

MEETING THE GREAT JUDGE FACE TO FACE

The Origin of the Term “Investigative Judgment”

1. What is the investigative judgment? Is it still a relevant topic for Seventh-day Adventists living in 2019? Should we take it seriously or can we safely set it aside?
2. It was James White, the husband of Ellen White, who coined the term “investigative judgment” back in 1857
3. He came up with that term to express the idea taught by the pioneers that the judgment consisted of two phases
 - a. An investigative phase—or the fact-finding phase, where evidence is carefully examined
 - b. A judgment phase—or the handing down of the verdict or sentence by the judge by which there is no appeal
4. The concept of a coming judgment is solidly taught in the Word of God:
 - *I said in mine heart, God shall judge the righteous and the wicked: for there is a time there for every purpose and for every work. **Eccl 3:17***
 - *Rejoice, O young man, in thy youth; and let thy heart cheer thee in the days of thy youth, and walk in the ways of thine heart, and in the sight of thine eyes: but know thou, that for all these things God will bring thee into judgment. **Ecclesiastes 11:9***
 - *For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil. **Ecclesiastes 12:13-14***
 - *Who shall give account to him that is ready to judge the quick and the dead. **1 Pet 4:5***
 - *For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.” **Rom 14:10***
5. Three reasons why we should take the doctrine of the investigative judgment very seriously:
 - a. **Reason #1:** We are living in the very time of judgment and our eternal destiny is about to be decided in this judgment:

Fear God and give glory to him for the hour of his judgment is come!

“Solemn are the scenes connected with the closing work of the atonement. Momentous are the interests involved therein. The judgment is now passing in the sanctuary above. For many years this work has been in progress. Soon—none know how soon—it will pass to the cases of the living. In the awful presence of God our lives are to come up in review. At this time above all others it behooves every soul to heed the Saviour’s admonition: ‘Watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is.’ Mark 13:33. ‘If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.’” Revelation 3:3. **GC 490**

- b. **Reason #2:** The investigative judgment is an integral part of the three angel’s messages which we have been commanded to give to the world; therefore, we would be at fault and remiss with our duty if we take the topic of the investigative judgment lightly
- c. **Reason #3:** The investigative judgment is a fundamental teaching of the Seventh-day Adventist church. This means, we wouldn’t be much of a Seventh-day Adventist if we abandon the investigative judgment or take it for granted. We would be Adventists in name only, but not at heart

Two Bible Scenarios Dramatizing the Investigative Judgment

6. There are two scenarios in the Bible that portray the investigative judgment
7. Two hints:

- a. One is a prophecy and the other is a parable
 - b. In both scenarios, it is the heavenly Father who is clearly doing the work of investigation and judgment
8. The first scenario is found in the **judgment prophecy of Dan 7:9-10**-- the prophet Daniel is given a graphic portrayal of the great day of judgment
 9. The second scenario is found in the **judgment parable of the wedding garment in Matt 22:1-14**

[Daniel 7:9-10 quoted]. Thus was presented to the prophet's vision the great and solemn day when the characters and the lives of men should pass in review before the **Judge of all the earth**, and to every man should be rendered "according to his works." **The Ancient of Days is God the Father**. . . .It is He, the source of all being, and the fountain of all law, that is to **preside** in the judgment. And holy angels as ministers and witnesses, in number "ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands," attend this great tribunal. **GC 479**

The Judgment Prophecy of Dan 7:9-10

10. In the judgment prophecy scenario of Daniel 7:9-10, the Ancient of days is seen being transported in a fiery chariot and the books are opened and the judgment is convened

I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne was like the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire. A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened."

