

## INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Revelation 20:11-15**.
- B. In this great chapter of the Bible we see Jesus sitting on the Great White Throne. Satan and all his allies have been defeated and it is time for judgment.
- C. Jesus is Savior and Judge (Jn. 5:22; Ac. 17:31).  
(Jn 5:22) "For not even the Father judges anyone, but He has given all judgment to the Son,..."  
(Ac 17:31) "...because He 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."
- D. Without discussing all the events of the judgment day, let us view the great judgment scene spoken of here.

## I. THE DESTRUCTION OF THE WORLD (UNIVERSE).

- A. Scripture text: **Revelation 20:11**.  
And I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them.
- B. The earth, other planets, stars, etc., will all be destroyed. They have served their purpose.
- C. Peter speaks of this destruction being a burning of the elements (2Pet. 3:10).  
But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up.
- D. Jesus promised that heaven and earth will pass away (Mk. 13:31).  
"Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away."

## II. THE GATHERING OF ALL MANKIND.

- A. Scripture text: **Revelation 20:12,13**.  
And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds.
- B. John sees the dead, both great and small; from the sea and from Hades, all gathered together in front of the throne.
- C. Paul said of this scene (2Cor. 5:10).  
For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.
- D. The following scriptures also apply (Jn. 5:28; Mt. 25:31-48).  
"Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs shall hear His voice,"

## III. THE OPENING OF THE BOOKS.

- A. Scripture text: **Revelation 20:12-15**.  
And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds. And death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.
- B. From these descriptions we see at least 3 books opened (or 3 different kinds of books):
  - 1. The Bible--the book of God's will.
  - 2. The book(s) of deeds of all mankind.
  - 3. The book of Life--a roll call list of the saved,
- C. The Bible is the standard by which mankind will be judged (Jn. 12:48).  
"He who rejects Me, and does not receive My sayings, has one who judges him; the word I spoke is what will

judge him at the last day.”

- D. The book(s) of deeds is here spoken of as a book containing all the things done while in the body, both good and bad. Each day, what we do, we write a book about ourselves. Every unrepented of sin, every small gift of goodness will be recorded.
- E. The book of life, is another symbolic reference to a recording of the names of all who are faithful Xians (Lk. 10:20).  
“Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are recorded in heaven.”
- F. All three books work together in determining who inherits eternal life.

#### IV. THE SEPARATION AND FINAL DESTINY.

- A. Revelation 20:15 says that whosoever’s name was not written in the book of life was separated from God eternally by being thrown into the lake of fire.  
And if anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.
- B. The kinds of people who will be there are spoken of in 21:8.  
“But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”
- C. The destiny of the righteous, however is much different; see 21:3-5.  
And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He shall dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be among them, and He shall wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there shall no longer be any death; there shall no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away.” And He who sits on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” And He said, “Write, for these words are faithful and true.”

#### CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. This judgment scene is coming. It is more sure than tomorrow itself. Everyone needs to be prepared for this great day by having their name written in the book of life.
- B. Simple trusting faith and obedience is all it takes to have the right to eternal life.
- C. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring Xians.