

Lesson 7 2,300 Days, Tribulation & Judgment Hour

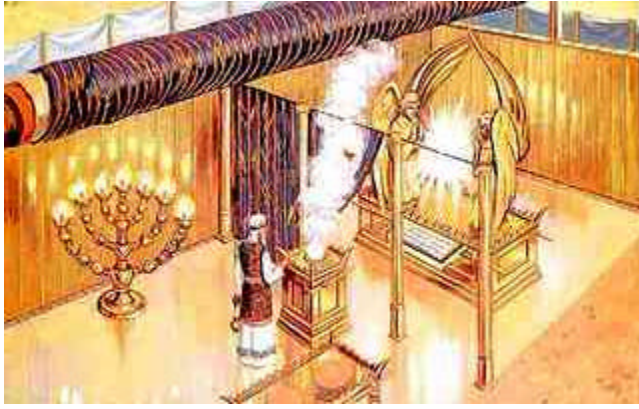
In this lesson, we are going to study the longest time prophecy in the Bible. The accuracy of God's Word is wonderful and astounding! After this chapter, one cannot be an atheist, for the Bible predicted hundreds of years in advance the baptism of Jesus, His death, and His beginning hour of judgement, proving for any reasonable mind the validity of the Bible and Jesus Christ as the Messiah.

This prophecy centers around the sanctuary, so we want to first look into the sanctuary system itself and some past history.

Paul, as he wrote the New Testament, summed it all up, and said this subject was most important. **Hebrews 8: 1-2, "Now of the things which we have spoken THIS IS THE SUM: We have such a high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens; A minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man."** When Adam and Eve sinned, God had to have a way to deal with sin, so the sacrificial system was set up. When a person sinned, a lamb was brought to the sanctuary, and the sinner then confessed his sin on the head of the lamb, transferring his sin to the innocent victim. The lamb was then killed. God's Word says in **Romans 6:23, "The wages of sin is death."** And **Hebrews 9:22** says "without shedding of blood is no remission" for sin.

God then broadened this sacrificial system in the time of Moses and the children of Israel. **Exodus 25:8-9, "And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them. According to all that I shew thee, after the pattern of the tabernacle, and the pattern of all the instruments thereof, even so shall ye make it."** God said to build a sanctuary after the pattern. That was the pattern of the sanctuary in heaven.

Hebrews 9:1-6 tells us about this earthly sanctuary Moses made.



"Then verily the first covenant had also ordinances of divine service, and a worldly sanctuary. For there was a tabernacle made;

the first, wherein was the candlestick, and the table, and the shewbread; which is called the sanctuary. And after the second veil, the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of all; Which had the golden censer, and the ark of the covenant overlaid round about with gold, wherein was the golden pot that had manna, and Aaron's rod that budded, and the tables of the covenant; And over it the cherubim of glory shadowing the mercyseat; of which we cannot now speak particularly. Now when these things were thus ordained, the priests went always into the first tabernacle, accomplishing the service of God." There was a DAILY ministry in the HOLY PLACE, but the MOST HOLY PLACE was occupied only once a year. Verse 7, "But in the second went the high priest alone once every year, not without blood, which he offered for himself, and for the errors of the people."

So when the man sinned, he took a lamb, confessed his sin over it - symbolically transferring his sin to the innocent lamb. The lamb was then slain. The priest took some of the blood and sprinkled it before the veil, and on the altar of burnt offering, and put it on the horns of the altar. Thus the sin was transferred to the sanctuary. This was a DAILY work.