11. The Ancient of days is God the Father and it is He who examines the books and presides in the judgment

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The Judgment Parable of Matt 22:1-14

12. The judgment parable scenario of the marriage supper in **Matt 22:1-14** the Father is represented by the King who examines the attire of every guest at the wedding made for His Son (Jesus)
13. The purpose of the work of investigation by the Father is to examine the character of the guests to see if they are wearing the wedding garment

Previous to the wedding the king comes in to see the guests, to see if all are attired in the wedding garment, the spotless robe of character washed and made white in the blood of the Lamb. Matthew 22:11; Revelation 7:14. He who is found wanting is cast out, but **all who upon examination are seen to have the wedding garment on are accepted of God and accounted worthy of a share in His kingdom and a seat upon His throne**. This work of examination of character, of determining **who are prepared for the kingdom of God**, is that of the **investigative judgment**, the closing of work in the sanctuary above. **GC 428**.

14. The question is, why two separate scenarios dealing with the same event—the investigative judgment?
15. The Father, who presides in this "great tribunal" wants us to understand clearly the nature of the work of investigation, so we can come prepared! He wants to know that there will be two objects of examination in the judgment

- a. In **Dan 7** —the focus of the investigation by the Father are the **books of record which contain the record of our lives**
 - b. in **Matt 22**- the focus of the investigation is the **character** symbolized by the attire worn during the wedding in the parable
16. The two judgment scenarios teach us that both of these areas will be the objects of examination in the judgment!
17. Why are the books of records examined?

As the books of record are opened in the judgment, the lives of all who have believed on Jesus come in review before God. . .When any have sins remaining upon the books of record, unrepented of and unforgiven, their names will be blotted out of the book of life, and the record of their good deeds will be erased from the book of God's remembrance. **GC 483**

18. What is the reason for the examination of the character by the Father in the judgment?

Though all nations are to pass in judgment before God, yet He will examine the case of each individual with as close and searching scrutiny as if there were not another being upon the earth. Everyone must be tested and found without spot or wrinkle or any such thing. **GC 489**

19. Therefore, to be approved by the Father in the judgment, it is necessary that these two requirements are met:
- a. **Perfect Records**—all sins repented of, confessed, and blotted out of the books of records; no more sins left which have not been repented of, confessed and forgiven
 - b. **Perfect Righteousness**--Our characters must have been fully cleansed of all defects; no spot, no wrinkle or any such thing
20. Anything less than these will mean being rejected in the judgment!

What Do We Do with the Judgment Dilemma We Face?

21. And so now, the most important question is, how will we survive and be approved in the judgment? What can we do about the judgment dilemma we are faced with?
22. We have 3 options or 3 choices:
- a. **Choice #1:** We can be in a state of **Denial**—We can say, the judgment cannot possibly be for me; after all, I am accepted in the Beloved, perfect in Christ, complete in Him and my sins have been pardoned; so, what's the point of investigating my case again? The judgment is not for me but for the unbelievers and murderers, and serial killers out there; John 5:24 says if I believe in Christ, then I am exempt from the judgment!
 - b. **Choice #2:** We can be in a state of **Defiance**—We can say, I don't need the investigative judgment; this concept of an investigative judgment just complicates the gospel; the gospel is very simple—just accept Jesus as personal Savior and we will be saved! Why complicate it with something like an investigative judgment! we should get rid of it!
 - c. **Choice #3:** We can be in the state of **Deference**—or the state of humble submission; we can say, we respect and humbly submit to your will
23. Which choice is the safest? Which choice will God appreciate and approve?
24. When we humbly submit to God's will, then and only then can we receive help in the judgment

Jesus Our Only Hope in the Judgment

25. Up to now, we have been discussing the great subject of the investigative judgment only in connection with the role of the Father, the Ancient of days as the Judge of all the earth, and no doubt it is frightful, fearful, hopeless scenario!
26. Where does Jesus come into the investigative judgment? How can Jesus help us be ready for the judgment?
27. What Jesus does not do:
 - a. Jesus does not remove or minimize the Father's requirements in the judgment
 - b. neither does Jesus exempt us from the judgment
28. This work of Jesus our great high priest in the investigative judgment essentially boils down to two things:
 - a. He **prepares** us to meet the great Judge (The Father) face to face by helping us satisfy the Father's two requirements in the judgment, and then
 - b. He **presents** faultless before the throne of His Father, ready for examination (**Eph 5:27; Jude 24; GC 484**)
29. Jesus makes atonement to blot out all our pardoned sins from the books of records and then gives us His perfect robe of righteousness; this is how Jesus prepares us to meet the Father face to face in the judgment
30. In short, what the Father requires in the judgment, Jesus provides as benefits of His final ministration in the most holy place of the heavenly sanctuary
31. When Jesus is done preparing us for the judgment, He then presents us to Father a glorious church, ready for examination

