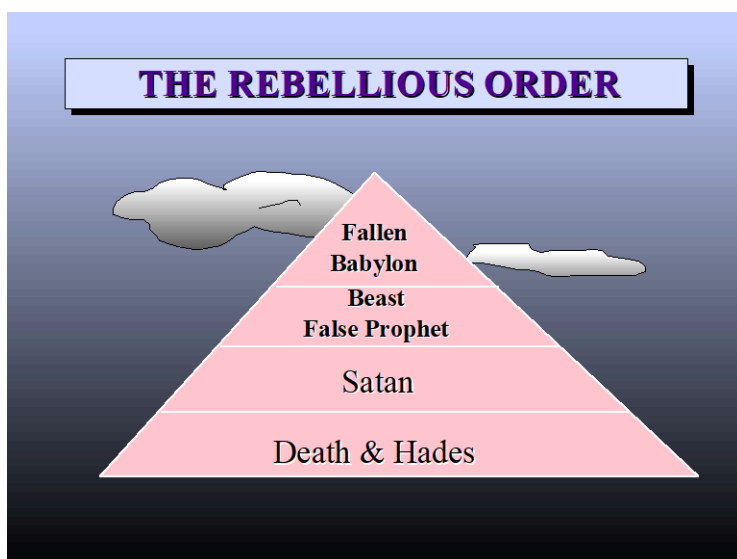


Revelation 20.11-15

Great White Throne

Chs 18,19,20 > Three PICTURES of FINAL BATTLE > God-Exalting Emphasis  
 ch 18 END of Babylon / ch 19 of Antichrist & False Prophet / ch 20 of Satan

Systematic Destruction of Enemies > END OF THE END > End of DEATH



FINAL TRIUMPH of God's JUSTICE and GRACE > Judgment and Reward

Announced with Thanksgiving by 24 Elders after 7<sup>th</sup> TRUMPET Sounded  
 The time has come for *judging the dead*, and for *rewarding your servants*  
 Revelation 11.18

1. The Ruler      2. Those Ruled      3. The Ruling

1. The Ruler

a. Sovereign > Absolute, Uncontestable Authority

v. 11 *a great white throne* and him who was *seated on it*

Throne > CENTRAL Role in Revelation > 32 X's > Center of Action of God

a throne in heaven with someone sitting on it

Revelation 4.2

ECHOES the APOCALYPTIC VISION OF EZEKIEL IN BABYLON  
*a throne of sapphire, and high above on the throne was a figure like that of a man...* This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD.

Ezekiel 1.26-28

GREAT WHITE THRONE > Great BECAUSE IT IS God's Throne

One Seated on THRONE > So RADIANT and CONSUMING  
 "earth and sky VANISH" LIKE DEW IN THE SUN

Finally there is no power but that of God. All else is completely impotent.

Leon Morris

b. Separate > God is FAR ABOVE, UNLIKE Creation – He is HOLY

v. 11 *a great white throne* and him who was seated on it

GREAT WHITE THRONE > White: Eternal Purity, WISDOM (White Hair)

"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.* 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.*

Daniel 7.9,10

ONE White Throne > SET APART from ALL HEAVENLY CREATURES

CANNOT BE BRIBED > SEES ALL AND KNOWS ALL

He will judge the world in righteousness, and the peoples in his truth Psalm 96.13

Abraham: 'Will not the Judge of all the earth do right?'

Genesis 18.25

c. Son? > Who EXACTLY is SEATED on this Throne?

v. 11 *him* who was seated on it > NOT SPECIFIED whether GOD or CHRIST

For we must all appear before the *judgment seat of Christ*

2 Corinthians 5.10

For we will all stand before *God's judgment seat*

Romans 14.10

the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son, John 5:22

When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.  
Matthew 25.31,32

The same One Who was Himself brought to the judgment hall and placed on trial...The same One Who was falsely accused, cursed, mocked, blasphemed, slapped, spat upon, and scourged...now He sits on the great white throne as the Judge of all the universe.  
Anne Graham Lotz

WHOEVER is SEATED > BOTH Father and Son EXECUTE JUDGMENT

d. Scary

v. 11 Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them.

