

REVELATION PART TWELVE – Verses 11 to 15 of Chapter 20**Chapter 20 verses 11-15 – The Great White Throne Judgment**

1. This term, Great White Throne Judgment, is only used in this passage and there is no other reference to this term in any other part of the Bible.
2. This is the judgment of all who died without knowing and trusting Jesus Christ as his or her personal Saviour. It is a general judgment.
3. Just before the end of the Millennial Kingdom, Satan was released for a while and then thrown into the eternal fire of Hell (also known as the Lake of Fire) to join his Antichrist and the False Prophet. But soon, he would be joined by a whole group of people who did not want to have anything to do with God. They would have their wish to be away from God granted by Him. They would be sent to join Satan forever. They wanted to believe all the theories that exclude God in it (e.g. Evolution Theory, Communism, etc.). They did not want to accept that there is a God who loves them, so God granted them their wish forever.
4. He is a very fair God because He has been asking them for thousands of years whether they really would have nothing to do with Him; and so, their wish were granted since they were so persistent. This Great White Throne Judgment is a judgment of all the people who had rejected Jesus Christ.
5. When will this happen?
It will be after the Millennial Kingdom had ended and after Satan had been thrown into the Lake of Fire.
6. Revelation 20:11. Why is it called the Great White Throne Judgment?
 - a) Why is it “Great”?
“Great” because the One sitting down to judge on the Throne is the Great One.
 - b) Who is seated on this Throne?
 - i. John 5:21-22 say that the Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to His Son.
 - ii. John 5:27 says that the reason why God the Father does not sit on the Throne to judge, but gives the authority to the Son to judge is because Jesus is the Son of Man. This is indeed fair, for the perfect Man to judge men. Jesus wanted to save all of us, and so He did His very best to give us a way to escape from this Great White Throne Judgment. He did the greatest transaction on the Cross. He gives us His righteousness and He took our sins on the Cross.
 - iii. Thus Jesus Christ, the great Creator, is the One who sits on this Great White Throne of Judgment.
 - c) Why is it a “White Throne”?
 - i. Usually gold signifies royalty. White signifies holiness. This means that Christ is going to judge the people based upon His standard of perfect holiness.
 - ii. Romans 3:23 says, all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. We do not get judged by our own standards. Some people think that they are not that bad. Do you enter any University or company

- by your own standard? It has got to be a standard set by the university or the company.
- iii. Similarly, to enter heaven, we will have to meet God's standard which is very different from man's standards.
 - iv. "Pure white" means that even with one sin in us, we are disqualified. Only those clothed in the righteousness of Christ can enter heaven. This means that all who have received Christ's righteousness as in 2 Corinthians 5:21. Christ is the King, so we must enter His Kingdom by His standard.
7. Where will this judgment take place?
 - a) Revelation 20:11 says that the Earth and the sky fled away, and no place was found for them. 2 Peter 3:10 says that the heavens and Earth will pass away, (i.e. melt and disappear). There will be a New Heaven and a New Earth.
 - b) It therefore means that the judgment cannot be taking place on the current Earth. No one is sure where this would take place though we can be sure that it would happen somewhere.
 8. Revelation 20:12 says that John saw the dead, both great and small, standing before the Throne and books were opened. How can these dead people stand up?
 - a) It is because they were also resurrected in Revelation 20:5 after the 1000 years has ended. This is called the Second Resurrection.
 - b) The First Resurrection is the resurrection of those who died in Christ, and those who were martyred during the Great Tribulation. Believers resurrected in this First Resurrection will rule the natural bodies in the Millennial Kingdom with Christ.
 9. Revelation 20:12. "Great and small" here refers to all classes of people.
 - a) This include those who thought that they were great in their own mind believing that there is no God as well as the religious "Christians" who thought that they had believed in Christ but had not been born again.
 - b) Matthew 7:22-23 says many will be shocked on that day when they thought that they had done a lot of miracles in Jesus' name and yet, Jesus denied knowing them. It goes to show that they had never really received Christ as their personal Saviour.
 10. Revelation 20:12. What are the "books" mentioned in this verse?
 - a) These are multiple books unlike the single Book of Life.
 - b) They are accounts of every single deed committed by man in his life on Earth. If one wonder how so many deeds can be recorded, we must realise that it is not difficult for Christ as He has infinite wisdom and memory.
 - c) It should be noted that believers will not be judged at this Great White Throne because they had been counted righteous due to their faith in Jesus Christ and His finished and perfect work on the Cross had been put into their account. Imagine a rich man like Bill Gates who died and he put everything into our account; we would be very rich! Thus we Christians who have received Christ's good works are super-rich! Christ took on all our sinful works into His account and we do not have to pay for it as we cannot be judged twice for the same

