

THE JUDGMENT #2 THE GREAT WHITE THRONE

Heb 9:27 And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:

It is for certain that all mankind will be judged. The believer's works will be judged at the Judgment Seat of Christ. The final judgment will be that of the unbeliever at the Great White Throne Judgment.

Rev. 19 ¹¹ And I saw a great white throne and the one sitting on it. The earth and sky fled from his presence, but they found no place to hide. ¹² I saw the dead, both great and small, standing before God's throne. And the books were opened, including the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to what they had done, as recorded in the books. ¹³ The sea gave up its dead, and death and the grave gave up their dead. And all were judged according to their deeds. ¹⁴ Then death and the grave were thrown into the lake of fire. This lake of fire is the second death. ¹⁵ And anyone whose name was not found recorded in the Book of Life was thrown into the lake of fire. NLT

This vision of the Great White Throne judgment follows those of the Millennium (20:1–10), and the Second Coming (19:11–21), and immediately precedes that of the new heaven and the new earth (21:1).

I. A GREAT WHITE THRONE –v11

A. Nearly fifty times in Revelation there is the mention of a throne.

B. It is called great not only **because of its size** as greater than the thrones mentioned in 20:4, but also because of its significance, majesty, and authority.

C. That it is **white** symbolizes its purity, holiness, and justice.

“The Lord abides forever,” wrote David, “He has established His throne for judgment, and He will judge the world in righteousness; **He will execute judgment for the peoples with equity**” (Ps. 9:7–8).

D. **Daniel’s** description of this event
Daniel 7: 9 “As I looked, “thrones were set in place, and the Ancient of Days took his seat. His clothing was as white as snow; the hair of his head was white like wool. His throne was flaming with fire, and its wheels were all ablaze. 10 A river of fire was flowing, coming out from before him. Thousands upon thousands attended him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him. The court was seated, and the books were opened. NIV

E. **Jesus** described this scene as the “resurrection of judgment” (John 5:29).

F. **Paul** wrote, “Because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God” (Rom. 2:5).

II. THE ONE SEATED ON THE THRONE

A. Almighty God, described in the throne scene of 4:8–11

B. Sharing the throne with the Father is the Lord Jesus Christ. In Rev. 3:21 Jesus promised, “He who overcomes, I will grant to him to sit down with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.”

In John’s vision of the new heaven and the new earth, he saw “the throne of God and of the Lamb” (22:1, 3).

Though the Father and the Son share the throne, **it is the Son who is uniquely in view here, since Scripture teaches that He will judge sinners.**

Jesus said in John 5:22 “Not even the Father judges anyone, but He has given all judgment to the Son,”
26–27 “Just as the Father has life in Himself, even so He gave to the Son also to have life in Himself; and He gave Him authority to execute judgment, because He is the Son of Man.”

In Acts 10:42 **Peter declared** that Jesus “is the One who has been appointed by God as Judge of the living and the dead.”

The apostle **Paul warned** the pagan philosophers of Athens that God “has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead”
Acts 17:31.

Rom. 2:16... “the day when, according to my gospel, God will judge the secrets of men through Christ Jesus”

It is God in the Person of the glorified Lord Jesus Christ who will sit in final judgment on unbelievers.

III. THOSE SUMMONED TO APPEAR BEFORE THE THRONE

A. All the dead who were not in the first resurrection.
This is the “resurrection of judgment” (John 5:29).
The resurrection “to disgrace and everlasting contempt” (Dan. 12:2),
The “resurrection of ... the wicked” (Acts 24:15).

B. Small and great appear together

C. Where they come from- v13

¹³The sea gave up its dead, and death and the grave gave up their dead.

IV. THE BOOKS ARE OPENED

V 12... And the books were opened, including the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to what they had done, as recorded in the books..

A. The books contain the record of every **thought, word, and deed** of every unsaved person who ever lived.

Eccl. 12:14 “God will bring every act to judgment, everything which is hidden, whether it is good or evil”

Matt. 16:27 “The Son of Man is going to come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and will then repay every man according to his deeds”

Those without knowledge of God’s law will be judged on the basis of the knowledge they did have (Rom. 2:12).

Each person’s life will be individually evaluated, and each person’s punishment will be consistent with that evaluation.

Scripture teaches that there will be varying degrees of punishment in hell. When He sent the twelve out on a preaching tour Jesus told them, “Whoever does not receive you, nor heed your words, as you go out of that house or that city, shake the dust off your feet. Truly I say to you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment than for that city” (Matt. 10:14–15).

Rebuking several cities for their unbelief, Jesus declared: “Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles had occurred in Tyre and Sidon which occurred in you, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. Nevertheless I say to you, it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in the day of judgment than for you. And you, Capernaum, will not be exalted to heaven, will you? You will descend to Hades; for if the miracles had occurred in Sodom which occurred in you, it would have

remained to this day. Nevertheless I say to you that it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for you.” (Matt. 11:21–24)

The hypocritical scribes “who like to walk around in long robes, and like respectful greetings in the market places, and chief seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets, who devour widows’ houses, and for appearance’s sake offer long prayers; these will receive greater condemnation” (Mark 12:38–40).

B. The book of life v12

The book of life is the record of God’s elect, and all whose names are not recorded in it will be eternally damned.

Since their names were not in the **book of life**, the prisoners before the Great White Throne **were judged, every one of them according to their deeds.**

Some, in shock and horror, will protest, “Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?” (Matt. 7:22). But they will hear in reply the most chilling, terrifying words that any human will ever hear: “I never knew you; depart from me, you who practice lawlessness” (Matt. 7:23).

V. THE VERDICT

¹⁵ And anyone whose name was not found recorded in the Book of Life was thrown into the lake of fire.

A. Eternal Fire

Fire is used more than twenty times in the New Testament to depict the torment of hell.

B. Eternal separation from God

C. Eternal darkness (Matt. 8:12; 22:13; 25:30; 2 Pet. 2:17;

Jude 13

D. Eternal “weeping and gnashing of teeth” (Matt. 8:12;

13:42, 50; 22:13; 24:51; 25:30; Luke 13:28).

Vance Havner, “ We are not judged so much by how many sins we have committed but by how much light we have rejected”.

For those who refuse to repent, the somber warning expressed by the writer of Hebrews will apply:

For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a terrifying expectation of judgment and the fury of a fire which will consume the adversaries. Anyone who has set aside the Law of Moses dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. How much severer punishment do you think he will deserve who has trampled under foot the Son of God, and has regarded as unclean the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has insulted the Spirit of grace? For we know Him who said, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay.” And again, “The Lord will judge His people.” It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God. (Heb. 10:26–31)