

He will come again to Judge the Living and the Dead

All You Ever Really Wanted

Revelation 20.11-15

Got MEGALINE > SKYPE > Call our 3 Sons in Same Town in USA
Talk to ONE Learn about OTHER TWO > Sometimes MORE than WANT

2 Work in Fancy Restaurant > GREAT for College Students > Money and Food!
One came 20 minutes LATE > Boss in Bad Mood > No One Ever Fired for Late
Son made HISTORY > End of JOB > End of Money, End of Food > Gone, Done

(FIRED SON Called by Manager of Competing Restr. Same Day, MORE \$!)

SHOCK > Totally UNEXPECTED > NEVER Imagined NOR PLANNED
Many FACED Such SURPRISES: World FALLS APART, Job, Sickness, Death

Christ comes again and history is completed...The event is unimaginable, no doubt, but human imagination is no measure of what a sovereign God can and will do. J.I. Packer

Rev 18,19,20 > 3 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 Phrase in Section on Lord Jesus in Apostle's Creed – Longest Section
Creed – 108 Words: 12 refer to FATHER, 6 to Holy SPIRIT, 69 about JESUS

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, the Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord: Who was conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He arose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty, *whence He shall come to judge the living and the dead....*

1. The Judge 2. Those Judged 3. The Judgment

1. The Judge

a. Sovereign > Absolute, Unrivaled Authority

v. 11 a great white throne

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

Apostle John saw: ...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

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

"earth and sky VANISH" LIKE DEW IN THE SUN

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.

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

If it were not true that God will judge sin, it would be a blot on the name of God. We could not talk about a holy God, a just God, a sovereign God, if he were to let sin go on unchecked indefinitely. James Boice

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

SCRIPTURE interprets SCRIPTURE: Work of God the Son > Emph of CREED

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

MUCH Popular Teaching about DETAILS of SECOND COMING
Unfortunately MUCH is based More on IMAGINATION than INSPIRATION
DETAILS of His Coming: FEW but CERTAIN > DEFINITE Historical EVENT

NT 318 ref. RETURN of Jesus: 1 in every 15 Vs > NOT Gal, 2,3 John, Philemon
(Contrast other Events: Lord's Supper mentioned 3 or 4 X's / Baptism, 19 X's)

Bible is CLEAR about TRUTH of COMING > NOT about the TIME
 CREED Wisely FOCUSES on FACT > Not the FINE POINTS

DIFFER on 1000 yrs? Antichrist? Armageddon? 666? Israel? Tribulation?
 HUGE Area of AGREEMENT among Bible Believing Christians >> One Voice

'He will come again to judge the living and the dead'

This is the Christian's hope. We are not waiting for death, though we may die; nor for a spiritual experience, though we may have spiritual experiences. We are waiting for God's Son from heaven. Donald Cole

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

Bible teaches NOT ONLY that Jesus ENTERED History > He will END IT
 His RETURN will bring DRAMATIC Closure to Life as WE KNOW IT

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

When we ask 'How will it all end?' we do not suddenly pass out of the realm of history into a never-never land of utopian speculation. We merely pass to that which has not yet occurred but which is nevertheless certain of occurring for the simple reason that God is behind it and is himself the one who tells us it will.

James Boice

Grim Simplicity of Narrative: Contrast w/ 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

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

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

Knowledge of future judgment is always a summons to present repentance. Only the penitent will be prepared for judgment when it comes.

J.I. Packer

2. Those Judged

a. Death and Hades

v. 13 The sea gave up the dead that were in it

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

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

HADES > Place where DEAD UNBELIEVERS 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 & 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
2nd 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 perishable must clothe itself with the
imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. 1 Corinthians 15.50-53

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

Great SHOCKED to be JUDGED > We think we are UNTOUCHABLE

I watched as he opened the sixth seal. There was a great earthquake... Then the kings of the earth, the princes, the generals, the rich, the mighty, and every slave and every free man hid in caves and among the rocks of the mountains. They called to the mountains and the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?"
Revelation 6:12-17

THOSE who ORDER others AROUND...SUMMONED & Sentenced by LAMB

Peter: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism... Acts 10:34

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. 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.
Romans 1.18-20

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 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?!

Table Prayer: "We had to work real hard for this stuff, God, so thanks for NOTHING!"

3. The Judgment

History has an END > that End involves ACCOUNTABILITY
At END of enjoyable COURSE > or NOT Enjoyable > will be FINAL EXAM

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. 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.

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

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 > JUDGMENT 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

By GOD'S Standard > No One is Good > None of our Work is RIGHTEOUS

BUT here I AM in CHURCH: Would you REALLY want God to Measure That?
LOOKING at WATCH > Up Someone's SKIRT > or DOWN on Someone ELSE

"There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands,
no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who
does good, not even one." Romans 3.10-12

PASTOR > If you really are a Christian, you should be a part of a Church.

MAN > But the Thief on 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!

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

OUR BEST EFFORTS FAR FALL SHORT OF GOD'S HOLY PERFECTION

2. Mercy

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

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

You RIGHTLY Lose JOB: Same Day someone calls w/ Better Job, More \$

Do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, tolerance and patience, not realizing that God's
kindness leads you toward repentance? Romans 2.4

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

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

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

All receive what they actually chose, either to be with God forever, worshipping him; or without God forever, worshipping themselves. Those who are in hell will know that for their doings they deserve it but also that in their hearts they chose it

J.I. Packer

d. Blessing

Ancient CITY > Name 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

MESSAGES on APOSTLE'S CREED > Great FOCUS ON JESUS

...the full measure of the blessing of Christ

Romans 15.29

JOHN CALVIN'S commentary on verse 29: "If we seek *salvation* it is by the very name of Jesus. If we seek *gifts of the Spirit* they will be found in His anointing. If we seek *strength*, it lies in his dominion; if *purity*, in his conception; if *gentleness*, it appears in his birth...If we seek *redemption* it lies in his passion; if *acquittal* in his condemnation; if *remission of the curse*, in his cross; if *satisfaction*, in his sacrifice; if *purification* in his blood...if *newness of life*, in his resurrection; if *immortality* in the same; if *inheritance of the Heavenly kingdom*, in his entrance into heaven; if *protection*, if *security*, if *abundant supply of all blessings*, in his Kingdom; if *untroubled expectation of judgment*, in the power given to him to judge...In short, since rich store of every kind of good abounds in him, let us drink our fill from this fountain, and from no other."

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

If you DON'T LOVE the Lord > Not ETERNALLY GRATEFUL to Him
HEAVEN will be INTOLERABLE > WORSHIP and SERVE Him ALONE

You'll GET what YOU WANT > Eternity FOCUSED on YOURSELF
 World YOU CREATED, Place ALL ABOUT YOU > Enjoy your ALONENESS

God's FINAL EXAM > ONE QUESTION: 'What have you done with My Son?
 If He is ONLY One who OPENS BOOK of MERCY > Only Question Matters
 HEAVEN is ALL ABOUT HIM > Opened Way for CHOSEN Ones to ENTER

GREAT PROMISE for those who will Stand before GREAT WHITE THRONE
 Spoken by ONE SEATED on Throne > but FIRST ENTHRONED on CROSS >

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

RIGHT ANSWER > 'I HEARD His Word and Believed > And LIVE in Him!'

ENTER the JOY and ENDLESS PRAISE of Him who DIED and LIVES Again
 RECEIVE Blessed HOPE of His PRESENCE and FELLOWSHIP of Redeemed

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Revelation 20.11-15

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. 12 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. 13 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. 14 Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. 15 If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.