

In our last podcast, we examined the Great White Throne Judgment of all who are not the wife of Christ. This judgment is where a person's eternity is adjudicated. Their judgment is based on truth, upon the character and nature of **Yahweh**. And all will bow before Him, before Jesus. Let's pick back up with the written record which supports their individual judgment, the books.

## EP174 Revelation 20:12-15

### Books Were Opened

#### *Revelation 20:12*

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."

These books that are opened are likely records of each person's life. After all, God has recorded every detail; accordingly, the dead will be judged by what is written in the books, according to what they have done. And with "*writing*" being a *participle*, we know that this is an ongoing process, a real time activity that tracks the details of the lives of all humanity.

This idea of books containing details of our lives is captured in the **Codex** when David declares that in **Yahweh's** books were written all the days of his life that were ordained, before there was even one of them.<sup>1</sup> As he said, "*You have taken account of my wanderings; put my tears in Your bottle. Are they not in Your book?*"<sup>2</sup>

Thus, it is important to understand that even though God is patient, and He does not always bring immediate judgment into people's lives, nothing is forgotten; it will all come to light. "*But there is nothing covered up that will not be revealed and hidden that will not be known. Accordingly, whatever you have said in the dark will be heard in the light, and what you have whispered in the inner rooms will be proclaimed upon the housetops.*"<sup>3</sup> His judgment will be just and true for it is based on what was caused to have been written.

### Fiction Alert

**FICTION ALERT**

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<sup>1</sup> *Psalm 139:16*

<sup>2</sup> *Psalm 56:8*

<sup>3</sup> *Luke 12:1-3*

## The 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. That is **ABSOLUTELY NOT** what this passage is communicating.

To get into heaven, your name must be written in the **Book of Life**, no ifs, ands, or buts. The records are kept so that the eternity which a person chooses is unabashedly recorded and the judgment they face will be proportional to their deeds. It will be clear beyond all uncertainty that they choose either life or death, and their deeds will be the irrefutable evidence of their choice.

This is where the story of the **Righteous Elect** from both the Jews and Gentiles comes forth. We need to keep in mind that the wife of Christ is not being judged at this event. She has been redeemed and has been glorified with Christ, immortal. This judgment is about the rest of humanity.

For a person's name to be caused to be written in the **Book of Life**, they must have been believing in or have "received" Jesus. The **Codex** is clear about this.

### **John 3:18-20**

Whoever is **now** believing in him is not **now** caused to be condemned, **but whoever is not now believing has been caused to be condemned**, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this **now** is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their deeds were evil. For everyone who is **now** doing wicked things **now** hates the light and does not **now** choose to come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.

### **Matthew 10:40-41**

He who chooses to **now** be receiving you **now** chooses to receive Me, and he who chooses to **now** be receiving Me **now** chooses to receive Him who has been sending Me.

### **Matthew 18:3-6**

Truly I say **now** to you, unless you may be caused to be converted and may choose to become like children, you shall not enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever then in the **future** humbles himself as this child, he **now** is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

And whoever shall receive one such child in My name chooses to **now** receive Me; but whoever shall cause one of these little ones who is **now** believing in Me to stumble, it would **now** be better for him to have a heavy millstone caused to be hung around his neck, that he may be caused to be drowned in the depth of the sea.

**John 13:20**

Truly, truly, I **now** say to you, he who is **now** receiving whomever I may send **now** receives Me; and he who is **now** receiving Me **now** receives Him who has been sending Me.

**Luke 12:8-9**

I **now** tell you the truth, everyone who shall acknowledge me publicly here on earth, the Son of Man will also in the **future** acknowledge in the presence of God's angels. But anyone who has chosen to be denying me here on earth will in the **future** be caused to be denied before God's angels.

The point being that these books of deeds which are opened are not used to determine if someone will get into heaven. Again, that decision is determined by whether a person believed in Jesus or "received" Him and "received" the one who had been sending Him by how they treated the bondservants of Jesus Christ, His wife. If they honored and cared for her, they in effect "received" Him. This result is so clear in that passage in **Matthew** which we have covered a couple of times, but which is so important that we should read it again.

**Matthew 25:31-46**

But when the Son of Man may come in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will in the **future** sit on His glorious throne. All the nations will in the **future** be caused to be gathered before Him; and He will in the **future** separate them from one another, as the shepherd **now** separates the sheep from the goats; and He will in the **future** put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left.

Then the King will in the **future** say to those on His right, 'Come, you who have been caused to being blessed, ***you who have been caused to being blessed*** of My Father, you are commanded to inherit the kingdom caused to having been prepared for you from the foundation of the world.'

For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me something to drink; I was by choice a stranger, and you invited Me in; naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and by choice you visited Me; I was by choice in prison, and you came to Me.'

