

In our last podcast, we looked at the end of the millennial period to the time when Satan is released from the Abyss and once again the Devil gathers many to come and war against the reigning Lord Jesus Christ and all His servants. They march against the city of God and fire comes down from heaven and consumes them all. Satan is then finally dispatched and disposed of in the Lake of Fire. Let's pick back up with what is known as The Great White Throne Judgment.

EP173 Revelation 20:11-12

The Great White Throne Judgment

Revelation 20:11-15

Then I saw a great white throne and He who chooses to **now** be sitting on it. From his presence, earth and heaven fled away, and no place was caused to be found for them.

And I saw the dead, great and small, having been standing before the throne, and books were caused to be opened. Then another book was caused to be opened, which **now** is the book of life.

And the dead were caused to be judged by what was caused to being written in the books, according to what they had done.

And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were caused to be judged, each one of them, according to what they had done.

Then Death and Hades were caused to be thrown into the lake of fire. This **now** is the second death, the lake of fire.

And if anyone's name was not caused to be found caused to being written in the book of life, he was caused to be thrown into the lake of fire.

A White Throne

*"Then I saw a great white throne and He who chooses to **now** be sitting on it."* This opening scene is nothing short of majestic—a great white throne and John could see the one who chooses to now be sitting on it. According to the **Code**, white is a symbol of righteousness and purity as this is the emblematic and consistent use of this color all throughout the **Codex**.

Accordingly, this image is a commentary on the worthiness of the one who is sitting on the throne. Only one who is righteous and pure can sit down upon and judge from this throne, for its very foundations are righteousness, justice, and truth.

*"The judgments of **Yahweh** are righteous and true altogether."*¹ Hence, the bondservants of **Yahweh** now sing: "just and true are Your ways, King of the nations."² In like manner, the altar of sacrifice cried

¹ *Psalm 19:9*

² *Revelation 15:3*

out, “Yes, O Lord God, the Almighty, true and righteous Your judgments.”³ And something like a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven is even **now** saying: “For true and righteous His judgments.”⁴

The Psalmist declared: “**Yahweh** abides forever; He has established His throne for judgment, and He will judge the world in righteousness; He will execute judgment for the peoples with equity.”⁵ “For God is the king of all the earth...God reigns over the nations, God sits on His holy throne.”⁶ “Righteousness and justice are the foundation of His throne.” “Lovingkindness and truth go before You.”⁷

The prophet Daniel saw a similar scene and he describes it in such a way that is quite intimidating.

Daniel 7:9-10

I watched as thrones were put in place and the Ancient One sat down to judge. His clothing was as white as snow, his hair like purest wool. He sat on a fiery throne with wheels of blazing fire, and a river of fire was pouring out, flowing from his presence. Millions of angels ministered to him; many millions stood to attend him. Then the court began its session, and the books were opened.

And we know that Jesus is the one who chooses to now be sitting on the throne in judgment, “For not even the Father **now** judges anyone, but He has given all judgment to the Son so that all may **now** honor the Son even as they **now** honor the Father.”⁸ Jesus is beyond worthy to judge. Moreover, because His judgment is based on truth, every knee will bow before Him and every tongue will confess, even in their judgment, that Jesus is **Yahweh**, that Jesus is the **I AM**, to the glory of God the Father.⁹ Yes, all those who go down to the dust will bow before Him acknowledging His worthiness.¹⁰

Zephaniah 2:11

Yahweh will be terrifying to them, for He will starve all the gods of the earth; and all the coastlands of the nations will bow down to Him, everyone from his own place.

Isaiah 45:23-24

I have sworn by Myself, the word has gone forth from My mouth in righteousness and will not turn back, that to Me every knee will bow, every tongue will swear. They will say of Me, “Only in **Yahweh** are righteousness and strength.” Men will come to Him, and all who were angry at Him will be put to shame.

³ **Revelation 16:7**

⁴ **Revelation 19:2**

⁵ **Psalm 9:7-8**

⁶ **Psalm 47:7-8**

⁷ **Psalm 97:2, Psalm 89:14**

⁸ **John 5:22-23**

⁹ **Philippians 2:10-11**

¹⁰ **Psalm 22:29**

Earth & Sky Fled

“From his presence {literally, His face or countenance}, earth and heaven fled away, and no place was caused to be found for them.” This is a poetic way of explaining that with one glance, just one look from Jesus, the earth and the heavens were obliterated.