bad deed. All these believers would have been resurrected at the First Resurrection and ruled the Millennial Kingdom with Christ.

- d) It is presumed that if the deed of an unbeliever is worse, then the torment or punishment in the Lake of Fire will be worse.
11. Revelation 20:12 says that there is another book (which was referred to as the Book of Life) being opened.
- a) This is singular. Only one Book.
 - b) This Book of Life is mentioned 7 times in the book of Revelation, but only once outside of the book of Revelation, which is in Philippians 4:3.
 - c) When you are born, your name is put into the Book of Life because you are given a biological life. At the end of your life, if at any point in time during your lifespan on Earth, you have trusted Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour, then your name is left there permanently; because not only do you have biological life, you also have eternal life!
 - d) But if at the end of your life, you still have not trusted Christ as your Saviour, then on the day of your death, your name will be taken out from the Book of Life because you are dead forever.
 - e) This verse is in effect saying that for those who have not trusted Christ, they will be judged according to their deeds on Earth.
12. Revelation 20:13 says the sea, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, to be judged. Hades is the realm of the dead although it is unclear where it is. When one dies, he goes somewhere to Hades. The physical body would have disintegrated but God will gather the physical body up and resurrect everyone. It will be the same “you”, not someone else. There is no escape or running away.
13. Revelation 20:14 says Death and Hades were thrown into the Lake of Fire (or Hell) which means that all these unbelievers will face the Second Death. Christians, however, will only face the first death of separation from their physical body on Earth and not this Second Death. This Second Death is the eternal separation from God forever.
14. Revelation 20:15 says that anyone whose name is not found in the Book of Life will be thrown into the lake of fire. Those who did not receive Jesus during their lifetime will not have their names in this Book of Life and will instead, be thrown into the Lake of Fire. But for those who believe in Christ, they have eternal life as stated in John 3:16; so their names will still be there in the Book of Life even though they are biologically dead.

This chapter helps us to see that if you have truly received Christ in this lifetime, the following will happen:

1. You will be resurrected in the First Resurrection because you have been counted righteous due to your faith in Christ’s finished work on the Cross, and will be received into the Millennial Kingdom.
2. You will be rewarded and be given ruler-ship over different number of cities there with Jesus, which will be dependent on how you use your talents on the current Earth and what good works you did before you die.

3. You will want to prepare yourself now doing good works and be getting ready for the Millennial Kingdom and for the eternal New Heaven and New Earth.

But if you have not received Christ before you die, the following will happen:

1. You will still be resurrected in the Second Resurrection and you will be judged by your works in the Great White Throne Judgment for punishment and not for rewards.
2. The judgment will be to decide how severe your punishment will be in the eternal Lake of Fire, which is dependent on your deeds committed on current Earth.

So, let us see the Book of Life as analogous to the Registrar of Birth in our country of birth.

- a) When we are born on Earth, we have our physical birth registered on Earth, and recorded in the Registrar of Birth as a citizen of the country. On the day we die, our name is taken off from the citizenship list.
- b) Similarly, as far as the Book of Life is concerned, if we have Christ, our name will always be in the Book of Life with eternal citizenship and we will not be thrown into the Lake of Fire.

The God who sees everything in our life will judge us very fairly as He gives many chances for repentance in our lifetime. There are many who can see God's creation clearly, but they still refuse to acknowledge Him, and they just soothe their own conscience by worshipping some small idols. If you do not want anything to do with God, your wish will be granted and you will be as far away from God as you would want to be, and will never need to mention His name again.

The next chapter will discuss the New Heaven and New Earth.