

## **Shalom!**

May the name of our Lord Jesus Christ be praised.

It is never a bad idea to remind ourselves of things we've previously learned or been taught in our spiritual journey. In fact, recalling and meditating on past teachings is vital to our spiritual growth and perseverance.

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### THE SYMBOLISM OF ANIMALS THAT "CHEW THE CUD"

In the Old Testament, God commanded the Israelites not to eat animals that did not "chew the cud" (Leviticus 11:3-8). This was more than a dietary rule it carried spiritual significance.

To "chew the cud" means an animal first swallows food, stores it, and later brings it back up to chew it more thoroughly. This slow, meditative process is symbolic of how believers should continually **meditate** on the Word of God not just hearing it once and forgetting it, but reflecting on it again and again.

Animals like pigs do not chew the cud and were therefore considered **unclean** (Leviticus 11:7). This points to a spiritual principle: those who

do not take time to **remember and reflect** on God's Word, or what He has done for them, are in danger of becoming spiritually careless. They consume spiritual truth once and move on, never revisiting it and this leads to forgetfulness, ungratefulness, and even spiritual defilement.

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**MEDITATION PROTECTS US FROM SPIRITUAL DEFEAT**

When we regularly **recall** and **meditate** on what God has taught us, we prepare ourselves to resist the enemy. We become spiritually clean and mature, standing firm in God's truth.

As David wrote:

*"I have hidden your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you."*

Psalm 119:11 (NIV)

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**REMEMBERING JUDGMENT DAY**

Let us now reflect on the **Judgment Day** a reality that awaits every

human being after this life.

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, stood trial before both the **Jews** and the **Gentiles** symbolizing how the whole world, both Israel and the nations, were involved in His condemnation. This reflects the **universal nature of sin** we all share the guilt, and we all need salvation.

*“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”*

Romans 3:23 (ESV)

Just as Jesus stood before the judgment seat of Pilate:

*“When Pilate heard this, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judge’s seat at a place known as the Stone Pavement (which in Aramaic is Gabbatha).”*

John 19:13 (NIV)

We too will one day stand before **God’s judgment seat**.

THE GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGMENT

*"Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. The earth and the heavens fled from his presence, and there was no place for them.*

*And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened... The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books."*

Revelation 20:11-12 (NIV)

No one will escape this moment. Everyone will give an account of their lives.

*"For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil."*

Ecclesiastes 12:14 (NIV)

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ONCE TO DIE THEN JUDGMENT

There is no second chance after death.

*“And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment.”*

Hebrews 9:27 (ESV)

Prayers for the dead, or hope in purgatory or spiritual transfers, have no biblical foundation. The Bible clearly teaches that our eternal destiny is sealed at death.

*“Whether a tree falls to the south or to the north, in the place where it falls, there it will lie.”*

Ecclesiastes 11:3 (NIV)

If someone dies in sin, their fate is sealed. Let us not wait until it is too late to make things right with God.

## REWARDS AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Jesus gave a parable about a master who returned to settle accounts with his servants.

*"After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them."*

Matthew 25:19 (NIV)

Each servant had to account for how they used what had been entrusted to them just like us.

Some were rewarded:

*"Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!"*

Matthew 25:21, 23 (NIV)

But one was condemned for doing nothing with what he had received:

*“Throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”*

Matthew 25:30 (NIV)

We must live purposefully using our time, gifts, and opportunities for God’s glory.

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## ARE YOU STANDING IN FAITH?

So, ask yourself:

Are you standing in the faith today?

If Christ were to return this very moment, would you be ready to go with Him?

May the Lord help you and help us all to live in readiness, humility, and holiness, as we await the coming of our Lord and the Day of Judgment.

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**CLOSING PRAYER**

Lord, teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom (Psalm 90:12). Strengthen us to walk in obedience, faith, and holiness, so that we may not be ashamed on the Day of Judgment.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

**Be blessed.**

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