

Major Bible Themes

52 Vital Doctrines of the Scriptures Simplified and Explained

Adapted from the book *Major Bible Themes*

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The Judgment of the Great White Throne

- Introduction
 - At the conclusion of the Millennial Kingdom, Scripture records the judgment of the Great White Throne (Rev 20:11-15).
 - Although this will be the place of judgment for all of unbelieving mankind, believers who died during the Millennial Kingdom will also be present.
 - Prior to this judgment taking place, the current universe will be completely destroyed by fire (Rev 20:11; 2 Pet 3:10-12).
 - All of those who died as unbelievers will be raised to stand before the Great White Throne (Rev 20:12-13) and will bow before Jesus Christ their Judge (John 5:27; Phil 2:9-11).
- The Books of Human Works Opened
 - In Rev 20:12 we see books opened and another separate book opened, which is the Book of Life.
 - Because Jesus Christ died for everyone's sins (1 John 2:2) and God does not demand judgment for the same thing twice, sins are not an issue at any of the judgments (see 1 Cor 3:13-14), including the Great White Throne judgment.
 - Thus, we see that those standing before the GWT are judged according to their works recorded in the books (Rev 20:13-14).
 - The issue of their eternal salvation is based upon the names recorded in the single book, the Book of Life (Rev 20:15).
- The Book of Life
 - Those whose names are not written in the Book of Life never believed in God's provision for salvation (Acts 4:12) and, as such, face the condemnation they were born into (John 3:18).
 - Everyone who is cast into the Lake of Fire could have been saved if they had believed in Jesus Christ during their time on the earth (1 Tim 3:16).
 - Their hopeless eternal estate is due, not to a lack of love of God (Rom 5:8) nor to any unavailable grace of God (Titus 2:11), but rather it is due to the fact that they simply would not believe (Mark 16:15-16).
 - Those who never had the opportunity to hear the gospel are omitted from the Book of Life and are condemned on the basis of their rejection of the testimony of God in the natural world (Rom 1:18-20).
 - They, too, rejected what light they had been given and are justly condemned for their unbelief.

- The judgment of the Great White Throne is a very sad ending for all who will not have Jesus Christ as their Savior, but this judgment of unbelievers will bring glory to the One whom the Father sent to save the world (John 3:17; Rom 11:36; Col 1:16).