



**The Inscrutable Question: Critical Choices for Client Nation America; Judgment Seat of Christ: Etymology of *Bema*, 2 Cor 5:10**

- 28- This is the destiny of this client nation if its citizens do not heed the tocsin's clear warning of September 11. The future of the United States depends upon whether their citizens do one of two things: (1) respond to biblical truth through a great revival in which many choose to join the double-column advance, or (2) by the hard and difficult task of recovering from intense historical downtrends associated with the advancing cycles of discipline.
- 29- Whichever way the nation chooses to go, the burden of survival is placed squarely on the shoulders of those who are in the current Pivot.
- 30- The Pivot is made up two categories of believers: (1) those who are in spiritual maturity, and (2) those who have advanced to the sophisticated spiritual life.
- 31- If this group is large enough and tough enough to hold their six feet of the battlefield then these United States can be delivered from historical disaster.
- 32- If that group is too small and even loses its strength due to spin-off by those who crack under the pressure of the times, then the nation will be destroyed.
- 33- A principle emerges: the size and toughness of the Pivot in time of an historical downtrend determines whether the nation will continue its decline or recover through spiritual renewal.

**2 Thessalonians 2:15 - Fellow believers, stand fast and hold [ κρατέω, *krateo*: to be strong, to endure, & prevail ] to the traditions which you were taught.**

- 34- Recovery is based on the principle that there must be an up-and-functional core of mature, positive-volition believers if a client nation is to be sustained. Without them the *sine qua non* of a client nation is gone and with it the title.

**"The Second Coming"**

William Butler Yeats

Things fall apart; the centre [Pivot] cannot hold;  
Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world,  
The blood-dimmed tide is loosed, and everywhere  
The ceremony of innocence is drowned;  
The best lack all conviction, while the worst  
Are full of passionate intensity.

- 35- Because of the historical trends that have developed over the past 40 years, many of which have become precedence in our system of laws and jurisprudence, I do not believe that the United States can ever return to the standards established in their Constitution. We can recover to a certain extent thanks to the Bill of Rights. But that too will take a reformation of thought that only national discipline can inspire.
- 36- Great suffering must expose the fallacies of the human viewpoint that infects the souls of our people. It is no longer possible through logic, debate, and persuasion in public discourse. The principles of divine viewpoint have been rejected for the sweet deceptions taught by Lucifer's cosmic didactics. The ones who stand in the gap during this time of historical downtrend may or may not be successful in rescuing this client nation. But there is no question that their efforts will be classified as divine good and will qualify them to receive escrow blessings at the Nike Award Ceremonies of the Judgment Seat of Christ.



- 37- It is at the Judgment Seat of Christ that the deeds done during the Church Age will be evaluated and distinction made between those works that are permanent and those which were temporary. This evaluation is the subject of our next paragraph.

### E. The Judgment Seat of Christ

**2 Corinthians 5:10** - For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good [ **divine good** ] or worthless [ **human good and evil** ].

- 1- The words “judgment seat” translate one word in the Greek:  
  

<b>βῆμα, bema</b> -	A raised platform reached by steps. It is used to describe the bench of the Supreme Court of Heaven and emphasizes Jesus Christ as Chief Justice.
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- 2- This word actually refers to an “evaluation” rather than a “judgment.” The former refers to a careful appraisal in order to determine something’s value, significance, or worth (*Webster’s Ninth*). The latter has reference to the formal decision made by the Court following the evaluation of the unsaved.
- 3- The evaluation is therefore for believers and the decision rendered is either the conveyance of rewards to winners or the withholding of them for losers.
- 4- The etymology of the word **βῆμα, bema** goes back to the fourth century B.C. Athens. During that time Lycurgus \lie-KUR-gus\ was equivalent to a Secretary of the Treasury for Athens and was talented as an orator. He initiated an ambitious public works program that included the construction of several buildings. Across the street from the Acropolis, literally, “highest point in the city,” was a broad-backed hill known as the Pnyx from the Greek word, **πνύξ, pnux**: which means “tightly crowded together.”
- 5- The Athenian popular assembly met there. This assembly of citizens is referred to in the Greek by the word **ἐκκλησία, ekklesia**: “the assembly,” or literally, “citizens called out into an assembly or meeting.” This is the word that is translated “church” in the New Testament.
- 6- On the site of the Pnyx, Lycurgus constructed an auditorium to accommodate the meetings of the **ekklesia**. At the front of the building was a raised platform called in the Greek, the **bema**: a raised place or tribune from which to speak in a public assembly. From this platform the **ekklesia** was addressed by the speaker.
- 7- Later the word **bema** was adopted by the Athenian courts of law to describe raised platforms in a courtroom: (1) that used by the accuser and (2) that used by the defendant.
- 8- The Romans used the word to define the tribunal, or platform, or bench, used by the magistrate, judge, governor, or emperor.
- 9- In 2 Corinthians 5:10, **bema** is used to describe the tribune or raised platform from which our Lord Jesus Christ conducts the evaluation of His **Ekklesia**, the Universal Church. His evaluation seeks to determine who among the Church are worthy to receive conveyance of eternal rewards and those who are not. The process by which our Lord determines these things is the subject of 1 Corinthians 3:10-15.