

Morning Sermon 3/27/2022

“The Great White Throne Judgment!” Revelation 20:11-15

I. *God’s great white throne –*

¹¹ Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, ... Revelation 20:11 A (NKJV)

1. *The throne itself is symbolic of the majesty, royalty, sovereignty, and fearful power of God!*
2. *The whiteness of the throne indicates the perfect bright holiness, purity, righteousness, and justice of God! The bright and perfect justice of God is an all-seeing and all-knowing justice.*
 - A. *This is vastly superior to human justice which must be established by two or three witnesses. Righteous judgment for human beings requires multiple eyewitnesses, to actual outward acted out deeds –*
 - *In capital cases -*

⁶ Whoever is deserving of death shall be put to death on the testimony of two or three witnesses; he shall not be put to death on the testimony of one witness. Deuteronomy 17:6 (NKJV)

- *Or any, even smaller accusations -*

¹⁵ “One witness shall not rise against a man concerning any iniquity or any sin that he commits; by the mouth of two or three witnesses the matter shall be established. Deuteronomy 19:15 (NKJV)

- B. *Yet, no one ever gets away with anything before the eyes of God, as He sees and judges even our thoughts –*

⁵ Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and *that* every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. Genesis 6:5 (NKJV)

- C. *This why Jesus warns us about sins which, men cannot see, but God still judges and condemns –*

²⁷ “You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘*You shall not commit adultery.*’ ²⁸ But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart. Matthew 5:27–28 (NKJV)

II. *Before the throne and bright face of God all know their own fearful sinfulness -*

... from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. Revelation 20:11 B (NKJV)

1. *Men and Angels flee from God’s face ... in dread fear!*
2. *We all become cockroaches in this bright light, we flee, run to more comfortable darkness ...*
 - A. *Note fear of God’s face was communicated earlier in this Book, in an earlier reference to Christ’s second coming –*

¹⁴ Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place. ¹⁵ And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, ¹⁶ and said to the mountains and rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb!

¹⁷ For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?” Revelation 6:14–17 (NKJV)

B. *When Moses came down from the mountain, from God's presence, his face shone, with the mere reflection of God's glory and men feared –*

³⁰ **So when Aaron and all the children of Israel saw Moses, behold, the skin of his face shone, and they were afraid to come near him. Exodus 34:30 (NKJV)**

C. *Bright sunlight let into a dark room reveals dust and dirt maybe not otherwise seen ---*

D. *The site of dust-mites under a microscope is used to make some buy extremely expensive vacuum cleaners -*

E. *The light of God's Word is meant to direct our ways, yet it is also like a mirror to show us our sins -*

¹⁰⁵ **Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. Psalm 119:105 (NKJV)**

²² **But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.** ²³ **For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror;** ²⁴ **for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was.** ²⁵ **But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues *in it*, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does. James 1:22–25 (NKJV)**

3. *God's presence and our knowledge of it shows us our sins, not only that they are there, but they are destructive, horrid, fearful –*

A. *Peter felt God's presence when Jesus caused a miraculous catch of fish -*

⁸ **When Simon Peter saw *it*, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!" Luke 5:8 (NKJV)**

B. *We are to be lights, ourselves, and when we are that can be a fearful thing to sinners –*

¹⁴ **"You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all *who are* in the house. ¹⁶ Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:14–16 (NKJV)**

I have told you about little Marie, and young men who ran from her tears ...

4. *Fear of God, if it is not TOO LATE, is a wonderful thing –*

¹⁰ **The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; A good understanding have all those who do *His* commandments. His praise endures forever. Psalm 111:10 (NKJV)**

5. *Fear too late is only dreadful –*

A. *No fear of God ...*

5 Belshazzar the king made a great feast for a thousand of his lords, and drank wine in the presence of the thousand. ² While he tasted the wine, Belshazzar gave the command to bring the gold and silver vessels which his father Nebuchadnezzar had taken from the temple which *had been* in Jerusalem, that the king and his lords, his wives, and his concubines might drink from them. ³ Then they brought the gold vessels that had been taken from the temple of the house of God which *had been* in Jerusalem; and the king and his lords, his wives, and his concubines drank from them. ⁴ They drank wine, and praised the gods of gold and silver, bronze and iron, wood and stone. Daniel 5:1-4 (NKJV)

B. *Sudden inescapable fear of God -*

⁵ **In the same hour the fingers of a man's hand appeared and wrote opposite the lampstand on the plaster of the wall of the king's palace; and the king saw the part of the hand that wrote. ⁶ Then the king's countenance changed, and his thoughts troubled him, so that the joints of his hips were loosened and his knees knocked against each other. Daniel 5:5–6 (NKJV)**

Seeing God's blinding bright face shining from a glorious, bright white judgment throne, is not where you want to first find the fear of God, at that point it is too late and ---

C. *There is no place to flee -*

... from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was **found no place for them**. Revelation 20:11 B (NKJV) ¹² And I saw the dead, small and great, **standing before God**, ... Revelation 20:12 A (NKJV)

No place to run, no place to hide, God's fearful bright light will shine world (universe) wide!