Then the righteous will in the **future** be caused to answer Him, **now** saying, 'Lord, when did we see You **now** being hungry, and feed You, or **now** being thirsty, and give You something to drink? And when did we see You a stranger, and invite You in, or naked, and clothe You? When did we see You **now** being sick, or in prison, and come to You?'

The King will be caused to be answering and, in the **future**, say to them, '**Truly I now say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.**'

Then He will also in the **future** say to those on His left, 'you are commanded to **now** depart from Me, you caused to having been accursed, ***you caused to having been accursed***, into the eternal fire which was caused to having been prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry, and you gave Me nothing to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me nothing to drink; by choice I was a stranger, and you did not invite Me in; naked, and you did not clothe Me; sick, and in prison, and you did not choose to visit

Me.'

Then they themselves will in the **future** be caused to answer, **now** saying, 'Lord, when did we see You **now** being hungry, or **now** being thirsty, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not take care of You?'

Then He will in the **future** be caused to answer them, **now** saying, 'Truly I **now** say to you, to the extent that you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.' These will in the **future** go away, by choice, into eternal punishment, but the **righteous** into eternal life."

Those who inherit eternal life in the kingdom of God will be those righteous who cared for, protected, helped, and listened to Jesus' little children (those who are the **Called and Chosen and Faithful** bondservants of Jesus Christ). The Righteous will experience eternal life, whereas all those "sons of the kingdom" will be cast into outer darkness.

The most amazing thing about this passage is that the decisions have been made, again, it is all a now event. Thus, those who did not help are commanded to now depart from Jesus. They chose eternal punishment whereas the **Righteous** chose eternal life. God is not sentencing them; rather, they chose, and He is and will be honoring their wishes.

With that said, these books do provide a scale of judgment for the condemned. They will be used to determine the level of torment that they will endure for eternity.

God is merciful, it is His nature. He will even have mercy on sinners, the rebellious, and the defiant. They will all spend eternity separated from God in the **Lake of Fire**, in "*everlasting contempt*."<sup>4</sup> However, the level of torment which they will forever endure will be proportional to their deeds. This is probably where Dante got his idea of the 9 circles of suffering. We see glimpses of this layered judgment in the **Codex**.

#### **Mark 12:38-40**

Jesus also taught: "You are commanded to **now** beware of these teachers of religious law! For they are **now** liking to parade around in flowing robes and to receive respectful greetings as they **now** walk in the marketplaces. And how they love the seats of honor in the synagogues and the head table at banquets. Yet they shamelessly are **now** cheating widows out of their property and then pretend to be pious by choosing to **now** be making long prayers in public. Because of this, they will in the **future** *choose* to be more severely punished."

#### **Mark 9:40-42**

Anyone who is not **now** against us is **now** for us. If anyone gives you even a cup of water that you may drink because you **now** belong to the Messiah, I **now** tell you the truth, that person shall surely not lose his reward. But if you may cause one of these little ones who is **now** believing in me to fall into

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<sup>4</sup> See **Daniel 12:2**

sin, it would **now** be better for you to be caused to be thrown into the sea with a large millstone chosen to **now** be hung around your neck.

#### **Luke 12:47-48**

And a servant who has been knowing what his master wants but hasn't been preparing and hasn't been carrying out those instructions, will in the **future** be caused to be severely punished. But someone who was not knowing and then was doing something wrong, will in the **future** be punished only lightly. When someone has been caused to be given much, much will in the **future** be caused to be required in return; and when someone has been chosen to be entrusted with much, even more will in the **future** be required.

Then, in speaking of Judas, Jesus said:

#### **Mark 14:21**

For the Son of Man must **now** depart, as it was caused to be written of Him. But how terrible it will be for the one who is **now** caused to betray him. It would be far better for that man if he had never been caused to be born!

The Scales of Judgment are real, but it is not what most people understand. The first step is binary. One either choose life or they choose death. If, however, they choose death, then the scales of judgment are brought to bear. *"And the dead were caused to be judged by what was caused to being written in the books, according to what they had done."*

## **The Last Enemy: Death**

#### **Revelation 20:14**

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

Death will finally get its comeuppance; same with its mate, Hades, as both are thrown into the lake of fire. This victory over death was prophesied in the **Codex**.

#### **Isaiah 25:6-8**

On this mountain, **Yahweh Sabaoth** (the Lord of Heaven's Armies) will spread a wonderful feast for all the people of the world. It will be a delicious banquet with clear, well-aged wine and choice meat. There he will remove the cloud of gloom, the shadow of death that hangs over the earth. **He will**

**swallow up death forever!** Adonai Yahweh (the Sovereign Lord) will wipe away all tears. He will remove forever all insults and mockery against his land and people. **Yahweh** has spoken!