But then there was the YEARLY work. Once a year they had to cleanse the sanctuary of all the sin. We read of this in **Leviticus 16:16**, "**And he shall make an atonement for the holy place, because of the uncleanness of the children of Israel, and because of their transgressions in all their sins: and so shall he do for the tabernacle of the congregation, that remaineth among them in the midst of their uncleanness.**" First they had to make atonement for sin. **Verse 18**, "**And he shall go out unto the altar that is before the Lord, and make an atonement for it; and shall take of the blood of the bullock, and of the blood of the goat, and put it upon the horns of the altar round about.**" Secondly, they made atonement for the altar. **Verse 19** tells us how atonement was made. "**And he shall sprinkle of the blood upon it with his finger seven times, and cleanse it, and hallow it from the uncleanness of the children of Israel.**" This yearly cleansing was on the tenth day of the seventh month of the religious year. Ten days before, silver trumpet warned the people it was coming. They had 10 days to search their hearts, repent and confess their sins. The Day of Atonement was very solemn for open sin could not be left unconfessed. It was a day of JUDGMENT. The sins of the entire year had to be taken care of, the sanctuary had to be cleansed of all sin. After cleansing the Holy Place on the Day of Atonement, **Leviticus 16:7-10** tells us the next step. "**And he shall take the two goats, and present them before the Lord at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation. And Aaron shall cast lots upon the two goats; one lot for the LORD, and the other lot for the scapegoat. And Aaron shall bring the goat upon which the LORD'S lot fell, and offered him for a sin offering.**" Two goats were selected, the Lord's and a scapegoat. Aaron sacrificed the Lord's goat and sprinkled its blood seven times before the mercy seat in the MOST HOLY PLACE. **Verses 15, 19**, "**Then shall**

he kill the goat of the sin offering, that is for the people, and bring his blood within the vail, and do with that blood as he did with the blood of the bullock, and sprinkle it upon the mercy seat, and before the mercy seat: **And he shall sprinkle of the blood upon it with his finger seven times, and cleanse it, and hallow it from the uncleanness of the children of Israel.**" Thus it was cleansed. The priest then took the other goat, laid his hands on its head and confessed all the sins of the people over it - symbolically transferring the entire year's sin to the victim. This goat then, with the year's sin, was taken into the wilderness to die. **Verse 20-22, "And when he hath made an end of reconciling the holy place, and the tabernacle of the congregation, and the altar, he shall bring the live goat: And Aaron shall lay both his hands upon the head of the live goat, and confess over him all the iniquities of the children of Israel, and all their transgressions in all their sins, putting them upon the head of the goat, and shall send him away by the hand of a fit man into the wilderness: And the goat shall bear upon him all their iniquities unto a land not inhabited: and he shall let go the goat in the wilderness."** This system of cleansing the sanctuary each year went on for hundreds of years.

Then Jesus came. And you remember that as He came to be baptized John said, "Behold the Lamb." We all know Jesus was the Lamb that was slain. That's why the veil was split in the earthly sanctuary when Jesus died - the *real* Lamb had come! When Jesus went back to heaven, He went into the heavenly sanctuary, and became our High Priest. **Hebrews 9:24, "For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us."** Isn't that a wonderful thought! **Revelation 11:19** confirms this again. **"And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and**

there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament: and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail." Jesus' death took care of all sacrifices. He died once and for all. **Hebrews 9:12, "Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in ONCE INTO THE HOLY PLACE, having obtained eternal redemption for us."** Christ stands before the Father, bearing our sins in the heavenly sanctuary. Our sins are transferred to the sanctuary. **First John 2:1, "My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous."** This is typical of the daily sacrifice the priests performed for Israel.

John in vision saw Jesus in the sanctuary in the holy place.

Revelation 1:11-18, "Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea. And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks; And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle. His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire; And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters. And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp two-edged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength. And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and

the last: I am he that liveth, and was dead, and, behold, I am alive forevermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death."

So Jesus is our High Priest, and He is bearing our sins in the sanctuary. Now when you pray to the Father you know what Jesus your High Priest looks like! But now notice this, **Hebrews 9:26-28**, **"For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this is judgement: So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation."** Three steps:

1. "Once in the *end of the world*" He will put away sin.
2. "After this the *judgment*."
3. For those who look for Him, "He will appear the second time *without sin*."

Then there must be a cleansing of the *heavenly* sanctuary also just as there was for Israel's earthly sanctuary. All our sins that Christ is bearing must be blotted out. And so in God's great time clock, He ordained an hour in which He would cleanse the heavenly sanctuary of all its sin and begin the judgment. We can know from Scripture exactly when Christ will begin the cleansing for it is clearly revealed in the Bible prophecy. Let's begin the study of the longest prophecy in the Bible.