Jesus warned us about this when He said that “heaven and earth will choose in the **future** to pass away.”¹¹ The old must always be removed so He can usher in the new. It’s a bit like our life. Our *Old Sinful Nature* is being killed day-in-and-day-out so that our **New Creation** can live and abound.¹² It is the same pattern. He makes all things new and in so doing He destroys or puts away all that is old and worn out.

As the writer of **Hebrews** says, quoting **Isaiah** which in turn quotes the **Psalms**:

Hebrews 1:10-12

And you, in the beginning, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth and the heavens **now** are the work of your hands. They will choose in the **future** to perish, but you **now** remain. They will be caused in the **future** to wear out like old clothing. You will in the **future** fold them up like a cloak, and like old clothing they will be caused in the **future** to be changed. But you **now** are always the same; and your years will in the **future** not fail.¹³

Hebrews 12:26-27

And His voice shook the earth then, but now He chose to have promised, **now** saying, “Yet once more I will in the **future** shake not only the earth, but also the heaven.” This expression, “Yet once more,” **now** denotes the removing of those things that are caused to **now** be shaking, as of things having been caused to being created, so that those things which cannot **now** be caused to be shaking may remain.

2 Peter 3:10-13

But the day of the Lord will in the **future** come like a thief, in which the heavens will in the **future** choose to pass away with a roar and the elements will in the **future** be caused to be destroyed with intense heat that is **now** caused to be burning, and the earth and its works will be in the **future** be caused to be burned up.

Since all these things are **now** caused to being destroyed in this way, **now** what sort of people ought you to **now** be in holy conduct and godliness, **now** looking for and **now** hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will in the **future** be caused to be destroyed by fire that is **now** caused to be burning, and the elements will **now** be caused to melt **now** being caused to be set

¹¹ **Matthew 24:35**

¹² **1 Peter 3:18; Romans 8:36**

¹³ See also **Isaiah 34:4; Psalm 102:25-27**

on fire!

Nevertheless, we now look, according to His promise, for a new heavens and earth wherein righteousness **now** dwells.

We will cover this again when we get to **Revelation 21**, but just take note, all that we know in our present physical reality will be shaken loose and ultimately destroyed.

It is fascinating that the Spirit communicates personal intent when He talks about the destruction of the heavens. He keeps saying that they will **choose** in the future to pass away, to perish, as if it is a volitional choice. But regarding the physical elements, they will be caused to be burning, to wear out, to be changed. One chooses (the *middle* voice) and the other is acted upon (the *passive* voice).

Perhaps this is a veiled phrase targeted at the hosts of heaven who dwell in the heavens (the bad angels) who will be shaken from their posts and punished. In effect, by their rebellion and ongoing works of evil, the heavens in effect choose to pass away, to perish.

It is also fascinating how the Spirit says, "... and the earth will in the future be caused to loosen and the works therein will be caused in the future to be found." In this great shaking, nothing will be lost. The works of all mankind will be found, shaken loose, like coins from a pocket. These works will be that which condemns those whose names are not found written in the Lamb's book of life. Jesus hinted at this truth when He said:

Matthew 12:36-37

But I **now** tell you that every careless word that people will in the future speak, they will in the future give an account in the day of judgment. For by your words, you will be caused in the future to be justified, and by your words, you will be caused in the future to be condemned.

There is no escaping judgment. Jesus explained this to His disciples who were upset at how they were all being treated. He let them know that no matter what people do, it will come back to haunt them, it is just a matter of time, for their works will be caused to be found as everything will be shaken loose.

Matthew 10:25-26

It is enough for the disciple that he chooses to become like his teacher, and the slave like his master. If they have called the head of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign the members of his household! Therefore, may you not be caused to fear them, for there **now** is nothing that has been caused to being concealed that will not in the future be caused to be revealed, or hidden that will not in the future be caused to be known.

Luke 12:1-3

You are commanded to **now** beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which **now** is hypocrisy. But there

now is nothing that has been caused to being covered up that will not in the **future** be caused to be revealed and hidden that will not in the **future** be caused to be known. Accordingly, whatever you have said in the dark will in the **future** be caused to be heard in the light, and what you have whispered in the inner rooms will in the **future** be caused to be proclaimed upon the housetops.

Those Standing in Judgment

The Great and the Small

“And I saw the dead, great and small, having been standing before the throne, and books were caused to be opened.”

