



Eternally Saved Through
the Investigative
Judgment



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1 . Why do many Christians object to the Adventist teaching of a pre-advent Investigative Judgment?

A SERIOUS OBJECTION

- Many shun the idea of an Investigative Judgment, because it **robs them of their peace** in Christ and the **assurance of present salvation**.
- The Investigative Judgment makes no sense if one has been **justified** and accounted **righteous by faith**.
- It is "*the enemy of righteousness by faith!*"

CAUSE FOR FEAR AND ALARM!

“...Every individual has a soul to save or to lose. Each has a case pending at the bar of God. Each must meet the great Judge face to face.”

GC 488

1 JOHN 1:9

“IF WE CONFESS OUR SINS, HE IS FAITHFUL AND JUST TO FORGIVE US OUR SINS AND TO CLEANSE US FROM ALL UNRIGHTEOUSNESS.”

- If our sins have already been **forgiven**, it makes no sense to keep records of them in the books of heaven, to be **investigated** later.

ROMANS 5:1

“BEING JUSTIFIED BY FAITH, WE HAVE PEACE
WITH GOD THROUGH OUR LORD JESUS
CHRIST.”

- Why should believers be subject to investigation if they already have peace with God through their Lord Jesus Christ?
- Why put them on trial when they have been justified by faith, meaning they have already been pronounced just and perfect by faith in Christ?

ROMANS 5:10

“WE HAVE BEEN RECONCILED TO GOD BY
THE DEATH OF HIS SON.”

- If believers have already been reconciled to God, then why subject them to an investigative judgment?
- Doesn't the teaching of an Investigative Judgment contradict the gospel of reconciliation?

ROMANS 8:1

“THERE IS NOW NO CONDEMNATION TO
THOSE WHO ARE IN CHRIST JESUS...”

- If that is true, then it makes no sense to subject the saints to a process of investigation to determine if they are condemned or not!

1 JOHN 5:12

“THOSE WHO HAVE THE SON HAVE LIFE. . .”

- If that is the case, then the idea of an Investigative Judgment being conducted sometime in the future to determine whether believers can have eternal life or not is pointless.

WHY HAVE AN INVESTIGATIVE JUDGMENT???

- if the saints have **peace** with God already and have been **reconciled** with Him, and have **eternal life** for that matter, and are no longer **condemned**, what is the point of having them face a future judgment to investigate their cases?
- Why keep a record of their sins to be investigated later if these have already been **pardoned**?
- Thus, Seventh-day Adventists who adhere to an Investigative Judgment teaching are seen as **complicating the gospel** and **negating the plan of salvation** unnecessarily.



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2. How can the idea of a pre-advent Investigative Judgment be presented in a way that it is not **anti-Gospel** but rather, **redemptive**?

THE INVESTIGATIVE JUDGMENT IN THE LARGER CONTEXT OF THE GREAT CONTROVERSY

First of all, the Adventist doctrine of the Investigative Judgment must be connected with the larger theme called the great controversy to make sense.

”And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.” **Rev 12:7-9**



SATAN'S AGENDA IN THE GREAT CONTROVERSY

- Satan makes the lives of men and women who seek **deliverance** from his control miserable, to **dissuade** them from abandoning his ranks.
- *“Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.”* **2 Timothy 3:12.**
- *“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.”* **1 Peter 5:8.**

SATAN'S AGENDA IN THE GREAT CONTROVERSY

- Satan constantly strategizes to bring about the **destruction** of God's faithful, commandment-keeping people.
- His modus operandi is to make men transgress the law of God either by **compulsion** or **deception**
- Then, he pleads for their souls that he may **devour** and **destroy** them
- *“And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.”* **Luke 22:31-32**

SATAN'S CLAIMS MANKIND AS HIS OWN

- Satan thinks he has legitimate claims not only over the wicked but over every redeemed saint on this planet because all have fallen under his temptations and sinned
- Therefore, he **disputes** Christ's right to wrest souls from under his dominion

