

Revelation 20:11-15

11 Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them.

I saw

1:11: – “Write on a scroll what you see, and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea.”

Isaiah 6; Ezekiel 1; Paul - 2 Cor. 12:2-4

Great White Throne

“Throne” = 35 times in Revelation (The Book of the Throne)

Atheism or materialism = no throne; there is no seat of authority or power all must answer to.

Humanism is that there is a throne – but man sits upon it (can solve every problem).

Satan's throne in Pergamum, The Beast later in the Holy of Holies

Him Who Sat on it

Isaiah 6:1-5 –

Isaiah may have been depressed or discouraged because a great leader of Judah was no longer on the throne. God in heaven now shows Isaiah, “Don’t worry Isaiah. Uzziah may not be on his throne, but I am on My throne.”

John 12:41, 48 – Isaiah spoke of/saw Jesus

Daniel 7:9-10; 13-14 –

Psalm 9:7 – God has established His throne for judgment

Psalm 56:8 – taken account of my wanderings – tears in a bottle

John 5:21-25 – For as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whom he will. For the Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son, that all may honor the Son, just as they honor the Father. *Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father* (many ways to God? - Acts 4:12) who sent him. 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. “Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live.

Earth and heaven fled away

Time is a physical property (mass, acceleration and gravity) which means it's a created thing which means God is outside of time (beyond time). The Earth and the Heavens themselves flee away from the Judge of all Creation.

Isaiah 65:17 – “For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth, and the former things shall not be remembered or come into mind.

2 Peter 3:10-12 – But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a *roar*, and the heavenly bodies will be *burned up and dissolved*, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. Since all these things are thus to be *dissolved*, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and *and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn!*

the meaning of the Greek word translated *roar* in verse 10 as “whizzing, rushing.”

The word “*dissolved*” in verses 11 and 12 “*loose*” means to undo what up until that time has been restrained, kept together and kept in place.

Hebrews 1:10-12 – And, “You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of your hands; they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment, like a robe you will roll them up, like a garment they will be changed But you are the same, and your years will have no end.”

12 And I saw **the dead**, the great and the small, **standing before the throne**, and **books** were opened; and another book was opened, which is **the book of life**; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, **according to their deeds**.

the dead

Those resurrected to eternal life had been raised 1000 years before at the beginning of the Millennial Kingdom (Rev. 20:3-6). The souls resurrected in this section of scripture are being judged and given a “second death” 20:14). The Second Death is eternal separation from God and away from His eternal Kingdom. Since these souls are already presumed eternally lost by reference of being at the Great White Throne, why is the Book of Life even mentioned. As proof these souls are NOT written within it's pages. The Book of Life confirms what has been

recorded within all the books of the actions of mankind throughout human history.

Prior to the Millennium God performed His purging ...

Matthew 13:41-43 – The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.

After the Millennium God will again purge out the rebellious souls prior to the initiation of the New Heavens and Earth in which righteousness dwells.

- 13 And **the sea** gave up the dead which were in it, and **death and Hades** gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, **every one** of them according to their **deeds**.

Sheol: (31 x's O.T.) first use, Gen. 37:35; other uses: **Jonah 2:2** (synonymous with the grave)

Hades: (11 x's N.T.) **Luke 16:22-23** – Two sides. 'Abraham's Bosom', 'Paradise' (now closed), place of peace and rest. Great gulf separates the other side of torment/punishment (for souls only) (in future will be cast into the Lake of Fire).

Tartarus: (1 times in N.T.) **2 Pet. 2:4** – “to cast down to hell” is used to represent the Greek tartarōō, (“to send into Tartarus”). Here it stands for the place of punishment of the fallen angels: “spared not angels when they sinned, but cast them down to hell, and committed them to pits (or chains) of darkness” (see also Jude 1:6 - Gen. 6:1); but also Matt. 25:41). It represents the lowest part of Hades. Remember, there are degrees of punishment just as levels of reward. Tartarus is what the demons fear most in Luke 8:31.

Gehenna: (12 x's) Originally the Valley of Hinnom, near Jerusalem, Gehenna became among the Jews the synonym for the place of torment in the future life (the “Gehenna of fire,” Matt. 5:22)

- 14 Then **death and Hades** were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the **second death**, the lake of fire.

Death: resurrected bodies AND souls eternally in Lake of Fire

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1 Corinthians 15:54: Death is swallowed up in victory. Today, one out of every one person dies.
Adam/Eve created eternal (the day you eat you shall die [spiritually])

We die because we sin

Romans 6:23 - Wages of sin is death

Ezekiel 18:20 --- “the soul that sinneth shall surely die.”

What is sin

sin (**hamartia**): Romans 5:12 tells us that through Adam sin entered the world, and so death was passed on to all men. The Greek haramtia is an archery term and literally means 'to miss the mark'.

– recently gifted with a crossbow, scope not sighted in. The Bible/Holy Spirit/conscience is our scope.

What's the target = holiness:

1 Peter 1:15-17) – 15 but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; 16 because it is written: “You shall be holy, for I am holy.” 17 If you address as Father the One who impartially judges according to each one’s work, conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your stay on earth;

15 And if **anyones** name was not found **written in the book of life**, he was **thrown** into **the lake** of fire.

anyones

The final destination of *all those* not born again is a literal place (not just a state of mind) called the Lake of Fire (Rev. 19:20; 20:10, 14-15; 21:8). The fire is described as everlasting (Matt. 18:8; 25:41) and is unquenchable (Mark 9:43-44, 46, 48).