The prophecy begins in **Daniel 8:14**, **"And he said unto me, Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed."** Two thousand and three hundred days" until the sanctuary is to be cleansed. When Daniel heard this, the angel Gabriel came and said something very significant, verses **17-19**,

"So he came near where I stood: and when he came, I was afraid, and fell upon my face: but he said unto me, Understand, O son of man: for AT THE TIME OF THE END shall be the vision. Now as he was speaking with me, I was in a deep sleep on my face toward the ground: but he touched me, and set me upright. And he said, Behold, I will make thee know what shall be in the LAST END of the indignation: for at the TIME APPOINTED THE END SHALL BE." It was to be in the time of the end! So this prophecy will actually take us to the date that marks the time of the end! Verses 26-27, "And the vision of the evening and the morning which was told is true: wherefore shut thou up the vision, for it shall be for many days. And I Daniel fainted, and was sick certain days; afterward I rose up, and did the king's business; and I was astonished at the vision, but none understood it."

Put yourself in Daniel's place. Daniel is a captive Jew working for the king in Babylon. The Babylonian kingdom had conquered the Jews a few years earlier, destroying the city of Jerusalem, the sanctuary, and killing thousands of Jews. Those who were not killed were taken as slaves. All this takes place 500 years before Jesus even comes the first time as a babe in Bethlehem. So Daniel is astonished when the angel tells him it will be 2,300 days (or years) till the sanctuary is cleansed and the time of the end would begin. Daniel is concerned about his people, his city, when the Messiah will come, and is anxious to know.

The angel Gabriel in **verse 16** was going to make Daniel understand the vision, but poor Daniel was so shocked by the vision he fainted! And the interpretation was left incomplete. But **Daniel 9** opens up with Daniel's recovery and his long prayer for understanding. In **Daniel 9: 21-23**, Gabriel returns to continue his

explanation from where he left off in **chapter 8:14**. So he pick up now in **Daniel 9:21-23**, "Yea, whiles I was speaking in prayer, even the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, touched me about the time of the evening oblation. And he informed me, and talked with me, and said, O Daniel, I am now come forth to give thee skill and understanding. At the beginning of thy supplications the commandment came forth, and I am come to shew thee; for thou art greatly beloved: therefore understand the matter, and consider the vision."

Daniel 9: 24, "Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy." "Seventy weeks are determined" (or lit. trans. "cut off") "for thy people" - THE JEWS. So 70 weeks are cut off from 2,300 days. Now in 70 weeks there are 490 days. And REMEMBER A DAY IS SYMBOLIC OF A YEAR. The 2,300 day prophecy, then can be broken into two segments: The first 490 days or years for the Jews; then the remaining 1810 years bring you down to the time when the sanctuary would be cleansed, the time of the end. Now several things were to happen in the 70 weeks or 490 years, but first we must have a beginning date.

In **Daniel 9:25** we find the event that marks the beginning date.

Daniel 9:25, "Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the **COMMANDMENT TO RESTORE AND TO BUILD JERUSALEM** unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times." "The command to restore

Jerusalem." When was that? Turn to **Ezra 7:13, 20, 23, 27**, "I make a decree, that all they of the people of Israel, and of his priests and Levites, in my realm, which are minded of their own freewill to go up to Jerusalem, go with thee. And whatsoever more shall be needful for the house of thy God, which thou shalt have occasion to bestow, bestow it out of the king's treasure house. Whatsoever is commanded by the God of heaven, let it be diligently done for the house of the God of heaven: for why should there be wrath against the realm of the king and his sons? Blessed be the Lord God of our fathers, which hath put such a thing as this in the king's heart, to beautify the house of the Lord which is in Jerusalem." This command went forth in 457 B.C. Artaxerxes gave the command and this date is fully established by history. So we have our beginning date 457 B.C. Now **verse 24** said 70 weeks, or 490 years were cut off for the Jewish nation. Let's do some arithmetic. Our beginning date, 457 B.C. , minus 490 years brings us to 34 A.D. What happened in 34 A.D. in Jerusalem and with the Jews? That was the year Stephen, the first Christian martyr was stoned after his last appeal to the Jews. They had rejected Christ and the apostles, and from that point on the apostles began preaching to the Gentiles and Israel was "cut off" as a nation. Notice these verses regarding how it took place, and how all believers are now God's chosen people: **Acts 13:46-50; Matthew 21:43; Galatians 3:28, 29; Romans 10:12; Romans 2:28, 29**. So we see the 70 weeks, or 490 years were precisely fulfilled on time as all prophecy is.

