

Title: The Final Judgment & The Great White Throne Judgment

Rev 20:11-15

The Judgment of the Dead

¹¹ Then I saw a **great white throne** and **Him** who was seated on it. The earth and the heavens fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. ¹² And I saw **the dead, great and small, standing before the throne**, and **books were opened**. Another book was opened, which is **the book of life**. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. ¹³ **The sea** gave up the dead that were in it, and **death and Hades** gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what they had done. ¹⁴ Then death and Hades were thrown into the **lake of fire**. The lake of fire is the second death. ¹⁵ Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.

Introduction:

Good morning, brothers and sisters in Christ. Have you ever stopped to think about what will happen after we leave this world? As Christians, we believe in the promise of eternal life in heaven with our Savior. But what about those who do not accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior?

What awaits them? Today, we will explore **Revelation 20:11-15** and gain a deeper understanding of the Final Judgment. This is a crucial topic for us to understand and share with others, as it reveals the final destiny of all who reject God's offer of salvation.

Let us open our hearts and minds to God's Word and see what it has to say about this judgment.

Sermon Preview:

In today's sermon, we will explore the Great White Throne Judgment described in **Revelation 20:11-15**. We will first **observe the scene of the judgment**, then **interpret its meaning**, and finally, **apply it to our lives**. We will see the significance of this judgment and what it means for us as followers of Christ. **Our three main points will focus on the judgment's severity, the finality of its verdict, and the ultimate destination for those who are judged.**

Main Point 1: The Severity of the Judgment.

Observation: In **verse 11**, John describes a great white throne before which the dead, both small and great, stand before God. In **verse 12**, books are opened, and another book, which is the Book of Life. **In verse 13, the dead are judged according to their works.**

Interpretation: This is a scene of the final judgment, where every person who has ever lived will stand before God to be judged. **The books represent the records of every person's life and their deeds, while the Book of Life contains the names of those who have accepted Jesus as their Savior.** The judgment will be based on each person's actions and whether they chose to accept or reject God's offer of salvation.

Revelation 20:11-13.

The day of judgment is yet to come. There's going to be a future day of judgment when everything you've ever done, said or thought is going to be brought to light. God has his computers and cameras, and everything will be brought out, even the thought processes of your mind. But God weighs us as individuals. What's he going to weigh us by? What's on the other side of the scale? Here's the scales: here's you and what God weighs you by.

We must ALL appear before God: & c. Ro 14:10.

Rom 14:10 ¹⁰You, then, why do you judge your brother or sister? Or why do you treat them with contempt? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat.

2 Co 5:10 ¹⁰For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.

First, he'll weigh you by the Ten Commandments. How do you stand up to the Ten Commandments?

Second, he'll weigh you by the Law of Love, the Beatitudes. How do you stand up to the Law of Love in Matt 22? Love God and Love your neighbor as you love yourselves.

Hebrews 9:27

Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment,

Third, he'll weigh you by Jesus' life and sacrifice on the cross and by the opportunities to repent and to serve him. How do you stand up to the Cross? "How much privilege we have in America when it comes to the Gospel?"

Fourthly, He weighs us by our own works.

Who in the world can live like Jesus? Nobody. That's the reason why we all have to admit that we are sinners. God is going to judge us based on Christ's life. He will weigh us by the Ten Commandments and the law of love, but he will also weigh us by our works. **There may be sins of omission** that we weren't even aware of. In **Matthew 25**, Jesus reminds us of this when he says, "I was hungry, and you gave me no food, I was thirsty, and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger, and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me." The people will ask, "Lord, when did we see you hungry, thirsty, naked, sick, and in prison?"

Application: The Divine Audit: Unveiling Our Deeds

God's sovereign judgment will reveal every action, word, and thought, emphasizing accountability in our lives. How we've lived will come under the divine spotlight, urging reflection on our **choices and their consequences.**

Hebrews 4:12-13 ¹²For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. ¹³Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

The Weight of the 10th Commandments, The Law of Jesus & Beatitudes: Guilt of One Equals All

God examines our adherence to His laws through the lens of the Ten Commandments, the Law of Jesus, and the Beatitudes. Breaking even one commandment suffices for guilt, showcasing the gravity of moral standards set by Him.

