

The Apostles' Creed



The Apostles' Creed

- *Intro to the Creed Itself*
- *God the Father*
- *God the Son*
 - *Christ's Birth*
 - *Christ's Crucifixion and Death*
 - *Christ's Death and Resurrection*
 - *Christ in Heaven*
 - *Christ as Judge (part 2)*



Christ as Judge

- “We believe in... Jesus Christ... Who ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of God the Father Almighty, from where He shall come to judge both the living and the dead...”
 - Remember, we're taking this in chunks...
 - The first time, we talked a bit about “Heaven” and what that word means in the Bible (and no, we don't become angels in Heaven...)



Christ as Judge

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 - Remember, we're taking this in chunks...
 - The first time, we talked a bit about “Heaven” and what that word means in the Bible
 - The *next* time, we talked about what it means that Jesus sits at God the Father's “right hand”...
(i.e.; that the Son has full authority and effective, active ability)



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 - The first time, we talked a bit about “Heaven” and what that word means in the Bible
 - The *next* time, we talked about what it means that Jesus sits at God the Father’s “right hand”...
 - So now, we're focusing on Jesus judging “both the living and the dead” here
 - If you'll remember, what does James say about this in James 4:10-12?
 - What's the difference between slander and judging?
 - But aren't we *supposed* to judge others? (what about verses like John 7:24, Luke 12:57, 1 Corinthians 2:15, 1 Corinthians 6:2-3, etc., that we've talked about?)



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 - The *next* time, we talked about what it means that Jesus sits at God the Father’s “right hand”...
 - So now, we're focusing on Jesus judging “both the living and the dead” here
 - If you'll remember, what does James say about this in James 4:10-12?
 - What's the difference between slander and judging?
 - But aren't we *supposed* to judge others?
 - Actually, how do the second and third sentences in James 4:11 help us answer this confusion?
 - The problem isn't the *judgment*—it's deciding that *your* judgment supersedes any *other* measure of judgment (tacitly, perhaps even *God's* judgment, if He didn't decry X or Y)



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 - The *next* time, we talked about what it means that Jesus sits at God the Father’s “right hand”...
 - So now, we're focusing on Jesus judging “both the living and the dead” here
 - If you'll remember, what does James say about this in James 4:10-12?
 - Of course, the world can still do weird things with the idea that even *Jesus* will judge us (picturing Jesus as either too *nice* to ever judge us, or else He's some sort of nitpicking tattletale who's *always* just *waiting* to judge us) (why do we often leap to the two *extreme* ends of the “judging” spectrum?)



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 - The *next* time, we talked about what it means that Jesus sits at God the Father’s “right hand”...
 - So now, we're focusing on Jesus judging “both the living and the dead” here
 - If you'll remember, what does James say about this in James 4:10-12?
 - Of course, the world can still do weird things with the idea that even *Jesus* will judge us
 - But how does James 4:12 speak to Christ's authority here?



Christ as Judge



Funky little teaching moment...

- Just to chat for one more moment about that whole “throne room in Heaven” thing...
 - So in his Revelation, John tries to describe in more or less *physical* terms the *visual* representations that he saw of *spiritual* things, right?
 - Please read Revelation 4:2-3
 - So is God made out of gemstones?
 - So what *is* this *physical* description of a *visual* representation of a *spiritual* reality trying to convey to us?



Christ as Judge



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 - Please read Revelation 4:2-3, 4-8
 - So... *what...*?
 - Okay, there are a gazillion interpretations of the creatures that he perceived (and Middle-Eastern religions are *filled* with things that look like this—from griffins to sphinxes)



Christ as Judge



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 - Please read Revelation 4:2-3, 4-8
 - So... *what*...?
 - Okay, there are a gazillion interpretations of the creatures that he perceived—but none of them from the Bible itself (so let's not go there)—but what *impression* is John getting here?



Christ as Judge



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 - Please read Revelation 4:2-3, 4-8, 9-11
 - So... *what...?*
 - And what are these crowned elders doing? (how do they appear to perceive their glorious crowns?)



Christ as Judge



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 - Please read Revelation 4:2-3, 4-8, 9-11
 - So... *what...?*
 - And what are these crowned elders doing?
 - What's *your* overall impression of all of this? (i.e.; what is trying to show John—and, by extension, us?)



Christ as Judge



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 - Please read Revelation 4:2-3, 4-8, 9-11
 - So... *what...?*
 - Important question #328:
 - How many God-thrones are described in Heaven (not counting the 24 mini-thrones)?
 - But isn't *Christ* seated at God's right hand?



- Where is Jesus in this picture?
- Who created Creation here in vs 11?
- And in Gen. 1 or Col. 1...?

