

The Great White Throne

Revelation 20:11-15

These verses describe the final event of all of human history. God is putting the last period on the last sentence of the last paragraph of the last page. This is the final judgment of all who die lost, never having repented and never having received Christ as their Savior. This is serious, and we need to give our full attention to this matter. The Great White Throne is not easily imagined, nor is the lake of fire which follows it. Artists surely fail to bring it's reality to our eyes.

It is not easy to preach about this awesome and final judgment. I take absolutely no pleasure whatsoever in even thinking about ANYONE being thrown alive into a lake of fire for all eternity. Also: God takes no pleasure in it either...God never made hell for people...hell was created for the devil and his angels, and the people who end up in hell will be those who reject God's way of escape, and never get saved. God doesn't send people to hell...sin does...and so we must accept His salvation from sin!

If we say no to God's provision, then the only alternative is hell. We cannot remain neutral. God is love, and He loves us so much that He took our hell for us if we'll repent of those sins for which He died and receive His payment. But He is holy and perfect, and if we don't accept His payment for our sins then we have to pay for them ourselves.

What we now look at is the darkest hour of human history...this is the supreme court of the universe! All the lost will be judged, and after the verdict is read, it is final...there will be no appeals. The sentence is a life/death sentence—a death row and torture chamber wrapped up in one, with no end for all eternity.

This is not politically correct, and some simply won't believe it...but their argument will be with God, not with me. If I've ever preached a sermon direct from God's Word, then this is it.

7 Aspects of the Great White Throne Judgment:

1. **The Courtroom,**
2. **The Judge,**
3. **The Accused,**
4. **The Evidence,**
5. **The Defense,**
6. **The Verdict, and**
7. **The Sentence.**

1. The Courtroom

v. 11 "great white throne"...stop right there. These 3 words represent 3 things:

"Great" = speaks of power

Heb. 10:31 It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

Heb. 12:29 For our God is a consuming fire.

Hear this: in the end, all we have left is our soul!

No wonder Jesus said, Mark 8:36 For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?

"White" = speaks of purity

This speaks of the unapproachable purity of the Lord Jesus Christ.

"Throne" = speaks of the Potentate

God Himself will be in charge on this day...He will call the shots on this day.

I Tim. 6:15 Which in his times he shall shew, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords.

2. The Judge

v. 11-"Him that sat on it"-Who is this Judge of the Universe?

John 5:22 For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son.

Acts 17:31 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.

3. The Accused

v. 12-13 This is the 2nd resurrection...the resurrection of the lost.

The 1st resurrection was of *saints* more than 1k years before this. In other words, this isn't about whether they are guilty or innocent...it is clear that they are guilty. This is not a trial to see whether they go free or not. This is not about allegations...this is making it clear WHY they ARE going to hell for all eternity. They have already been in hell, awaiting this judgment.

III.—2 words for hell in scripture... "hades" and "gehenna", which can be likened to a local jail and prison...the one is a temporary holding place, no less vile, just less permanent.

Notice the words death and hell in vv. 13, 14.

Death gives up the body, hell gives up the soul, then both body and soul are cast into gehenna, the eternal lake of fire. There is no appeal and no parole.

4. The Evidence

v. 12 books [plural] What are these books? I believe there are at least 3 books opened on that day:

The Book Of Works—a lost person's life. "according to their works"

Lost person...you need to realize that God is recording your works, your sins...and on the day of judgment, nothing will remain hidden...the books will be open! How can God do this? He's omniscient and omnipotent!

1st book opened is the book of works.

Thank God if you've been saved, your sins are under the blood...not a license to sin at all, and not saying we won't have consequences for sin here on earth, but that our sin has been judged!

2nd book opened will be: **The Bible.**

John 12:48

...the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.

This Bible I hold in my hand is the standard by which all the lost will one day be judged.

3rd book: **The Book Of Life**

Rev. 20:15 And whosoever was not found written in **the book of life** was cast into the lake of fire. *[last phrase of 21:27, above]*

You see, ultimately, there's only 1 sin that will send to hell...the sin of unbelief...the unpardonable sin of blasphemy against the Holy Ghost, rejecting the promptings of the Spirit to put your faith in Christ for Salvation! If you fail to get saved, your name isn't written there, and on that day it will be way too late.

These 3 books tell the story. Book 1 says, this is your life, book 2 says, here's my plan, book 3 says, "you didn't do anything about it!"

5. The Defense

There will be no defense! What can you say? I mean, there it is in black and white...there's no denying the evidence. You're guilty!

Some may say, I'll throw myself on the mercy of the court, and say, I believe now, Jesus, please forgive me and save me now!

Hebrews 9:27

And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.

I see no mercy there or in Revelation, only judgment!

If you want grace, you can have it now, but not after you die. [mercy/forgiveness/salvation...]

6. The Verdict

Guilty! The lost will hear these words, Matthew 25:41

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.

7. The Sentence

v. 15 Literal Fire? Every shred of evidence in the Bible says yes. Liberal theologians say it's figurative, not literal. But Jesus called hell a place of fire and torment where people die forever and yet never completely. I'll take Jesus' words over any theologian no matter how many degrees he has, he has no idea the degrees of the flames of hell.

We're mostly Christians in this room...so let's make application to us...tho' you won't be at the Great White Throne Judgment if saved...can this teaching help you? Certainly!

What are you doing to keep people out of hell? People you love, yes, but people you don't even know, too?!