

The Great White Throne Of Judgement Day

'I saw a Great White Throne and He Who was seated on it, from Whose presence the earth and heavens fled. 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. We need to understand the reality of the Great White Throne. It is most definitely coming in the future. Even if people do not believe in it, they will stand before the Lord Who sits there. It will be the most terrible and dreadful day in the future of mankind. The fear and awesomeness that will be attached to that day, is something we can wish on no one. It is something 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; believers and non-believers alike, but for the believers, there will be no fear. After the judgements of the Great White Throne will come the results of it, which is the eternal burning lake of fire where the non-believers will go. 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 are willing, to accept the salvation of Jesus which in turn stops the fear of the Great White Throne. Jesus' sacrifice on the cross was so awful, because the doom that faces every unsaved 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, "I will put enmity between you and the woman and between your offspring and her Offspring. He will bruise your head and you will lie in wait and bruise His heel" (Genesis 3:3 to15).

Many people believe death provides 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 He gave (to us) His only begotten Son, so whoever believes on Him will not perish but have eternal life. God did not send the Son to judge the world, but so the world might find salvation through Him. He who believes in Him is not judged, but he who does not believe, is judged already because he has not believed in Jesus. The judgement 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 and his works done for God will be revealed' (John 3:16 to 21).

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. It is not reincarnation. The resurrected believers will go to the newly created new heaven and new earth (2 Peter 3:13), and non-believers into the lake of fire that was created for the devil and his fallen angels (Matthew 25:41). 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 those who sleep in the dust of the earth (have died) will awake; some to everlasting life and some to everlasting damnation. The teachers and those who are wise will shine like the brightness of heaven and those who turn many to righteousness will shine like the stars forever' (Daniel 12:1 to 3). 'As the Father raises up the dead and gives them life, so the Son also gives life to whomever He wills. The Father judges no one, for He has given all judgement into the hands of the Son so all may honour the Son as they honour the Father. Whoever does not honour the Son, does not honour the Father Who sent Him. Most solemnly I tell you, the person who hears My words and believes on Him Who sent Me, has eternal life. He does not come into judgement, but has already passed out of eternal death into eternal life. Believe Me (says Jesus) the time is coming when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear it will live ... Do not be surprised and wonder at this, for the time is coming when all those who are in the tombs will hear My voice. They will come out – those who have done 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 to 29). We should by any means possible, attain to be included in the first resurrection from the dead (Philippians 3:11).

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 12:17). 'The tombs were opened and many bodies of the saints who had died were raised. Coming out of the tombs after Jesus' resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many people' (Matthew 27:52 & 53). All these people eventually died again.

Every person will be resurrected in their own turn so we will not all be resurrected at the same time. 'Jesus the Messiah has been raised from the dead, and He became the Firstfruits of those who have died. Since it was through a man (Adam) death came to the world, it is also through a Man (Jesus) resurrection has come. In Adam all people die, so all who are in Jesus will be made alive. Each in their own turn. Jesus is the Firstfruits, 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. Jesus must 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 will be made alive again – but that does not mean all will be saved. We know Jesus was resurrected first. The second 'turn' will be for: 'Those who have departed this life in Jesus will rise first' (1 Thessalonians 4:16 & 17). '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 will be ministers of God and of Jesus the Messiah and they will rule along with Him for 1,000 years' (Revelation 20:4 & 6). The third 'turn' will be for: 'The remainder of the dead were not resurrected to life again until the 1,000 years were completed' (Revelation 20:5). These verses clearly inform us, there are to be two resurrections; one for the righteous and the second for the unrighteous, spaced 1,000 years apart in our time frame, but in God's timing they would be only one day apart because a thousand years is like one day to the Lord (2 Peter 3:8).