Because God’s judgment is just and true, it is also equitable. It does not matter what standing or position one had during their time on the earth, whether they were viewed by many as great or small, kings or peasants, for all will stand before **Yahweh’s** throne of judgment, and they will be judged, each one of them, according to what they had done.

With “*standing*” being rendered in the *perfect active participle*, this reveals that all of mankind has in effect been continually standing before God in judgment, they may not have realized it, refused to accept this truth, or ignored it all together. Regardless, all generations have been standing under the watch of the one whose eyes are like a flame of fire.¹⁴ *“For the ways of a man are before the eyes of Yahweh, and He watches all his paths.”*¹⁵ *“Nothing in all creation is hidden from God. Everything is naked and exposed before His eyes, and He is the one to whom we are accountable.”*¹⁶ *“What are people, that you should make so much of us, that you should think of us so often? For you examine us every morning and test us every moment.”*¹⁷ *“You have granted me life and lovingkindness; and Your care has preserved my spirit. Yet these things You have concealed in Your heart; I know that this is within You: If I sin, then You would take note of me, and would not acquit me of my guilt.”*¹⁸

The Great White Throne vs. the Bema Seat

We need to be clear that this judgment at the Great White Throne **DOES NOT INVOLVE** the wife of Christ—His **Called and Chosen and Faithful** bondservants. The bondservants of Jesus are blessed to take part in the first resurrection, the rapture, and they will receive an altogether different kind of judgment.¹⁹ The Great White Throne judgment is a judgment of life or death, with death being explained as an eternity in the **Lake of Fire** and brimstone.

But the bondservants of Jesus are those who are now overcoming. They have been found standing in the fire on the sea of glass before the throne of God. They did not run from the fire, they did not avoid the fire, but they remained standing letting the fires of merciful judgment do their purifying work, burning

¹⁴ **Revelation 1:14, 2:18, 19:12; Daniel 7:9, 10:6**

¹⁵ **Proverbs 5:21.** See also **2 Chronicles 16:9; Psalm 33:13-15**

¹⁶ **Hebrews 4:13**

¹⁷ **Job 7:17-18**

¹⁸ **Job 10:12-14**

¹⁹ **Revelation 14:14-16, 20:4-6,**

out religious apostasy from their soul.

As a result, they undergo a different sort of judgment at what is called the “*Bema Seat*.” The Greek word “*bema*” refers to a platform or a raised place, typically used for a judge's seat or a place of authority. For example, in **Romans 14:10** and **2 Corinthians 5:10**, it refers to the judgment seat of Christ, where believers are judged for their deeds.

2 Corinthians 5:9-10

Therefore, we also choose to **now** have as our ambition, whether **now** being home or **now** being absent, to **now** be pleasing to Him. For we must all be caused to appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may choose to receive for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

Romans 14:10-12

But you, why do you **now** judge your brother? Or you again, why do you **now** regard your brother with contempt? For we will all in the **future** choose to stand before the judgment seat of God. For it has been caused to be written, “As I **now** live, **now** says the Lord, in the **future** every knee shall bow to Me, and every tongue shall choose in the **future** to give agree with God.” So, then each one of us will in the **future** give an account of himself to God.

Though the bondservants of Christ will be judged for what they have done in the body, since no flesh will glory in His sight, the outcome of this judgment is reward and not life or death. All that is worthless will be discarded and the good works that Jesus did in-and-through our lives will remain, and for that we will be rewarded.

This mix of what we do now, and the future judgment of those works is all about the source of the works, and not so much the outcome of the works. With just a casual read of **Matthew 7:21-23**, we can conclude that we are not to look to amazing outcomes to determine if Christ did His work in-and-through our lives, for such amazing outcomes may still be a result of a lawless deed, works not authorized by the Father, but works done in service to the Harlot. This reinforces the truth that **the source matters, the source is everything!**

As to any specific work we have done, we will have to look to the judgment by the one who sits on the *Bema Seat* to know if it was indeed a “good” work.

1 Corinthians 3:12-15

Now if any man **now** builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each man's work will choose in the **future** to become evident; for the day will in the **future** show it because it is caused to **now** be revealed with fire, and the fire itself will in the **future** test what is **now** the quality of each man's work.

If any man's work which he has built on in the **future** remains, he will choose in the **future** to receive a **reward**. If any man's work is caused in the **future** to be burned up, he will be caused in the **future** to suffer loss; but he himself will be caused in the **future** to be saved, yet so as through fire.

