

A Sneak Peek at Coming Events #7

The Great White Throne Judgment

Rev 20:11-15

Introduction:

1. Our country seems to have a fascination with courtrooms and trials. First there were the courtroom dramas like “Perry Mason” and “Matlock” then came the court shows. It started with “The Peoples’ Court” and Judge Wapner. It continued with Judge Judy, Judge Mathis, Judge Hatchett, Judge James Curtis, Judge Mills Lane and the list goes on.
2. Sometimes there is humor to be found in the courtroom.
 - a. Defense counsel – “The truth of the matter is that you are not an unbiased, objective witness, isn’t it? You too were shot in the fracas? Witness – “No sir. I was shot midway between the fracas and the naval.”
 - b. Attorney – “What device do you have in your laboratory to test alcohol content?” Witness – “I have a dual column gas chromatograph, Hewlett-Packard 5710a with flame analysis detectors.” Attorney – Can you get that with mag wheels? Witness – “Only the floor models.”
 - c. Attorney – “Doctor, did you say that he was shot in the woods?” Doctor – “No, I said he was shot in the lumbar region, not the lumber region.”
 - d. Attorney – “What happened then?” Witness – “He told me he would have to kill me because I could identify him.” Attorney – “Did he kill you?” Witness – “No”
3. There is no more somber or solemn passage to be read in all of God’s Word than this description of the GWT judgment
4. I take no pleasure in preaching about anyone being thrown alive into the lake of fire for all eternity
5. Many people think that there will be a time when your good deeds will be weighted against your bad deeds

6. If your good deeds outweighed your bad deeds then you made it into heaven
7. That is not what is going on here
8. "The White Throne Judgment will be nothing like our modern court cases. At the White Throne, there will be a Judge but no jury, a prosecution but no defense, a sentence but no appeal. No one will be able to defend himself or accuse God of unrighteousness. What an awesome scene it will be!"

I. The Courtroom – vs 11a

11 And I saw a great white throne...

A. Great - Speaks of Power

1. The lost standing before this throne will be overcome with the incredible sense of power, awe, and fear.
2. Some talk flippantly about what they're gonna tell God when they see Him face to face...oh no they won't!
3. The person who never got saved will not be able to do anything but weep and tremble.
 - a) *Their minds may go back to each time they took His Name in vain*
 - b) *They may think of jokes they told about hell, but there will be no joking on this day.*
 - c) *They may remember the way they used to think about hell, but the reality now sinks in.*
4. **Heb 10:31**
5. He is so great that heaven / earth fled from his face
 - a) *All who are there will realize that everything they ever lived for on earth is gone forever, everything they put before God is gone*
 - b) *All their possessions, all their pleasures, popularity, prestige, all their family, their children...gone...disposed of...and they are left with God alone, Who now must dispose of them!*
 - c) *Hear this: in the end, all you have left is your soul!*
6. No wonder Jesus said in Mk 8:36 ←

B. White - Emphasizes Christ's Holiness

1. This speaks of the unapproachable purity of the Lord
2. Many on that day will stand and say "I'm a good person."
3. But that will mean nothing compared to His unapproachable purity.
4. The only way you or I can be pure enough to stand before God is to be washed in the blood of Jesus!
5. Heaven and earth will flee
 - a) *There will be no place to run or hide*
 - b) *Adam hid behind a tree - no trees here*
 - c) *Adam thought he could hide his sin with fig leaves - no fig leaves here - just the ugly nakedness of sin exposed*
 - d) *Jonah got on a boat to run from God - no boats here*

C. Throne – A Place of Ruling

1. A throne is a place of exaltation - of wisdom - sovereignty
2. God Himself will be in charge on this day...He will call the shots on this day.
3. Today they drag His name thru the mud, and make fun of us His followers
4. But on that day it is God who sits on the throne...the powerful, pure, Potentate...the Creator

II. The Judge – vs 11b ←

A. Not the Father, But the Son – Jn 5:22, 26-27 ←

1. In the gospels, He is the sweet Savior
2. Here He is no longer the Lamb of God, but the Lion of the
3. Like the man whose boat capsized and he was saved by a fisherman in a boat nearby. A year goes by and the man is in court on a serious charge. He approaches the judge and recognized him to be the fisherman who rescued him last year. He thinks to himself that he is sure glad to get that judge. The judge speaks up and says, it matters not that I saved you a year ago, now I am your judge.
4. The Redeemer is now the Ruler
5. The Savior is now the Sovereign

B. He Will Be a Fair Judge - Rom 2:11

11 For there is no respect of persons with God.

1. Not a respecter of persons
2. Not a taker of bribes
3. Jesus' judgment is according truth
4. Jesus' judgment is according to reality, not religious profession