The account in these few verses, in spite of their brevity, is one of the most impressive descriptions of the Last Judgment ever written. Bruce M. Metzger

SUMMARIZES What was EXPLAINED IN Greater DETAIL Already >  
... the sixth seal. There was a great earthquake. The sun turned black like sackcloth made of goat hair, the whole moon turned blood red, and the stars in the sky fell to earth, as late figs drop from a fig tree when shaken by a strong wind. The sky receded like a scroll, rolling up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place.  
Revelation 6.12-14

Every island fled away and the mountains could not be found. Revelation 16.20

Grim Simplicity of Narrative > Contrast with Lurid Descriptions in other Literature

The Koran counts 6,151 verses containing 783 threats of hellfire, wrath, eternal judgment and perdition...That is one threat of hell in every 7.9 verses!... Among the New Testament's 7,992 verses, 'hell,' 'perdition,' and 'fire' occur 74 times. That is once for every 120 verses. Don Richardson

**MOST OF THEM HAVE BEEN IN MY SERMONS ON REVELATION!**

FRIGHTENING REALITY > No Need to Threaten > WITNESS WITHIN  
 Put So-Called ATHEISTS on BUS on MTN. ROAD > NO Brakes!  
 More than Half Bus will SCREAM > “JESUS! HELP ME!!”

WE KNOW WE WILL FACE THIS GOD > And that Knowledge Terrifies!

GOD TAKES NO PLEASURE IN THE DEATH OF THE WICKED

Why will you die, O house of Israel? For *I take no pleasure in the death of anyone*, declares the Sovereign LORD. Repent and live! Ezekiel 18.31,32

He is patient with you, *not wanting anyone to perish*, but everyone to come to repentance. 2 Peter 3.9

## 2. Those Ruled

SOME SURPRISED to BE RULED > Always THOUGHT Were in Charge of All  
 Luke 16 > IMPORTANT Rich Man > LUXURY & AUTHORITY > Commands  
 EVEN IN HADES > Tries to Command Poor Lazarus > in Bosom of Abraham  
 BIBLE’S VIEWPOINT > Big RICH MAN > NO NAME > Not in God’s Book

a. Death and Hades v. 13 death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them

DEATH is NO BARRIER to God > His Presence is INESCAPABLE

*Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.*  
 Psalm 139.7,8

SEA > Place of Confusion and Hostility in Scripture > RULED BY GOD

HADES > Place where DEAD UNBELIVERS Go to AWAIT JUDGMENT

I looked, and there before me was a pale horse! Its rider was named Death, and *Hades was following close behind him.* Revelation 6.8

HADES follows CLOSE BEHIND > State of DISEMBODIED EXISTENCE  
 When LIFE CEASES and Soul and Body SEPARATE

JESUS Passed THROUGH > Hades > Visited TRANSIT LOUNGE BRIEFLY

‘you will not abandon me to the grave, nor will you let your Holy One see decay’  
 ... he spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to the  
 grave, nor did his body see decay Acts 2.27,31

I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever! And I  
*hold the keys of death and Hades.* Revelation 1.18

2 GREAT ENEMIES of Humanity > Death and HADES > Forever DESTROYED

b. Believers and Unbelievers v. 12 And I saw the dead

The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.  
 Revelation 20.5

Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to *everlasting life*,  
 others to shame and *everlasting contempt.* Daniel 12.2

a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and come  
 out—*those who have done good* will rise to live, and *those who have done evil* will  
 rise to be condemned John 5.28-29

there will be a resurrection of *both the righteous and the wicked* Acts 24.15

DEAD BELIEVERS > With the Lord in Spirit > BODIES in Realm of Death  
 2<sup>nd</sup> and FINAL Resurrection > Renewed Spirit united with GLORIFIED BODY

Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—in a  
 flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the  
 dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For the perishable must  
 clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. When the  
 perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with  
 immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been  
 swallowed up in victory." "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is  
 your sting?" ...thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus  
 Christ. 1 Corinthians 15.50-57

c. Great and Small > No Class or Caste, No Hierarchical Distinction

v. 12 the dead, great and small > NO PROXIES Allowed to Stand In

‘Great and Small’ ALL THE DEAD > Without RESPECT of PERSONS  
IMPORTANT and UNIMPORTANT > No ABSENTEES & No EXEMPTIONS