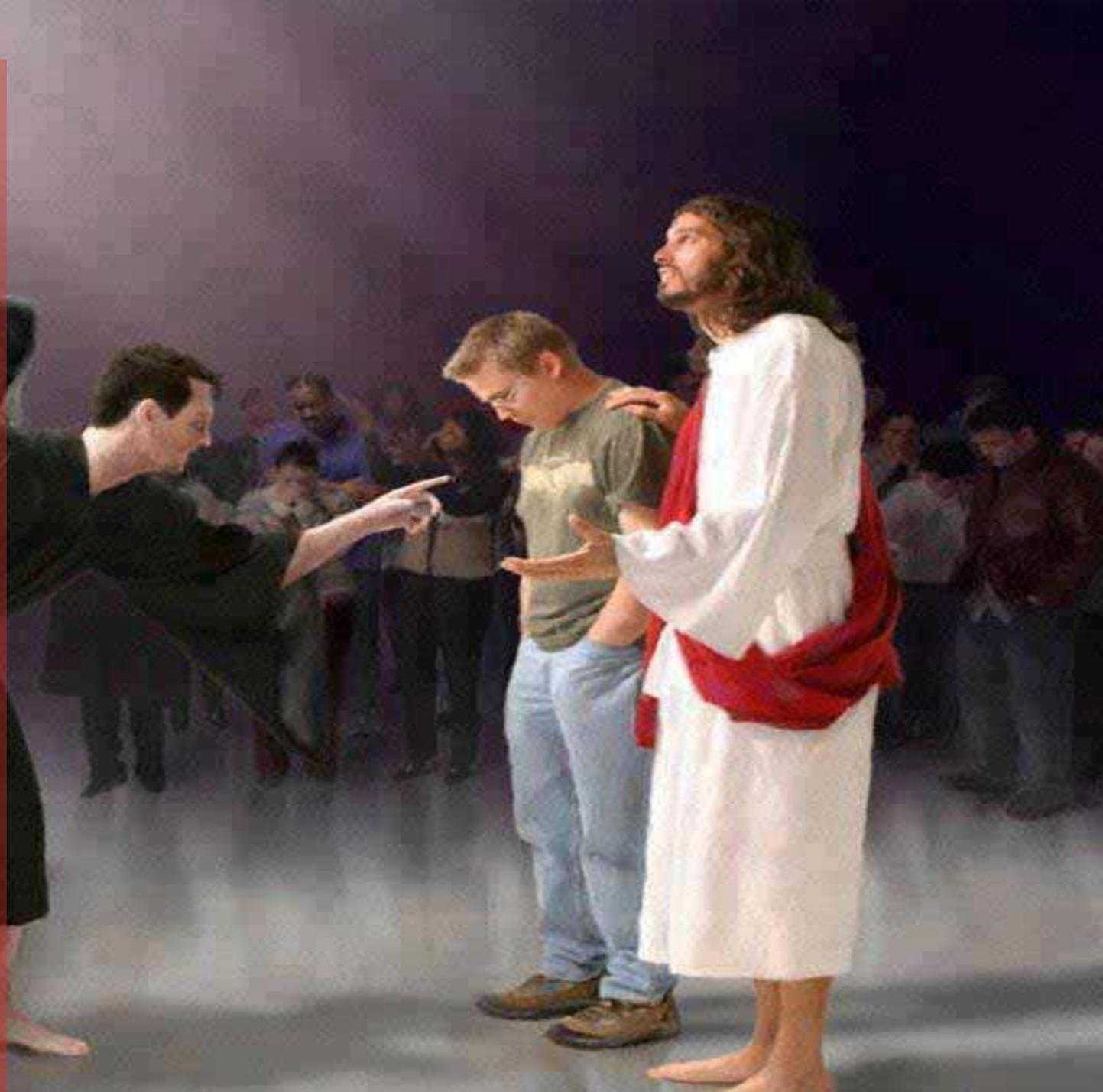
“...Satan is standing at the right hand of the Advocate, resisting the work of Christ, and pleading against him that man is **his property** since he has chosen him as his ruler. But the defender of man, the restorer, mightier than the mightiest, hears the demands and claims of Satan, and answers him: “The Lord rebuke thee, O Satan; even the Lord that hath chosen Jerusalem rebuke thee: is not this a brand plucked out of the fire? ”

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SATAN'S CLAIMS EXTEND EVEN TO THE DEAD!

