

The Great White Throne Is The Judgement Seat Of Non Believers

'I saw a Great White Throne, and the One Who was seated upon it, from Whose presence and from the sight of Whose face earth and sky fled away; no place was found for them' (Revelation 20:11).

There are several judgements mentioned in the Bible, but by far the most terrifying is the Great White Throne. It is the most devastating of all the judgements. As soon as we see 'white' in the scriptures, we think of purity and absolute righteousness. This throne is great because it has a Great Judge sitting on it; sitting in power and glory – which is the righteousness of God. We need to understand the reality of the Great White Throne; that it is most definitely coming in the future. Even if people don't believe in it, they will all stand before the Lord Who sits there. It will be the most terrible and dreadful day in the history of the future of mankind. The fear and awesomeness that will be attached to that day, is something that we can wish on no one. It's something that the Lord Jesus Himself would wish on no one. As surely as the Bible is the Word of God; the Great White Throne is coming.

Every single person is going to see the Great White Throne; believer and non believer alike. After the judgements of the Great White Throne will come the results of it, which is the eternal burning lake of fire. It will be so terrible, so horrible, and so horrific, it is beyond human comprehension. Judgement could have come thousands of years ago but God in His grace wanted to supply the remedy first. He has wanted as many people as possible to accept the salvation of Jesus which would in turn stop the fear of the Great White Throne. Jesus' sacrifice on the cross was so awful, because the doom that faces every person is so awful. God knew He had to provide a way out and had already planned it back in Genesis. Immediately after God realised Eve had been deceived and Adam had disobeyed the commandment not to touch the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (Genesis 2:17), God spoke to the serpent that had deceived Eve, "And I will put enmity between you and the woman and between your offspring and her Offspring. He will bruise your head underfoot and you will lie in wait and bruise His heel" (Genesis 3:3 to15).

Many people believe death provides a rest for them, but this is a lie and deception. Death is not the final end. The day is coming when every non believer will stand in the majesty and presence of God, and every non believer will feel as if they want to shrink and ask for annihilation, but that will not happen. Jesus suffered in such agony because of the awfulness of what was coming. Never underestimate what Jesus went through. He would not have gone through all that if salvation was not serious. It is serious, real and true. The Great Judgement Day is coming when every person who has not received salvation through Jesus, will be judged, and the only way to escape it is to believe on the Lord Jesus. 'God so loved the world that He gave (to us) His only begotten Son, so that whoever believes on Him shall not perish but have eternal life. God did not send the Son to judge the world, but that the world might find salvation through Him. He who believes in Him is not judged and incurs no damnation, but he who does not believe, is judged already because he has not believed in Jesus. The judgement; the test by which men are judged and the grounds for sentence is this: the Light has come into the world and people have loved darkness more than the Light, and their works are evil. Every wrong doer hates the Light and shrinks from it, but he who practices truth comes out into the Light' (John 3:16 to 20).

Every person who has ever lived and died is going to be resurrected; some to eternal life and some to eternal death or damnation. Resurrection means to come back to life forever. The resurrected believers will go to heaven and non believers into the lake of fire. Resurrection makes eternal life so wonderful and doom so terrible. Both the Old and New Testaments mention resurrection. 'Everyone whose name is written in the Lamb's Book of Life, and many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth (have died) shall awake; some to everlasting life and some to everlasting damnation. The teachers and those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of heaven and those who turn many to righteousness shall shine like the stars forever' (Daniel 12:1 to 3). 'Just as the Father raises up the dead and gives them life, even so the Son also gives life to whomever He wills. Even the Father judges no one, for He has given all judgement entirely into the hands of the Son, so that all men may

give honour to the Son – just as they give honour to the Father. Whoever does not honour the Son, does not honour the Father Who has sent Him. Most solemnly I tell you; the person whose ears are open to My words and believes on Him Who sent Me, has eternal life. He does not come into judgement, but he has already passed over out of death into life. Believe Me (says Jesus) the time is coming when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear it shall live ... Do not be surprised and wonder at this, for the time is coming when all those who are in the tombs shall hear My voice. And they shall come out – those who have practiced doing good, will come out to the resurrection of new life, and those who have done evil will be raised for judgement and their sentence' (John 5:21 & 29).

