

The Final Judgment

(Rev 19:19-21) And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth, and their armies assembled to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army. ²⁰ And the beast was seized, and with him the false prophet who performed the signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image; these two were thrown alive into the lake of fire which burns with brimstone. ²¹ And the rest were killed with the sword which came from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse, and all the birds were filled with their flesh.

One day all of this is going to end, the struggle is going to be over, and all things will stand before Almighty God to be judged. All the evil that people have dreamed, schemed, and sold their souls for will turn to rust, dust, mold, and corruption. Here is where God settles the score and once and for all and He will judge the world with justice and righteousness.

Rev. 20: ¹Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand. ² And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; ³ and he threw him into the abyss, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he would not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were completed; after these things he must be released for a short time.

[During the millennial period Satan and his minions will be bound and cast into the abyss.]

⁴ Then I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand; and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

[Those who were saved during the church age have been rewarded. Here we see that during the millennial period those who died during the tribulation will reign with Christ on the earth.]

⁵ The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed. This is the first resurrection.

[Not everyone has come to life yet. Those who rejected Jesus are still in the grave. Look at what John says about this.]

⁶ Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years. ⁷ When the thousand years are completed, Satan will be released from his prison, ⁸ and will come out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together for the war; the number of them is like the sand of the seashore.

[The bible speaks of this number being larger than the number of those who fought against Jesus in the battle of Armageddon.]

⁹ And they came up on the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, and fire came down from heaven and devoured them. ¹⁰ And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. (Rev 20:1-10)

[Here is where Satan and his minions are cast into Hell for eternity.]

1. The Time of Judgment

(Rev 20:11) ¹¹ Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them.

The white throne is called “great” because of its awesome power and ultimate purpose—which is judgment. It is “white” because God justice and ways are pure.

The earth and heaven will flee which mean that everything that humanity has known and depended upon will be gone forever and there will be no place to hide ... this is the judgment for those who rejected God and God’s son.

Every person who has ever lived is going to meet Jesus. He is inescapable and unavoidable, and everyone will meet him either as Savior, or Judge.

This will be a place and moment of splendor, glory, awe, reverence, and fear. Judgment day will be a fearful day.

2. The Call to Judgment

(Rev 20:12 NASB) ¹² And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds.

Notice the people who are brought before the great white throne of judgment—dead, small, and great. I would like to break up that crowd into **five groups**.

- Out and out sinners—These are the ones who hate God and His church. They boldly, braggingly, brazenly shake their fists in the face of a Holy God. They have denied Him they have rejected Him and they are unrepentant.
- Self-righteous people—These people think they are too good to be lost, too good to need to be saved. They think the gospel is for the drunkard, murderer, pervert, harlot, child abuser, or blasphemer—not them. They fail to see that the worst form of badness is human goodness when human goodness becomes a substitute for the new birth.
- Procrastinators—This group intended to get saved before it was too late. They knew they were sinners. They weren't antagonist toward the gospel, they just kept putting it off.
- Unsaved Church members—These people are religious, but they have not crowned Jesus Christ as Lord of their lives. They are not anti-God; they have simply been self-deceived. They are counting on their church attendance, their right beliefs, tithes, and baptism, for their salvation.

The devil had just as soon send you to hell from the pew as from the gutter. Many people are going to hell surrounded by baptismal certificates, receipts for tithes and offerings, and Sunday School attendance pins.

- Those who have never heard—Some people may say, “Wait a minute. If a person has never heard the gospel, how can he be condemned?” He may not have

enough light to save him, but he sure has enough sin to condemn him. Romans 3:23 says, "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God."

The bible clearly teaches that the judgment will not be as severe for those who have never heard it as it will be for those who heard and stubbornly refused the gospel.

When Jesus sent out the disciples to preach the Good News He said in *(Mat 10:14-15)* *"Whoever does not receive you, nor heed your words, as you go out of that house or that city, shake the dust off your feet. ¹⁵ Truly I say to you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment than for that city.*

However, God does not deal with us in categories, He deals with us individually. There will be degrees of judgment. Hell will not be the same for everybody. How do I know that?

(Luke 12:47-48)⁴⁷ "And that slave who knew his master's will and did not get ready or act in accord with his will, will receive many lashes, ⁴⁸ but the one who did not know it, and committed deeds worthy of a flogging, will receive but few. From everyone who has been given much, much will be required; and to whom they entrusted much, of him they will ask all the more.

Now comes the end of all things.

(Rev 20:13)¹³ And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds.

It is from this state that the multitudes of humanity will be called to be judged.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ guarantees the judgment of the unsaved dead. ³¹ *Because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead."* *(Act 17:31)*

Jesus Christ walked out of the grave. You can't hold court if the judge is dead, or the defendant is dead.

3. The Revelation of Secrets

In Rev. 20:12 we read that God is going to open the books and read the record of people's lives. Not a thing about your life has escaped God's knowledge and those who do not accept Jesus...that will all be recounted.

Ecclesiastes 12:14 says, *"¹⁴For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil."* KJV

Romans 2:16 says, *"¹⁶In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel."* KJV

You see, God knows the secret things in your life that nobody else knows.

Peter Lord said, *"It never bothers me when anybody says anything bad about me. I just say, "Thank God they don't know any more than that."*

- **Matthew** says that by our words we will be acquitted or condemned.
- **Exodus** says that the Lord will not hold guiltless those who take his name in vain.
- **Luke** says that everything that is covered will be uncovered on that great day.

Aren't you thankful that every sin that you have repented of, God has not only forgiven. it he has forgotten it.

4. The Judgment of Sin

(Rev 20:14-1 NASB)¹⁴ Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. ¹⁵ And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

NO one will be able to bribe the judge. No shrewd lawyer will be able to put a spin on your case.

Romans 14:11,12 says, *“¹¹For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. ¹²So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.” KJV*

God swears by Himself that judgment is coming. God is not going to judge the sinners works according to His grace and mercy, but according to His righteousness.

The evidence will be presented: The books will be opened and everything will be known. Every idle word, thought, and deed ... every bad thing done and every good thing left undone.

Then you will have a chance to make your defense: What will you say?

Finally, the verdict of the court will be handed down.

Don't think that God is arrogant or haughty, He is not he is holy. The brokenhearted judge will say what is recorded in **Matthew 10:33** *“³³But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.”(KJV)*

If you are not saved in that instant your soul will drop into hell. As recoded in our text *“And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.”*

C.S. Lewis said that everybody in the world was in two categories. One group is like Satan. They say to God the Father, *“Not your will but MINE be done.”* The other group is like Christ, and they say to God the father, *“Not my will, but THINE be done.” (Adrian Rogers).*

What a horrible way to begin eternity.

PTL: I am not going to stand before the great white throne and here is why. I settled my case out of court. Jesus, my advocate became my Savior when He died on the cross and with His blood he paid the debt of my sin.