When does this judgment occur? Shortly after the blowing of the Seventh (7th) Trumpet, the final trumpet in the series of seven, which also is the time when the earth is harvested and some rise to meet Jesus in the air, and then always will be with Him. This is the rapture of the **Called and Chosen and Faithful** bondservants of Jesus Christ.

Revelation 11:15-18

And the **seventh angel sounded**; and there chose to be loud voices in heaven, **now** saying, "The kingdom of the world has chosen to become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ; and He will reign forever and ever." And the twenty-four elders, who choose to **now** be sitting on their thrones before God, fell on their faces and worshiped God, now saying,

"We **now** give You thanks, O Lord God, the Almighty, who is **now** being and who was, because You have taken Your great power and have reigned. And the nations have been caused to be enraged, and Your **wrath** came, and the time for the dead to be caused to be judged, **and the time to reward Your bondservants the prophets and the holy ones and those whom you caused to now be fearing Your name, the small and the great**, and to destroy those who are **now** destroying the earth."

Revelation 14:14-20

Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and **now** choosing to be sitting on the cloud was one like a son of man, **now** having a golden crown on His head and a sharp sickle in His hand. And another angel came out of the Sanctuary, **now** crying out with a loud voice to Him **now** choosing to be sitting on the cloud, "You are commanded to dispatch your sickle, and You are commanded to reap, for the hour to reap has come, because the harvest of the earth is caused to be ripe." Then He that is **now** choosing to be sitting on the cloud swung His sickle over the earth, and the earth was caused to be reaped.

1 Corinthians 15:50-53

Now I **now** say this, brethren, ***brethren***, that flesh and blood cannot **now** be caused to inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable **now** inherit the imperishable.

Behold, I **now** tell you a mystery; we will not all in the **future** be caused to sleep, but we will all in the **future** be caused to be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, **at the last trumpet; for in the future the trumpet will sound**, and the dead will in the **future** be caused to be raised imperishable, and we will in the **future** be caused to be changed. For this perishable **now** must be *caused* to put on and *choose* to put on the imperishable, and this mortal must be *caused* to put on and *choose* to put on immortality.

Will there be a loss? Yes, there must be a loss since no human is perfect and unfortunately, we have all done far too much in service of the Harlot instead of following the leading of the Spirit of God, and most of us have not really known or understood the difference. But in this “*bema seat*” judgment, that which is worthless will be removed so that the bondservants of Jesus may enter eternity clothed only with the righteousness of Christ, which is our ultimate reward.

Revelation 19:7-8

May we **now** be glad, and may we **now** rejoice, and may we give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His wife has made herself ready. It was caused to be given to her that she may choose to clothe herself in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is **now** the righteousness of the saints.

As stated previously when we covered this passage, it seems there is always a tension between God’s provision for our lives and our appropriating what He has given to us. If we choose to abide in Jesus Christ, if we trust in Him and give Him our lives, if we depend upon Him for our very nourishment looking only to Him to be our **I AM**, He will produce the works of the Father in-and-through our lives. It is these works that are worthy and will follow us through eternity.²⁰

But make no mistake, **without Him we can do nothing!**²¹ Not something, but absolutely **NOTHING!** Not even .0000001%. We will never be worthy of doing any work that is worthy of praise or honor. Our works will never be clean and bright and will never follow us into eternity. They will be mercifully burned off at the “*bema seat*” judgment.

Our job is to abide in **Yahweh**, to bet our lives upon Him, dependent wholly upon the vine, Jesus, that holds us and nourishes us. He will produce the good fruit, the good deeds which Jesus does in-and-through His children. And since only God is good and is the only one who can do good works, we know that **the source matters, the source is everything!**²²

**THE POINT IS THAT ALL THOSE WHO ARE NOW BELIEVING WILL NOT BE JUDGED IN
THIS GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGMENT!**

The Dead & The Books

²⁰ **Revelation 14:13**

²¹ See **John 15:1-17**

²² See **Matthew 19:17; Mark 10:18; James 1:17; Revelation 11:18, 15:2-4, 19:7-8, 20:4-6**

Revelation 20:12-13

And I saw the dead, great and small, having been standing before the throne, and books were caused to be opened. Then another book was caused to be opened, which **now** is the book of life.

And the dead were caused to be judged by what was caused to being written in the books, according to what they had done.

And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were caused to be judged, each one of them, according to what they had done.