There are two resurrections and both last forever; one to eternal life and the other for eternity in the lake of fire. The two resurrections occur at different times. The resurrection of believers occurs on the last day of this particular age (John 11:24), 1,000 years before non believers. The believers are all resurrected in the beginning of the millennium. The non believers are not resurrected until the end of the millennium. We need to understand the difference between being resurrected and being raised from the dead. Many people have been temporarily raised from death, but there will be two permanent resurrections. Lazarus was raised from the dead (John 11:1 to 45). 'The tombs were opened and many bodies of the saints who had died were raised. And coming out of the tombs after Jesus' resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many people' (Matthew 27:52 & 53). But all these people eventually died again.

Every person will be resurrected in his/her own turn so we will not be resurrected all at the same time. 'The fact is, Jesus the Messiah has been raised from the dead, and He became the Firstfruits of those who have died. For since it was through a man (Adam) that death came to the world, it is also through a Man (Jesus) that resurrection has come. For just as in Adam all people die, so also all who are in Jesus will be made alive. But each in His own rank and in his turn. Jesus is the Firstfruits; and then those who belong to Jesus will be resurrected. After that, comes the end when Jesus delivers over the Kingdom of God to the Father, after abolishing every other rule, authority and power. For Jesus must be King and reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. The last enemy to be abolished is death' (1 Corinthians 15:20 to 26). All people shall be made alive again – but that does not mean all will be saved. The first 'turn' to be resurrected was Jesus. The second 'turn' will be the believers and the third 'turn' will be 1,000 years later when the non believers are resurrected for judgement. Let's see the scriptures for this. We have already seen that Jesus was resurrected first. The second 'turn'; 'Those who have departed this life in Jesus will rise first' (1 Thessalonians 4:16 & 17). 'And they lived again and ruled with Jesus the Messiah for a thousand years'. 'Blessed and holy is the person who takes part in the first resurrection! Over them the second death has no power but they shall be ministers of God and of Jesus the Messiah and they shall rule along with Him for 1,000 years' (Revelation 20:4 & 6). The third 'turn'; 'The remainder of the dead were not resurrected to life again until the 1,000 years were completed' (Revelation 20:7).

Then comes the end. The last enemy to be destroyed is death (1 Corinthians 15:26), but death will not be destroyed until after the second resurrection, after the millennium or one thousand years of Jesus' rule on earth. When Jesus rose He conquered death. After the last person has been resurrected, death will have been conquered forever because death is unable to hold anyone. Death was introduced by Adam and has been conquered by Jesus, the last Adam (1 Corinthians 15:45). Non believers will be resurrected never to die again but will not be saved. They will end up in the lake of fire that burns and blazes with brimstone (Revelation 19:20). The devil, the beast and the false prophet will be hurled into the lake of fire and will be there forever. The sea will give up the dead; death and hell will give up the dead; then death and hell will also be thrown into the lake of fire, and most shockingly, tragically and terrifyingly, so will all those people, great and small, whose names are not written in the Lambs Book of Life (Revelation 20:10 to 15). If you are not a believer and have rejected Jesus and God while on earth, then They will reject you on Judgement Day. The second death is eternity in the lake of fire and has no effect on the believer.

The Great White Throne is real. Every human bone or skull that has been unearthed belongs to someone who will one day be resurrected. The Lord knows each one of the billions who have ever lived and died on the earth, and all will be raised. It doesn't matter when, where or how one died, the resurrection will catch up. Everyone needs His grace and salvation to escape the terrifying Great White Throne of Judgement. There will be religious people who believed their religion could save them, but who will be lost forever. 'Not everyone who says to Me, Lord, Lord will enter the Kingdom of heaven but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me on that day, Lord, Lord have we not prophesied in Your Name and driven out demons in Your Name and done many mighty works in Your Name? And then I will declare openly, "I never knew you; depart from Me, you who act wickedly"' (Matthew 7:21 to 23). Imagine what will go through their minds at this point. It will be utterly hopeless. Attending church can not save our soul. Only accepting Jesus can save us.

