

The White Throne Judgment

Revelation 20:11-15

Introduction

The White Throne Judgment is the time in history for the “final courtroom”, a time where God will sit in judgment of nonbelievers. Those who chose not to accept the gift of salvation in Jesus Christ will be sentenced to condemnation eternally. Those same unbelievers will also find out the degree of that condemnation at that time. (John 5:22, 27, 29; Acts 17:31).

The White Throne Judgment will purge sin from the universe in preparation for the new heaven and the new earth. (Revelation 21: 1-4) Unbelievers will not enter this new time or dispensation. They will be removed in order that God’s perfect justice might be realized. Unbelievers will be punished based on their works as they are held accountable for their sins. Unbelievers will be personally judged based on God’s Word, their actions (as recorded in the book of deeds), and the fact that their name is not in the Book of Life.

The lost will be eternally consigned to the Lake of Fire. This means that they will not experience God’s goodness through eternity (2 Thessalonians 1:9) and will live with the eternal consequences of the state of their rejection of Christ and their sinfulness.

Getting Started

1. You may have heard about the final Judgment involving the Book of Life. Does it surprise you that as a believer you are not a part of this Judgment of the wicked? How does this affect your perspective?
2. Many people find the study of the Book of Revelation to be unsettling, and even frightening. Why is that? How should we respond to this as believers?

Let’s Get Personal

1. Imagine the scene of the Great White Throne of Judgment. There Jesus sits in all of His glory and victory and now a hopeless herd of people await their fate. There is no more redemption at this point because the Millennial Kingdom has come to an end and those who are judged at this time have rejected Christ and cannot change their minds. Do you have friends and neighbors who will wait there? Do you have family that will be there? How can we use our relationships with unbelievers to point them to Christ who will one day sit on that seat?
2. For the believer, the Great White Throne is another example that in Christ we are not subject to condemnation. (Romans 8:1) This describes the assurance of our salvation as a believer. While we may receive reward or lack thereof, due to our useless deeds, we will not be subject to the lake of fire. Although we find Scriptures that demonstrate the assurance of our salvation (Ephesians 1:13-14), still many struggle with the concept because of the existence of sin in the believer’s life. Read Romans chapter 7:14-25 and discuss this topic.

Take the Next Step

1. Name one person with whom you can share the Good News of Jesus Christ this week.
2. What gets in the way of you sharing Christ’s gift of salvation with others? Do you do it as often as you should? What would help you to be bolder in sharing your faith with others so that even one might avoid the Lake of Fire?
3. Want to dig deeper? Take a look at what God’s Word says about degrees of punishment based on works: Matt 11:20-24; Luke 12:48; Mark 12:38-40.

Renew Your Mind

“For God will bring every act to judgment, everything which is hidden, whether it is good or evil.” Ecclesiastes 12:14