C. He Will Be the Final Judge - Jn 3:3

3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

D. He Will Be a Firm Judge

1. No excuses will be accepted
2. No deals made
3. No plea bargains
4. No purgatory

III. The Accused – vs 12a

12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God... **13** And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

1. The small and the great
2. The up-and-comers and the down-and-outers
3. The important and the unimportant
4. The banker and the beggar
5. The prince and the pauper
6. The simpleton and the scientist
7. The refined and the vulgar

IV. The Evidence – vs 12 – “the books” ←

A. The Book of Works

1. God has records of all we say and do
2. The opened books will reveal the unrighteous thoughts and deeds, the neglected opportunities and the degree of sinfulness and guilt of every unsaved person
 - a) *Ps 139:1-2 -- O Lord, thou hast searched me, and known me. [2] Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off.*
 - b) *Ezek 11:5 -- And the Spirit of the Lord fell upon me, and said unto me...I know the things that come into your mind, every one of them.*
 - c) *Ps 139:4 -- For there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O Lord, thou knowest it altogether.*
 - d) *Heb 4:13 -- Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.*
 - e) *Mt 12:36 But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. 37 For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.*
3. Degrees of punishment will according to one's works not guilt or innocence
 - a) *Lu 12:47 And that servant, which knew his lord's will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes. 48 But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more.*
 - b) *Lu 20:47 Which devour widows' houses, and for a shew make long prayers: the same shall receive greater damnation.*

4. This judgment occurs at the end of time to take into account the accumulation of evil

W.A. Criswell tells this story. "I remember, in the little town, where I grew up, a father who had his little boy stand on a table. He was teaching the little fellow to curse. He filled the mind of the little boy with every foul, dirty and filthy thing. The man, the father of the boy, is now dead, but his son, who is my age, is still living. The ruined life of the boy is the result of the wickedness of the father. That father did not get his full punishment when he died, for he lives in the wretchedness and filth of the boy he taught to blaspheme. The evil goes on and on and on. When the lost, the damned, the doomed, the unbelieving, the Christ-rejecting get to the end of the way, to that White Throne Judgment, Oh what an appalling thing when God sums up the wickedness of a man's life!

B. The Bible – Jn 12:48

48 He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.

1. This is the perfect standard by which all will be judged one day
2. Its not what you think, its what God says

C. The Book of Life

1. The book of life will be there to prove to unbelievers that their names are not there
2. Just because one's name is on a church roll, does not mean that it is in the book of life

V. The Defense

1. There will be no defense – no one to stand with you
2. What can the lost individual say?
3. The evidence is plain and out in the open
4. The lost will have no advocate or attorney

VI. The Verdict – Matt 25:41 – “guilty”

41 Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

VII. The Sentence – vs 14-15

A. Separation - vs 14

14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

1. This is the second death
2. Final separation from God - Rom 6:23a
23 For the wages of sin *is* death
3. "They will not love Jesus, they will not trust Him for salvation and it will be too late for them to be saved. The stiff knee of every rebellious and Christ-rejecting sinner will bow before Jesus in humility, and every blaspheming tongue will at that time confess that Jesus Christ is the Lord and Master they should have loved and served."

B. Sorrow - vs 15

15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

1. Judgment is indeed great for those not found in the book of life
2. There will be suffering because of neglect of salvation - Lu 16:19-31
3. The greatness of the judgment speaks of the greatness of sin
4. If the judgment is that terrible, then our sin must be very terrible
 - a) *Never play down the seriousness of any sin*
 - b) *The greatness of the judgment speaks of the greatness of the suffering*
 - c) *"Lake of fire" speaks of the worst possible suffering*
 - d) *The suffering is indescribable but it is the end for the ungodly*

Conclusion:

1. Dear Lost Person –
 - a. Can't you see how dangerous your position is right now?
 - b. There is no guarantee for tomorrow
 - c. Your life is like a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes
 - d. Come to the Savior now while He sits on a throne of grace rather than later when He sits on a throne of judgment
2. Please listen to the warning from God's Word
 - a. What we do not like, we try hard not to believe
 - b. But that does not get rid of the place called hell
 - c. All who are found to be impenitent and unbelieving, all who have clung to their sins, stuck to this world, set their affections on things below, all who are without Christ, shall come to a terrible end.
 - d. Whoever was not found written in the book of life shall be cast into the lake of fire – Rev 20:15
3. The devil whispered to Eve, "You shall not surely die"
 - a. This is still his message – "Take it easy"
 - b. "A God of love wouldn't punish sinners eternally"
 - c. Believe the Bible – Believe God's Word
 - d. Hell is eternal and there is no way out
4. Trust Christ as Savior today
 - a. Heb 3:15 - Today if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts...
 - b. II Cor. 6:2 - ...behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.

36 For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?

Heb 10:31 *It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.*

11 And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

22 For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son: **26** For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself; **27** And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man.

12b ... and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is *the book of life*: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.