

God's Plan for the Future

Study Sheet

(Content herein based on the work of David Jeremiah, *The Book of Signs*; and from personal study notes)

The Great White Throne Judgment

Revelation 20:11-15

Introduction: The two-word phrase *too late* is one of the saddest phrases in the English language. It speaks of tragic finality. It speaks of irrevocable decision. It speaks of opportunity forever missed.

The Great White Throne Judgment is the ultimate tragedy that will befall all those who wait *too late* to turn to God and His Son, Jesus Christ.

Revelation 20:15. *If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.*

Hebrews 9:27 – *As it is appointed to men once to die, but after this the judgment* [NKJV].

Our eternal destiny will not be sealed by the Lord looking at evidence after our death. Rather, our destiny will be sealed forever at the moment of our death or when we go to be with Jesus at the Rapture.

Actually, there are two separate judgments in Scripture; occurring at different times, in different courts.

The first judgment is called the

_____ of _____.

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

Everyone who stands before this *first* court will be believers.

It is not for the purpose of determining guilt nor is it for condemning.

Romans 8:1 – *There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.*

The purpose for this judgment is to determine levels of rewarding.

2 John 1:8 – *Watch yourselves, so that you may not lose what we have worked for, but may win a full reward.*

The second judgment is the

_____.

Those who stand before the *second* court will be unbelievers and pseudo-believers.

They will be judged at the Great White Throne Judgment.

There'll be no grading on the curve and the judgment given will be forever unalterable.

All participants will be judged based upon the unbending standard of God's truth.

Two distinct resurrections will occur *before* the two judgments.

John 5:28-29 – *Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice (29) and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.*

First = "the resurrection of _____"

This resurrection will come in two separate stages:

Stage 1: At the beginning of the Tribulation (Rapture)

The dead in Christ are resurrected to meet Christ along with the rapture of those still living.

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 – *For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. (17) Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.*

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Stage 2: At the beginning of the Millennium (end of Tribulation)

Seven years later, the saints martyred during the Tribulation are resurrected to enter the Millennium.

Old Testament saints will also be raised in this second stage.

Daniel 12:1-2 – ...*There shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book. (2) And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.*

Isaiah 26:19 – *Your dead shall live; their bodies shall rise. You who dwell in the dust, awake and sing for joy! For your dew is a dew of light, and the earth will give birth to the dead.*

By the time of the Millennium, every *believer* who has ever lived (Old and New Testaments and beyond) will have been resurrected from the dead!

Second = "the resurrection of _____"

In this resurrection, all the dead-unbelievers will be resurrected to face eternal damnation

Revelation 20:4-5, 12-15 – *Then I saw thrones, and the people sitting on them had been given the authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their testimony about Jesus and for proclaiming the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or his statue, nor accepted his mark on their foreheads or their hands. They all came to life again, and they reigned with Christ for a thousand years. (5) This is the first resurrection. (The rest of the dead did not come back to life until the thousand years had ended.) ... (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

In this second resurrection (a thousand years after the Tribulation) all the unsaved dead from Creation to the Millennium will be resurrected to face final condemnation (hell).

By this second resurrection, everyone who has ever lived will have then been resurrected—some to eternal glory, others to eternal damnation (**Daniel 12:2; John 5:29**).

The _____ of the Great White Throne (Revelation 20:11)

Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them.

It is unknown where this judgment will occur. We know, however, where it will *not* occur.

John Walvoord, a trusted theologian, speculates that it could occur in what we might call another dimension: "It will not happen in our present universe, either on earth or in the atmosphere, stellar (outer space) or divine heavens. No planet in our solar system will qualify. It could take place some-where beyond our universe that has not been affected by angelic sin..."

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The _____ on the Great White Throne (Revelation 20:11-12)

Then I saw a great white throne and Him who was seated on it... (12) And I saw the dead...standing before the throne.

_____ makes it clear that He will be the Judge on the great white throne.

John 5:22, 27 – *The Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son ... (27) And He has given Him authority to execute judgment, because He is the Son of Man.*

_____ acknowledges Christ's role in the coming judgment.

Romans 2:16 – *On that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus.*

_____ also has something to say about this topic.

Acts 10:42 – *And He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that He is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead.*

The _____ before the Great White Throne (Revelation 20:12-13)

And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne... (13) And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them...