CANNOT SEND > Spouse, Secretary, Servant > ALL MUST BE PRESENT  
No Absentees, No Exemptions, No Self-Justification > Every Mouth is Stopped

The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who *suppress the truth* by their wickedness, since what may be known about God is *plain to them*, because God has made it plain to them. <sup>20</sup>For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been *clearly seen*, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse. For although they *knew God*, they neither glorified him as God *nor gave thanks to him*, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Romans 1.18-21

ALL KNOW GOD > NO ATHEISTS > Only LIARS who Deny Obvious Truth

SUPPRESS the Truth > PUSH IT DOWN > Ignore It ---- OR TRY TO  
Like Air Filled Toy in Swimming Pool > Try to Hold Under Water > POPS UP!  
Deny our own MORTALITY, DEPENDENCE ON GOD, HIS EXISTENCE  
WILL NOT BE DENIED > TRUTH and POWER > Keep POPPING UP!

EXCHANGE God's TRUTH for a LIE > God = PIECE OF MOLDABLE CLAY  
MAKE Him INTO OUR IMAGE > Instead of Realizing we are MADE IN HIS

GOD IS SO SMALL, INSIGNIFICANT, NON-EXISTENT > Why give Thanks?!

Bart Simpson's Table Prayer:

“We had to work real hard for this stuff, God, so thanks for NOTHING!”

\$100 Gift

### 3. The Ruling

a. Behavior > About our WORDS, THOUGHTS, and ACTIONS

v. 12 The dead were judged according to what they had done

v. 13 each person was judged according to what he had done.

1. Significance > What we DO MATTERS > We are SIGNIFICANT  
you call on a Father who judges each man's work impartially 1 Peter 1.17

God made us to BE SIGNIFICANT > IN HIS OWN IMAGE  
 HUMAN LIFE > Is not a DISPOSABLE COMMODITY > Gift from GOD

No one is so important as to be immune from judgment, and no one is so unimportant as to make judgment inappropriate. Robert H. Mounce

HUMAN BEHAVIOR > Not Result of Environment or Conditioning  
 PERSONAL MORAL CHOICES > People DECIDE How to Behave and Live

"I tell you, my friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body and after that can do no more. <sup>5</sup>But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear him who, after the killing of the body, has power to throw you into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him.  
 Luke 12.4-5

BOOK > Life is IMPORTANT, MEANINGFUL, ACCOUNTABLE to God

Hell is a witness to the righteous character of God. He must judge sin. Hell is also a witness to man's responsibility, the fact that he is not a robot or a helpless victim, but a creature able to make choices. God does not 'send people to hell'; they send themselves there by rejecting the Savior. Warren W. Wiersbe

2. Secrets > If God is Sovereign > Then NOTHING is HIDDEN from Him

You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your presence.  
 Psalm 90.8

"Can anyone hide in secret places so that I cannot see him?" declares the LORD.  
 Jeremiah 23.24

Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account. Hebrews 4.13

I tell you that men will have to *give account* on the day of judgment for *every careless word they have spoken*. For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned."  
 Matthew 12.36,37

## b. Books

The record books are metaphorical for God's unfailing memory, which at the end provides the account of the misdeeds of the wicked to be presented before them.  
 G.K. Beale

A scroll of remembrance was written in his presence concerning those who feared the LORD and honored his name. Malachi 3.16

There is a judge for the one who rejects me and does not accept my words; that very word which I spoke will condemn him at the last day. John 12.48

1. Merit > Record of ALL WORDS, THOUGHTS, & DEEDS

v 12 dead were judged according to what they had done *as recorded in the books*

FRANCIS SCHAFFER > JUDGEMENT DAY // Technicolor MOVIE of our Life  
ALL our SECRETS > FEATURE FILM on GOD'S BIG SCREEN  
SOUNDTRACK > Our WORDS of JUDGMENT  
'People should not do That' / 'What a hypocrite they are' / 'I would never do that!'  
GOD – the MASTER VIDEOGRAPHER – Edit Right Juicy Scene w/ Our Words

You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge the other, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things. Romans 2.1

Francis Schaeffer's POINT / Paul's POINT / We Condemn Ourselves

The only thing that counts is *faith expressing itself through love*. Galatians 5.6  
WHAT CAN WE PRESENT TO GOD? WHAT WORKS OF FAITH & LOVE?

