

H. Dwayne Spearman
Dr. Jim Combs
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The Great White Throne Judgment

The Great White Throne Judgment occurs in Revelation, chapter 21, verses 11 through 15. It occurs on the heels of the loosing of Satan from the Bottomless Pit and a failed rebellion against King Jesus who ruled and reigned here upon the earth during His thousand years Millennial Reign.

The Great White Throne Judgment is for the unbelieving throughout the history of mankind. All men who rejected God's way of salvation will be present at this judgment from the days of Adam and Eve until the very last sinner who shakes his fist in the face of God at the Battle of Armageddon. Everyone whose name is not written in the Lamb's book of life will be in attendance.

It is very interesting that in verse 12 it says that the "*books*" were opened. Notice that this word is in the plural form and not the singular. This brings up the two differences between the Judgment Seat of Christ which is where the Believers are rewarded and the Great White Throne Judgment which is where the Unbelievers are judged.

The first difference is that the Judgment Seat of Christ is more of a rewards ceremony in that all who are privileged to be invited are saved and only one book will be opened to prove it; the Lamb's Book of Life. On the contrary, all of those who stand before the Great White Throne Judgment are lost and more than one book will be opened to prove it.

What are these other books that are opened? Well, we definitely know that one of them is the Lamb's Book of Life because it is specifically mentioned at the end of verse 12. The purpose of the other books is clearly explained in verse 12 as well when it says, *"...And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books."*

These are apparently books that contain a recording of the works of those who are to stand before this great judgment. Why? It is because in their previous life, they refused the mercy and the grace that was extended through Jesus Christ by His sacrificial death on Calvary so that we could be saved by His death, burial, and resurrection instead of by our own works. As such, they are going to be judged exactly the way they indicated that they wanted to be judged; by their works.

Even if they were good most of the time and kept most of the Law during their lives upon this earth; it's not good enough. As a matter of fact, the Bible says in James 2:10, *"whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all."* They will be judged by the Law and the holy, righteous ruling of God will be guilty.

As such, they will be immediately cast into the Lake of Fire where Satan, the Antichrist, and the False Prophet await them. It is a fire that the Bible describes in Mark 9:46 as unquenchable when it says, *"where 'their worm does not die And the fire is not quenched.'"*

This experience in the Bible is called the second death. It is total separation from God for all eternity. Christians will die once in this life time to never die again; save the rapture. However, unbelievers will not only die once physically in this lifetime, but will also die spiritually at this great judgment when they are cast into the Lake of Fire forever. What a tragedy!