### **1 Corinthians 15:25-28**

For Christ **now** must **now** reign until he shall humble all his enemies beneath his feet. **And the last enemy to now be caused to be destroyed is death.**

"God has put all things under his authority." (Of course, when it says, "*all things have been caused to be put under his authority*," that was not including God himself, who gave his authority.) Then, when all things may be caused to be under his authority, the Son will in the **future** be caused to have been putting himself under God's authority, so that God, who did subject to Him all things, that God may be the all in all.

Death is the last enemy which stands in the way of Jesus' absolute victory. It is fascinating that "*destroyed*" is not rendered in the *future* tense. Rather it is rendered in the *present passive indicative*. This means that even now Jesus is destroying "*death*." We can understand this to mean that each-and-every time that Jesus grants life to a person who "*receives*" Him (whether His bondservants or the **Righteous** who care for His bondservants), He is destroying death. But in this final day, death will know its final defeat as Jesus grants life to all whose names are found written in the book of life, and all the rest will join Death and his mate, Hades, in the **Lake of Fire**.

### **The Second Death**

"*This now is the second death, the lake of fire.*" This idea of a second death speaks of an eternal demise, a destiny, which comes after the physical death of a person (which would be their first death). It is interesting to note that each time "*Death*" is used, it is as a *noun* and functions as a personification of an enemy that must be defeated. We see this ultimate defeat of Death in the destiny of the bondservants of Jesus Christ.

### **Revelation 20:6**

Blessed and holy he who is **now** having a part in the resurrection the first; over these the second death **now** has no power...

The destiny of the 144,000 – the **Called and Chosen and Faithful** bondservants of Jesus Christ – is victory, life, and an eternity away from the **Lake of Fire**, for the **Second Death** even **now** has no power over them.<sup>5</sup>

### **The Lake of Fire**

The image of a **Lake of Fire** which burns with brimstone (burning sulfur) is horrifying. The idea of

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<sup>5</sup> "has no power" in **Revelation 20:6** is rendered in the *present active indicative*

burning forever and ever is one of the most terrifying images the Spirit utilizes in this book. But is it a literal image or figurative? We are not told definitively, but in the same way that the image of the “dragon” and the “serpent” describes Satan’s nature and not so much his actual body, this image of a **Lake of Fire** describes the eternal nature of the **Second Death**. Therefore, whether it is an actual lake that is on fire or some spiritual place that feels like a lake on fire burning with sulfur, the point is that you do not want to find yourself in this terrifying place.

## The Names **NOT** Found Written in the Book of Life

### **Revelation 20:15**

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.

As previously mentioned, for all those who are not the wife of Christ, eternity is a binary equation based on what is recorded in the Book of Life. Either your name was caused to have been written in this book or you choose to not have your name written. But even then, for those who did not choose life, God still is unbelievably merciful even in His judgment, as mercy is part of His very nature. We see this in something Jesus said when He was encouraging His disciples to love those who are awful to them.

### **Luke 6:35-36**

But you are commanded to **now** love your enemies, and you are commanded to **now** do good, and you are commanded to **now** lend, **now** expecting nothing in return; and you will choose in the **future** your great reward, and you will choose in the **future** to be sons of the Most High; for He **now** Himself is kind to ungrateful and evil men. You are commanded to choose to **now** be merciful, just as your Father **now** is merciful.

“... the Lord is full of compassion and is merciful.”<sup>6</sup> The way this plays out in eternal judgment is that those who committed the greatest atrocities against humanity and against the people of God (including those super-religious types like the Pharisees and the Merchants of religion who are responsible for perhaps the greatest atrocities against mankind) will face a more severe torment. Whereas those who were what we would otherwise call “good people” will face a less severe eternity. This is described for us by Jesus.

### **Matthew 10:13-15**

If the house **now** may be worthy, you are commanded to give it your blessing of peace. But if it **now** may not be worthy, you are commanded to let your blessing of peace return. Whoever may not choose

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<sup>6</sup> See **James 5:11**

to receive you, nor may heed your words, as you choose to **now** be departing out of that house or that city, you are commanded to shake the dust off your feet. Truly I **now** say to you, it will choose in the **future** to be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment than for that city.

#### **Matthew 11:20-24**

Then He began by choice to **now** denounce the cities in which most of His miracles were chosen to be done, because they did not repent. "Woe to you, Chorazin, ***Chorazin!*** Woe to you, Bethsaida, ***Bethsaida!*** For if it was chosen that the miracles had occurred in Tyre and Sidon which was chosen to be occurring in you, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes.

Nevertheless, I **now** say to you, it will in the **future** choose to be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in the day of judgment than for you. And you, Capernaum, ***Capernaum,*** will not in the **future** be caused to be exalted to heaven, will you? You will choose in the **future** to descend to Hades; for if the miracles caused to have occurred in Sodom which was chosen to be occurring in you, it would have remained to this day. Nevertheless, I **now** say to you that it will in the **future** choose to be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for you."

