

**Loris First Baptist Church**  
**“52 Vital Doctrines of The Bible”**

Doctrine #51 – The Judgment of The Great White Throne

Note: Most information based on pages 366-368 of the book “Major Bible Themes” by Lewis Sperry Chaffer.

**The Last Judgment of the Great White Throne**

1. As the final climax to human history at the conclusion of the millennial kingdom, Scripture records the judgment of the great white throne.

**Revelation 20:11-15** *“Then I saw A GREAT WHITE THRONE and Him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from His presence, and there was no place for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. THE DEAD WERE JUDGED ACCORDING TO WHAT THEY HAD DONE as recorded in the books. The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done. Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. If anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.”*

2. In contrast with previous judgments of the righteous, and various judgments of God upon Israelites and Gentiles living in the world, this is the final judgment; in the context it is seen to refer “only” to the judgment of the “wicked”.

**The Destruction of the Heaven and the Earth**

1. Before the judgment of the great white throne takes place, Scripture reveals that God destroys the existing earth and physical universe.

**Revelation 20:11** *“...EARTH and SKY fled from His presence, and THERE WAS NO PLACE FOR THEM.”*

2. Human history having now run its course, the old creation is destroyed.

**Revelation 21:1** *“Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, FOR THE FIRST HEAVEN AND THE FIRST EARTH HAD PASSED AWAY, and there was no longer any sea.”*

**2 Peter 3:10-13** *“But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. THE HEAVENS WILL DISAPPEAR WITH A ROAR; THE ELEMENTS WILL BE DESTROYED BY FIRE, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare. Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about THE DESTRUCTION OF THE HEAVENS BY FIRE, and the elements will melt in the heat.”*

3. Because of the destruction of the present earth and heaven, the judgment of the great white throne apparently takes place in space.

## The Resurrection of the Wicked Dead

1. According to Revelation 20:12, John “*saw the dead, small and great, stand before God.*” Revelation 20:13 adds, “*The sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them.*”
2. All the wicked dead are here resurrected and stand before God to be judged.

NOTE: That the “Judge” is the Lord Jesus Christ Himself is clear from John 5:27, where it states that the Father “*hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man.*”

## The Books of Human Works Opened

1. Revelation 20:12 declares, “*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.*” The next verse repeats this condemning fact: “*They were judged every man according to their works.*”
  - a. Here the result of grace spurned is stated in stark terms.
  - b. There is no forgiveness apart from Christ (Acts 4:12), and those who refuse His grace inevitably must be judged for their sins.

**Acts 4:12** “*SALVATION IS FOUND IN NO ONE ELSE*, for there is no other name under heaven given to men *BY WHICH WE MUST BE SAVED.*”

2. In addition to consulting their works, the Book of Life is examined for their names.
  - a. Whether, as some believe, that the Book of Life is simply the record of those who have eternal life, or as others have held that it is the record of all living from which has been erased everyone who is unsaved, the result is the same.
  - b. If their names are not found, they have not received eternal life.
  - c. Their doom is then pronounced, and in Revelation 20:14-15 it is recorded, “*And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.*”
3. Although some of those judged here may have been relatively good in comparison with others who were relatively bad, the lack of eternal life is the damning fact.
4. All who do not have eternal life are judged on the basis of their works and rejection of Christ and are cast into the lake of fire.

5. The tragedy is that, according to Scripture, Christ died for them as well as for those who are saved.

**2 Corinthians 5:19** *“that God was reconciling the world to Himself in Christ, NOT COUNTING MEN’S SINS AGAINST THEM..”*

**1 John 2:2** *“My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is THE ATONING SACRIFICE for our sins, and not only for ours BUT ALSO FOR THE SINS OF THE WHOLE WORLD.”*

6. These cast into eternal punishment could have been saved if they had turned to Christ.

- a. Their hopeless estate is due, not to a lack of love of God nor to any unavailability of the grace of God, but rather to the fact they would not believe.
- b. Those who never had an opportunity to hear the Gospel are condemned upon their rejection of the testimony of God in the natural world.

