

# Whoa! WHO Must Appear?

By C. H. Spurgeon

#### "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ." 2 Corinthians 5:10.

Who are they that will have to appear before the throne of judgment? The answer is plain and admits of no exemption— "We must *all* appear before the judgment seat of Christ." This is very decisive if there were no other text. We must all appear—that is to say, every one of the human race. We must all appear. And that the godly will not be exempted from this appearance is very clear, for the apostle here is speaking to *Christians*. He says, "We walk by faith, not by sight. We are confident. We labor," and so on. And then he puts it, "We must all appear." So that, beyond all others, it is certain that all *Christians* must appear there.

The text is quite conclusive upon that point. And if we had not that text, we have read the passage in Matthew in which the sheep are summoned as certainly as are the goats. And we have the passage in Revelation where all the dead are judged according to the things which are written in the books. They are all there. And if the objection should be raised, "We thought that the sins of the righteous, being pardoned and forever blotted out, could never come into judgment," we have only to remind you, Beloved, that if they are so pardoned and blotted out, as they undoubtedly are, the righteous have no reason to *fear* coming into judgment! They are the persons who *covet* the judgment and will be able to stand there to receive a public acquittal from the mouth of the great Judge!

Who, among us, wishes, as it were, to be smuggled into heaven unlawfully? Who desires to have it said by the damned in hell, "You were never tried, or else you might have been condemned as we were"? No, brothers and sisters, we have a hope that we can stand the trial. The way of righteousness by Christ Jesus enables us to submit ourselves to the most tremendous tests which even that burning day can bring forth! We are not afraid to be put into the balances. We even *desire* that day when our faith in Jesus Christ is strong and firm, for we say, "Who is he that condemns?" We can challenge the Day of Judgment! Who is he that shall lay anything to our charge in that day, or at any other, since Christ has died, and has risen again? (Continued on other side)

## We Must All Appear Before the Judgment Seat of Christ!

### (Continued FROM other side.)

It may not be any partiality in the matter whatever-that the thing may be all clear and straight—and that the rewards of the righteous may be seen to be, though of grace, yet without any violation of the most rigorous justice. Dear brothers and sisters, what a day it will be for the righteous! For some of them were-perhaps some here present are-lying under some very terrible accusation of which they are perfectly guiltless. All will be cleared up, then, and that will be one great blessing of that day. There will be a resurrection of *reputations* as well as of bodies! Men called the righteous fools-then shall they shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father!

They hounded them to death as not being fit to live. In early ages they laid to the Christians charges of the most terrible character which I should count it a shame to mention. But then they will all be clear-and those of whom the world was not worthy, who were driven and hunted about, and made to dwell in the caves of the earth-they shall come forth as worthy ones, and the world shall know her true aristocracy-the earth shall scknowledge her true nobility!

The men whose names she cast out as evil shall, then, be held in great repute, for they shall stand out clear and transparent without spot or blemish! It is well that there should be a trial for the righteous, for the clearing of them, the vindication of them, and that it should be public, defying the ridicule and criticism of all mankind. "We must all appear."

There shall come the wicked of every sort. Proud Pharaoh shall be there! Senacherib the haughty! Herod, who would have slain the young Child. Judas, who betrayed his Master. Demas, that sold Him for gold, and Pilate, who would gladly have washed his hands in innocence. There shall come the long list of infallibles-the whole line of popes-to receive their dam-

nation at the Almighty's hands! And the priests that trod upon the necks of nations, and the tyrants that used the priests as their tools-they shall come to receive the thunderbolts of God which they so richly deserve!

Oh, what a scene it will be! These little companies which look to us so large when they are gathered together beneath this roof-how do they shrink into a drop of a bucket as compared with the ocean of life that shall swell around the throne at the last great Judgment Day! They shall all be there!

Now, the most important thought connected with this, to me, is that I shall be there! To you young men, that you will be there. To you, you aged of every sort, that you, in person-each one shall be there. Are you rich? Your dainty dress shall be put off. Are you poor? Your rags shall not exempt you from attendance at that court!

None shall say, "I am too obscure." You must come up from that hiding place. None shall say, "I am too public." You must come down from that pedestal. Everyone must be there. Note the word, "We." "We must all appear." And still further note the word, "Appear." "We must all appear." No disguise will be possible. You cannot come there dressed in masquerade of profession, or attired in robes of State! We must appear-we must be seen through, must be displayed, must be revealed! Off will come your garments, and your spirit will be judged of God, not after appearance, but according to the inward heart.

Oh, what a day that will be when every man shall see himself, and every man shall see his fellow, and the eyes of angels, and the eyes of devils, and the eyes of God upon the throne shall see us through and through!-Adapted from The C.H. Spurgeon Collection, Ages Software-Sermon #1076, Vol. 18-The Great Assize-Read/download entire sermon at www.spurgeongems.org.

# **ONE UNITED ISRAEL!**

"While this world remains as wicked as it is, we need not be spending our strength as Christian denominations in attacking one another-it will be better for us to go and fight with the Canaanites than with rival tribes which should be one united Israel! I should reckon it to be a burning disgrace if it could be said, "The large church under that man's pastoral care is composed of members whom he has stolen away from other Christian churches." No, but I value beyond all price the godless and the careless who are brought out from the world into communion with Christ! These are true prizesnot stealthily removed from friendly shores-but captured at the edge of the sword from an enemy's dominions! We welcome brethren from other churches if, in the providence of God they are drifted to our shores, but we would never hang out the wrecker's beacon to dash other churches in pieces in order to enrich ourselves with the wreck!"-CHS

Jesus Christ is the ONLY way to God the Father! Not Mary. Not Mohammed. Not a future Messiah. JESUS CHRIST is the ONLY way. (John 14:6).

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