6. *Hearing and fearing, NOW, is better than seeing (God as Judge at the end) and fearing –*

Hearing the WISDOM of God's Word and Law(s) NOW is the best, but people too often ignore God's Word ... -

²⁰ **Wisdom calls aloud outside; She raises her voice in the open squares. ²¹ She cries out in the chief concourses, At the openings of the gates in the city She speaks her words: ²² "How long, you simple ones, will you love simplicity? For scorners delight in their scorning, And fools hate knowledge. ²³ Turn at my rebuke; Surely I will pour out my spirit on you; I will make my words known to you. ²⁴ Because I have called and you refused, I have stretched out my hand and no one regarded, ²⁵ Because you disdained all my counsel, And would have none of my rebuke, ²⁶ I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your terror comes, ²⁷ When your terror comes like a storm, And your destruction comes like a whirlwind, When distress and anguish come upon you. ²⁸ "Then they will call on me, but I will not answer; They will seek me diligently, but they will not find me. ²⁹ Because they hated knowledge And did not choose the fear of the LORD, ³⁰ They would have none of my Counsel And despised my every rebuke. ³¹ Therefore they shall eat the fruit of their own way, And be filled to the full with their own fancies. ³² For the turning away of the simple will slay them, And the complacency of fools will destroy them; ³³ But whoever listens to me will dwell safely, And will be secure, without fear of evil."** Proverbs 1:20–33 (NKJV)

III. *Books and the Book of Life –*

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. 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. 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. Revelation 20:12–15 (NKJV)

1. *Books -*

"Book 'em, Danno"

This line is spoken by Steve McGarrett, played by Jack Lord, in the TV show Hawaii Five-O (1968-1980). Hawaii seems like such a peaceful place, but it has enough crime to sustain 12 years of the classic TV show Hawaii Five-O. Each episode of Hawaii Five-O began with the groovy theme song followed by about 50 minutes of Detective Lieutenant Steve McGarrett chasing criminals. Once he caught them, he'd give a rundown of their crimes and say to officer Danny Williams (played by James MacArthur), "Book 'em, Danno!"

And booked they would be.

The "**books**" plural, mentioned in Revelation 20:12-15, are **books** recording the works of men, by which they would be judged - **And they were judged, each one according to his works**. Since we are all sinners – ²³ **for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, Romans 3:23 (NKJV)**

None of us should want to be judged by our works –

⁹ Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, ²¹ envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. Galatians 5:19–21 (NKJV)

Even our best works righteousnesses as expressed in Isaiah 64:6 fall far short -

⁶ But we are all like an unclean *thing*, and all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags; We all fade as a leaf, And our iniquities, like the wind, Have taken us away. Isaiah 64:6 (NKJV)

2. *So, the great question is - ¹⁷ For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?*

³ If You, LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? Psalm 130:3 (NKJV)

Books, recording sins, each of our “works” show God does “mark iniquities” so who does stand?

3. *Note the Other Book, the Book of Life -*

... And another book was opened, which is *the Book of Life*. Revelation 20:12 B (NKJV)

¹⁵ And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire. Revelation 20:15 (NKJV)

4. *This Book of Life is elsewhere called the Lamb’s Book of Life -*

⁸ All who dwell on the earth will worship him (*the Beast*), whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. Revelation 13:8 (NKJV)

²⁷ But there shall by no means enter it (*The New Jerusalem*) anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life. Revelation 21:27 (NKJV)

A. *These are the People who have been washed clean of sin by Jesus Christ, by His cleansing blood –*

⁴ John, to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne, ⁵ and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth.

To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, ⁶ and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. Revelation 1:4–6 (NKJV)

B. *They overcome by His blood - ¹¹ And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death. Revelation 12:11 (NKJV)*

C. *They / we are forgiven, cleansed -*

⁸ If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:8–9 (NKJV)

¹¹ For as the heavens are high above the earth, So great is His mercy toward those who fear Him; ¹² As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us. Psalm 103:11–12 (NKJV)

This is why we celebrate the Lord’s Supper; His Body was broken; His blood was shed! He saved us from the fearful judgment we deserved!

If God were to ask me, “Why should I let you into my Heaven?” Only one answer, Your Son died for me!