"Of course, I've broken at least one or two." Well, then you're guilty of all, and that's the reason the Bible says we're all guilty. That's the reason Jesus said, "**You without sin, pick up the first stone and throw it at this woman taken in adultery.**" None of these religious leaders could do it because we all have sinned. We all have sinned and come short of the glory of God, and all under the judgment of God.

The thought of standing before God to be judged for our actions can be frightening. This should remind us of **the importance of living a life that is pleasing to God.** We must strive to lovingly obey His commands and share the Gospel with others so that they too may have their names written in the Book of Life.

Main Point 2: The Book of Works: The Finality of the Verdict of those who are judged.

Revelation 20:14

When you say who in the world can live like Jesus? Nobody, that's the reason you all have to say I'm a sinner. God is going to weigh us by Christ he's going to weigh us by the ten commandments he's going to weigh us by the law of love but he's also going to weigh you by your works those **sins of omission** that you weren't even conscious.

The books ... opened—(Da 7:10). The books of God's remembrance, alike of the evil and the good (**Ps 56:8**; 139:4; **Mal 3:16**): conscience (Ro 2:15, 16), the word of Christ (**Jn 12:48**), the law (**Ga 3:10**), God's eternal counsel (**Ps 139:16**).¹

Daniel saw this vision of the final judgment in Chapter 7, where the Books were open. David knew it too, he said in **Psalms 58:10** Record my misery, list my tears on your scroll -are they not in your record?

We will be judged by our opportunities and privileges. To whom much is given, much shall be required. He said to think of living in America with all of its advantages: a church on almost every corner, a Bible in almost every hotel room, millions of Bibles available, and the gospel by radio and television. Think of living here; he's going to judge us, but the opportunities we had thought of the Christian literature that's available in bookstores, and we don't take advantage of it to whom much is given much is required.

Observation: Verse 14 states that Death and Hades were thrown into the Lake of Fire, which is **the second death**. In verse 15, anyone whose name is not found written in the Book of Life is also thrown into the **Lake of Fire**.

¹ Jamieson, Robert, A. R. Fausset, and David Brown. [*Commentary Critical and Explanatory on the Whole Bible*](#). Vol. 2. Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997. Print.

Interpretation: This is a clear indication of **the finality** of the judgment's verdict. **Death** and **Hades**, the temporary holding places for the dead, will no longer exist. They are thrown into the **Lake of Fire**, which symbolizes the eternal punishment of the wicked. Those whose names are not found in the Book of Life will also be thrown into the **Lake of Fire**.

Application: The thought of spending eternity separated from God and in eternal punishment should motivate us to share the Gospel with the lost. We can no longer take a comfortable approach to sharing our faith. We must be bold and courageous in spreading the Good News and leading others to accept Christ as their Savior.

Main Point 3: The Book of Life and The Final Destination.

Revelation 20:15

Observation: Verse 14 states that the Lake of Fire is the second death. In verse 15, the destination for those judged is the **Lake of Fire**.

Book of life (Rev 3:5; 13:8 the Lamb's book of life; 21:27; Ex 32:32, 33; Ps 69:28; Da 12:1; Php 4:3). Besides the general book recording the works of all, **there is a special book for believers in which their names are written, not for their works, but for the work of Christ for, and in, them.** Therefore it is called, "*the Lamb's book of life.*" Electing grace has singled them out from the general mass.²

Interpretation: The ultimate destination for those who reject God is the Lake of Fire, where they will experience **eternal separation from Him**. This is the final judgment that will seal their fate for eternity.

We're going to be weighed by the person of Jesus Christ. The Bible says in Psalm 89, "For who in the heaven can be compared unto the Lord? Who among the sons of the mighty can be likened under the Lord?" Isaiah said, "To whom will ye liken me and make me equal and compare me that they should be like me?" God says, "Be holy, for so I am holy."

We are going to be weighted according to our works—We are justified *by* faith, but judged *according to* (not *by*) our works. For the general judgment is primarily designed for the final vindication of *God's righteousness before* the whole world, which in this checkered dispensation of good and evil, though really ruling the world, has been for the time less manifest. **Faith is appreciable by God and the believer alone (Rev 2:17). But works are appreciable by all.** These, then, are made the evidential test to decide men's eternal state, thus showing that God's administration of judgment is altogether righteous.

