

“The Vision of the Great White Throne”

Revelation 20:11-15

Revelation #48

All men called to account in the final judgment!

1. God upon His Throne!

v. 11

(1) His Greatness and Majesty

“Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them.”

- cf. 4:2

- Everything centers here, is determined here. All of history ends here!

(2) His Holiness and Purity

- Nothing defiled or impure can remain in His presence!

- The end of the present cosmos may be indicated here, and the ushering in of the new. (21:1)

- As with the 6th Seal (6:14) and the 7th Bowl (16:20)

- Or the fact that there is no longer any place to hide when God brings judgment.

Q: Who will judge all men? The Lord Jesus Christ!

- cf. The vision of 1:9-20 The letters to the churches

- Jn. 5:22-23, 27; Acts 17:31; 2 Cor. 5:10

2. The Judgment

vv. 12-13

(1) A Universal Judgment!

“And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God...”

- After death (the whole of one’s life will be in view)

- All men will stand before God

- Social status or rank will mean nothing God is no respecter of persons!

- Believers and Unbelievers 2 Cor. 5:10

(2) A Judgment of Works!

“...and books were opened...”

And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.”

- According to God’s exhaustive and perfect knowledge!

- All is remembered! All will be brought to light! cf. Matt. 12:36; Rom. 2:16”

- According to God’s perfect righteousness as revealed in His Law!

(3) But a Great Distinction Made! Two sets of books!

-1- “Books” – a record of deeds

-2- “The Book of Life” – a record of names

- The Book belongs to the Lamb that was slain 13:8 “the Book of Life of the Lamb”

- The names have been inscribed from the foundation of the world 17:8

3. The Second Death!

vv. 14-15

(1) All of the dead cast into the lake of fire

“Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.”

- “The lake of fire” – A punishment and suffering that is not physical but spiritual in nature

- Other descriptions:

“torment” – endless conscious suffering – especially spiritual and psychological suffering

“they have no rest day or night” 14:11

“outer darkness, there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth” Matt. 22:13; 25:30

(2) The fate of every unbeliever

“And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.”

Further Application