We often hear the phrase, 'That person will burn in hell forever'. Actually that is wrong, because as we have already read, hell will also be thrown into the lake of fire. Hell is a temporary waiting place for the non believer and rebellious angels as they await judgement. 'For God did not even spare angels that sinned but cast them into hell, delivering them to be kept there in pits of gloom till the judgement and their doom' (2 Peter 2:4). 'The angels who did not keep their own first place of power, but abandoned their proper dwelling place – these He has reserved in custody in eternal chains under the thick gloom of utter darkness until the judgement and doom of the great day' (Jude 1:6).

Some people say the Great White Throne – also known as Judgement Day – is a medieval nonsense or an invention of Paul, but the fact of the judgement and the lake of fire was not spoken about by Paul or John, but by Jesus Himself. Jesus reiterated this subject time and again. We must understand it is not just judgement; it is eternal judgement. 'The sons of the Kingdom will be driven into outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth' (Matthew 8:12). 'The Son of Man will send forth His angels and they will gather out of His Kingdom all causes of offence, and all who do wickedly, and will cast them into the furnace of fire; there will be weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth. So it will be at the close of the age. The angels will go forth and separate the wicked from the righteous, and cast the wicked into the furnace of fire where there will be weeping, wailing and gnashing of teeth'. (Matthew 13:41 & 42 then 49 & 50). 'Throw the evil servant into outer darkness where there will be weeping, wailing and gnashing of teeth' (Matthew 25:30). 'When the Master of the house gets up and closes the door, and you begin to stand outside and to repeatedly knock at the door saying, 'Lord open to us!' He will answer you, 'I do not know where you come from'. Then you will begin to say, 'We ate and drank in Your presence and You taught in our streets'. But He will say, 'I tell you, I do not know where you come from. Depart from Me all you wrongdoers. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth when you see Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and all the Prophets in the Kingdom of God but you yourselves being banished' (Luke 13:25 to 28).

Jesus spoke of judgement, and we can trust Him to speak the truth, for He is the One who knows the full horror of it. Jesus said more about judgement than anyone, and that shows how much of an issue it really is. The lake of fire was not made for people; it was made for the devil and his cohorts. 'Then He will say to those at His left hand (note: Jesus was speaking to non believers) "Begone from Me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels!"' (Matthew 25:41) As we have read in 2 Peter 2:4 and Jude 1:6, rebellious angels will be there too.

If a person chooses to reject Jesus, then eternal death is on one's own head – because the remedy is easy. We all belong to one of two kingdoms; the kingdom of darkness and the Kingdom of Light. The Great White Throne is reality. Jesus is the one and only deliverer of all men. 'With a view to this we toil and strive and suffer reproach, because we have fixed our hope on the Living God, Who is the Saviour of all men, especially of those who believe' (1 Timothy 4:10). 'He who believes in the Son has eternal life. But whoever disbelieves the Son, will never see eternal life, but the wrath of God abides on him' (John 3:36). 'Whoever truly desires, let him come, take and drink of the water of Life without cost' (Revelation 22:17). From these scriptures, we can see it is a matter of a person's will and choice. We can literally choose heaven or the lake of fire. We can submit to or refuse God's rule

and plan for mankind. A true and committed Christian will say, "Not my will but Yours, Oh Lord." We as Christians, must share the Gospel with everyone and by doing so, we are being obedient to Him.

