

The Lamb's Book of Life

Revelation 20:11-15

Sermon preached by John L. Kachelman, Jr. April 4, 2004
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Introduction:

- I. The scenes of the Revelation are now closing. John's writing begins to present the definite characteristics of the "end." The closing chapters of the Book of Revelation explain what we can expect when the "end" occurs.
 1. The Second Coming of Christ (Revelation 19).
 2. The general Judgment of all mankind (Revelation 20).
 3. The eternal Heaven or Hell (Revelation 21-22).

- II. Our present lesson examines the general judgment that is passed upon all mankind.
 1. There is a judgment that passes upon our daily conduct but there is a final, general judgment that is announced at the Great White Throne!
 2. The description of the Great White Throne judgment is sobering. The text describes a solemn event.

- III. In this symbolic passage we learn that five traits will be a part of the general Judgment.

Body:

- I. **The authority** of the Judgment (11).
 - A. The authority of the Judgment
 1. The symbol is a great throne (11).
 2. The administration of judgment is in the hands of our Lord Christ Jesus (John 5:22, 27; Acts 10:42).
 3. Jesus Christ is the Head of the human race by His position as the Son of God and by His assumed position as the Son of Man (Jeremiah 17:10).
 4. Jesus affirms His authority (Matthew 28:18).

 - B. The sanctity of the Judgment
 1. The throne is "white" and thus is portrayed as the ever-present symbol of purity.
 2. The character of Jesus is sacred and pure (John 5:30).

 - C. The dreaded terror of the Judgment
The heavens and the earth flee when they see the face of the One sitting on the Great White Throne. It is folly for man to imagine he can

hide from God (Revelation 6:15-17).

D. In verse 11 John offers a very descriptive picture of the Judgment that should stir within everyone a desire to avoid the catastrophe of standing before the Great White Throne in an unprepared state.

II. **The universality** of the Judgment (12a).

A. The symbol causes some to panic – "death"!

1. Death is a reality that some wish to ignore but it cannot be evaded (Hebrews 9:27a).
2. All will "die" and the Judgment will be upon "the dead." Both "great and small" will be present.

B. The Judgment will not be confined to a small group (Daniel 7:10). The Bible is very clear stating who will be present.

1. Devils (Jude 6; 2 Peter 2:4)
2. Men (Romans 2:5-11)
3. "All" will be present, none will be absent (Romans 14:10).

III. **The individuality** of the Judgment (12b).

A. Note Romans 14:12

1. I will be responsible for MY sins and for none other. Since I cannot be judged for the sins of others I cannot use the sins of others to excuse my disobedience to God's commands!
2. God will not compare me with others (Romans 2:11).
3. We will be judged for how we, individually, obey God (Luke 12:48).
4. When we give an account for the way we act in life, we will not be able to lessen the reality of our rebellion to God by excuses, we will be forced to admit the Truth!

B. The final judgment is minute and individual.

As we stand before the Great White Throne and the Lamb's Book of Life is opened before us, we will pass or fail by our own credits (Matthew 7:21-23; Isaiah 3:10).

IV. **The focus** of the Judgment will examine our conduct on earth (13).

Have you ever considered how thorough the Bible says the Judgment on our conduct will be as we stand before the Great White Throne? Scripture is very specific in warning us so we will be prepared. Here are the items of our conduct that will be judged:

- T** Deeds (2 Corinthians 5:10)
- T** Words (Matthew 12:36, 37)
- T** Thoughts (1 Corinthians 4:5)
- T** Secret Things (Romans 2:16)
- T** Attitudes/Actions (Matthew 25:31-46)
- T** ALL Things (Matthew 10:26)

Since we know we will be judged on our conduct in regard to these things, what are we doing to control them so they will glorify God?

- V. **The rewards** of the Judgment to evil and righteous (14-15).
- A. Jesus tells us that we will receive rewards according to our works (Matthew 16:27).
 - 1. The reward for evil is often ignored (20:15).
 - 2. Whoever is not found in the Lamb's Book of Life will be cast into the lake of fire.
 - B. In Revelation 21:1 we see the rewards of the righteous.
 - C. Here is the most important question that life can present – **Is YOUR name in the Lamb's Book of Life?**
 - 1. If it is then you need to rejoice! (Luke 10:20)
 - 2. It is very possible for you to know if your name is in the Lamb's Book of Life (1 John 5:13). If you are uncertain, then you **MUST** change that uncertainty to assurance!

Conclusion:

- I. Revelation 20:11-15 describes an awesome day.
- II. This passage presents features of the Judgment Day that all should know and that knowledge should prod everyone to be prepared!
 - 1. The authority of the Judgment Day.
 - 2. The universality of the Judgment Day.
 - 3. The individuality of the Judgment.
 - 4. The conduct in our lives that will be judged.
 - 5. The reward for good and evil that will be rendered.
- III. Are you in the Lamb's Book of Life?
 - 1. Revelation 21:6-8 – Eternal life is promised for those who love the Lord

enough to believe in Him and to be baptized into Him and to live a devoted life for Him.

2. You have two alternatives from which to choose today – *obey* God's Laws or *disobey* God's Laws. What will you choose? Acts 17:32-34
 - a. Some do not choose to obey and live to regret it.
 - b. Some choose to obey and are blessed.
 - c. We must take heed to Matthew 13:9.

IV. Only in Christ can one be saved from eternal death (Acts 4:12).

1. Will you be like the ones described in Revelation 6:15-17?
2. You can be saved today from the awful experience of standing before the Great White Throne and explaining why your name was not in the Lamb's Book of Life, IF you will obey God's commands.
 - a. Will you **BELIEVE** that Christ is the Son of God and **CONFESS** that belief before others? (Romans 10:9-10).
 - b. Will you **REPENT** from a self-directed lifestyle and turn to God's lifestyle? (Acts 3:19).
 - c. Will you be **IMMERSED FOR THE REMISSION** of sins so you can become a child of God and your name be entered into the Lamb's Book of Life? (Acts 22:16).