“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will.” – Ephesians 1:3-5

The Judgment Hour Has Come

Revelation’s first angel’s message announces, “the hour of [God’s] judgment has come” (Revelation 14:7). In the blazing light of eternity, the reality of heaven’s divine judgment leads us to prayerfully seek a deeper relationship with God. The judgment in Heaven’s sanctuary was foreshadowed by the Day of Atonement in ancient Israel. On the antitypical Day of Atonement in the Old Testament sanctuary system, all Israel gathered around the sanctuary, confessing their sins and seeking God’s forgiveness. Leviticus 23:29 emphatically states, “For any person who is not afflicted in soul on that same day shall be cut off from his people.” To afflict the soul was to seek God in repentance and confession, asking Him for the power to live a godly life.

The honor and reputation of God is at stake in heaven’s final judgment. Questions about His character have been raised before the universe. Is God fair? Are His commands impossible to keep? Is He both loving and just? In the judgment God will reveal that He has done everything possible to save all humanity. There is nothing more He could have done. His grace is sufficient for all. It is a grace that saves us from both the penalty and power of sin. It is a grace that pardons our past and empowers our present.

The urgency of the judgment hour message leads us to a deep relationship with Christ. We long to honor His name and do nothing that would tarnish His reputation. We need not fear the judgment, for Christ is our Advocate, our Trial Attorney, and our Judge (John 5:22). In Christ we are sons and daughters of the King of the Universe, part of the royal family of heaven. The prophet Daniel pictures Jesus in the heavenly sanctuary appearing before the Father in our behalf in heaven’s final judgment. Tens of thousands of heavenly beings press into this courtroom scene. The great controversy between good and evil will soon end. God’s name—His character—will be exalted before the universe (Daniel 7:9-14). It will be seen that He is both merciful and just, that He has given heaven’s most precious gift in Jesus.

Through the ceaseless ages of eternity, we will exclaim, “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved” (Ephesians 1:3-6).

In our prayer time today, let us examine our own hearts and ask God to reveal anything not in harmony with His will. Let us ask Him to cleanse us from those deep and hidden sins and then thank Him for His grace, His forgiveness, and His power to overcome. Most of all, let us thank Him for Jesus.
Prayer Time (30-45 Minutes)

Praying God’s Word – Revelation 14:7
“Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come.”

“Fear God”
God, we worship You. You are worthy of all honor and glory. You, the Majesty of Heaven, the Creator God, You the Eternal One—we are in awe of You. Nothing can contain You.

“Give Glory to Him”
God, it is marvelous to think that You desire to reveal Yourself, Your character of love, through me. Please fill me with Your Holy Spirit and bring forth the glory You deserve. Live in and through me and give me Your victory over sin. Empower me to live in harmony with Your will.

“The Hour of His Judgment Has Come”
Jesus, thank You for the judgment. Thank You that the judgment is for us and that You will restore justice to this universe. Thank You that You are our Advocate and Our High Priest and that Your righteousness provides us with the assurance we need to stand with heads lifted in joyful thankfulness to You. Remind us of the urgency of the times we are living in and help us to point as many people as we can to find their eternal redemption in You.

More Prayer Suggestions

Thanks and Praise: Give thanks for specific blessings and praise God for His goodness.
Confession: Take a few minutes for private confession and thank God for His forgiveness.
Guidance: Ask God to grant wisdom for current challenges and decisions.
Our Church: Pray for regional and world church needs (see separate sheet with requests).
Local Requests: Pray for current needs of church members, family, and neighbors.
Listen and Respond: Take time to listen for God’s voice and respond in praise or song.

Song Suggestions

SDA Hymnal: Standing on the Promises (#518); I Will Sing of My Redeemer (#343); Redeemed (#338); Marching to Zion (#422); It Is Well With My Soul (#530); He Hideth My Soul (#520); Faith Is the Victory (#608); Day of Judgment, Day of Wonders (#418)