

Revelation 20:11-15 – The Great White Throne Judgment

TSK, GreekLexicon, HebrewLexicon, Chilton, Hestengberg,

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: The Great White Throne Judgment is aptly 适当地 described as the “crack of doom.” It is beginning of the end of times and the absolutely ultimate judgment of God on the wicked. But there are some significant differences between what other religions (even what other Christians) teach and what the Bible teaches. So let God’s Word speak to you today so you can see what this judgment is like, the purpose of this judgment, and the result of this judgment.

Our headings are: The Setting of Judgment, the Judgment in Earnest, the Extent of Judgment, and the Conclusion of Judgment.

Our goals are: That seeing the fairness and severity of God’s justice, you will thank him for saving and protecting you, and you will work to ensure that no one has to face God’s fair and severe judgment.

The Setting

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.

1. The great white throne that John saw represents the purity and fairness of the judgment that comes to those in front of it. White speaks of purity - fairness.
2. The “greatness” of this throne represents the fact that it is a final judgment on all mankind.
3. But who sits on the Great White Throne in judgment? Jesus is the one sitting on it. He was pictured earlier as sitting on a white cloud (Revelation 14:14) and a white horse (Revelation 6:2) and now he sits on a white throne. The Lord Jesus is the overseer of his people.

1Peter 2:25 For you were like sheep going astray, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

So it not surprising that he sits in judgment over those who threatened his sheep – his people. He must destroy those who threaten his Bride. And in fact, Jesus himself said that one of his future works was sitting as judge over the nations.

Matthew 25: 31 "When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. 32 "All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. 33 " And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left.

Acts 10: 42 "And He commanded us to preach to the people, and to testify that it is He who was ordained by God to be Judge of the living and the dead.

Acts 17: 31 "because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead."

2Timothy 4: 1 I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom:
4. Why is Christ the judge, and not Peter or other disciples, as many stories and other religions teach? Christ was given the assignment of judging as a result of his work to restore man to God and mediate for him. Matt. 28:18; Phil. 2:9-10. (See also the Apostles’ Creed, Athanasian Creed, etc.).

John 5:26 "For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself, 27 "and has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man.
5. Based on this fact, if anyone denies that Christ will judge the world is a heretic 异教徒 – not a true Christian.
6. Now look back at our text: Notice how man without Christ cannot stand before God. He flees when he sees judgment. This is clearly an allusion to Psalm 114. Things that posed a threat to Israel from going into the Promise Land were destroyed: the Red Sea, the Jordan River, etc.

Psalm 114:1 When Israel went out of Egypt, The house of Jacob from a people of strange language, 2 Judah became His sanctuary, And Israel His dominion. 3 The sea saw it and fled; Jordan turned back. 4 The mountains skipped like rams, The little hills like lambs. 5 What ails 使疼痛 you, O sea, that you fled? O Jordan, that you turned back?

7. On the other hand, the Christian will not run from God's justice but will stand before the Lord without fear. He knows his judgment is about reward – not condemnation or punishment. He knows that he already died in Christ and now lives to inherit eternal blessings in heaven. Rejoice!

John 5: 24 "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.

The Judgment

12 And I saw the **dead, small and great**, standing before God, 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.

1. Christ's Great White Throne judgment is not haphazard随意的, but orderly. All the activities of the men from all eras of history are recorded. In the books Christ will open he will find a record of the life of every non-believer and his actions – his failure to do God's law and his transgression of God's law. **But there is a special book – the Book of Life** – in which the names of Christians are recorded. The names of Christians are recorded there because they received the work of Christ (his life and his death) and their lives show evidence of that faith in Christ – good works. So they won't run from Christ on judgment day.

2. Further, the wicked (the dead) who are being judged are from all different classes in society. No one gets priority because he is rich and famous, or if he were poor and destitute困穷的. There is no favoritism in either direction. Also, **men of all religions will have to face Jesus' judgment.** They may have freedom to have different beliefs, but they don't have a freedom of different judgment. All men from every culture, creed, and religion will have to answer to the one true God of heaven and earth. The Hindus next door and the Moslems with whom we have discussions will be judged by Jesus. And there **would be old and young**, for men die at all different ages. And look how wrong the SDA's and Jehovah's Witnesses are...there is no annihilation 完全毁灭.

3. Keep in mind that the wicked are condemned by their works...but their works are not always "evil" in the sense of direct intentional breaking of God's law. Some wicked men may have done what seemed good to them and to others (helping earthquake victims, or starving children), but because their works were not done from faith, that work became the basis of their condemnation.

Psalm 62:12 Also to You, O Lord, belongs mercy; For You render to each one according to his work.

Matthew 16: 27 "For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works.

2Corinthians 5: 10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

4. The righteous are not saved by good works but good works will be present in the life of him who is saved. Good works must be present and recorded!

James 2:17 Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. 18 But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.

It is this type of works that is recorded for the Christian – proof of his faith.

The Extent

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.

1. This judgment is not only for those who are alive, No, this judgment is even for those who died along time ago and were in the grave...and even for those who bodies were never disposed of properly because they may have died in a fire, or by drowning...etc. Again, this refutes SDA's and JW's.
2. The expression "the sea gave up the dead" would have taken the Jewish mind back to Pharaoh and his army drowning in the Red Sea. Though they died in judgment, they will be judged and condemned eternally for their sin.

Exodus 15: 4 Pharaoh's chariots and his army He has cast into the sea; His chosen captains also are drowned in the Red Sea. 5 The depths have covered them; They sank to the bottom like a stone.

The Conclusion:

14 Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. 15 And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

1. Ultimately, death and the grave will be destroyed – symbolically cast into the eternal lake of fire. So there will be no more dying in the world. We can say that death becomes impotent 无效的.
1Corinthians 15: 26 The last enemy that will be destroyed is death.
2. This is victory for the Christian. He will fully realize that there is no God but Jehovah God and Jehovah God has all power – even power to control death.
3. This "lake of fire" - which is hell, is called the 2nd death.
4. Further, the one whose name is not found in the Book of Life will promptly be cast into that lake of fire forever. Jesus had previously warned of this in his usual figurative way.
John 15: 6 "If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned.
But along with the fire is the tortured 折磨 conscience... guilty for rejecting the only hope they had. There is no life without Christ. This is why it is important that you daily draw from Christ's Spirit and from Christ's Word. (Read your Bible and pray everyday if you want to grow.)

Conclusion:

Your Lord Jesus Christ sits on the Great White Throne to judge fairly all men – regardless of how high they were or how small they were – and from whatever time they lived. He **will condemn those who are guilty** of breaking the smallest of God's laws and have not repented through Jesus Christ. This would be the ultimate accomplishment of protection for you and the sure proof that Christians will never be lost...nor suffer any more. They are safe for eternity.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: 1. Are you ready for the Great White Throne judgment? Is your life filled with enough good works as evidence of a real and living faith? I hope you are ready. 2. Seeing the severity and finality of God's judgment on the wicked, will you endeavor 努力 today to work to see the lost saved by the blood of Jesus Christ? I pray that you will. 3. Do you thank and praise the Lord for his salvation to you? Are you here today with that goal in mind? I hope you are.

Finally, if you are not a Christian, you are not ready to face the Great White Throne of Christ. May you become ready today! Ask God to make you his child on account of Christ. You will be able to plead his

righteousness as your righteousness and his death as your death on that great judgment day. If you don't, you will be one of those condemned in eternity in hell.