



[John 5:25-29](#)

(25) Truly, truly I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear shall live. (26) For even as the Father has life in Himself, so also has He given to the Son to have life in Himself; (27) And has also given Him authority to execute judgment because He is the Son of man. (28) Do not wonder at this, for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves shall hear His voice (29) And shall come forth: those who have practiced good unto a resurrection of life, and those who have practiced evil unto a resurrection of judgment.

A Faithful Version

Jesus explains in [John 5:25-29](#) that there is more than one resurrection. To understand the [resurrections](#), it is important to discern the meaning of the word *krisis*, variously translated "judgment" or "condemnation" (verses 22, 27, 29-30). According to *The Complete Word Study Dictionary* by Spiros Zodhiates, *krisis* generally means "separation," "decision," "division," "turn of affairs," and "judgment." The *Companion Bible* defines it as "a separating, a judgment, especially of judicial proceedings." Notice that it does **not necessarily** indicate the end of an affair.

A very clear similarity exists between the Greek *krisis* and the English "crisis." Crisis means "a turning point for better or worse" in the progress of an affair or a series of events. It is not necessarily the end, but a critical juncture, and the affair continues on. In this sense, *krisis* indicates a turn of affairs, a turning point, in a person's life. It may be the end, but, then again, it may be a time when his life takes a considerable turn for the better! Maybe [God](#) has, for the first time, revealed Himself and His purpose to him so he may be judged.

In the biblical sense, judgment can imply a period during which a process is ongoing. The decision, or sentence, comes at the end of the judgment. [1 Peter 4:17](#) shows this pattern in relation to the church. "For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not

obey [the gospel](#) of God?"

Here the word translated "judgment" is from the Greek *krima*. According to Zodhiates, this word derives from the same root as *krisis*, but in this case, it indicates the act of judging, that is, a process including the final decision or sentence. The Bible uses this word only in reference to future reward and punishment.

Again we have indications of an active process, not merely a final decision. The active process includes both what the Judge is doing (observing, evaluating; [Psalm 11:4](#)) as well what the judged are doing. A judgment cannot be made without both aspects. In [1 Peter 4:17](#), God is judging "the house of God" and "those who do not obey the gospel" within the framework of how they live their lives.

Peter says, "The time has come for judgment to begin," implying that judgment did not officially start until Christ founded the church. Now that it has begun, all mankind will eventually be included within God's judgment. The pattern for judgment is therefore being established in the church.

When we see the overall picture of God's purpose, we can better understand what occurs in a Christian's life. God calls and grants [repentance](#). We are baptized, receive the [Holy Spirit](#), and are put into the church, where we begin to grow in the [grace](#) and the knowledge of [Jesus Christ](#) until we come to the measure of the stature of His fullness. During this period of sanctification, God puts us through trials, and we overcome, producing the fruits of His Spirit. Sanctification prepares us for God's Kingdom and determines our reward.

Paul helps us understand this in [Romans 5:1-5](#):

Therefore, having been justified by [faith](#), we have [peace](#) with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in [hope](#) of the glory of God. And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope. Now hope does not disappoint, because the [love](#) of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit which was given to us.

All of this requires time. It is not God's purpose merely to save us, but to bring us to His image so that we will be prepared for His Kingdom. Our God is a Creator. He is reproducing Himself in us. Like a wise parent, He is judging, evaluating what is best for

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our development, then putting us through the next step in that ongoing process until we inherit His Kingdom. This is a true understanding of a major portion of the [doctrine](#) of eternal judgment ([Hebrews 6:2](#)).

— John W. Ritenbaugh

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[The Final Harvest](#)

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