That He may present it to Himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. Eph 5:27

Now unto Him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy. Jude 24

"Christ will clothe His faithful ones with His own righteousness, that He may **present** them to His Father 'a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing.' Ephesians 5:27. Their names stand enrolled in the book of life, and concerning them it is written: 'They shall walk with Me in white: for they are worthy.'" Revelation 3:4. **GC 484**

The Benefits of Christ's Final Atonement

32. One needs to remember that the blotting out of sin and the giving of the robes of righteousness come as benefits of Christ's final atonement in the heavenly sanctuary
33. Only those who have faith in that work receive benefit while those who have no faith are not benefited by that ministration

It is those who by faith follow Jesus in the great work of the atonement who receive the benefits of His mediation in their behalf, while those who reject the light which brings to view this work of ministration are not benefited thereby. . **GC 430**

34. But before one can have faith in Christ's work, they need to clearly understand that work or their faith will have no basis; this is why we are told to study and clearly understand that work or we will not be able to exercise the faith we need to receive benefit from that work

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. How important, then, that **every** mind contemplate often the solemn scene when the judgment shall sit and the books shall be opened, when, with Daniel, **every individual** must stand in his lot, at the end of the days. **GC 488.**

Four Scenarios Explaining the Preparatory Role of Jesus Christ in the Judgment

35. Christ's work of preparing us to meet the Father in the investigative judgment is presented in four different places in the bible; each passage focusing on a particular aspect of that preparatory work, to help us "*clearly understand the position and work of our great high priest and be able to exercise the faith that is essential at this time*"

The coming of Christ as our high priest to the most holy place, for the cleansing of the sanctuary, brought to view in **Daniel 8:14**; the coming of the Son of man to the Ancient of Days, as presented in **Daniel 7:13**; and the coming of the Lord to His temple, foretold by **Malachi**, are descriptions of the same event; and this is also represented by the coming of the bridegroom to the marriage, described by Christ in the parable of the ten virgins, of **Matthew 25. GC 426**

36. Four scenarios that refer to the same event and dramatizes Christ's role in the investigative judgment:

- a. Dan 8:14—Jesus as **High Priest** making final atonement to cleanse the sanctuary
- b. Dan 7:13-14—Jesus as the **Son of man** suddenly coming to His temple to purify the sons of Levi as gold and silver are purified
- c. Matt 25—Jesus as the **Bridegroom** going into the marriage chamber with the 5 wise virgins
- d. Mal 3:1-4—Jesus as the **Lord** and **Messenger of the covenant** suddenly coming into His temple to purify the sons of Levi

37. Question: Why are there 4 scenarios devoted to explaining the role of Jesus in the investigative judgment, when the Father has only two? Why does Jesus have more?

- a. **Reason #1:** The role of Jesus in the investigative judgment is so crucial that we are given more images to look at, to clearly understand His position and work
 - i. Each of the 4 scenarios focuses on a specific aspect of the work of Jesus
 - ii. By looking at the work of Jesus from 4 different angles, we have a better grasp "*the position and work of our great high priest*"
 - iii. This way, we are better able to "*exercise the faith that is essential at this time.*" 4. This faith convinces us that Jesus loves us so much and takes away all fear of the investigative judgment

"Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment" 1 John 4:17

- b. **Reason #2:** Jesus does more work than the Father in the judgment which is why there are more scenarios to explain that work