- Satan claims dominion not only over the living but also over the dead.
- Satan **disputed** with Michael over the body of Moses when He attempted to resurrect him from the grave.
- *“Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee.” Jude 9.*

- After **deceiving** God's people to sin, Satan **denounces** them before God in the courts of heaven of the wrongs he has tempted them to commit, so they will not find favor with Him.
- Satan is called the "accuser of the brethren who accuses them day and night before God." Revelation 12:10.
- Satan then **disputes** the redemption wrought for them on earth



Satan's Role in the Investigative Judgment



“And he shewed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to resist him.

And the LORD said unto Satan, The LORD rebuke thee, O Satan; even the LORD that hath chosen Jerusalem rebuke thee: is not this a brand plucked out of the fire;

Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments, and stood before the angel.” **Zechariah 3:1-4.**

...AND ANGELS WILL REBEL AGAINST GOD
by NiktaDark

Satan's Role in the Investigative Judgment



“The tempter stands by to accuse them, as he stood by to resist Joshua. **He points to their filthy garments, their defective characters.** He presents their weakness and folly, their sins of ingratitude, their unlikeness to Christ, which has dishonored their Redeemer. He endeavors to affright them with the thought that their case is hopeless, that the stain of their defilement will never be washed away. He hopes so to destroy their faith that they will yield to his temptations, and turn from their allegiance to God.”

...AND ANGELS WILL REBEL AGAINST GOD
by NikitaDarc

Satan's Role in the Investigative Judgment



“Satan has an accurate knowledge of **the sins** that he has tempted God’s people to commit, and he urges his accusations against them, declaring, that by their sins they have forfeited divine protection, and claiming that he has the right to destroy them. He pronounces them just as deserving as himself of exclusion from the favor of God. “Are these,” he says, “the people who are to take my place in heaven, and the place of the angels who united with me? They profess to obey the law of God; but have they kept its precepts? Have they not been lovers of self more than lovers of God?”

AGAINST GOD
by Nikita Dark

Satan's Role in the Investigative Judgment



“Have they not placed their own interests above His service? Have they not loved the things of the world? Look at the sins that have marked their lives. Behold their selfishness, their malice, their hatred of one another. Will God banish me and my angels from His presence, and yet reward those who have been guilty of the same sins? Thou canst not do this, O Lord, in justice. Justice demands that sentence be pronounced against them.”

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ANGELS WILL REBEL AGAINST GOD
by NiktaDark

Satan's Role in the Investigative Judgment

- Satan's accusations against the saints revolve around two areas—
 - 1) the sins he had tempted God's people to commit, of which he has an accurate record, and
 - 2) their defective characters. *"He points to their filthy garments, their defective characters. . ."*
- Based on these two areas, Satan **disputes** their eternal salvation and claims them as his prey.
- He pronounces them just as **deserving** as himself of exclusion from God's favor.

THE REDEMPTIVE ASPECT OF THE INVESTIGATIVE JUDGMENT

- Therefore, the investigation of the records in the books of heaven is necessary and inescapable because Satan challenges every man's ultimate salvation.
- The primary purpose of the Investigative Judgment is to **defend** the saints against Satan's strong accusations.
- Whether one realizes it or not, the Investigative Judgment is part of the **redemptive** process. It is Christ's response to Satan's challenge.
- It is to silence the accuser of the brethren by showing that his arguments against believers in Christ have no real basis. *"The Lord rebuke, O Satan, even the Lord who hath chosen Jerusalem, rebuke thee. . ."*

CASES PENDING AT THE BAR OF GOD

"The subject of the sanctuary and the investigative judgment should be clearly understood by the people of God. All need a knowledge for themselves of the position and work of their great High Priest. Otherwise it will be impossible for them to exercise the faith which is essential at this time or to occupy the position which God designs them to fill. Every individual has a soul to save or to lose. **Each has a case pending at the bar of God. Each must meet the great Judge face to face.**"

GC 488

CASES PENDING AT THE BAR OF GOD...

