

THE GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGMENT -- 20: 11-15

OBSERVATION

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Monday 7:30pm, H 106 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by doughnut/vending machine area), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – Phil Twente, cell # 714 425 9221; email – ptwente@gmail.com For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: <http://www.missioncalvary.com/> Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column. References include commentaries by Pastor Chuck Smith, Vernon McGee, David Hocking, Warren Wiersbe and others.

THE DESCRIPTION OF THE ONE WHO JUDGES - v. 11

Rev 20:11 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.

THE DEAD WHO ARE JUDGED – vs. 12-13

Rev 20:12 And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God,

THE DETAILS OF HOW THE DEAD ARE TO BE JUDGED – vs. 12-13

and books were opened. And

another book was opened, which is the Book of Life.

And the dead were judged according to their works,

by the things which were written in the books.

“THE GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGMENT” – Rev. 20:11-15

v. 11 “a great white throne and Him who sat on it”, - THE DESCRIPTION OF THE ONE WHO JUDGES - Cf. John 5:22, 27 (Son of Man – He knows us!); 2 Cor. 5:10-11 (for believers – rewards) Cf. - 1 Cor. 3:11-15; Rom. 14:10-13

v. 11 “there was found no place for them” - cf. 21:1 (connected with v. 11?) & 2 Pet. 3:10-14 - cf. Matt. 24:35; Isaiah 65:17 Jesus Christ is King of King and Lord of Lords. John 1:3- The Creator of all things!

THE DEAD WHO ARE JUDGED – vs. 12-13

v. 12 “the dead, small and great, - Their POSITION in life is not a factor at the day of judgment - “small and great”

v. 12 “standing before God, - Their POSITION before the throne is a reminder of our ultimate accountability - “standing before God” – Notice who all are accountable to! We are going to answer to Him!!

THE DETAILS OF HOW THE DEAD ARE TO BE JUDGED – vs. 12-13

books were opened - It involves God’s DESCRIPTION of what they have done - “the books were opened” We can see here that God has been keeping records – “according to their works”

vs. 12 & 15 “the Book of Life. - It involves their eternal DESTINY - “Book of Life” cf. Ex. 32:30-33; Psa. 69:28; Luke 10:20; Rev. 3:5; 13:8; 17:8; 22:19

v. 12 “judged according to their works, - It involves their DEEDS - “according to their works” -

“the things which were written in the books” - cf. 1 Cor. 3:11-15; 2 Cor. 5:10 –

Jesus speaking of hell; a place of torment -- It is forever!

- Matthew 7:13-14; (narrow gate)
- Mark 9:42-48; (worm does not die -- the fire is not quenched)
- Luke 16:19-31; (Rich man and Lazarus)
- Rev. 20:11-15 (The White Throne Judgment)

- NOTE: English word “hell” is used 54 times in the Bible; the Hebrew word in the OT is *sheol* – the grave, pit or final resting place
- the phrase “the lake of fire” is used four times, only in Revelation, but the word “fire” referring to hell also appears in *Mark 9:44-48*, 3 times; the rich man of *Luke 16:24* was “*tormented in this flame.*”
- The words “*outer darkness*” are used 3 times, and “*weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth*” are used 7 times.
- The words “*bottomless pit*” are used 7 times and only in Revelation. The words “*everlasting punishment*” appear in *Matthew 25:46*.
- The word “*hades*” is used 11 times in the New Testament and translated by the word “*hell.*”
- The word “*Gehenna*” (final hell, the lake of fire) is used 12 times in the NT (11 in gospels and once in *James 3:6*) - it is an Aramaic form of the Hebrew *Gehinnom*, of the valley of Hinnom (*Joshua 15:8*) - a dump - *2 Kings 23:10* - and a place where children were burned to false gods - *Jeremiah 7:31*.
- The word “*tartaros*” (lower places) is used once in *2 Peter 2:4*.

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Rev 20:13 The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them.

And they were judged, each one according to his works.

THE FINAL, ETERNAL, DESTINY OF THOSE WHO ARE JUDGED – vs. 14-15

Rev 20:14 Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

Rev 20:15 And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

v. 13 “The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead - The PLACE from which they come reveals their identity - “the sea” and “death and hades” - the righteous are “with the Lord” - 2 Cor. 5:8 – “absent from the body and present with the Lord”: - Luke 16:22b-23 the rich man was “in hell (hades)” – There were two compartments! What did Christ do while in hell? - Eph. 4:8-13; 1 Pet. 3:18-22- cf. Luk3 23:39-43; 2 Cor. 12:2-7 (Paul, caught up in the third heaven) - “Paradise” – Did God visibly demonstrate the event of Eph. 4 in Mt. 27:52

v. 13 “they were judged, each one according to his works. - It involves DEGREES of punishment - Matt. 11:20-24 – “more tolerable”; Luke 12:46-48

THE FINAL, ETERNAL, DESTINY OF THOSE WHO ARE JUDGED – vs. 14-15

v. 14 “the lake of fire. This is the second death. - It is CALLED the “second death”. If you are a believer, you will never experience the second death. - Rev. 20:6 - The first death is a physical death – separate body from the soul or spirit. The second death is an eternal separation of the soul or spirit from God, forever!!!!

v. 15 “was cast into the lake of fire. - They are “CAST” into the lake of fire.

Cf. John 3:15, 16, 36; 5:24; 10:28 – There is only one issue!!!

DO YOU REALLY PERSONALLY BELIEVE IN THE LORD JESUS CHRIST?

Questions:

1. Who is the “Him” who sits on the throne in verse 11? Who will judge everything and everybody?
2. Does the Bible teach that both believers and unbelievers will be judged according to their works? (vs. 12 & 13) Does this also apply to the judgment as to eternal destiny? Do you know why you do what you do? Who does?
3. Does the Bible teach that there are degrees of reward/punishment in both heaven and hell? (Mt. 11:20-24; Lk. 12:46-48)
4. In v. 13, are the dead who are given up believers or unbelievers? How do you know?
5. How confident are you that there is a literal heaven, a literal hell? An Eternal Damnation? Outer darkness?
6. Does the Bible teach that “Paradise” has moved? (Luke 3 23:39-43; 2 Cor. 12:2-7) Where did the thief on the cross go, following his death?
7. What “books” are spoken of in today’s study?
8. What is the only issue that each of us will be accountable for, as it relates to eternal life?
9. Before which judgment seat will you stand? Are you sure?