"For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son" John 5:22

“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.” Matt 28:18

- It is Jesus who decides who receives the white raiment and who do not
- He decides whose sins are blotted out or not
- Jesus decides whose names are accepted and whose names are rejected
- The Father honors and affirms the decisions made by Jesus by issuing the command “bind him hand and foot. . .”
- The Father presides in the judgment (GC 479), but it is Jesus who decides who are approved in the judgment

Preparatory Scenario #1

38. **Dan 8:14**—Jesus as High Priest makes a final atonement to cleanse the heavenly sanctuary
- a. Points to the Day of atonement work of cleanse the sanctuary of all the sins that have defiled it by blotting it out
 - b. An entire chapter in the book of Leviticus is devoted to dramatize this work:

Lev 16:30—“For on that day, the priest shall make an atonement for you to cleanse you, that you may be clean from all your sins before the Lord”

- c. The sins before the Lord refers to the records of sins that are in the books of records deposited before the throne of God

Ps 90:8—“thou hast set our iniquities before thee”

Isa 59:12—“our transgressions are multiplied before thee”

39. Why Jesus cleanses the sanctuary (**Dan 8:14**)—to blot out the sins of the penitent believers from the books, so that when the Ancient of days opens them, there are no more sins remaining against their names (**Lev 16:30**)
40. The focus of this scenario is the blotting out of the sins of those who are afflicting the soul
- a. This is how God’s people are prepared to stand when the books of records are examined by the Father

Preparatory Scenario #2

41. **Dan 7:13-14**—Jesus as the Son of man

I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.

[Dan 7:13-14 quoted.] The coming of Christ here described is not His second coming to the earth. He comes to the Ancient of Days in heaven to receive dominion and glory and a kingdom, which will be given Him at the close of His work as a mediator. It is this coming, and not His second advent to the earth, that was foretold in prophecy to take place at the termination of the 2300 days in 1844. Attended by heavenly angels, our great High Priest enters the holy of holies and there appears in the presence of God to engage in the last acts of His ministration in behalf of man--to perform the work of investigative judgment and to make an atonement for all who are shown to be entitled to its benefits. **GC 480**

42. Why Jesus comes to the Ancient of days in **Dan 7:13**—to engage in His last act of ministration and make a final atonement for those entitled to receive its benefit
 - a. To perform a work of investigative judgment
 - b. To make an atonement for all who are shown to be entitled to its benefits
43. What does Jesus investigate and for what purpose?

“...the actual cleansing of the heavenly is to be accomplished by the removal, or blotting out, of the sins which are there recorded. But before this can be accomplished, there must be an **examination of the books of record** to determine who, through **repentance** of sin and **faith** in Christ, are entitled to the **benefits of His atonement**. **The cleansing of the sanctuary therefore involves a work of investigation—a work of judgment.**” GC 421-422.

44. Jesus examines the books of record to determine who through faith in and repentance of sin are entitled to the benefits of His final atonement
 - a. The benefits of His final atonement are the blotting out of sins and the giving of robes of perfect characters
45. The focus of this scenario is Christ’s work of investigation of the books of records to find evidence of “faith” and “repentance”
46. In examining the books, Jesus is not looking for perfect records; He knows we do not have them; He is looking for evidence in the life of genuine faith and true, heartfelt repentance

Preparatory Scenario #3

47. **Matt 25**—Jesus goes into the marriage chamber with the 5 wise virgins; the 5 foolish virgins were not able to go in with the other virgins because they were not ready; they were not prepared for the emergency and took no additional oil with them

10 *“And they that were **ready** went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut.”*

48. Those who were ready for the marriage were given the white linen or the perfect character of Christ

*7 Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself **ready**. 8 And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. **Rev 19:7-8***

