

Introduction

Adolf Hitler - 20 (April 1889 – 30, April 1945) was an Austrian-born German politician and the leader of the National Socialist German Workers Party popularly known as the Nazi Party. He was the ruler of Germany from 1933 to 1945, serving as chancellor from 1933 to 1945 and as head of state from 1934 to 1945.

A decorated veteran of World War I, Hitler joined the Nazi Party in 1920 and became its leader in 1921. Following his imprisonment after a failed coup in 1923, he gained support by promoting German nationalism, anti-semitism, and anti-communism with charismatic oratory and propaganda. He was appointed chancellor in 1933, and quickly established and made reality his vision of a totalitarian, autocratic, single party, national socialist dictatorship. Hitler pursued a foreign policy with the declared goal of seizing *Lebensraum* ("living space") for Germany, directing the resources of the state toward this goal. His rebuilt Wehrmacht invaded Poland in 1939, leading to the outbreak of World War II in Europe.

Within three years, Germany and the Axis powers occupied most of Europe and a part of northern Africa, East and Southeast Asia and the Pacific Ocean. However, the Allies gained the upper hand from 1942 onward and in 1945 Allied armies invaded Germany from all sides. His forces committed numerous atrocities during the war, including the systematic killing of as many as 17 million civilians including the genocide of an estimated six million Jews, known as the Holocaust.

During the final days of the war in 1945, Hitler married his long-time mistress Eva Braun. Less than two days later, the two committed suicide.

Questions to Consider...

- 1) Adolf Hitler never came under judgment for his evil deeds. He simply took his own life after all the atrocities he had committed. How can God be a just God, if this is all there is for Adolf Hitler? (What about the 16 million lives he ended?)
- 2) If there is a judgment for people when they die and/or at the end of time for Adolf Hitler and everybody, what should the standard of judgment be? And what should the punishment be?

Christianity

Most, if not all, religions speak of some kind of judgment to be experienced by all in time, or eternity, or both for deeds done, both good and bad. The standard of judgment varies from religion to religion, although the general idea is that the punishment/reward will fit the deed. Christianity teaches that there is indeed a Judgment Day for all (Matthew 25:31-46), that Holiness/Perfection is the standard by which all will be judged (Holiness - Matthew 5:48; Galatians 3:10), and that all have fallen short of what God demands (Romans 3:23). The punishment for all who fail the judgment is death/separation from God's care/hell (Genesis 2:17; Galatians 3:10; Matthew 25:31-46). In this we find, no matter how you look at it, that God is indeed just. He is partial to no one. However, isn't God to be as merciful as he is just? As a holy God, both just and merciful, God indeed desires to have people experience his mercy for time and eternity and pass through the Great Judgment Day. But how can God be both just and merciful?

A. Jesus – Savior and Judge of All the Human Race

“It is God who justifies (declares not guilty). Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died – more than that, who was raised to life – is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us!” (Romans 8:33-34; Also see Luke 24:50-51, Acts 1:1-11, and Ephesians 1:19b-21 for Jesus ascension to this role of Savior and Judge.)

“For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son. This is the verdict” (John 3:17-19a).

“All this is from God who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation” (2 Corinthians 5:18-19).

“By one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being set apart” (Hebrews 10:14).

B. Jesus – Savior, Judge, and Blessor of Believers... *(Although Jesus loves the whole world, he gives to his believers special blessings which go beyond mere providential care (Matthew 5:45). Here are just 11 blessings believers alone have, besides the blessing of living forever with God after Judgment.)*

1. Proverbs 28:9 & John 14:14 (Prayer) If anyone turns a deaf ear to the law, even his prayers are detestable... You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.
2. John 1:11-12 (Identified as God's children) Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God...
3. John 5:24 (*Eternal life right now and always*) I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life.
4. Romans 5:1 (Peace with God) Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ...
5. Romans 8:26 & 34 (Intercession of Holy Spirit & Christ Jesus) We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express... Christ Jesus, who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.
6. Romans 8:28 (*Everything works out*) And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.
7. 1 Corinthians 3:16 (Identified as God’s temple.) Don’t you know that you yourselves are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit lives in you?
8. Ephesians 2:10 (Ability to do good works.) For we are God’s workmanship created in Christ Jesus to do good works.
9. Titus 2:11-12 (Power to resist and defeat sin.) For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. ¹² It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions...
10. 1 John 4:7b (*Ability to truly love.*) Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.
11. Hebrews 1:14 (Guardian Angels.) Are not all angels ministering spirits sent by God to serve those who will inherit salvation?

C. Preparing for Judgment

1. As was pointed out earlier, whether we go to heaven or hell on the last day depends on our relationship with Jesus.

John 3:18 Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already.

2. A person's last day will be when they die. . .

Proverbs 11:7 When a wicked man dies, his hope perishes; all he expected from his power comes to nothing.