Then comes the end. The last enemy to be destroyed is death, but death will not be destroyed until after the second resurrection, after the millennium or one thousand years of Jesus' rule on this 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. 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 Lamb's Book of Life (Revelation 20:10 to 15). Every single person who has rejected Jesus while on earth, will be rejected by Jesus on Judgement Day. The second death is eternity in the lake of fire and has no effect on the genuine, faithful 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 does not 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 some will be lost forever. 'Not everyone who says to Me, "Lord, Lord" will enter the Kingdom of Heaven but those who do 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?" I will declare, "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. 'God did not 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 domain but abandoned their proper dwelling place (heaven), He has kept in eternal chains in utter darkness until the Judgement of the Great Day' (Jude 1:6).

Some people say the Great White Throne of Judgement Day is a medieval nonsense or an invention of religion, but the judgement and the lake of fire was spoken about by Jesus several times. We must understand it is not temporary judgement; it is eternal judgement for the sins of unbelief, disobedience and wickedness. The terror and hopelessness will be so immense, people will we weeping, wailing and grinding their teeth in despair. People will be crying out to Jesus, trying to justify themselves but when judgement is passed, it is forever and there is no escape (Matthew 8:12; 13:41 & 42; 13:49 & 50; 22:13; 24:51; 25:30;

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 so much about judgement, it shows how much of an issue it really is.

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; either the kingdom of darkness or the Kingdom of Light. The Great White Throne is reality. Jesus is the one and only deliverer of all men. 'We toil and suffer reproach, because we hope on the Living God, Who is the Saviour of all people, especially of those who believe' (1 Timothy 4:10). 'He who believes in the Son has eternal life. Whoever disbelieves the Son, will never see eternal life, but the wrath of God remains on them' (John 3:36). 'Whoever truly desires, let them 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 Lord, but Yours." 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 is 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 share the Gospel of the Kingdom, 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 has not happened yet, so where is it?' (2 Peter 3:4). 'If you confess with your lips Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart 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 believing in God is not enough for anyone to escape judgement. The demons believe in God and shudder in terror, but they can never be saved from the lake of fire (James 2:19). Going to church cannot save us. Being a Catholic cannot save us. Being a nun or a priest cannot save us. Being a Jehovah's Witness, Moslem, a Hindu or a Buddhist cannot 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. 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, died, was resurrected from the dead 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 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, filled with the Holy Spirit then embark on doing good works. Jesus said we have to be born-again, be baptised in 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 the rest of our lives, 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 reconciled you to God in the body of His flesh through death to present you holy and faultless to the Father, as long as you continue to stay in the faith (in Jesus), well grounded and not moving away from the hope of the Gospel 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. '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 11:23). 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 He was not a spirit, but a solid flesh and bones body, able to eat. 'While the disciples talked about this (Jesus' resurrection) Jesus Himself took His stand among them ... but they were startled because they thought they saw a spirit. Jesus said, "Why are you troubled? ... See My hands and My feet. This is Me! Touch Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have" ... They gave Him a piece of fish and honeycomb, and He 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 mystery. We will not all die but we will all be transformed ... we will be raised imperishable, then the scriptures will be fulfilled. Death is swallowed up

in victory. Death, where is your sting? Hades, where is your victory? The sting of death is sin' (1 Corinthians 15:42 to 56; Isaiah 25:8; Hosea 13:14). May all who read this share the enormity, horror and truth of the lake of fire and strive to snatch others from it (Jude 1:23).

