

Pastor Jeremy M. Thomas
Fredericksburg Bible Church
107 East Austin
Fredericksburg, Texas 78624
830-997-8834 jthomas@fbgbible.org

A0637 – September 10, 2006 – Rev 20:12-15 – The Great White Throne - Part

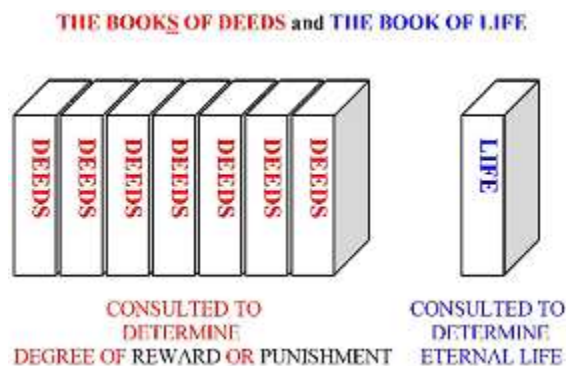
2

Fundamentals of the Book of Revelation

Revelation not Revelations (1:1)
Theme of Revelation (1:7)
Revelation is Prophecy (1:3)
Special Blessing (1:3)
Revelation Outline (1:19)
Church (2-3)
Pre-Trib Rapture (Rev 3-4)
Tribulation/Day of the Lord (4-19)
Great Tribulation/time of Jacob's Trouble
Millennial Kingdom (20:1-6)
Great White Throne
New Heavens and New Earth (21:1ff)

Review v. 11

Back to verse 12 **the set of books were opened**. These **books** contain a written record of all **deeds** and the unbelievers are now going to be judged **according to their deeds**.



Significantly, these unbelievers are not being judged according to their sins but **according to their deeds**. They may have many deeds in which to boast. Turn to Matt 7:21-23.

Matthew 7:21-23 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven *will enter*.²² "Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?'²³ "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.'

On what day? Clearly Jesus has in view a day of judgment. I take it that this is a day of judgment that precedes the millennial kingdom (7:21) but I want to show you that the principle is the same on the day of the Great White Throne Judgment. Obviously the people here are not saved but they think they have done what they need to do to enter the kingdom. They say "Lord, Lord", but that's not enough. This should demonstrate that the gospel of Lordship Salvation is incorrect. Lordship Salvation says that to be saved you must submit to the Lordship of Christ and yet, here these people appear to have done that but they are obviously not saved by it. They also prophesied in Jesus' name but that doesn't qualify them either. They cast out demons in Jesus' name but that's not what is required. They performed miracles in Jesus' name but that doesn't cut it. Even all these things together are not enough to merit entering the kingdom. And so, what we have here is the fact that many will claim, quite sincerely that they have done these things. "Look at my deeds, Lord, deeds done in your name" and yet, the Lord will say "I never knew you, depart from me you evildoers". What is required to enter the kingdom? Verse 21 says, "he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven *will enter*". To enter one must do the will of the Father. What is the will of the Father? John 6:40 says, "For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day." So, the will of the Father is to believe in the Son. Obviously they didn't do that. They say, we've said "Lord, Lord", "we've done miracles in Your name", and that answer is not going to cut it. They have not done the will of the Father in heaven. They have not believed in the Son. Therefore they do not have eternal life. Jesus said, in John 17 "This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent". So, for Him to say "I don't know you" is to say that you don't have eternal life. I don't know you through the medium of eternal life. So, good deeds, even done in Jesus' name, aren't going to get anyone into the kingdom of heaven. One must do the will of the Father which is to believe in the Son.

So, back in Rev 20:11-15 there is an examination of their deeds and not their sins and that is a very significant observation. We need to understand why an unbeliever's degree of punishment is not determined by his sins but by his deeds.

