

“The Great White Throne”

All Scripture is KJV:

INTRODUCTION: WHAT DOES THE BIBLE HAVE TO SAY ON THIS MATTER.

- What is the Great White Throne?

The great white throne in the bible is used in the context of judgement.

This is found in the book of Revelation 20:11

Revelation 20:11

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.

This is the time period in which Jesus will be judging the nations of the earth.

And this is the time period leading up to those names which are or not written in the Lambs Book of Life.

You see, you can try and please whatever god or person you want to please in this life, but if your name is not written in the Lambs Book of Life you have a big problem.

Remember also the Lambs Book of life is recording every person's life from the time he is born until the time he dies. This means that God is recording everything including up to the rapture which is the second coming of Christ, and also after thousand year millennium rein of all those people leading up to the great white throne judgment, as well as when Satan is cast into the lake of fire where the beast and the false prophet are.

- It does not matter what you think you have done to deserve eternal life; the fact of the matter is that if your name is not in the lamb's book of life you are done for.

You see God's judgement is sincere, and you may be sincerely wrong about what you think is good enough to be found in the book of life.

- But God on the other hand judges righteous judgement, which is not a standard of how good you might have been.
- ✓ The great white throne judgment is very significant because this is when the person who lives at the beginning and after the millennium 1000yrs; who was not saved prior to the millennium will get the opportunity to see for himself and stand for himself before God to receive his judgment before God.

So today I want to continue in a sense where the Lambs Book of life comes into effect in every person's life who has or who will ever live on this current earth.

Therefore to understand this message let us turn to the Book of the Revelation of Jesus Christ.

Revelation 20 King James Version (KJV)

1 And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.

2 And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years.

3 And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.

4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

5 But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. *(the believers saved who were saved in the millennium)*

6 Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

7 And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,

8 And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, **Gog, and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea.**

9 And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.

10 And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

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.

¹² And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; 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.

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.

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

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

- ✚ Revelation 20 sets the scene for us to understand how Gods judgement is going to be implemented.

Not just the judgement for the saved, but also for the judgment of the unbeliever as well as the judgment for Satan and the beast and the false prophet.

All of these judgments are mentioned right here in Revelation 20, as well as who is bringing in those judgements.

These judgments as you can read here in Revelation 20 cover two separate time periods.

1. The first time period is leading up to and including the Rapture.
 2. The second time period is after what happens after the rapture has taken place and after the 1000yr millennium reign of Jesus in Jerusalem.
- ✓ Many people who are Christians do not understand this doctrine or the events that the bible is speaking of.
 - ✓ Therefore I find it my duty and responsibility to try and help those Christians understand what lies ahead of them.

Let's start out by understanding Revelation 20.

1. First of all who is it that has the keys to the bottomless pit? Which is Hell?
2. Well the bible says in Rev 20:1 that **"I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand"**.
3. So according to the bibl it is an angel who has the key to hell.
4. Well who is this angel?
5. Who do you say the angel is? Because whoever he is he has great power?
6. Such is his power that he is able to.....lay hold of Satan and bind him and shut him up in hell for a 1000years.

Rev verse 2 said.....

he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years,³ And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season

- ✓ Well according to the bible this angel who has the key to hell and a great chain in his hand is coming to

So my question here at this point is.....

- ✓ This angel cannot be Satan because it is an angel who is locking up Satan.
- ✓ The bible says “can Satan bind Satan” – No.
- ✓ So this has to be an angel under God’s control putting Satan away, or else Satan could just as well unlock himself from Hell any time he wanted to.....

This is a controversial passage of scripture that many Christians wrestle with.....but let me make it easy for all of us....

1. This angel is God's angel.
2. God is doing the punishment here not Satan.
3. Look at Revelation 9 with me.

Revelation 9 King James Version (KJV)

1 And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit.

2 And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit.

3 And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth: and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power.

4 And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads.

5 And to them it was given that they should not kill them, but that they should be tormented five months: and their torment was as the torment of a scorpion, when he striketh a man.