The Great White Throne of the Judgement Day of non-believers is completely different than the judgement of believers. Non-believers have one terrible, terrifying judgement. Born-again believers are judged on earth then again when we receive our eternal rewards, but we are not judged for sin. Our judgement does not take place after resurrection, but while we are here on earth. 'They who believe in Jesus are not judged' (John 3:18). The final judgement for faithful, born-again believers, is for the Godly works done on earth that earn eternal rewards. One of the good works mentioned in the scriptures is faithfully adhering to God no matter what the circumstances, and even in the face of death. 'They overcame because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony. They did not love their lives even when facing death' (Revelation 12:11). Three of the rewards mentioned in the scriptures are the robe of righteousness (Isaiah 61:10), the crown of righteousness (2 Timothy 4:8) and our own mansion (John 14:2), but there will be many more rewards given to us according to how obedient we have been and what we have achieved while on earth. 'We must all be revealed before the Judgment Seat of Jesus so each one may receive the rewards according to what he has done, whether good or bad' (2 Corinthians 5:10). The good works we do are the works of the Holy Spirit done through us and worthless works are the things done in the flesh to fulfill our own desires. Those worthless deeds are the ones that will be burned and the only works for which we receive rewards are the works done by the Holy Spirit through us. Some people will enter heaven with no rewards at all. 'Each person's work will be revealed, whether they have built on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay or straw. Judgement Day will declare it because it is revealed in fire and the fire itself will test what sort of work each person's work is. If their work remains they will receive a reward. If their work is burned, they will suffer loss but they will be saved but as through fire' (1 Corinthians 3:12 to 15). There is no other Foundation on which we can build. Jesus is the only one. The gold, silver and precious stones are an analogy for strength and are eternal. The wood, hay and straw are an analogy for burnable or worthless works. The amount we allow the Holy Spirit to work through us is what really counts. The best works or 'gold' is leading people to the Lord. We cannot earn our salvation through works but the moment we are born-again, the Holy Spirit puts us into the Body of believers and we have a debt to serve God after we have committed our lives to Him. Judgement for sin does not come to the believer but we will be judged by the works we do after salvation.

Our salvation is two sided. There is the kindred relationship with God that begins when we are born-again, and there is the fellowship with God that needs constant attention by maintaining a strong prayer life. The two are fundamentally different. The moment we accept Jesus and are born-again, we became a child of God and part of the family of God. 'In Jesus you are children of God through faith' (Galatians 3:26). God is our Father and we are His children, and we can never get out of that relationship. That is the kindred relationship and nothing can break it. For example; our earthly father will always be our kindred father. We can change our name, appearance and location but our father will remain our father just as God will always be our heavenly Father. However, if we have a disagreement with our earthly father and do not speak for a time, the kindred relationship remains the same but the fellowship with him is broken. God will always be our Father but through sin or lack of prayer, the fellowship can be broken. When we come to the judgement of the works of the believer, it is about the fellowship of the believer, not the kindred relationship.

Our relationship with the Father is being judged right now in this life. With patience and grace, God waits for us to confess our sins. He never forgets sin until it is confessed, then it is forgiven then forgotten. Some New Testament people took communion unworthily and brought judgement on themselves. Some of these people were ill and some actually died as a result of their sin, so we can see unconfessed sin brings judgement on oneself. Note: sickness is not always a result of sin and neither is death. We must, however, come into fellowship with God, and ask the Holy Spirit to convict us of every sin we can think of. God will always discipline unconfessed sin, so we should get before the Lord and ask Him to show us our sin. It is very important. If we choose to hold onto sin, then we must accept God's discipline. 'Let each person examine themselves ... If we judge and examine ourselves we would not be judged, but when we sin and are judged by the Lord we are disciplined and chastened, so we are not condemned with the world' (1 Corinthians 11:23 to 32). Judging ourselves is not judgement of one another. We have no right to judge another believer. We need to examine ourselves. We must be harsher on ourselves than anyone else is as far as sin is concerned. Other people may not be aware of our sin but God knows about it. Nothing is hidden from Him. It is our responsibility to judge ourselves, so how do we do it? 'If we freely admit we have sinned and confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned we contradict His Word and His Word is not in us' (1 John 1:9 & 10).