Hebrews 9:27 Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment

3. And, ultimately, it will be when the King returns on Judgment Day...

a. Not sure when Jesus will come.

Mark 13:32 No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

b. On the last Day the bodies of all people will be raised from the dead.

John 5:28-29 (Remember Ephesians 2:10 with this one.) Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice²⁹ and come out—those who have done good will rise to live, and those who have done evil will rise to be condemned.

1 Corinthians 15:42-43 So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable;⁴³ it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power;

c. On the last Day there is a final separation of believers & unbelievers

Matthew 25:46 (Unbelievers to hell, Believers to heaven) “Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”

d. On Judgment Day the universe as we know it will be destroyed.

2 Peter 3:10-13 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare.¹¹ Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives. as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat.¹³ But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.

NOTE: There is much speculation and many non-biblical ideas about the last times. Many of these wrong ideas come from an incorrect reading of the book of Revelation. Among other things, the Bible does not teach the rapture (the idea that believers will be taken to heaven before Judgment Day). Neither does it teach that Christ will rule on earth for a thousand years (the Millennium). There will be one “rapture” of all people and we recognize that Christ presently rules (Ephesians 1:19b-22) and will do so for all eternity.

D. Defense from Those Desiring We Fail the Judgment

Ephesians 6:10-18 & 2 Corinthians 11:13-15 ¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. ¹³ Therefore put on the full armor of God... with the belt of truth buckled around your waist... the breastplate of righteousness in place... with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace... take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one... take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. ¹⁸ And pray in the Spirit... (2 Corinthians 11:13-15) For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, masquerading as apostles of Christ. ¹⁴ And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. ¹⁵ It is not surprising, then, if his servants masquerade as servants of righteousness...

1. The Old Self/Sinful Nature/Old Adam (Ephesians 2:2-3) As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, ² in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. ³ All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of **our sinful nature** and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath.

2. The World

a. Nonbelievers (Jude 17-19) But, dear friends, remember what the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ foretold. ¹⁸ They said to you, "In the last times there will be scoffers who will follow their own ungodly desires." ¹⁹ These are the men who divide you, who follow mere natural instincts and do not have the Spirit...

b. Antichristian Forces (World Religions and even World Governments) (1 Timothy 4:1 & 1 Corinthians 2:8) The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons... None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

c. The Antichrist (2 Thessalonians 2:1-12 = The office of the Papacy.) Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ... that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed... ⁴ He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God... ⁶ And now you know what is holding him back, so that he may be revealed at the proper time. ⁷ For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way. ⁸ And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming. ⁹ The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles... ¹⁰ and in every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth... ¹¹ God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie.

3. The Devil (1 Peter 5:8) Demons/Fallen Angels (Jude 6 & Rev 12:4) Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

NOTE: Though the teaching that the Antichrist is found in the office of the papacy is a difficult teaching for some, the Scripture declares this truth as it presents the markings of the Antichrist which all line up with the Papacy alone. Consider the markings of the Antichrist & compare them to the markings of the institution of the Papacy...

Scripture Passages	Descriptions	Conclusions
<p>“Dear children, this is the last hour; and as you have heard that the antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come. This is how we know it is the last hour” (1 John 2:18).</p>	<p>Though there are many antichrists there is one great Antichrist.</p> <p>He had not yet come at the apostles’ time, but was yet to come.</p>	<p>There is one great Antichrist who will come after the time of the apostles.</p>
<p>“Don’t let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day (Judgment Day) will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction” (2 Thessalonians 2:3).</p>	<p>The Antichrist is linked to a rebellion (an apostasy / ἀποστασία) which implies a spiritual falling away.</p> <p>The man of lawlessness / Antichrist will be revealed.</p>	<p>The Antichrist will be responsible for the great spiritual falling away and he will be revealed.</p>
<p>“He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God’s temple, proclaiming himself to be God” (2 Thessalonians 2:4).</p>	<p>The Antichrist will oppose/ exalt himself over God and all authority he established. He will set himself up among God’s people for they “are the temple of the living God” (2 Corinthians 6:16).</p>	<p>The Antichrist will oppose and exalt himself over God by placing himself as the sole authority among God’s people.</p>
<p>For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way. (2 Thessalonians 2:7)</p>	<p>The Antichrist’s power was already at work during the Apostles’ time, but he was still yet to come.</p> <p>The Truth/Word of Christ was holding the Antichrist’s power back for awhile.</p>	<p>The Antichrist is more than just a person because his work was beginning in Apostolic times. His power will be held back for a time until the Word of Christ is widely forsaken (The Apostasy).</p>
<p>“And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroyed by the splendor of his coming.” (2 Thessalonians 2:8)</p>	<p>The Antichrist will be overthrown by Jesus’ breath/Word.</p> <p>The Antichrist will ultimately be destroyed by Jesus’ second coming.</p>	<p>The Antichrist will be revealed. He will be overthrown by the Word of Christ. He finally will be destroyed by Jesus’ second coming.</p>
<p>“The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders,” (2 Thessalonians 2:9)</p>	<p>The Antichrist will have all kinds of fake miracles, signs, and wonders from Satan to support him.</p>	<p>The Antichrist will appear to do a lot of what Christ did. Therefore, it will appear that he has God’s support.</p>
<p>“and in every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.” (2 Thessalonians 2:10)</p>	<p>The Antichrist will deceive those who are perishing. Those who perish are those who deny that the Gospel of Christ is enough to save them completely.</p>	<p>The Antichrist leads people to hell as they think he leads them to heaven.</p>

