

## THE FINAL JUDGMENT

Rev. 20:11-15

Before considering this terrible scene it will help us to remember who God is. He is our Creator. He is our Redeemer. He is good. He is love. He is gentle, kind, longsuffering and forgiving. He is fair, just and righteous. He is truth. He is also absolutely holy and because of this, where sin is concerned, He is a God of wrath and a consuming fire.

Because He is good, loving, kind and forgiving, He has provided a way of salvation from His Wrath. No one needs to go to hell. Anyone can be saved from it. God has provided a complete salvation for man which is absolutely free. He punished His only begotten Son so that He could forgive our sins and take us to Heaven. **Romans 5:6-10**, "For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life." Any person who will believe on the Lord Jesus Christ will be saved from God's wrath and will not have to go to hell.

God made salvation very simple to receive. **Romans 10:9-10, 13**, "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

God has no pleasure in sending souls to hell. It is His desire that they be saved. **Ezekiel 33:11**, "...As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die..." **1 Timothy 2:3-6**, "For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. For *there is* one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time." **2 Peter 3:9**, "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."

Think about what the Lord endured to make salvation possible for every person. **Hebrews 12:2-3**, "Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds." **Philippians 2:8**, "And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross."

Crucifixion was a cruel means of execution done on a simple instrument called a cross. The cross was constructed of rough beams of wood. One beam was mounted in a hole in the ground in an upright position. The other was fastened near the top of the vertical one in a horizontal position. Merrill Unger says, "...The criminal carried his own cross, or a part of it, in which case another was compelled to share the burden. The place of execution was outside the city...the criminal was stripped of his clothes...and the cross having been previously erected he was drawn up and made fast with cords or nails, although sometimes he was fastened to the cross, which was afterward raised. The limbs of the victim were generally three or four feet from the earth.... If the nailing was the most painful mode in the first instance the other was more so in the end, for the sufferer was left to die of sheer exhaustion."

The Lord Jesus suffered all this and a spiritual agony no other man could ever experience. **Matthew 27:46, 50**, "And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" "Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost."

We have come now to the final judgment of mankind and the angels. It is more than 1,000 years in the future, but all who die today without Christ go immediately to hell where they are tormented in the fire while they await the resurrection of the damned. This resurrection and final judgment are what is before us in our text.

#### **I. THE GREAT WHITE THRONE WILL APPEAR (v.11).**

**A. This is not the bema seat.**

**B. This is not the throne of His glory.**

**C. This is a judicial throne of judgment.**

*1. The one seated on the throne is the Lord Jesus.*

**Daniel 7:9-10**, “I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne *was like* the fiery flame, *and* his wheels *as* burning fire. A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened.” **John 5:22**, “For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son:”

*2. The saints will judge with Him.*

**1 Corinthians 6:1-3**, “Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unjust, and not before the saints? Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? and if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters? Know ye not that we shall judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life?”

#### **II. THE EARTH AND HEAVEN WILL DISAPPEAR (v.11).**

**A. Earth and its atmosphere will disappear.**

**B. Earth and its atmosphere will burn up (2 Pet. 3:10-14).**

#### **III. ALL THE DEAD WILL BE RESURRECTED (Rev. 20:12-13).**

**A. This is the resurrection of damnation (John 5:29).**

*1. The unsaved dead will be raised from the graves.*

*2. The unsaved dead will be given their eternal bodies.*

**B. This is the second resurrection (Rev. 20:5).**

#### **IV. EACH ONE WILL BE JUDGED ACCORDING TO THEIR WORKS (v.12-13).**

**A. The books will be opened.**

*1. The books of the Bible.*

**John 5:45-47**, “Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father: there is *one* that accuseth you, *even* Moses, in whom ye trust. For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me. But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words?” **John 12:48**, “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.”

*2. The books of men's works.*

*3. The book of life.*

**B. The works will be judged.**

*Each person will give account to Jesus Christ personally.*

**C. The excuses will not avail.**

**Matthew 7:21-23**, “Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.”

## **V. EACH ONE WILL BE CAST INTO THE LAKE OF FIRE (v.14-15).**

### **A. This lake is already prepared.**

**Matthew 25:41**, “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:” (These are the unbelievers at Christ's return.)

### **B. This lake is the final abode of all that have rejected God.**

*1. The Beast, False Prophet are cast into the Lake of Fire (Rev. 19:20).*

*2. The Devil is cast into this fire (Rev. 20:10).*

*3. All the resurrected unbelievers are cast into the Lake of Fire.*

a. Man's soul is indestructible.

b. The resurrection body will also be indestructible.

All of God's moral creation will be present at this final judgment with the exception of Satan, the Beast and the False Prophet and the lost from the judgment of nations who will already be in the lake of fire. You and I who are saved will be there seated with Christ.

You must choose now if you are to be seated with Christ. Otherwise, you will have to stand before Him and be judged and then be cast into the lake of fire. When this judgment is finished the new Heaven and new earth will appear.

We must be aware of these staggering truths and allow them to motivate us today to continue doing everything we can to get the Gospel to the whole world. Hell is real. Hell is eternal punishment and hell is for each person who refuses to believe God.