6 And in those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them.

⁷ And the shapes of the locusts were like unto horses prepared unto battle; and on their heads were as it were crowns like gold, and their faces were as the faces of men.

⁸ And they had hair as the hair of women, and their teeth were as the teeth of lions.

⁹ And they had breastplates, as it were breastplates of iron; and the sound of their wings was as the sound of chariots of many horses running to battle.

¹⁰ And they had tails like unto scorpions, and there were stings in their tails: and their power was to hurt men five months.

¹¹ And they had a king over them, which is the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in the Hebrew tongue is Abaddon, but in the Greek tongue hath his name Apollyon.

1. According to Revelation 9 in verse 11, these scorpion like creatures of the bottomless pit had a king over them.
2. This king certainly was not Satan.
3. This king was an angel. And this angel is given the name of**whose name in the Hebrew tongue is Abaddon, but in the Greek tongue hath his name Apollyon.**
4. This is the angel spoken of in Revelation 20.

Now that we have that out of the way of who is in charge of the bottomless pit of Hell.....we can move on.

- ✓ So as we get back to our Scripture for this morning's message in Revelation 20 and verse 4 we need to understand the time periods here to understand the Great White Throne judgment.

⁴ And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

- ✓ In this scene of verse 4 John the revelator is describing for us those believers who had truly suffered for Jesus sake unto death.
- ✓ This verse is also specifically mentioning the faithfulness of those who were beheaded during the tribulation period before Jesus second coming.
- ✓ It is also in this verse that we see them ruling and reigning with Jesus in the millennium 1000 years.
- ✓ This verse is not just speaking about those who were beheaded for the cause of Christ, but it speaks of all the Christians ruling and reigning with Christ after the rapture at that point. (1Thess 3:13).

- ✚ All of those who believe in Jesus will rule and reign with Christ in the millennium.

1 Thessalonians 3:13 King James Version (KJV)

¹³ To the end he may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints.

- ✚ Then after the rapture has taken place and after the 1000 year reign of Jesus in Jerusalem with his saints, which includes us.....there will be a judgment.
- ✚ This judgment will include those who lived through the 1000 year period including those who believed and did not believe.
- ✚ But the judgment will also be measured by one thing. "Did you believe or not"?

This Judgment is called the "Great White Throne Judgment".

- ✚ At this judgment all the unbelievers from the beginning of time until the end of the 1000 year millennium are judged. This is when they will get a glimpse of seeing that their names were not in the book of life. Or if their names are in the book of life.
- ✚ It will also be a time when those who lived through the millennium period who did or did not believe will also be judged.
- ✚ As we read now from Revelation 20 verse 5 and following.....we see what is going to take place....
- ✚ The unsaved will be raised from hell, to stand before God as dead people.

⁵ But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.

⁶ Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

A Question to ask yourself at this stage is this:

- 1. If the first resurrection is at Christ's second coming which includes those who did not take the mark of the beast.**
 - 2. Then if the bible teaches that at the saved at the rapture also include those who refused to take the mark of the beast.**
 - 3. Then how can anyone teach that the rapture takes place before those who never took the mark of the beast.**
 - 4. Therefore the rapture could only occur after the time period where it describes those who never took the mark of the beast.**
- ❖ **The following scriptures prove the order of the resurrection.**

1 Corinthians 15:20-26 King James Version (KJV)

²⁰ But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.

²¹ For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead.

²² For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

²³ But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.

²⁴ Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power.

²⁵ For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. (1000yr reign)

²⁶ The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.

❖ **What about this scripture about the rapture taking place where Christ comes.**

1 Thessalonians 4: ¹³ But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.

¹⁴ For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

¹⁵ For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

¹⁶ For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

¹⁷ Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

✓ **The second resurrection is for those believes who are raised after the 1000yr reign.**

Revelation 20.....continued...

⁷ And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,

⁸ And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, **Gog, and Magog**, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea.

⁹ And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.

¹⁰ And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

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- ✚ The great white throne judgment happens after the 1000 year reign with Jesus in Jerusalem.
- ✚ The resurrection of the believers of the millennium also takes place here.

CLOSE IN PRAYER.....