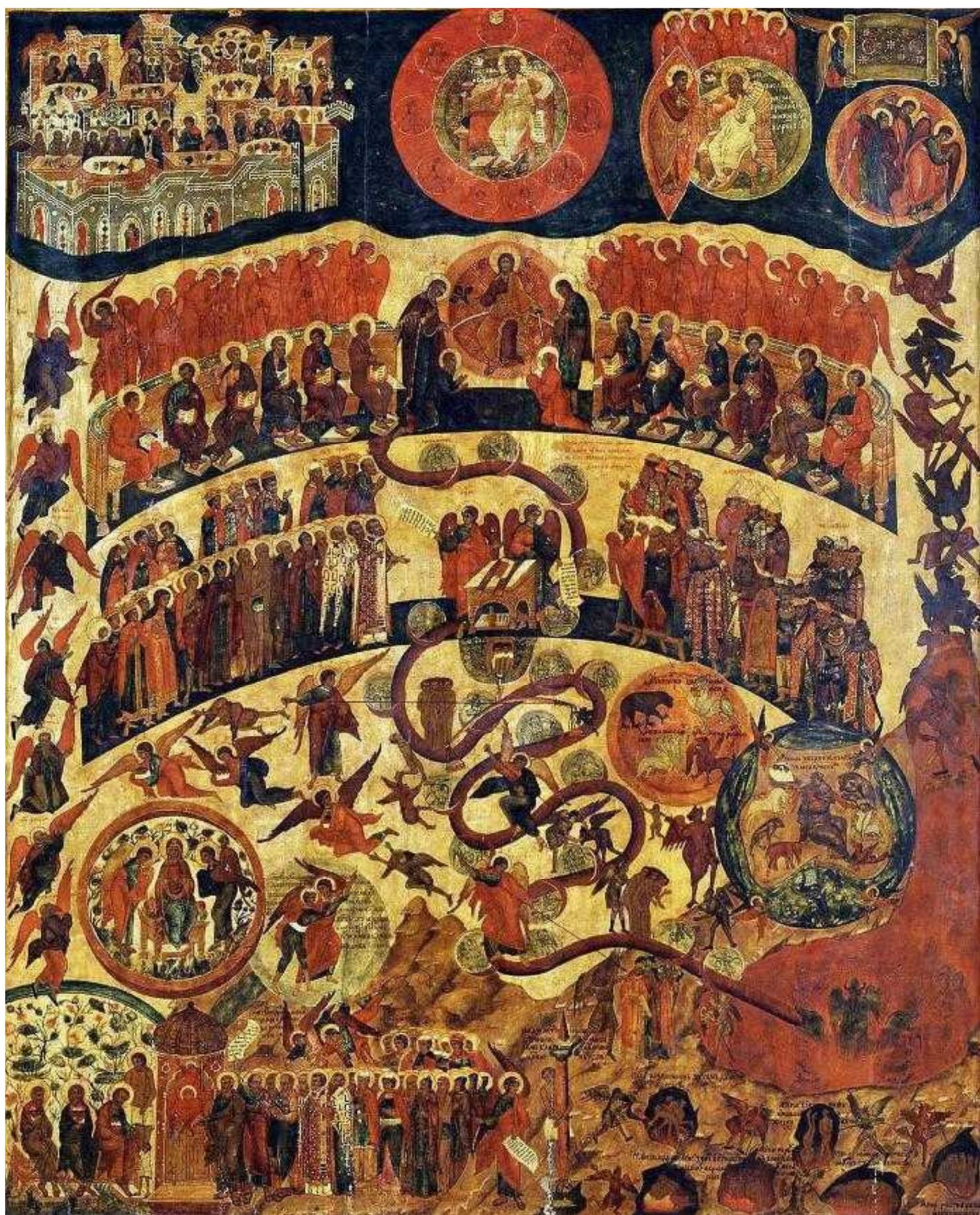




The Last or Universal Judgement

When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left.

Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.'

Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'

Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.'

Then they also will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?' Then He will answer them, saying, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.'

And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life." (Matthew 25:31-46)

At the end of the world, which only God the Father knows when it will be, (*"It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority"*(Acts 1:7)), Jesus Christ, the Son of God, will come a second time (*"This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven"* (Acts 1:11)) on earth, but this time showing His divine power and glory, to judge the world, all men.

As it is said in the Creed: **"And He shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead, Whose kingdom shall have no end."**

The end of the world (Parousia or second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ) will be preceded by certain events:

1. The Gospel will be preached to all nations (Matthew 24:14);
2. Return of the Jewish people to Christianity (Matthew 24:10 and 24:12);
3. Many will depart from faith, deceived by false prophets (Matthew 24:4);
4. Wars and rumors about wars will multiply (Matthew 24:6 and 24:7);
5. Great catastrophes will occur in nature (Matthew 24:7 and 24:29);
6. The coming of Enoch and Elijah (Apocalypse 19:1);
7. The appearance of Antichrist (2 Thessalonians 2:3-11; 1 John 2:18), who will commit all kinds of signs together with his false apostles in order to deceive the people. He will substitute himself for Christ and will furiously persecute the elect of the Lord. (Matthew 24:5 and 24:11);
8. The appearance in the sky of "the sign of the Son of Man" (Matthew 24:30): the cross.

At His second coming, all the dead will be resurrected, and the bodies of those living at that moment will be transformed; and all will be brought to His judgment. Resurrection is the reunion of the soul with the body with which it has lived on the earth; it is the restoration of the human person in its fullness. Resurrection refers only to bodies, for the soul is immortal.

The bodies of the resurrected men will be immortal, imperishable, full of power, spiritual, and full of glory. The bodies of the sinners will also be immortal and incorruptible, but sensitive to torment and suffering. In the resurrection, the bodies will no longer have the bodily defects and the kind of life they have had on the earth.

All people (both living and resurrected) will then be judged by Christ in front of everyone. The criteria of this judgment will be **the fulfillment of the Law of Love** - the acts of Christian love, compassion, and goodness toward our neighbors: *“for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.”*

After judging the deeds of every person, in front of everybody, each person will receive the final sentence: the righteous will live forever in righteousness, peace, and love with themselves, with their fellows and with God; the eternal life of the wicked will be unhappy, lacking the sight of God's light, full of eternal torment.

But neither the happiness of the righteous nor the misery of sinners will be the same for all men, it will vary according to the worthiness or unworthiness proved by each person in his earthly life.

The Last judgment, which will take place at the second coming of the Savior on earth and the resurrection of the dead, will have the following characteristics:

- It will be universal
- It will be solemn and supreme
- It will be public
- It will be righteous
- It will be final and eternal

Our Lord and Savior tells us that it is important to prepare for His second coming, for the encounter with Him is the day of the Terrible Judgment.