But even more amazing is **verses 25-26**. In this 490 year period, several more predictions are made about Christ. Notice **verse 25**, "Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah

the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times." Seven weeks and three score and two weeks equal 69 weeks. That equals 483 days or years. Subtract 483 years from our starting point in 457 B.C. and what do we have? A.D. 27. According to **verse 25** the Messiah would come that year! And Christ did! Christ was baptized in A.D. 27. **Luke 3:1** says it was the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar, and many Roman records show that date was 27 A.D. Christ Himself said, "The time is fulfilled," He knew the prophecies! Do you remember also what He said in **Matthew 3:15**? To "fulfill all righteousness" just like **Daniel 9:24**. The prophecy is precise!

Did you ever wonder why Jesus spent 30 years in an obscure carpenter's shop before He went out and declared He was the Messiah? Jesus read the same prophecy you are right now. Based on this Jesus knew the exact year He was to appear!

Let's go on, **verse 26**, "**And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined.**" He would be "cut off" or crucified sometime after A.D. 27. And it continues on to say that the city and the sanctuary would be destroyed, and be made desolate. Jesus often referred to this passage when He was here on earth. He saw the Jews rejecting Him, and prophesied these things. **Matthew 23:37-38**, "**O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathered her chickens under her wings, and ye would not! Behold, your house is**

left unto you desolate." Matthew 24:2, "And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down." In A.D. 70, this verse was fulfilled as the Roman armies surrounded Jerusalem and destroyed the city and sanctuary. History records it as one of the most terrible events that ever took place. To this day the temple has never been rebuilt again.

Verse 27 then zeros in on the exact time for the crucifixion. **"And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate."** Jesus did confirm His covenant with the Jews for one week, or seven years. From 27 A.D. to 34 A.D. At this time they cut themselves off as we just studied. In the midst or "middle" of the week, He (Jesus) would cause the sacrifices, the oblations to cease. Seven days in a week equals seven years. So the middle, or three and half years from A.D. 27, brings us to the spring of A.D. 31. It was at this precise time, at the feast of the Passover, that Christ was crucified. Thus the sacrifices and oblations ended. The veil in the sanctuary was torn in two. In A.D. 34, the other three and a half years as the prophecy predicted saw the Jews total rejection. All right on time! With perfect precision, the prophet predicted the time of Christ's baptism, crucifixion, and rejection of the Jewish nation. So the 70 weeks or 490 years, ending in A.D. 34, pertains to the nation of Israel.

Let's pause here for a moment to discuss another topic. This one week, (seven years), has been the subject of much speculation in the last few years. Even for a child it's obvious that this seven years

is part of the 70. You have a total of 70 weeks or 490 years. You have 69 weeks, or 483 years to the Messiah, and that leaves one week or seven years in between. We also see the perfect fulfillment of this one week in Jesus.

Today, however, some people take this one week, and without any biblical evidence lift it out of the context, and move it over 2,000 years into the future to apply to a future seven year tribulation period which is supposed to take place. Incredible as that seems, it's really being done! The great seven year tribulation is supposed to be preceded by the secret rapture, (another deception not taught in the Bible, see Lesson 2). Then after the secret rapture, in three and a half years, the Antichrist is supposed to come, and after the full seven years, the end is to come.

One will search the Bible in vain to find any evidence for this doctrine. There will be a period of tribulation, yes, but nowhere is it said to be seven years. The word tribulation in the Bible occurs about 20 times, and in every case, God's people are in it, go through it, and God preserves and honors them. A few examples:

John 16:33 In the world you will "*have* tribulation: but be of good cheer."

Acts 14:22 We must "through *much* tribulation enter into the kingdom."

Romans 5:3. "We glory *in* tribulation."

Romans 12:12. Be "patient *in* tribulation."

2 Corinthians 1:4. "Who comforts in *all* our tribulation."

2 Corinthians 7:4. "I am exceeding joyful in *all* our tribulation."

1 Thessalonians 3:4. "We told you before that we should *suffer* tribulation."

2 Thessalonians 1:4. "In *all* your persecutions and tribulations" that you endure.

Revelation 1:9. "John ... your brother and companion *in* tribulation."

