

VIII. The Great White Throne Judgment

A. Resurrection Of The Wicked Dead

Let us look at the facts of this resurrection and judgment:

1. This will Take Place Right after:

a. The Millennium Reign of Christ on earth

Revelation 20:1-6.

b. The final overthrow of Satan

Revelation 20:7-10.

c. The final war

Revelation 20:8,9.

2. There will be a Great White Throne

“And I saw a great white throne, ...” (Revelation 20:11a). The word “great” is a very general word (Greek – “megas”) which, appropriately in this text, means large.

3. God Himself Sits upon this Throne

“And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; ...” (Revelation 20:11, 12a).

The earth and the heaven fled away from the presence of the great God. See Daniel 2:35, Isaiah 34:5, 2 Peter 3:10-12 and Revelation 6:14. We will study these under Point IX.

4. This is a Judgment of the “Dead”

“And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.” (Revelation 20:12).

This refers to those that are dead in their trespasses and sins, not the saved. See Ephesians 2:1-2; Romans 6:23; and Romans 5:12.

5. Both Small and Great Shall be There

a. Small (Greek - mikros)

Meaning small in size or dignity. Sometimes translated “little” in the English (for example: Matthew 10:42 and Matthew 18:14 - references to children).

b. Great (Greek - “megas”)

This is the same word as used in point 2 above, describing the White Throne. Great in dignity or stature (sometimes referring to adults).

6. They Will Stand Before God Himself

“And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of

those things which were written in the books, according to their works.” (Revelation 20:12).

7. The Books Will Be Opened

“And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.” (Revelation 20:12).

The Bible is the “books” mentioned here (See Daniel 7:10 and John 12:48). The word “Bible” means “library.” It contains 66 books. God is going to judge man by the Bible. Man is responsible to know God’s Word and is accountable for what the Bible says.

Having rejected the finished work of Christ, the dead will be judged according to their works. No man’s works are good enough to save their own soul. Read Isaiah 64:6; Ephesians 2:8,9; and Titus 3:5.

8. Another Book Is Opened – the Book of Life

“And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.” (Revelation 20:12).

a. Those written in the Book are God’s people

See Daniel 12:1 and Luke 10:20. It is the present condition of the saved to have their names in the Book of Life. Also see Philippians 4:3 and Hebrew 12:23.

b. Those in the Book have a passport to the New Jerusalem

Revelation 21:27. Having one’s name written in the Lamb’s Book of Life is a Passport to enter the New Jerusalem, God’s Holy City.

c. To be written in the Book of Life, one must be saved

Compare Revelation 3:5 with 1 John 5:4-5. Those who are saved have had their sins cleansed in the Blood of Jesus Christ (Revelation 1:5) and the Lord does not impute sin to their account (Romans 4:7,8).

d. Sinners will be blotted out of the Book of Life

Exodus 32:33 tells us that initially the name of every human being is in the Book of Life. But any person who has one sin imputed to them will be blotted out of this Book.

e. Those blotted out of the Book of Life are the devil’s people

See Revelation 13:8 and 17:8.

9. The Resurrection of the Dead

“And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.” (Revelation 20:13).

a. The sea gave up the dead

This is a reference to the resurrection of the body.

b. Death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them

This is a reference to the resurrection of the soul. “Death and Hell” are inseparable for the unsaved. See Psalms 55:15; Proverbs 5:5; Revelation 6:8; and Revelation 20:14.

These are delivered up to the Great White Throne judgment.

B. The Second Death

1. Death and Hell are Cast into the Lake of Fire

“And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.” (Revelation 20:14).

a. Death

1 Corinthians 15:26 tells us that death is the last enemy that shall be destroyed.

b. Hell

Hell has been the “holding center” for the lost, before they are cast into the Lake of Fire.

c. This process is called “the second death”

“And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.” (Revelation 20:14).

i. The first death is physical

ii. The second is eternal punishment

See Revelation 2:11; 20:6; 21:8; and Jude 1:12.

2. All Unbelievers are Cast into the Lake of Fire

“And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.” (Revelation 20:15).

IX. Restoration Of The New Heaven And New Earth

A. New Heaven

1. Prophesied

Isaiah 65:17; Isaiah 66:22; Matthew 5:18; Matthew 24:35; Mark 13:31; Luke 21:33; and Hebrews 12:25-29.

2. Fulfilled

2 Peter 3:10,13 and Revelation 21:1.

3. Destruction of Present Heavens

a. Dissolved with fire

Isaiah 34:4 and 2 Peter 3:12.

b. Rolled back like a scroll

Isaiah 34:4 and Revelation 6:14.

4. Creation of New Heaven

Isaiah 65:17 and 66:22. A direct creative act of God.

B. New Earth

1. Prophesied

Isaiah 65:17; Isaiah 66:22; Matthew 5:18; Matthew 24:35; Mark 13:31; Luke 21:33; Hebrews 12:25-29 and Revelation 21:5.

2. Fulfilled

2 Peter 3:7-14 and Revelation 21:1.

3. Destruction of present earth

a. Destroyed by fire

2 Peter 3:7.

b. Destroyed by fervent heat

2 Peter 3:10,12.

4. Creation of New Earth

Isaiah 65:17 and 66:22. A direct creative act of God.