God loathes sin and if we confess it then we are telling God we loathe sin too. Once we realise there is sin, we must repent of it, stop doing it and be cleansed. The consequences of not confessing or recognising sin

can be dire for us. Sin does not hurt God, He is bigger than that, but it hurts us and causes a rift or broken fellowship between us and our heavenly Father. Confessing, repenting and being cleansed reconciles us to God, and this can only be done through the blood sacrifice of Jesus. Confessing and forgiveness goes on and on throughout our lives, and the more sin we deal with through self examination, the less God has to purge painfully. We need to ask the Holy Spirit what the sin is in our lives and He will reveal it little by little, sin by sin. We should be eager to have sin cleansed. We should be in the constant state of facing up to sin and having God deal with it. This is judging oneself. We should have such deep fellowship with God, we cannot bear to have the sin shatter that closeness of fellowship. The Lord can do what we can never do for ourselves; that is to give us a sense of purity, cleanness and peace. We battle with sin every day because we have the sin nature that is always there. 'I delight in the law of God in my soul, but I discern in my body a different law at war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner to the law of sin that dwells in me. O unhappy and wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? O thank God He will, through Jesus our Lord! So then, with the heart I serve the Law of God but with the flesh serve the law of sin' (Romans 7:22 to 25).

God cannot walk with a believer if that person accepts sin as being normal. We must cleanse sin away in order to have a close relationship with God. 'My sacrifice to God is a broken spirit. A broken and contrite heart O Lord, You will not despise' (Psalm 51:17). Not a proud heart. Not a heart self-righteously vindicating itself, but a heart that accepts what God says is true and says, "I am sorry Lord. I do not want to be like that. Please by Your Spirit, enable me to walk uprightly so I do not walk in sin." People like this will never criticise sin in others because they are too conscious of their own sin. Occasionally in humility we must point out sin to another, but we must have the attitude, "There, but for the grace of God go I."

If we hold on to the attitude, what we are doing is not sin and refuse to admit, confess or bow the knee to God, there is a penalty. We will be judged with the unrighteous if we refuse to judge ourselves. People do not usually like to talk about God's discipline and like to 'over spiritualise' everything, instead of facing up to, and dealing with, the sin in their lives. God disciplines and the Bible states it very clearly. God does not want us hiding sin. We must face up to it and confess it. God already knows all about it, but He wants us to see it and own up to it; to take responsibility for our actions. Sin in our lives is a family matter because God is our Father. By the grace of God we are cleansed. 'I write to you these things so you may not sin, but if anyone should sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Who is Jesus The Righteous and He is the Atoning Sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours alone but also for the sins of the whole world' (1 John 2:1 & 2). By reading the above scriptures, we can see we will never stand before God in judgement for our sins after we die because we are being judged and cleansed while we live on earth so when we die, only our works are judged and our rewards for obedience are given to us. The judgement of the works we have done is the only judgement for the future. The moment we are born-again and become a believer and a child of God, we also become a servant. If our spiritual growth is correct we will start producing spiritual fruit. We are as believers, the ambassadors of Jesus (2 Corinthians 5:20). He has no other workers so every believer has a duty to serve the Lord every day. Jesus described the work we do and our behaviour as fruit (Matthew 13:22 & 23).

How do we produce good works for God? We need to be in right fellowship with God as it is written in the Bible and we need to be filled with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is a fire in us that makes us desire to serve the Lord. Through shyness, lack of confidence, unbelief or sin, we can quench the fire in us. We are told not to grieve, sadden or offend the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 4:30), and we are told not to quench, suppress or subdue the Holy Spirit (1 Thessalonians 5:19). Once we let go and allow the Holy Spirit to work, we will be able to produce much fruit for the Lord and the best thing about that is, we will receive the reward for the good works.

The two different results of the Great White Throne of Judgement Day could not possibly be more extreme. When non-believers stand before Jesus on Judgement Day, they will hear the words, "Depart from Me you cursed, into the eternal fire" (Matthew 25:41). When we stand before Jesus on the day our works are judged, He will be handing out our rewards with the words, "Enter into My rest you good and faithful servant. Enter into the joy of the Lord" (Matthew 25:21 & 23; Luke 19:17).

Amen and God bless you.

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