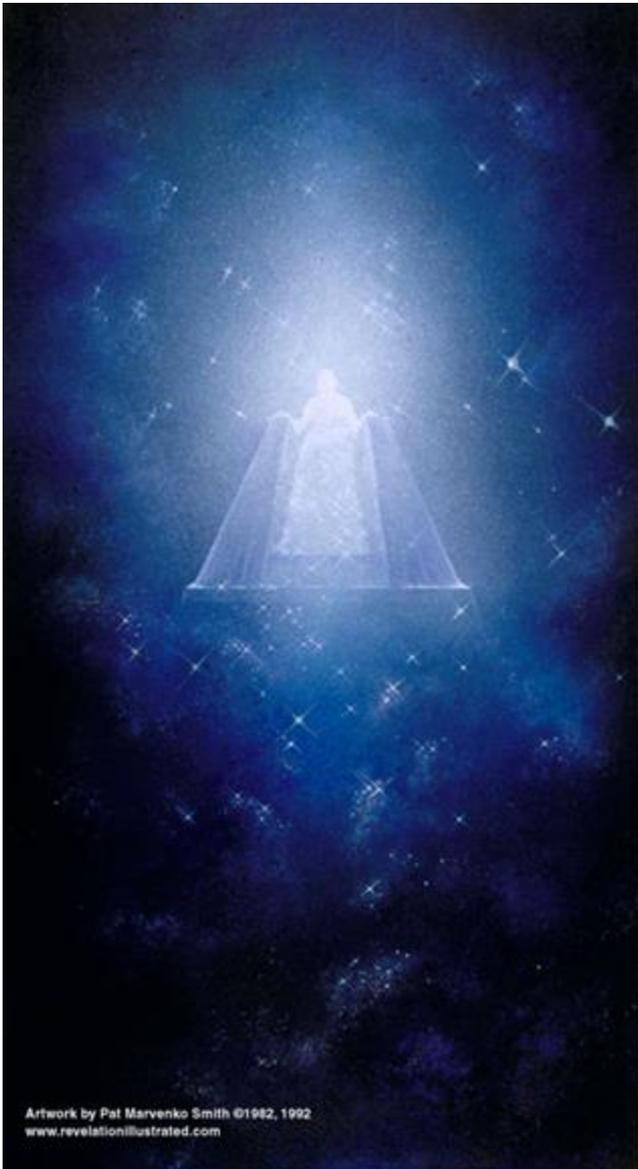


The Great White Throne Judgment

Revelation 20:11-15



In these verses before us is the most dramatic illustration of what is to come. To me, these verses are the most horrifying verses in all of the Bible, for I know many people that will be there on that day when they are sentenced.

The point of this message is to convince the lost that there is a day when they will stand before God and here those awful words, "Depart from Me". It is also my point to try and convince the Christian that we all know someone that will be there if we don't intercede with them. How awful it will be to stand and here, one by one, God Himself pronounce sentence on our friends and family.

If there ever was a message that I wanted people to listen to it is this one. There is a certain blessing seen in this topic, and that is that we won't ever here those words, "Depart from Me," if we're saved.

I. THE JUDGE – GOD – vs. 11-12

God is seen here as Judge. In 2 Peter 3:9 we find the longsuffering of God in wanting all to be saved, but that time is past, and God is no longer seen as a loving, longsuffering God, but rather as a Judge who will vindicate His wrath and hatred for sin upon the unsaved dead.

[Acts 17:30-31](#)

³⁰ And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:

³¹ Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.

[Romans 2:5](#)

⁵ But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God;

II. THE DEFENDANTS – "DEAD, SMALL AND GREAT" – vs. 12

It will absolutely not matter who the lost were here, or how much money they had, how powerful they were; on that day, all the dead will stand before a vengeful God as one.

Joseph Addison, an English essayist, poet and politician from the 17th century wrote this:

"When I look upon the tombs of the great, every emotion of envy dies in me; when I read the epitaphs of the beautiful, every inordinate desire goes out; when I meet with the grief of parents upon a tombstone, my heart melts with compassion; when I see the tomb of the parents themselves, I consider the vanity of grieving for those whom we must quickly follow: when I see kings lying by those who deposed them, when I consider rival wits placed side by side, or the holy men that divided the world with their contests and disputes, I reflect with sorrow and astonishment on the little competitions, factions, and debates of mankind. When I read the several dates of the tombs, of some that died yesterday, and some six hundred years ago, I consider that great Day when we shall all of us be Contemporaries, and make our appearance together."

III. THE EVIDENCE – "THE BOOKS" – vs. 12-13



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“The records of the Divine Omniscience on the one hand, and those of the sinners’ consciences on the other; and the book of the natural law, the rule by which those shall be judged who had not been favoured with the Holy Scriptures, and the book of the revealed law, including the Old Testament and the New: by which they shall be judged who were favoured, and as far as they were favoured, with these divine oracles.”
(Joseph Benson, a Methodist minister in England that followed John Wesley)

A. It mentions “books” in plural – one of those books, although not directly stated here, must, of necessity, be the Bible, for it is a disregard of the Word of God that caused all the unredeemed to be at this judgment.