Scripture References	Teachings of the Antichrist	Teachings of the Papacy
Dear children, this is the last hour; and as you have heard that <u>the antichrist is coming</u> , even now many antichrists have come. This is how we know it is the last hour” (1 John 2:18) & (1 Thessalonians 2:3)	There is one great Antichrist/Man of Lawlessness <u>who will come just after the time of the apostles.</u>	“The Pope, Bishop of Rome and <u>Peter's successor</u> , "is the perpetual and visible source and foundation of the unity both of the bishops and of the whole company of the faithful” (Catechism of Catholic Church 882).
“He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called <u>God or is worshiped</u> , so that he sets himself up in <u>God's temple</u> (people: 1 Cor. 3:16) proclaiming himself to be God” (2 Thessalonians 2:4).	The Antichrist will oppose and <u>exalt himself over God by placing himself as the sole authority among God's people.</u>	“For the Roman Pontiff, by reason of his office <u>as Vicar [Substitute] of Christ</u> , and as <u>pastor of the entire Church</u> has full, supreme, and universal power over the Church, <u>a power which he can always exercise unhindered</u> ” (CCC 882).
“For <u>the secret power of lawlessness is already at work</u> ; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way” (2 Thessalonians 2:7).	<u>The Antichrist is more than just a person</u> because his work was beginning in Apostolic times. His power will be held back for a time until the Word of Christ is widely forsaken (The Apostasy).	“When the Church through its supreme <u>Magisterium</u> [the office of the papacy] proposes a doctrine ‘for belief as being divinely revealed,’ and as the teaching of Christ, the definitions ‘must be adhered to with the obedience of faith’” (CCC 891). ¹
“... <u>the lawless one will be revealed</u> , whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming” (2 Thessalonians 2:8).	The Antichrist <u>will be revealed</u> . He will be overthrown by the Word of Christ. He finally will be destroyed by Jesus' second coming.	“The Antichrist will overthrow the Pope and usurp his See” ² - <u>Abbot Jehoiachim (Catholic Encyclopedia</u> ; “Antichrist”).
“the coming of the lawless one will be in... <u>all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders</u> ” (2 Thessalonians 2:9).	The Antichrist will <u>claim things and appear to do things only Christ did</u> . Therefore, it will appear that he has God's support.	<u>He claims</u> , “...For every human creature <u>it is necessary for salvation to be subject to the authority of the Roman pontiff</u> ” (CE; “Unam Sanctum”). ³

¹ By this teaching the CCC shows that the papacy, in theory, could establish teachings contrary to the Scriptures which could lead multitudes to forsake the Word of Christ. History shows that the papacy has done exactly that. Its teachings: “purgatory, penance, treasury of merits, mediating priesthood, indulgences, asceticism, the ban, and the condemnation of justification by faith alone” (Kuske 95). The doctrine of Justification by faith alone is the Gospel and the heart of Christianity, but it is condemned by the papacy in the Council of Trent, Session VI, Canon 11: “If anyone says that men are justified either by the sole imputation of the justice of Christ or by the sole remission of sins, to the exclusion of the grace and the charity which is poured forth in their hearts by the Holy Ghost, and remains in them, or also that the grace by which we are justified is only the good will of God, let him be anathema [damned].”

² All the Reformers used the Scripture to reveal the Antichrist as the Pope by comparing 2 Thessalonians 2 to him. Even some Catholics, as shown above, have declared that the pope is the Antichrist (Abbot Joachim). The only prophecy left about the Antichrist is for him to be destroyed by Christ's return.

³ The greatest of miracles is to give salvation. This gift the pope claims comes through himself. For other examples of “miracles, signs, and wonders” to which the papacy points, one can consider the following: Miracles – To be considered a saint by the pope a person must have performed documented miracles Other examples – “The Shroud of Turin; The Image of Our Lady (Guadalupe); The Miracle of the Eucharist: Miraculous icons and statues: Mary, Jesus; Various Relics of the Passion; Major Relics of Saints: Stigmatists...” (Stepping Stones to Catholic Apparitions and Miracles).