The Bible is clear. Believe on the Lord Jesus our Messiah and we will be saved from the judgement that's coming. The Lord loves us and does not want us before the Judgement Seat. He does not want anyone in the lake of fire, which is why He provided such a wonderful salvation. We must be vigilant and witness, to help others escape the Great White Throne. In this age, people do not like talking about Jesus, hell, judgement or the lake of fire. The enemy deceives people into believing there is nothing to fear, so many are going into the mouth of the abyss. We must give them the message loud and clear. Scoffers doubt the truth of the Great White Throne and say 'People have been saying that for years but it hasn't happened yet, so where is it? (2 Peter 3:4). 'Believe on the Lord Jesus and you will be saved' (Acts 16:31). 'If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved' (Romans 10:9). We need to form a close, loving relationship with Jesus, and do His works or He will still say He never knew us (Matthew 7:23). You may ask, "What must I do to be saved from eternal judgement?" The answer is to ask the Lord into your life and commit yourself to Him to the fullest extent. Just simply believing in God is not enough for anyone to escape judgement. The demons that believe in God can never be saved from the lake of fire. 'You believe that God is one; you do well? So do the demons believe and shudder in terror. Are you willing to be shown proof, you foolish fellow?' (James 2:19 & 20). Going to church can't save us. Being a Catholic can't save us. Being a nun or a priest can't save us. Being a Jehovah's Witness, Moslem, a Hindu or a Buddhist can't save us. Not even being born Jewish can save us. Some people who go to church only at Easter and Christmas think they are doing enough to be saved. They are very wrong. Imagine if you were married and spoke to your spouse only on Good Friday and Christmas Day. What kind of a marriage would you have? It would be very empty and the consequence probably would result in divorce. You might ask, "If none of these religions can save us, then what can?"

To be saved, we must first of all believe Jesus is God's Son who came to earth in the flesh, born of an innocent young woman. Then as a Man, He was crucified, rose again and continues to live in heaven with God the Father. Jesus' birth, death and resurrection from the dead are facts one must accept and believe in by faith. The second step is to ask the Lord Jesus into our life and learn to live in a loving, obedient relationship with Him. The Bible says if we love Him we will obey Him. 'Love the Lord your God, obey His voice and cling to Him, for He is your life and the length of your days' (Deuteronomy 30:20). In obedience to His will, we must be baptised, then embark on doing good works. Jesus said we must be born-again, be baptised with water and be baptised in the Holy Spirit, and we should not be surprised that He has told us to do that (John 3:1 to 8). The relationship with the Lord must be for life, because if we drift away from Him, we will be as lost as if we had never been saved, and in fact we would be worse off. The teaching; 'once saved, always saved' is wrong. 'Yet now has Jesus the Messiah reconciled you to God in the body of His flesh – through death – in order to present you faultless in the Father's presence. And this He will do provided that you continue to stay in the faith (in Jesus), well grounded and not moving away from the hope of the Gospel which you heard' (Colossians 1:22 & 23).

However, if we do drift away then realise our sin and come back to Jesus, there is hope for us. 'For if God did not spare the Jews, neither will He spare you. Note the gracious kindness and the severity of God; severity towards those who have fallen away, but God's gracious kindness to you – provided you continue in His grace and abide in His kindness, otherwise you too will be cut off. Even those fallen ones, if they do not persist in their unbelief will be grafted in, for God has the power to graft them in again' (Romans 11:21 to 23). In other words, God has the power to bring us back to Himself in a loving relationship again.

After resurrection, we will not be in spirit form, but we will have new imperishable, immortal bodies. Our resurrected bodies will look just the same as we do now, but will be transformed. We will be recognisable as the people we are now, but without the obvious ravages of age, sin and sickness that

take a toll on our human bodies. In His resurrected body, Jesus made it clear that He was not just spirit, but a solid flesh and bones body. 'While the disciples talked about this (Jesus' resurrection) Jesus Himself took His stand among them ... but they were so startled because they thought they saw a spirit. Jesus said, "Why are you troubled ... see My hands and My feet, that this is I, Myself! Touch Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have" ... and they gave Him a piece of fish and He took it and ate it before them' (Luke 24:36 to 43). Jesus appeared to many people, spoke to them, then vanished (Luke 24:31). 'So it is with the resurrection of the dead. This body is sown in decay but the resurrected body is immortal. There is a physical natural body and a spiritual supernatural body ... Listen! I tell you a secret. We shall not all die but we shall all be transformed ... we will be raised imperishable, then the scriptures will be fulfilled. Death is swallowed up into victory (Isaiah 25:8). O death, where is your victory. O hades, where is your sting? (Hosea 13:14)' (1 Corinthians 15:42 to 54).

May all who read this be edified by its content and either accept the Lord as your personal saviour or if you already have, may you grow in grace and share the enormity, horror and truth of the lake of fire and strive to rescue others from it.

Amen and God bless you.

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