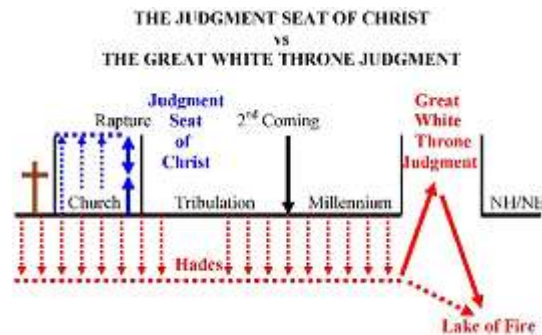
God created Adam and Eve perfect and in fellowship with Him. God promised that if Adam sinned by eating the fruit he would surely die (Gen 2:17). When Adam sinned he did not immediately die physically but he did die spiritually (Gen 3:7). His physical death occurred years later as a result of his personal sin (Gen 3:19; Gen 5:5). Adam's spiritual death meant that his human spirit was separated from God (Gen 3:9; 1 Cor 2:14). The only function his human spirit continued to serve was keeping his physical body alive (Js 2:26). Subsequently, all Adam's offspring were born in spiritual death, separated from God. All mankind are therefore born into the slave market of sin. Sin is our master and we are the faithful slaves of sin. So, mankind has a sin problem and we are under the penalty of sin which is eternal condemnation and we are in the slave market of sin. However, Christ solved the problem of sin on the cross by paying the redemption price.¹ He paid for our release from the slave market of sin. He did this once for all on the cross (Heb 9:12). This redemption is available for all of us but is effective only for those who have faith alone in Christ alone (Gal 3:13-14). Thus, sins are not the issue because Jesus Christ paid for them. Therefore, to determine degree of punishment sins are not consulted but rather **their deeds**. This examination of deeds will reveal the just verdict of God and their degree of punishment in the lake of fire.

Revelation 20:13 And the sea gave (3SAAI) the dead that in it and the death and the Hades gave the dead that in them, and they were judged (3PAPI) each according to their deeds.

Now, obviously verse 13 precedes the judgment. It describes the re-uniting of the unbeliever's bodies with their souls which have been in **Hades**. There was particular trouble among the Romans and Greeks with being buried at **sea** since the fish ate the bodies. It was very important for them that the body not be destroyed. But here we see that no matter where the body is it will be re-united with the unbeliever's soul for this judgment. Now, the only one who can cause this to take place is Jesus Christ. In Rev 1:18 Jesus said "I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades." He alone has authority over death and Hades.

Revelation 20:14 And the death and the Hades were thrown (3PAPI) into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire.

And **death and Hades**, over which Christ alone has authority (Rev 1:18) **were thrown**, obviously by Jesus Christ, **into the lake of fire**.



Death is ‘separation’. So, this indicates there will be no ‘separation’ in the new heavens and new earth. ‘Separation’ will be cast into the lake of fire so that only people thrown in the lake of fire will experience ‘separation’. This seems to mean unbelievers will experience ‘separation’ from one another forever, obviously a part of their everlasting punishment. The opposite of ‘separation’ is ‘access’ and it seems that those in the new heavens and new earth will have ‘access’ to God and to one another, “there will be no longer be any death” or anything accompanying death (Rev 21:4). This seems to be a partial answer to the question I was asked last week concerning whether people in hell will be able to know and be known by each other and have communication. It seems they will be cut off from one another, separated from one another in separate cells. This only heightens the mental anguish experience by all in the lake of fire. Second, **Hades** will be thrown **into the lake of fire**. **Hades** is the place where all unbelieving souls remained until this day. It will not be destroyed but **thrown into the lake of fire**. The **lake of fire** is then defined explicitly as **the second death**. Since death is separation and this is the **second death** then this implies a previous death. The first death is physical death, the separation of the spirit from the body. James said, “the body without the spirit is dead” (Js 2:26). The second death is the lake of fire which is the separation of the person from God forever; a terrible thought which is more fully described in...

Revelation 14:11a “And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever; they have no rest day and night,”

Revelation 20:15 And if anyone was not found (3SPA) written (PerfPassPart) in the book of life, he was thrown (3SAPI) into the lake of fire

This verse is significant because it indicates that the reason these individuals were thrown into the lake of fire is not because of their deeds but because their names were not found written in the book of life, that is, they never received eternal life because they never had faith alone in Christ alone (see diagram above). The Bible teaches three things regarding the **book of life**.

1. Everyone's name was originally written in the book of life (Ps 69:28).
2. A person can know his name is written in the book of life as long as he believes God's promise that he has eternal life (John 5:24; Phil 4:3).
3. A person's name is erased from the book of life at the point of physical death if they have not believed (implied from Rev 3:5).

None of the names of people at the Great White Throne Judgment have their name in the **book of life**. Therefore, on that basis, they will be **thrown into the lake of fire** for everlasting torment. The degree of torment being determined by their deeds.

ⁱ The solution for man's sin problem is redemption. The Greek word *lutrosis* means "to pay the purchase price". Another Greek word *agorazo* refers to "removal from the slave market of sin". The barrier of sin is removed and crushed by Jesus Christ who paid the price to release all humans from the slave market of sin.

[Back To The Top](#)

Click [Here](#) to return to other lessons.

[Return to Fredericksburg Bible Church Web Site](#)