The Dead

What we can conclude from this passage is that except for the wife of Christ who, at the time of the rapture, received spiritual bodies, for the mortal put on immortality, the perishable put on the imperishable, such that they bear the image of the heavenly, everyone else dies.²³ We touched on this when we talked about the consuming fire that comes down from heaven to destroy the nations that have come up against Jesus and the camp of His holy ones.

It is either at this time or shortly thereafter that the heavens will choose to pass away with a terrible noise, and the very elements themselves will be burning with intense heat.²⁴ Perhaps this fire that came down to destroy those of the nations, Gog and Magog, was the spark that sets the universe a flame and leads to its entire destruction.

Jesus warned us about this when He said that *“heaven and earth will choose in the **future** to pass away.”*²⁵ Then we are told that at this time of the Great White Throne Judgment, *“From his presence {literally, His face or countenance}, earth and heaven fled away, and no place was caused to be found for them.”* This is a poetic way of explaining that with one glance, just one look from Jesus, the earth and the heavens were obliterated.

The point being that unless one has been made immortal, imperishable, they will die; they will all die. All those who lived during the millennial kingdom will die.

Those in attendance at this judgment will come from the sea, and from Death and Hades. This is a powerful word picture that is intended to communicate that no one will escape judgment. Keeping consistent with the **Code**, the *“sea”* speaks of the restless masses of humanity. Thus, all who have died and were not raised with Christ, will come forth from the sea.

The dead also come forth from Death and Hades – a pair of traveling companions we previously met at the opening of the Fourth (4th) Seal. Death was the spirit that was riding the pale greenish horse, and hades accompanied him.

In **Revelation 6:7-8**, Death and Hades are personified as spiritual creatures, part of the angelic, and not just as words describing the absence of life or the place of the dead, but active sentient beings purposed on a mission. Although Death is not depicted with a black hooded cloak and a sickle, the image is still

²³ See **1 Corinthians 15:42-57**

²⁴ See **2 Peter 3:10**

²⁵ **Matthew 24:35**

gripping. These 2 angelic creatures work together as a team. Death will kill and Hades will in effect swallow up the dead.

Death

The Greek word “*thanatos*” is used in the **Codex** to describe both a literal and a spiritual death. Literally, it applies to the separation of the soul from the body, with the body literally deteriorating into dust.²⁶ Spiritually, it applies to the separation of the soul from God because of our imperfection and His perfection.²⁷ Apparently, this angel named Death oversees death at both a physical and a spiritual level.

Hades

Four times Jesus spoke of hades.²⁸ It is also referenced in **Acts 2:27, 31** which references **Psalm 16:10**. In effect, hades is equated with the Old Testament Jewish concept of Sheol.

From a Hebrew perspective, **Sheol**, the place of the dead, has two sections. One part is a place of torment and is known as Hades, the other part is a place of comfort and mercy and is known as the Bosom of Abraham.²⁹ For instance, we are told that the Father did not abandon Jesus to hades when He descended to the lower parts of the earth, which, by the way, is where the Spirit indicated that Sheol was located.³⁰ So, technically, people literally do “go down to hell.”

The angel Hades oversees this realm of the dead and he picks up after Death has done its job. First comes death and then comes Hades. And keep in mind, beyond the normal death to do age, from which all humans suffer, Death and Hades were given specific authority over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword and with famine and with death and with the wild beasts of the earth.

At this time of judgment, they surrender all their occupants, they give up their dead. The point is that everyone who has ever lived (except for the wife of Christ) will come before the judgment seat—even those who lived during the millennial period.

Let’s stop here and in our next podcast we will pick back up with a **fiction alert** regarding the famed “scales of judgment.” Many people have this notion that what they have done in life will be put on a scale, a balance, so-to-speak, and if the scales tips to the right (meaning they have done more good deeds than bad), they will go to heaven and if it tips to the left, well, sucks being them.

I am glad you “tuned in” and have been “ready to listen.”

²⁶ **John 11:13; Matthew 10:21, 20:18, 26:66; Luke 2:26; John 11:4; Hebrews 7:23, 9:15**

²⁷ **Matthew 4:16, 16:28; John 5:24, 8:51-52, Romans 5:14, 17, 21, 6:3-9, 7:24; 8:2, 6**

²⁸ **Matthew 11:23, 16:18; Luke 10:15, 16:23**

²⁹ **See Luke 16:19-31**

³⁰ **Ephesians 4:9-10; Deuteronomy 32:22; 1 Samuel 28:11-15; Job 26:5; Psalm 86:13; Ezekiel 31:14-16, 18**