"Great and small" = includes all classes and ranks of people—even the religious ones.

One author (Erwin Lutzer) wrote: "This multitude is diverse in its religions. We see Buddhists, Muslims, Hindus, Protestants and Catholics. We see those who believed in one God and those who believed in many gods. We see those who refused to believe in any God at all. We see those who believed in meditation as a means of salvation and those who believed that doing good deeds was the path to eternal life. We see the moral and the immoral, the priest as well as the minister, the nun as well as the missionary."

Some will be shocked to hear their judgment.

Matthew 7:22-23 – *On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' (23) And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'*

Believing in your own personal "truth" does not make it true. There is only one truth that saves.

John 14:6 – *Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life.*

No one comes to the Father except through me.

The _____ of the Great White Throne (Revelation 20:12)

And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done.

Books = past deeds exposed. One "book" is identified. The others are not mentioned specifically. But Scripture indicates their identity and purpose in this final judgment.

The Book of _____

Salvation is never earned by obeying the laws of God or man.

If the law is the standard, then obedience must be perfect to attain salvation.

Romans 3:20, 23 – *For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin. ... (23) for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*

Romans 8:1 – *There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.*

The Book of _____

Revelation 20:13 – *The sea gave up its dead, and death and the grave gave up their dead. And all were judged according to their deeds.*

Matthew 16:27 – *For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done.*

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The Book of _____

Abe Lincoln famously said, "You can fool all the people some of the time, and some of the people all the time, but you cannot fool all the people all the time." We can never fool God.

Luke 8:17 – *For nothing is hidden that will not be made manifest, nor is anything secret that will not be known and come to light.*

Romans 2:16 – *On that day when...God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus.*

Ecclesiastes 12:14 – *For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil.*

The Book of _____

Matthew 12:36-37 – *I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak, (37) for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."*

The Book of _____

Exodus 32:32-33 – *The LORD said to Moses, "Whoever has sinned against me, I will blot out of my book.*

Psalms 69:28 – *Let them be blotted out of the book of the living; let them not be enrolled among the righteous.*

Daniel 12:1 – *...There shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book.*

Philippians 4:3 – *Yes, I ask you also, true companion, help these women, who have labored side by side with me in the gospel together with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life.*

Revelation 3:5 – *The one who conquers will be clothed thus in white garments, and I will never blot his name out of the book of life. I will confess his name before my Father and before his angels.*

Revelation 13:8 – *...All who dwell on earth will worship it, everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain.*

Revelation 17:8 – *The beast that you saw was, and is not, and is about to rise from the bottomless pit and go to destruction. And the dwellers on earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world will marvel to see the beast, because it was and is not and is to come.*

Revelation 21:27 – *But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.*

The _____ following the Great White Throne (Revelation 20:14-15)

Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. (15) And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

Death always involves separation. The final phase of judgment is called "*the second death.*"

"The first death is what occurs when the physical body ceases to function. The soul has separated from the body. The body is buried or cremated. The soul is taken to a holding place called Hades to await judgment. At the last resurrection, the bodies of the unsaved will rise from the grave and their souls will emerge from Hades to be judged. After judgment, they will be cast into the lake of fire—hurled into hell—where they will be eternally separated from God. This is the second death." –*David Jeremiah*

Scripture consistently teaches there exists a real place called hell.

Matthew 25:41, 46 – *"Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. ... (46) And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.'*

2 Thessalonians 1:9 – *They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might.*

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The Bible describes hell in horrible terms. It is...

a place of torment and flames (Lk 16:20-28).

a place of wailing and gnashing of teeth (Matthew 13:42).

a place where the "*worm does not die and the fire is not quenched*" (Mark 9:48).

a place of fire and sulfur (brimstone) (Revelation 14:10-11; 21:8)

Who is going to be in hell?

Revelation 19:20 – *And the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who in its presence had done the signs by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped its image. These two were thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur.*

Revelation 20:10 – *The devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.*

Revelation 20:15 – *And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.*

Revelation 21:8 – *“But cowards, unbelievers, the corrupt, murderers, the immoral, those who practice witchcraft, idol worshipers, and all liars—their fate is in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.” [NLT]*

John 3:18 – *Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.*

John 5:24 – *Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.*