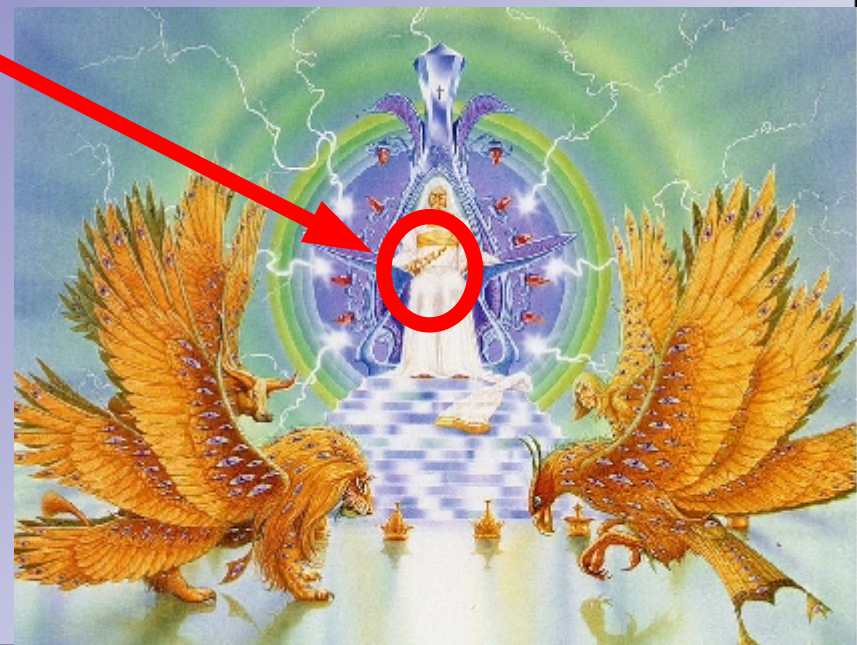


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 - Please read Revelation 4:2-3, 4-8, 9-11
 - Please read Revelation 5:1-4
 - So He is this scroll (i.e.; “God’s Word”)...?
(as I first heard at a retreat)



Christ as Judge



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 - Please read Revelation 4:2-3, 4-8, 9-11
 - Please read Revelation 5:1-4, 5-6
 - Ah, so *this* is Jesus/the Word/the Son here...!
(and not some scroll of judgment)
(except He looks more like this alien —'cuz it's not an *actual lamb*, people!)



Christ as Judge



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 - Please read Revelation 4:2-3, 4-8, 9-11
 - Please read Revelation 5:1-4, 5-6
 - Ah, so *this* is Jesus/the Word/the Son here...!
 - Um, *where* is this “lamb” representation, exactly? (“*ἐν μέσῳ*” can mean that He’s in the *center* of the *God-throne*, or just “in the *midst*” of it all—so which is it?)



Christ as Judge



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 - Please read Revelation 4:2-3, 4-8, 9-11
 - Please read Revelation 5:1-4, 5-6, 7-14
 - So... is Jesus/the Word/the Son/the Lamb the one receiving “praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever” or is it the one on the throne?
 - Is everyone bowing to one or to the other, or to both at once?
 - How is this section something of a litmus test of our Christology?
 - Is He a slain lamb coming up to open a scroll of judgment on the authority of the enthroned “real” God in the throne room?
 - Or is He the *worthy* one, who'd *also* the Lamb, who's *also* enthroned, who's *also* God's right hand, who's *also* the *Judge* (and arguably even the Judgement itself)?
 - For instance, how many different ways can we read Romans 2:16?



Christ as Judge



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 - Or is He the *worthy* one, who’d *also* the Lamb, who’s *also* enthroned, who’s *also* God’s right hand, who’s *also* the *Judge* (and arguably even the Judgement itself)?
 - Why does *any* of this matter?



Christ as Judge

- “We believe in... Jesus Christ... Who ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of God the Father Almighty, from where He shall come to judge both the living and the dead...”
 - Remember, we're taking this in chunks...
 - What does Peter say in Acts 10:42-43?
 - What detail(s) stood out the most to you?



Christ as Judge

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 - Remember, we're taking this in chunks...
 - What does Peter say in Acts 10:42-43?
 - What does Paul say in 2 Timothy 4:1-2?
 - What detail(s) stood out the most to you?
 - What detail(s) would seem to *overlap* between *both* of these sections?
 - How do these sections inform our reading of sections such as Romans 14:5-12?
 - Are we *supposed* to judge our erring brothers or *not* judge our erring brothers? (isn't even *Paul* seeming confused and self-contradictory?)



Christ as Judge

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 - What detail(s) stood out the most to you?
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 - How do these sections inform our reading of sections such as Romans 14:5-12?
 - So why is Jesus consistently seen as the Judge of “both the living and the dead” here?



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 - Remember, we're taking this in chunks...
 - What does Peter say in Acts 10:42-43?
 - What does Paul say in 2 Timothy 4:1-2?
 - What does *Jesus* say in Matthew 25:31-32?
 - Do these people being judged appear to be alive at this time? Why or why not?
 - And how does that relate to John 5:28-29?
 - So is Jesus judging *living* people or *dead* people brought *back into* life for this judgement and condemnation?



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 - What does Paul say in 2 Timothy 4:1-2?
 - What does *Jesus* say in Matthew 25:31-32, 33-46?
 - What detail(s) stood out the most to you?
 - What do the various passages about Christ's judgment of all of us in the future perhaps suggest about how we should be judging ourselves (and one another) here in the present?
 - And yet, how did Paul choose to frame all of this judgment for us as Christians in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-14, 5:9-11?



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 - What detail(s) stood out the most to you?
 - What do the various passages about Christ's judgment of all of us in the future perhaps suggest about how we should be judging ourselves (and one another) here in the present?
 - How can we apply any of that today?