**Romans 1:18-20** *“The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who SUPPRESS THE TRUTH by their wickedness, since what may be known about God is plain to them, BECAUSE GOD HAS MADE IT PLAIN TO THEM. For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—His eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, BEING UNDERSTOOD FROM WHAT HAS BEEN MADE, SO THAT MEN ARE WITHOUT EXCUSE.”*

- c. They too rejected what light they had and are justly condemned for their unbelief.

**John 3:19** *“This is the verdict: LIGHT has come into the world, BUT MEN LOVED DARKNESS RATHER THAN LIGHT BECAUSE THEIR DEEDS WERE EVIL.”*

7. The judgment of the great white throne is the sad ending for all who will not have Christ as their Savior and Lord.

**Loris First Baptist Church**  
***“52 Vital Doctrines of The Bible”***

Doctrine #51 – The Judgment of The Great White Throne

1. Read Pages 1-3 from the Doctrine#51 Study Guide by next Wednesday.
2. Answer the following Questions about “The Judgment of The Great White Throne” as you read:

**a. The Last Judgment of The Great White Throne**

- 1) True or False. The Great White Throne Judgment involves only the judgment of God on the “wicked”.  
(page 1, top-middle)
  
- 2) According to Revelation 20:11-15, what are the “dead” (i.e. “separated from God”) judged according to?

**b. The Destruction of the Heaven and the Earth**

- 1) According to Scripture, what takes place right before the great white throne judgment?  
(page 1, middle-bottom; Revelation 20:11, 21:1; 2Peter 3:10-13)
  
- 2) According to 2Peter 3:10-13, what will happen to the “heavens” and “earth” at the end of human history?
  
- 3) Where does The Great White Throne Judgment probably take place? (page 1, bottom)

**c. The Resurrection of the Wicked Dead**

- 1) Who is the “judge” at the Great White Throne Judgment? (page 2, top; John 5:27)

- 2) True or False. According to Revelation 20:13, “hell” (or “hades”) is currently just a holding place for those who have died that have rejected Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. It is NOT the final destination of the wicked.

**c. The Books of Human Works Opened**

- 1) True or False. For those who have rejected Jesus Christ, their only hope of salvation is to have done enough “good works” (as recorded in the Book of Works) as to get a positive judgment by the “judge” at the Great White Throne Judgment. (page 2, middle; Acts 4:12)
  
- 2) In addition to being judged according to their “works”, how else are the “wicked” judged?  
(page 2, middle-bottom; Revelation 20:15)
  
- 3) Although some of those judged at the Great White Throne Judgment have been relatively good as compared to others who were relatively bad, what is the fact that “damns” them all?  
(page 2, bottom; see John 3:17-18, 36)
  
- 4) What happens to every person at the Great White Throne Judgment after they have been judged according to their works? (page 2, bottom; Revelation 20:15)
  
- 5) True or False. The reason so many people are judged at the Great White Throne Judgment and ultimately casted into the Lake of Fire is because Christ did not die for their sins.  
(page 3, top; 2Corinthians 5:19; 1John 2:2)
  
- 6) According to 1John 2:2, Christ not only died for the sins of believers, but also for whom?

- 7) What could have saved those who are judged at The Great White Throne Judgment from being cast into eternal punishment? (page 3, top-middle; John 3:16; Romans 10:13)
  
- 8) The hopeless estate of those being judged at the Great White Throne Judgment is not due to a lack of love of God, nor to any unavailability of the grace of God, but rather to what “fact”? (page 3, middle)
  
- 9) True or False. Those who have never had the opportunity to hear the Gospel will be “excused” and allowed into heaven because of their ignorance about Jesus Christ.  
(page 3, middle; Romans 1:18-20)
  
- 10) Why are those who have never heard the “gospel” (as revealed through the bible) still justly condemned?  
(page 3, bottom; John 3:19)
  
- 11) According to John 3:19, “light” (i.e. “God’s way of righteousness”) has come to the world. What causes men to reject God’s light?