What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. James 2.14-17

PASTOR > If you really are a Christian, you should be a part of a Church.  
MAN > But the Thief on the Cross went to Heaven & Never belonged to a Church  
PASTOR > If you really are a Christian, you should be baptized.  
MAN > But the Thief on the Cross was NOT Baptized!  
PASTOR > If you really are a Christian, you should study the Bible.  
MAN > But the Thief on the Cross never even HAD a Bible!  
PASTOR > Difference between you and the Thief on the Cross – he was DYING in his Faith > BUT YOU ARE ALREADY DEAD IN YOURS!



For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. Ephesians 2.10

Judgment according to works does not contravene salvation by grace. Salvation is by grace through faith. But the faith that is saving bears fruit in good works, and faith without works is dead. Good works are therefore the index to a state of salvation. John Murray

## 2. Mercy

BOOK OF MERCY > Also BASED ON MERIT: BEHAVIOR  
GOOD NEWS > Someone Else's MERIT > Their GOOD BEHAVIOR

OUR BEST EFFORTS FAR FALL SHORT OF GOD'S HOLY PERFECTION  
How then can we be saved? All of us have become like one who is unclean, and *all our righteous acts are like filthy rags* Isaiah 64.5,6

v. 15 the book of life > BOOK OF MERCY > LIFE GIVEN TO THE DEAD!

In the last judgment the final destiny of Christians will not be based on what they have done, but on who they know, and what He has done. Yours Truly

Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. John 17.3

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. 2 Corinthians 5.21

Book of MERCY > Work of Christ > whose Blood Covers all Sin > CREDITED

They have been judged according to Jesus' deeds – his obedience as the faithful witness and his sacrifice as the Lamb – and consequently their vindication is sure. Dennis E. Johnson

MUSLIM MAN to Me > 'You are so WEAK, like a WOMAN.  
Crying for Jesus to take care of your sins!'

I FULLY AGREED > You Do NOT Know HOW WEAK I AM  
JESUS is not my CRUTCH > He is MY STRETCHER > Fully RELIANT on Him  
MUSLIM > 'I am a MAN, I will PAY FOR MY OWN SINS'  
'You're WELCOME, God ALLOWS YOU > Called HELL > Eternal TORTURE'

Our eternal destiny is determined by God's decision, by God's grace, by God's amazing goodness.  
Bruce M. Metzger

c. Banishment READY for New Heaven & Earth > Sin, Death, Hell Removed

vs. 14,15 Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

UNENDING DEATH > Not Physical, Already Died ONCE > Now DIE TWICE  
Satan and Angels > SPIRITUAL CREATURES > Spiritual DEATH

Bodily Suffering > VERY POSSIBLE > People will Receive NEW BODIES  
Horrible > Receive BODY to AGONIZINGLY ENDURE Eternal Suffering

UNBELIEVERS > held in TEMPORARY BONDS of Death and Hades  
Will be Transferred to PERMANENT BONDS of the Lake of Fire

SECOND Death > ABSOLUTE, Final and Complete SEPARATION from God

The 'second death' is the eternal and irreversible destiny of those who worship the creature instead of the Creator, who bear the beast's brand rather than the Lamb's seal.  
Dennis E. Johnson

Ancient CITY > Names in City Registry > ERASED at Death or Treacherous Act  
He who overcomes will, like them, be dressed in white. I will never blot out his name from the book of life, but will acknowledge his name before my Father and his angels.  
Revelation 3.5

Name NEVER REMOVED > Written in INDELIBLE INK: Jesus' Own BLOOD

Forgiven and reconciled, they stand before the Judge justified, not in themselves but in Jesus Christ the righteous who is the propitiation for their sins and their advocate with the Father.  
Philip E. Hughes

GREAT PROMISE for those who will Stand before GREAT WHITE THRONE  
I tell you the truth, whoever hears my words and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life.  
John 5.24

ISN'T IT GREAT TO KNOW THE JUDGE > As your Friend and Savior!!

\* \* \* \* \*

<sup>11</sup>Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. <sup>12</sup>And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. <sup>13</sup>The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done. <sup>14</sup>Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. <sup>15</sup>If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.