B. The books containing every man’s works

Psalm 28:4

⁴ Give them according to their deeds, and according to the wickedness of their endeavours: give them after the work of their hands; render to them their desert.

Psalm 62:12

¹² Also unto thee, O Lord, belongeth mercy: for thou renderest to every man according to his work.

Proverbs 24:12

¹² If thou sayest, Behold, we knew it not; doth not he that pondereth the heart consider it? and he that keepeth thy soul, doth not he know it? and shall not he render to every man according to his works?

Proverbs 24:29

²⁹ Say not, I will do so to him as he hath done to me: I will render to the man according to his work.

Ecclesiastes 12:14

¹⁴ For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.

Jeremiah 17:10

¹⁰ I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.

Matthew 16:27

²⁷ For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works.

Romans 2:6

⁶ Who will render to every man according to his deeds:

C. The book of life in which only the names

of the redeemed appears

Psalm 69:28

28 Let them be blotted out of the book of the living, and not be written with the righteous.

Daniel 12:1

1 And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.

Luke 10:20

20 Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.

Philippians 4:3

3 And I intreat thee also, true yokefellow, help those women which laboured with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and with other my fellowlabourers, whose names are in the book of life.

Revelation 13:8

8 And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

Revelation 17:8

8 The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.

Revelation 21:27

²⁷ And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.

IV. THE VERDICT – GUILTY

By reason of being on the receiving end of the judgment of God will in itself pronounce the verdict of guilty for no one there will escape judgment. There will be no last-minute reprieves, no last-minute pardons. Once this life ends, or the rapture takes place, the lost's fate is settled forever.

Romans 2:1-2

¹ Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things.

² But we are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth against them which commit such things.

Romans 3:19

¹⁹ Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.

V. THE SENTENCE – "THE LAKE OF FIRE" – VS. 14-15

Matthew 25:41

⁴¹ Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

Mark 9:43-44

43 And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched:

44 Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.

A. The "lake of fire" is the final, eternal state of those that reject Christ – the "unbelieving"

Revelation 21:8

⁸ But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

B. The Bible speaks of the place that the unsaved go and it is called by many different names – no matter where that place is now, the final place will be the "lake of fire"

1. A horrible tempest – Ps. 11:6
2. A place of sorrows – Ps. 18:5
3. A place where their breath will be a living flame – Is. 33:11
4. A devouring fire – Is. 33:14
5. Everlasting burnings – Is. 33:14
6. A place of weeping – Matt. 8:12
7. A furnace of fire – Matt. 13:41-42

8. Where they wail – Matt. 13:42
9. A place of outer darkness – Matt. 8:25-30
10. A place prepared for the devil and his angels – Matt. 25:41
11. A place of everlasting punishment – Matt. 25:46
12. A place where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched – Mark 9:48
13. A place where they can never repent – Luke 16:23
14. A place of torments – Luke 16:23
15. A place where they scream for mercy – Luke 16:24
16. A place where they scream for one drop of water – Luke 16:34
17. A place where they will be tormented with fire – Luke 16:24
18. A place where people pray – Luke 16:27
19. A place they do not want their loved ones to go – Luke 16:28
20. Everlasting destruction – 2 Thess. 1:9
21. A place of blackness and darkness forever – Jude 13
22. A place where they will drink the wine of the wrath of god – Rev. 14:10

23. A place where they will be tormented with
brimstone – Rev. 14:10

24. A place where they have no rest – Luke
16:27

25. A place where they gnaw their tongues –
Rev. 16:10

26. Where they curse God – Rev. 16:11

27. A bottomless pit – Rev. 20:1

28. A place of filthiness – Rev. 22:10-11

29. A lake of fire – Rev. 20:15

30. A place where there is all manner of evil-
doers – Rev. 21:8



Conclusion: What have we done to be exempt from
this awful judgment?

The following illustration comes was found in "Our Daily Bread" many years ago:

While attending college, I visited a psychiatric institution with a group of students to observe various types of mental illness. The experience proved to be very disturbing. I remember one man who was called "No Hope Carter." His was a tragic case. A victim of venereal disease, he was going through the final stages when the brain is affected. Before he began to lose his mind, this man was told by the doctors that there was no known cure for him. He begged for one ray of light in his darkness, but had been told that the disease would run its inevitable course and end in death. Gradually his brain deteriorated and he became more and more despondent. When I saw him in his small, barred room about 2 weeks before he died, he was pacing up and down in mental agony. His eyes stared blankly, and his face was drawn and ashen. Over and over he muttered these two forlorn and fateful words: "No hope! No hope!" He said nothing else, and no one could pierce the veil of darkness that enveloped him.