Revelation 7:9-14, speaks of the saved of the earth and says, "These are they which came out of *great* tribulation!" *That's clear!*

Also **Daniel 9** says the prophecy of the 70 weeks was to be "sealed up" by Christ. A further dilemma comes for those who support this false teaching when we look at the Antichrist. When will the

Antichrist appear? After the rapture, during the tribulation? *No way!*

Second Thessalonians 2:1, "Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him." Notice the second coming and rapture is the same

event. **Verses 3-4**, "Let no man deceive you by any means: for that

day shall not come," (the coming of Jesus and our gathering unto Him) "except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be

revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposed and exalteth himself above all that is called God, shewing himself that he is God." "That

day" (the coming of our Lord and rapture, **verse 1**) will not come

until Antichrist appears! **Verse 7** says, "For the mystery of iniquity

doth already work." And **verse 8** clearly says, "that *Wicked*" will be

destroyed with the brightness of Jesus' coming! This totally refutes

any possibility of supporting the seven-year Antichrist tribulation

period. Compare this with **Revelation 20:4-6**. Those raised in the

first resurrection will be the ones who did not worship the beast or

receive his mark!

The devil is intelligent. The prophecy of **Daniel 9** which so

beautifully uplifts Jesus Christ as Messiah, Savior and Redeemer of

all men has been twisted into a fable that glorify the Antichrist. How

such fable ever enter the Christian world is amazing! Thank God for the truth!

Now as we continue the prophecy in Daniel, we can find out when the cleansing of the sanctuary begins. We know positively the beginning date of the prophecy is correct, 457 B.C. Jesus confirmed that. So going back to **Daniel 8:14** we can calculate this. When did this cleansing of the heavenly sanctuary begin? Simply calculate 457 B.C. minus 2,300 years and it brings us to the year 1844. Over 150 years ago, according to this prophecy, the cleansing of the sanctuary began, and we entered the "*time of the end.*" We, today, are living in the judgment hour. That's a sobering thought. Christ is *right now* cleansing the sanctuary of all its sins, and each person who has ever lived is being judged. How long it will take, no one knows, but today my friend, your name could come up. Are you ready for Jesus to come? This scene is made real by Daniel in **Daniel 7:9-10**, "**I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne was like the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire. A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened.**" This is happening as you read this page!

There are only two sides today. Any man or woman is a fool if they do not give their life to Jesus Christ in this hour. But I am happy to know there are some people who are willing to stand up for Jesus. And so for encouragement, let's read **Revelation 3:5**, "**He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his**

name before my Father, and before his angels." Jesus will stand for you in the judgement. When Jesus comes, He is not coming as a little babe, but in heaven He will lay aside His priestly robes, and in their place put on the regal garments of King of Kings, and come quickly. Every case will be decided. **Revelation 22:11-12, "He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still. And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be."** Oh how we need to be ready today!

In closing, let's read **Revelation 14:6-7. "And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgement is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters."** the judgment *is* come. Since the fulfillment of this prophecy the message of Revelation is relevant. A real understanding of this message will change our lives! We are not living in ordinary time, we're living in the judgment hour!

Jesus has sent this message in love, He wants us to be ready! How will you fare when your name comes up? Thank God for Jesus, who longs to represent us. He can take the most wicked sinner, wash away his sin, clothe him in His righteousness, and present him faultless before God's throne.

STORY OF MARTIN LUTHER

Martin Luther was a great reformer, but he felt himself to be a very great sinner. Discouragement distressed him. Many times he reasoned as we do, "What's the use of trying?"

One night he had a dream, perhaps it was a vision direct from God. That night it seemed as though the devil stood before him holding a long sheet of parchment that reached right to the floor. Martin Luther knew that it was a list of his own sins!

With a smirk the devil questioned, "Did you commit these sins, Martin?" And Luther was obliged to reply, "Yes, every one of them." The devil asserted, "Then there is no hope for you."

Luther sank down in despair. But suddenly he noticed the devil was holding his hand over one corner of the sheet.

"What is under your hand?" Luther demanded. And when the devil lifted his hand, what do you suppose Martin Luther saw written there above the long list of his sins?

"THE BLOOD OF JESUS CHRIST... CLEANSETH US FROM ALL SIN." 1 John 1:7.

If any of us had to stand alone, we would have absolutely no hope. But praise the Lord, Jesus, our heavenly Priest, will stand for us in the judgment. He will represent us at the tribunal of the universe. If we are willing to surrender our lives to Him and live for Him here, He will represent us there. If we are willing to repent of sin and confess it, He will cover it with His blood and present us clothed in His righteousness in the judgment. Won't you make that decision today?