Death and hell—*Greek, "Hades."* The essential identity of the dying and risen body is hereby shown; for the *sea* and *grave* give up *their dead*. The body that sinned or served God shall, in righteous retribution, be the body also that shall suffer or be rewarded. The "sea" may have a symbolical, besides the literal meaning, as, in Rev 8:8; 12:12; 13:1; so "death" and "hell" are personifications (compare Rev 21:1). But the literal sense need hardly be departed from: all the different regions wherein the bodies and souls of men had been, gave them up.

² Jamieson, Robert, A. R. Fausset, and David Brown. [*Commentary Critical and Explanatory on the Whole Bible*](#). Vol. 2. Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997. Print.

Death and Hades, as personified representatives of the enemies of Christ' and His Church, are said to be cast into the lake of fire to express the truth that Christ and His people shall never more die, or be in the state of disembodied spirits.

This is the second death "the lake of fire" is added in A, B, and ANDREAS. *English Version*, which omits the clause, rests on inferior manuscripts. In hell the ancient form of death, which was one of the enemies destroyed by Christ, shall not continue, but a death of a far different kind reigns there, "**everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord**": an abiding testimony of the victory of Christ.³

Application: As Christians, we must never lose sight of the ultimate destination for those who do not accept Jesus as their Savior. This should stir us to share the Gospel with urgency and to pray for the salvation of all people. Let us always remember that our primary goal on this earth is to make disciples of all nations.

Transition:

The Great White Throne Judgment is a sobering reminder of the reality of life after death. **As we have seen, this judgment is severe, its verdict is final, and its destination is the Lake of Fire for those who reject God.** However, **there is hope for those who accept Jesus as their Savior and have their names written in the Book of Life.**

Call to action:

- a. Evaluate your life, seeking to live with integrity, justice, and compassion.
- b. Share the Gospel with urgency, desiring that others may find salvation and escape eternal judgment.
- c. Embrace a life of repentance and ongoing transformation, knowing that our actions have eternal implications.

Matt 12:36 ³⁶ But I tell you that everyone will have to give account on the day of judgment for every empty word they have spoken. ³⁷ For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words, you will be condemned."

Conclusion:

Brothers and sisters, the Great White Throne Judgment is a crucial event that we must take seriously. Let us not take for granted the gift of salvation that God has offered us through Jesus Christ. May this judgment also serve as a reminder for us to share the Gospel boldly and continuously with those around us.

As we go forth from this place today, let us be reminded of the urgency and importance of sharing the Gospel with the lost. Let us also strive to live a life that pleases God and reflects His love for others. And most importantly, **let us thank God for the gift of salvation and never take it for granted.**

May we all be found worthy to enter our heavenly home's eternal joy and peace. Amen.

³ Jamieson, Robert, A. R. Fausset, and David Brown. [*Commentary Critical and Explanatory on the Whole Bible*](#). Vol. 2. Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997. Print.

I'm going to ask you in a moment to get up out of your seat and come forward and stand in front of this platform and say by coming, I want Christ in my heart. I want to ask you this morning, you're not sure even though you may be one of the finest members of St John, or the Oldham County community and beyond, but you're not sure that you're ready to meet God and you want to be sure you want to be certain.

I will ask you in a moment to get out of your seat and come and make sure of your relationship with Christ. If you say well, why do I have to come? That's the thing I don't understand: every person that Jesus called and the New Testament he called publicly, he said if you're not willing to acknowledge me before men, I will not acknowledge you before my Father, which is in heaven. There's something about coming forward and standing here that settles it and seals it in your heart it has a spiritual impact it has a biblical foundation it has a psychological impact and after you've come, you will never be the same.

Prayer:

Lord, impress upon us the weightiness of eternal judgment. Teach us to live with righteousness, knowing that our lives matter both now and in eternity. Fill us with love and boldness to share the Gospel, that many may find life in Christ.

Benediction:

May the reality of eternal judgment compel you to live a life pleasing to God. May you be filled with compassion for the lost and a fervent desire to see souls saved.