Matthew 25:41 the Lord said, “Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels.” The Greek for “prepared” is rendered 'having already been prepared'. It already exists is awaiting the first two occupants – the Beast and the False Prophet.

written in

Rev. 3:5–6 – He who overcomes will thus be clothed in white garments; and *I will not erase* his name from the book of life, and *I will confess his name* before My Father and before His angels. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

Exodus 32:31-33 – So Moses returned to the LORD and said, “Alas, this people has sinned a great sin. They have made for themselves gods of gold. But now, if you will forgive their sin—but if not, *please blot me out of your book* that you have written.” But the LORD said to Moses, “Whoever has sinned against me, I will blot out of my book.

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

Rulers kept a register of the citizens of a city. If someone died, or committed a serious crime, their name was erased from that register. Christ, the King of heaven, promises never to erase a true Christian’s name from the roll of those whose names were “written from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who has been slain” (13:8).

Rev. 13:7-9 – Also it was allowed to make war on the saints and to conquer them. And authority was given it over every tribe and people and language and nation, and 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. If anyone has an ear, let him hear:

God, in His foreknowledge, knew those who would either accept or reject His Son as the provision for their sin. The names were already in the Book at the time of our conception and through that 'age of accountability' as well as recording the time of your conversion.

As we stated when discussing the Bema Seat Judgment of rewards for the Church age saints, there will also be degrees of punishment in hell based on our works and the motives of our heart.

Luk 12:47-48 And that servant who knew his master's will but did not get ready or act according to his will, will receive a severe beating. But the one who did not know, and did what deserved a beating, will receive a light beating. Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required, and from him to whom they entrusted much, they will demand the more.

Matthew 11:20-24 – Then he began to denounce the cities where most of his mighty works had been done, because they did not repent. “Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth

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and ashes. But I tell you, it will be more bearable on the day of judgment for Tyre and Sidon than for you. And you, Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven? You will be brought down to Hades. For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. But I tell you that it will be more tolerable on the day of judgment for the land of Sodom than for you.”

Finally, **Romans 8:28-39** – And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son (Phil. 1:6), in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified. What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written, “For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.” No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

the lake

This phrase would seem to connote a literal body of matter having a liquid form.

A 'white dwarf' star never cools off.

“We will all stand before **the** judgment seat of God” (**Romans 14:10; 2 Corinthians 5:10**). When Jesus says, “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,” He means that we will not be condemned in the final judgment because our sentence has already been passed—not guilty.

One is that the names have been in the book of life since before creation. So this is a reference to the elect (Revelation 3:5)—those who would certainly believe on Christ and be saved through him. Secondly, being written in the book of life insures that a person will not worship the beast. This is implied in saying everyone will worship the beast except those whose names are written in the book of life. If your name is in the book of life, you will not worship the beast. That is not a coincidence. Being

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in the book means belonging to God who keeps his elect from demon-worship. John says the same thing again in Revelation 17:8: “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.” Being in the book insures that you will not marvel at the beast.

So we come back to the judgment in Revelation 20. In verse 15, it says, “If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.” This implies that being in the book of life insures that one will not perish. Salvation is secured for all who are written in the book of life.

The reason that being written in the book of life secures our salvation is that the book is called “the book of life of the Lamb who was slain” (Revelation 13:8). The names in this book are not saved on the basis of their deeds. They are saved on the basis of Christ’s being slain. He “loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood” (Revelation 1:5). We have been ransomed by his blood (Revelation 5:9). So how then does the record of our lives contained in “the books” have a part in our judgment? The answer is that the books contain enough evidence of our belonging to Christ that they function as a public confirmation of our faith and our union with him. Consider **Revelation 21:27**: “Nothing unclean will ever enter [the New Jerusalem], nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb’s book of life.” Here the result of “being written in the book of life” is not only not perishing, but not practicing detestable, sinful behaviors. In other words, just like in Revelation 13:8 where being in the book of life insures that one will not worship the beast, so in Revelation 21:27, being in the book of life insures that one will not make a practice of detestable deeds. Therefore, our deeds confirm that our names are in the book and should be in the book—that is, they confirm that we trust Christ and are united to him. Our deeds are the fruit of our faith and union with Christ.

For example, consider the thief on the cross. Jesus said that he would enter paradise (Luke 23:43). But what will judgment be like for him when the books are opened? 99.9% of his life will be sin. And only the final hours will be the fruit of faith. I think God will open the book of life and show the name of the thief on the cross. His salvation will be secured by the blood of Christ. Then God will open the books and will use the record of sin to glorify his Son’s supreme sacrifice, and then he will use the last page to show the change that was wrought in the thief’s attitudes and words. That last page—the last hours on the cross—will be the public confirmation of the thief’s faith and union with Christ.

Therefore, when I say that what is written in the books is a public confirmation of our faith and of union with Christ, I do not mean that the record will contain more good works than bad works. I mean that there will be recorded there the kind of change that shows the reality of faith—the reality of regeneration and union with Christ. There will be enough evidences of grace that God will be able to make a public display of what is in the books to verify the born-again reality of those written in the book of life. No one is saved on the basis of his works. But everyone who is saved does new works.

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