- While the Father is the great Judge who we must meet in the Judgment, He is not the accuser or the prosecutor. He “**presides**” in the Judgment (GC 479)
- Satan, who filed those cases in the courts of heaven in the first place, is attempting to question the legality man’s ultimate salvation.
- It is Satan, not the Father, who is endeavoring to **exclude** the saints from the kingdom.
- “*Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.*” **Luke 12:32.**

THE REDEMPTIVE ASPECT OF THE INVESTIGATIVE JUDGMENT

- For this reason, the angels faithfully record not only the sins and misdeeds of men but also their good deeds.
- *“Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name.” **Malachi 3:16.***
- In the book of God's remembrance, every deed of righteousness is immortalized. Every temptation resisted, every evil overcome, every word of tender pity expressed, is faithfully chronicled.
- And every act of sacrifice, every suffering, and sorrow endured for Christ's sake, are recorded. **GC 481**

JESUS, THE ONLY HOPE OF VINDICATION

- Jesus is the believer's powerful Advocate or defense attorney against Satan's accusations.
- He has never lost a case that has been entrusted to Him.

“Does Satan plead loudly against our souls, accusing of sin, and claiming us as his prey, the blood of Christ pleads with greater power.”

MB 8



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3. Why is it technically *incorrect* to say that “everything needed for man’s salvation was obtained at the cross?”

ULTIMATE SALVATION ON HOLD!

- **ETERNAL REDEMPTION** is not secure until the cases filed by Satan against the saints in the heavenly court are litigated and settled
- **ETERNAL REDEMPTION** is not guaranteed until the accuser of sin is silenced in the heavenly courts and his charges dropped!

ETERNAL REDEMPTION FORMULA

ETERNAL REDEMPTION

= salvation from **sin** (on earth) + salvation from the **accusations of sin** (in the heavenly courts)

= salvation from the **instigator of sin** (on earth) + salvation from the **accuser of sin** (in the courts of heaven)

Hence, the investigative judgment is part of the redemptive process!



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**4. How does the final atonement and
cleansing silence forever the Accuser of the
brethren?**

THE FINAL ATONEMENT SILENCES THE ACCUSER FOREVER

- When the command *“Take away their filthy garments and give them a change of raiment”* is given, Satan will have no more character defects to point to, to accuse the saints!
- When the sins in the books of record are blotted out, he will no longer have sins to accuse the saints of!



CASE CLOSED!

- The accuser of the brethren is silenced forever and the eternal salvation of the saints is secured
- *“Until the Ancient of Days came and a judgment was made **in favor of the saints** of the Most High and the time came for the saints to possess the kingdom.” Dan 7:22 NKJV*



**WHICH IS A MORE ACCURATE PICTURE
OF THE INVESTIGATIVE JUDGMENT?**





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5. Why is the proclamation of the arrival of the “**Judgment hour**” in the first angel’s message *extremely* good news to God’s people?

THE HOUR OF JUDGMENT IS COME!

- We will never fully understand why the Investigative Judgment is proclaimed as part of the everlasting gospel of Revelation 14 until we see its **redemptive** significance.
- The proclamation “**Fear God and give glory to Him for the hour of His judgment is come**” should be a cause for rejoicing.
- Jesus is about to make His **final atonement** and the accuser of the brethren is about to be silenced forever during that work of judgment and cleansing
- Our salvation is about to be **sealed** and **secured** for all eternity. . .

BACK TO THE OBJECTION. . .

- So back to the objection, is there a reason why we should shun the Adventist teaching of an Investigative Judgment and call it the “**enemy of righteousness by faith?**”
- Does it rob us of “*the assurance of present salvation?*”