

The Voice in the Wilderness

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Jesus Christ: The Judge and the Advocate

Jesus Christ occupies a unique and glorious position in God's redemptive plan. The Scriptures reveal Him as both the Judge of all humanity and the Advocate of believers. While these two roles may appear contradictory at first glance, they perfectly demonstrate God's justice and mercy. At the close of the age, Jesus Christ will return as the righteous Judge of the world, executing God's final judgment upon all people. Yet in the present age, He serves as the Advocate and Intercessor for those who have placed their faith in Him. Understanding these two ministries of Christ is essential for believers and unbelievers alike because they determine humanity's eternal destiny.

The Old Testament foretold the coming of a divine Judge who would rule the nations in righteousness. The psalmist declared, **"For He is coming, for He is coming to judge the earth. He shall judge the world with righteousness, And the peoples with His truth"** (Psalm 96:13). Likewise, the prophet Isaiah spoke of the Messiah who would establish justice throughout the earth (Isaiah 11:1-5). These prophecies find their fulfillment in Jesus Christ, who was appointed by the Father to judge all humanity.

The New Testament clearly teaches that Jesus is the Judge of the world. In John 5:22, Jesus stated, **"For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son"**. Again, in Acts 17:31, the Apostle Paul proclaimed that God **"has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained"**. This Man is Jesus Christ. At His Second Coming, He will judge both the living and the dead (2 Timothy 4:1). Revelation 20:11-15 describes the Great White Throne Judgment where all unbelievers will stand before Christ and be judged according to their works.

However, before that final day arrives, Jesus presently serves as the Advocate of believers. The Apostle John writes, **"My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone**

sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous" (1 John 2:1). The term "**Advocate**" refers to one who pleads the case of another. Jesus stands before the Father on behalf of His people, presenting His perfect sacrifice as the basis for their forgiveness and acceptance.

This ministry of advocacy was foreshadowed in the Old Testament priesthood. The high priest represented the people before God and offered sacrifices for their sins. Yet those sacrifices could never permanently remove sin (Hebrews 10:1-4). Jesus fulfilled and surpassed the Old Testament priesthood by becoming both the perfect High Priest and the perfect sacrifice. Hebrews 7:25 declares, "**Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them**". Christ's continual intercession assures believers that their salvation is secure.

What does this mean for the believer? First, believers can have confidence in their standing before God. This is because Jesus is their Advocate, they do not face condemnation. Romans 8:34 asks, "**Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us**". When believers sin, they can approach God in repentance, knowing that Christ's atoning work has satisfied divine justice.

Second, Christ's advocacy provides assurance of salvation. The believer's hope does not rest upon personal merit or good works but upon the finished work of Christ. Hebrews 4:14-16 encourages believers to come boldly to the throne of grace because they have a compassionate High Priest who understands their weaknesses. This truth brings peace, comfort, and confidence in daily Christian living.

Third, knowing that Christ will one day be Judge motivates believers to pursue holiness. Although believers, who serve the LORD consistently till the end will not face condemnation, they will however, give an account of their lives before Christ (2 Corinthians 5:10) (please note that the judgement being referred to in 2 Corinthians 5:10, concerns rewards rather than salvation). Therefore, Christians are called to live faithfully, knowing that their LORD and Advocate is also their future Judge.

The situation is very different for unbelievers. Those who reject Christ as Advocate today will face Him as Judge on the day of judgment. Jesus warned in John 3:18, "**He who believes in Him is not condemned; but**

he who does not believe is condemned already". Since unbelievers have refused God's provision for forgiveness through Christ, they must answer for their own sins before the righteous Judge.

The Old Testament repeatedly warned of a coming day of judgment. Daniel foresaw a final judgment in which books would be opened before God's throne (Daniel 7:9-10). This vision corresponds with Revelation 20:12, where the dead are judged according to their works. On that day, there will be no defense apart from Christ. Good works, religious observances, and human achievements will be insufficient because **"all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"** (Romans 3:23).

For unbelievers, the day of judgment will reveal God's perfect justice. Every secret thought, word, and deed will be exposed before Christ (Ecclesiastes 12:14; Romans 2:16). Those whose names are not found in the Book of Life will experience eternal separation from God (Revelation 20:15). Therefore, the present age of grace is also a time of urgent invitation. God desires that sinners repent and trust in Christ before the day of judgment arrives.

In conclusion, Jesus Christ is both the Advocate of believers and the Judge of the world. Today He extends mercy, forgiveness, and intercession to all who come to Him in faith. He pleads the cause of His people before the Father and guarantees their salvation through His finished work on the cross. Yet a day is coming when He will return in glory to judge all humanity with perfect righteousness. For believers, this truth brings assurance, hope, and motivation for holy living. For unbelievers, it serves as a solemn warning to seek Christ while He may be found. The same Saviour who now offers grace will one day sit upon the throne of judgment. Therefore, every person must decide whether to meet Jesus as Advocate today or as Judge on the last day.

God bless you.

Brother Michael Dike @ The Dayspring Ministries.

Note

All Bible quotations are taken from the New King James Version (NKJV) Bible.