49. This is how God’s people obtain the “perfect righteousness” they need to face the heavenly Father in the judgment
 - a. **The wise virgins**-- Those who Christ will find worthy to receive the benefit of His final atonement; those who have faith in Christ’s final ministration and follow that work by faith
 - b. **The foolish virgins**—on the other hand, those who, in the judgment, are found unworthy to receive the benefit of Christ’ final atonement; those who fail to follow Jesus into the marriage chamber for lack of understanding and faith in His work in the heavenly sanctuary
 - c. **The door was shut**—probation is ended for the individual and he must now stand at the bar of God
50. The focus of this scenario is the giving away of the wedding garments to those who are “ready”
51. What does it mean to be ready?
 - a. It is to obtain the additional oil in the lamp
 - b. This additional oil is the knowledge of work of Jesus in the second apartment of the heavenly sanctuary, brought into the heart by the Holy Spirit and accepted gladly by faith

- c. It is the responsibility of the bride (the church) to make herself ready; no one else will do the work of preparation for them
52. Who are the “ready” ones?
- a. It is those who clearly understand the position and work of their great high priest, and therefore, able to exercise faith in that work
 - b. This is represented as being able to follow Jesus into the marriage chamber

Preparatory Scenario #4

53. **Mal 3:1-4**-- Jesus suddenly comes to His temple to purify the characters of God’s people

Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts.

2 But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap:

3 And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the LORD an offering in righteousness.

54. What aspect of Christ’s work to prepare the church for the judgment is being highlighted here?

God declares: "Behold, I will send My messenger, and he shall prepare the way before Me; and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to His temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in; behold He shall come, saith the Lord of Hosts." The Lord comes to His temple to find those who are sincere. He measures the worshippers. He knows those who are **true-hearted** and **self-sacrificing**. "Who may abide the day of His coming; and who shall stand when He appeareth?" **Who will stand in the day of investigation. This does not mean the time when the books are opened. It is a preparatory work.** "For He is like a refiner's fire and like fuller's soap." To those who have felt unconcerned, the Spirit comes as a reprover, and shows them that they need to do something to cleanse the temple. **Australasian Union Conference Record 1899, 7.28**

55. *“Who shall stand the day of investigation”*--Jesus does a work investigation when He suddenly comes to His temple
56. *“it is a preparatory work”*—This work of investigation is before the Father or the Ancient of days in Dan 7 opens the books; it is not the same as the opening of the books by the Ancient of days, but prior to it
57. In this work of investigation by Jesus, the focus of investigation is no longer the books to find evidence of faith and repentance, but the character; it is the character or the heart that is investigated

“I am he which searcheth (investigates, examines in the Greek) the reins and hearts” Rev 2:23

58. In this work of investigation, Jesus is not looking for perfect; characters; He knows we do not have them
- a. Jesus is looking for those who are “sincere”, the “true-hearted, and “self-sacrificing”
 - b. In other words, those who are willing to humble themselves and acknowledge their faults and sins and accept correction

59. Jesus comes as a reprover to point out character defects that need to be repented of, so He can blot them out of the character

"As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. . . Be zealous therefore and repent!"

60. This work of investigating human hearts and characters to purify them is a slow, painful, step by step process

"God leads His people on, step by step. He brings them up to different points calculated to manifest what is in the heart. Some endure at one point, but fall off at the next. At every advanced point the heart is tested and tried a little closer. If the professed people of God find their hearts opposed to this straight work, it should convince them that they have a work to do to overcome, if they would not be spewed out of the mouth of the Lord. Said the angel: "God will bring His work closer and closer to test and prove every one of His people.

"Some are willing to receive one point; but when God brings them to another testing point, they shrink from it and stand back, because they find that it strikes directly at some cherished idol. Here they have opportunity to see what is in their hearts that shuts out Jesus. They prize something higher than the truth, and their hearts are not prepared to receive Jesus. Individuals are tested and proved a length of time to see if they will sacrifice their idols and heed the counsel of the True Witness.

