation at the judgment and condemn it, because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and behold, something greater than Jonah is here." (NAS)

John 3:19 "And this is the judgment, that the light is come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the light; for their deeds were evil." (NAS)

John 5:22 "For not even the Father judges anyone, but He has given all judgment to the Son," (NAS)

John 5:24 "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life." (NAS)

John 5:27 “and He gave Him authority to execute judgment, because He is {the} Son of Man.” (NAS)

John 5:29 “and shall come forth; those who did the good {deeds} to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil {deeds} to a resurrection of judgment.” (NAS)

John 5:30 “I can do nothing on My own initiative. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is just, because I do not seek My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.” (NAS)

John 7:24 “Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment.”

John 8:16 “But even if I do judge, My judgment is true; for I am not alone {in it,} but I and He who sent me.” (NAS)

John 9:39 “And Jesus said, ‘For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see; and that those who see may become blind’.” (NAS)

John 12:31 “Now judgment is upon this world; now the ruler of this world shall be cast out.” (NAS)

John 16:8 “And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin, and righteousness, and judgment;” (NAS)

John 16:11 “and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged.”

John 19:13 “When Pilate therefore heard these words, he brought Jesus out, and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called The Pavement, but in Hebrew, Gabbatha.”

Acts 8:33 “In humiliation His judgment was taken away; who shall relate His generation? For His life is removed from the earth.” (NAS)

Acts 15:19 “Therefore it is my judgment that we do not trouble those who are turning to God from among the Gentiles,” (NAS)

Acts 18:12 “But while Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews with one accord rose up against Paul and brought him before the judgment seat,” (NAS)

Acts 18:16 “And he drove them away from the judgment seat.” (NAS)

Acts 18:17 “And they all took hold of Sosthenes, the leader of the synagogue, and {began} beating him in front of the judgment seat. And Gallio was not concerned about any of these things.” (NAS)

Acts 24:25 “And as he was discussing righteousness, self-control and the judgment to come, Felix became frightened and said, ‘Go away for the present, and when I find time, I will summon you’.” (NAS)

Rom 2:1 “Therefore you are without excuse, every man {of you} who passes judgment, for in that you judge another, you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things.” (NAS)

Rom 2:2 "And we know that the judgment of God rightly falls upon those who practice such things." (NAS)

Rom 2:3 "And do you suppose this, O man, when you pass judgment upon those who practice such things and do the same {yourself,} that you will escape the judgment of God?"

Rom 2:5 "But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God,"

Rom 5:16 "And the gift is not like {that which came} through the one who sinned; for on the one hand the judgment {arose} from one {transgression} resulting in condemnation, but on the other hand the free gift {arose} from many transgressions resulting in justification."

Rom 12:3 "For through the grace given to me I say to every man among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith." (NAS)

Rom 14:1 "Now accept the one who is weak in faith, {but} not for {the purpose of} passing judgment on his opinions." (NAS)

Rom 14:10 "But you, why do you judge your brother? Or you again, why do you regard your brother with contempt? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of God."

1 Cor 1:10 "Now I exhort you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all agree, and there be no divisions among you, but you be made complete in the same mind and in the same judgment." (NAS)

1 Cor 4:5 "Therefore do not go on passing judgment before the time, {but wait} until the Lord comes who will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and disclose the motives of {men's} hearts; and then each man's praise will come to him from God."

1 Cor 9:8 "I am not speaking these things according to human judgment, am I? Or does not the Law also say these things?" (NAS)

1 Cor 11:29 "For he who eats and drinks, eats and drinks judgment to himself, if he does not judge the body rightly." (NAS)

1 Cor 11:34 "If anyone is hungry, let him eat at home, so that you may not come together for judgment. And the remaining matters I shall arrange when I come." (NAS)

1 Cor 14:29 "And let two or three prophets speak, and let the others pass judgment."

2 Cor 5:10 "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad." (NAS)

Gal 5:10 “I have confidence in you in the Lord, that you will adopt no other view; but the one who is disturbing you shall bear his judgment, whoever he is.” (NAS)

II Thes 1:5 “{This is} a plain indication of God's righteous judgment so that you may be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which indeed you are suffering.” (NAS) 7: “relief to ..afflicted”, 9 “eternal destruction”

1 Tim 5:24 “The sins of some men are quite evident, going before them to judgment; for others, their {sins} follow after.” (NAS)

Heb 6:2 “of instruction about washings, and laying on of hands, and the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment.” (NAS)

Heb 9:27 “And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this {comes} judgment,” (NAS)

Heb 10:27 “but a certain terrifying expectation of judgment, and the fury of a fire which will consume the adversaries.” (NAS)

James 2:13 “For judgment {will be} merciless to one who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.” (NAS)

James 3:1 “Let not many {of you} become teachers, my brethren, knowing that as such we shall incur a stricter judgment.” (NAS)

James 5:12 “But above all, my brethren, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath; but let your yes be yes, and your no, no; so that you may not fall under judgment.” (NAS)

1 Pet 4:7 “The end of all things is at hand; therefore, be of sound judgment and sober {spirit} for the purpose of prayer.” (NAS)

1 Pet 4:17 “For {it is} time for judgment to begin with the household of God; and if {it begins} with us first, what {will be} the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God?” (NAS)

2 Pet 2:3 “and in {their} greed they will exploit you with false words; their judgment from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.” (NAS)

2 Pet 2:4 “For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to pits of darkness, reserved for judgment;” (NAS)

2 Pet 2:9 “{then} the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from temptation, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment for the day of judgment,” (NAS)

2 Pet 2:11 “whereas angels who are greater in might and power do not bring a reviling judgment against them before the Lord.” (NAS)

2 Pet 3:7 “But the present heavens and earth by His word are being reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.” (NAS)

I John 4:17 “By this, love is perfected with us, that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; because as He is, so also are we in this world.” (NAS)

Jude 1:6 “And angels who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode, He has kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day.”

Jude 1:9 “But Michael the archangel, when he disputed with the devil and argued about the body of Moses, did not dare pronounce against him a railing judgment, but said, ‘The Lord rebuke you.’ " (NAS)

Jude 1:15 “to execute judgment upon all, and to convict all the ungodly of all their ungodly deeds which they have done in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him.” (NAS)

Rev 14:7 “and he said with a loud voice, ‘Fear God, and give Him glory, because the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made the heaven and the earth and sea and springs of waters’.” (NAS)

Rev 17:1 “And one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and spoke with me, saying, ‘Come here, I shall show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters,’ ” (NAS)

Rev 18:10 “standing at a distance because of the fear of her torment, saying, `Woe, woe, the great city, Babylon, the strong city! For in one hour your judgment has come’.” (NAS)

Rev 18:20 “Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you saints and apostles and prophets, because God has pronounced judgment for you against her.” (NAS)

Rev 20:4 “And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given to them. And I {saw} the souls of those who had been beheaded because of the testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark upon their forehead and upon their hand; and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.” (NAS)