

Study Guide: *An Unimportant Doctrine?*

Pastor Jared Miller

1. Barnhouse wrote in his article, “The ‘investigative judgment’... is a doctrine \_\_\_\_\_ known in theological history until the second half of the nineteenth century” (Barnhouse, “Are Seventh-day Adventists Christians?” *Eternity*, September 1956, pg. 43).
2. The first two humans sinned, and the next thing that God does is go looking for them to \_\_\_\_\_ what happened, to ask them questions (see Gen. 3:7-13).
3. In Gen. 6:5, before God destroyed the earth with a flood, He \_\_\_\_\_ (ראַה *raah*) the wickedness of men. The Hebrew word for saw can also mean “examine,” or to “make an inspection.”
4. Dr. Richard Davidson quotes a Jewish scholar named Nahum Sarna who writes, “This phrase [“The Lord saw...”] has juridical [which means “legal”] overtones, implying both investigation of the \_\_\_\_\_ and readiness for action” (“The Covenant Lawsuit Motif in Canonical Perspective,” ETS Meeting, Nov. 20, 2008, pg. 5).
5. Gen. 11:5, “The LORD came down to \_\_\_\_\_ [same Hebrew word used in Gen. 6] the city and the tower which the sons of men had built.
6. In Gen. 18:20-21, “God safeguarded man’s concept of \_\_\_\_\_ by making it clear to Abraham that the decision to destroy Sodom was not arbitrary, but based on necessity” (SDABC, Vol. 1, p. 329).
7. In Matthew 22:11 the King (\_\_\_\_\_) comes to investigate the guests.
8. Additional texts: Ps. \_\_\_\_\_, 14, 102:19-20, Job 1, Num. 11, 16-17, 27, Ez. 1, 8-10.
9. After investigative judgment ends, God executes judgment (takes \_\_\_\_\_), see Dan. 7:26-27 & Rev. 14:7, 14-20.

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Answers: never, investigate, saw, facts,  
see, divine justice, Jesus, 11, action

Important Quotes

† Do you see God’s pattern—His way of doing things? Dr. Davidson summarizes it very well when he writes, “Before God executes judgment (either positively or negatively) toward an individual or a people, He first conducts legal proceedings, not for Him to know the facts, but to reveal in open court, as it were, that He is just and fair in all of His dealings, and that He has done all He can to save as many as He can” (Davidson, pgs. 6-7).

† Ellen White writes, “All who have truly repented of sin, and by faith claimed the blood of Christ as their atoning sacrifice, have had pardon entered against their names in the books of heaven....Jesus does not excuse their sins, but shows their penitence and faith, and, claiming for them forgiveness, He lifts His wounded hands before the Father and the holy angels, saying: I know them by name. I have graven them on the palms of my hands” (*Great Controversy* pg. 483-4).

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