"If any will not be purified through obeying the truth, and overcome their selfishness, their pride, and evil passions, the angels of God have the charge: "They are joined to their idols, let them alone," and they pass on to their work, leaving these with their sinful traits unsubdued, to the control of evil angels. Those who come up to every point, and stand every test, and overcome, be the price what it may, have heeded the counsel of the True Witness, and they will receive the latter rain, and thus be fitted for translation." **1T 187**

Satan's Role in the Investigative Judgment

61. In this work of preparing God's people for the judgment, Christ is opposed by Satan

62. There is one scenario in the bible devoted to dramatizing the role of Satan 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 And he answered and spake unto those that stood before him, saying, Take away the filthy garments from him. And unto him he said, Behold, I have caused thine iniquity to pass from thee, and I will clothe thee with change of raiment. **Zech 3:1-5***

63. Satan points to the records of our lives (from the books of records) and to the defects of character to discourage God's people and to prevent their sins from being blotted out

64. In our defense against Satan's attack, Jesus does not excuse their sins, but points to their faith and repentance

While Jesus is pleading for the subjects of His grace, Satan accuses them before God as transgressors. The **great deceiver** has sought to lead them into skepticism, to cause them to lose confidence in God, to separate themselves from His love, and to break His law. Now he points to the record of their lives, to the defects of character, the

unlikeness to Christ, which has dishonored their Redeemer, to all the sins that he has tempted them to commit, and because of these he claims them as his subjects.

Jesus does not excuse their sins, but shows their **penitence and faith**, and, claiming for them forgiveness, He lifts His wounded hands before the Father and the holy angels, saying: I know them by name. I have graven them on the palms of My hands. "The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, Thou wilt not despise." Psalm 51:17. And to the accuser of His people He declares: "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?" Zechariah 3:2. Christ will clothe His faithful ones with His own righteousness, that He may present them to His Father "a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing." Ephesians 5:27. Their names stand enrolled in the book of life, and concerning them it is written: "They shall walk with Me in white: for they are worthy." Revelation 3:4. **GC 484**

65. Jesus's blood pleads louder than all the assaults and arguments of Satan against God's people

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 9**

Our Present Duty

66. In view of what we learned about the nature of the work of investigation going forward right now in heavenly sanctuary, we ought to be preparing for the time our names come up for examination, by following the call to repent and forsake our sins

In 1844, our great High Priest entered the most holy place of the heavenly sanctuary, to begin the work of the investigative judgment. The cases of the righteous dead have been passing in review before God. When that work shall be completed, judgment is to be pronounced upon the living. How precious, how important are these solemn moments! Each of us has a case pending in the court of heaven. We are individually to be judged according to the deeds done in the body.

"In the typical service, when the work of atonement was performed by the high priest in the most holy place of the earthly sanctuary, the people were required to afflict their souls before God, and confess their sins, that they might be atoned for and blotted out. Will any less be required of us in this antitypical day of atonement, when Christ in the sanctuary above is pleading in behalf of His people, and the final, irrevocable decision is to be pronounced upon every case?" **1SM 125**

67. So many in Laodicea are like the foolish virgins in the parable and are in danger of being found wanting in the investigative judgment

What is our condition in this fearful and solemn time? Alas, what pride is prevailing in the church, what hypocrisy, what deception, what love of dress, frivolity, and amusement, what desire for the supremacy! All these sins have clouded the mind, so that eternal things have not been discerned. Shall we not search the Scriptures, that we may know where we are in this world's history? Shall we not become intelligent in regard to the work that is being accomplished for us at this time, and the position that we as sinners should occupy while this work of atonement is going forward? If we have any regard for our souls' salvation, we must make a decided change. We must seek the Lord with true penitence; we must with deep contrition of soul confess our sins, that they may be blotted out. **1SM 125**

Shall we not become intelligent in regard to the work that is being accomplished for us at this time, and the position that we as sinners should occupy while this work of atonement is going forward? If we have any regard for our souls' salvation, we must make a decided change.

We must seek the Lord with true penitence; we must with deep contrition of soul confess our sins, that they may be blotted out." 1SM 125

68. Are we ready to meet the great Judge face to face? Are we prepared to close the record of our lives and face the judgment?

69. If not, then. . . *"prepare to meet thy God, O Israel"* (Amos 4:12)