However, regardless of the mercy of God that is displayed in His judgment, one cannot escape the fact that the description of the **Second Death** is horrific – a lake of fire burning with brimstone. And here is the point we cannot miss. Anyone whose names are not found in the Book of Life will be thrown into the Lake of Fire. The implication is that there is going to be no middle ground in eternity, no purgatory, and no second chances. Either you are in the new heaven with Jesus or according to this passage you will spend eternity in the Lake of Fire.

We all have heard about hell and Hades. Let's just say that this Lake of Fire, whatever it is, must be worse if both Death and Hades are thrown into this terrible place. The Lake of Fire may be a word picture, but what a picture! It speaks for itself. We cannot really add any definition to it. It is a place of eternal torment, and what torment could be worse than this idea of eternal burning? Honestly, it is hard to imagine one. It is a place of where eternity is defined as *"wailing and gnashing of teeth."*<sup>7</sup>

In His very nature, true to His word, God has continually and mercifully warned humanity of this judgment, for He does not want anyone to choose to walk this path of destruction. God is very clear what He wants: He wants people to choose life. *"The Lord is not **now** slow about His promise, as some choose to **now** count slowness, but is **now** patient toward you, caused to not **now** be wishing for any to choose to perish but for all to come to repentance."*<sup>8</sup>

This is the same message He spoke in the Old Testament.

<sup>7</sup> **Matthew 8:12, 13:42, 50, 22:13, 24:51, 25:30, Luke 13:28.** Note: in each of these passages, both "wailing" and "gnashing" are nouns, depicting a state of existence.

<sup>8</sup> **2 Peter 3:9**



**Ezekiel 18:30-32**

Therefore, I will judge you, O house of Israel, each according to his conduct, declares **Adonai** (the Lord) **Yahweh**. Repent and turn away from all your transgressions, so that iniquity may not become a stumbling block to you. Cast away from you all your transgressions which you have committed and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! For why will you die, O house of Israel? **For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone who dies, declares Adonai** (the Lord) **Yahweh. Therefore, repent and live.**

For now, this offer of life is still open. "*For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever is **now** believing in Him shall not choose to perish but may **now** have eternal life. For God did not send the Son into the world that He may judge the world, but that the world might be caused to be saved through Him*"<sup>9</sup> But for how long this offer will stay open, we simply don't know, for time is coming to an end. With the events unfolding in our world, it seems as if time might finally get the best of those who choose judgment instead of choosing this gift of eternal life. Undoubtedly, it breaks God's heart, but He will live up to His word. Those whose names are **NOT** caused to being written in the **Book of Life** will not enter the new heaven or the new earth. Therefore, it is up to each person to choose life.

**The Book of Life**

"*Then another book was caused to be opened, which **now** is the book of life.*" The Book of Life is the defining record of those who will live, and it stands as a testimony against those who choose to endure an eternity in the Lake of Fire.

We talked about the **Book of Life** quite exhaustively in **Revelation 13:7-10**. We discovered that modern evangelical Christianity has promoted a *fiction* which says that regarding heaven and hell, there are only two (2) categories of people, those who have been born again and go to heaven and everyone else. In contrast, the **Codex** clearly delineates four (4) categories of people.

1. Those whose names have always been excluded from the book of life (the "**Accursed**" – Vessels of Wrath caused to being prepared for destruction who choose to being prepared for destruction).<sup>10</sup>
2. Those whose names were once in the Book of Life but have been *erased* from the Book of Life because they never choose to leave the Harlot, they never choose to let go of the **work of their hands**, nor their idolatry and worship of demons. These are those who say "*Lord, Lord*" and do all manner of amazing works in His name, but they are *not now overcoming*. Being bound by the demonic (by those unclean birds, spirits and beasts), they resort to law and performance to define their relationship with God. They do not choose to live free, as little children dependent upon **Yahweh** for all things all the time. These are the "**Called**" and the "Called and Chosen" who are not now worshipping in the Sanctuary of God and are not now flowing with the oil of the Spirit of God, bringing light within the Sanctuary.<sup>11</sup>

<sup>9</sup> **John 3:16-17**

<sup>10</sup> **Romans 9:22-23**

<sup>11</sup> See **Revelation 3:5**, those who are now overcoming will not have their names erased from the book of life like those who are not now overcoming.

3. (The third category) Those whose names are permanently and indelibly marked in the Book of Life whose names will never be erased because they are even now believing and now overcoming (these are the “**Called and Chosen and Faithful wife of Jesus Christ**”). These are those who endure till the end knowing that without Jesus they can do nothing.
4. Those who, though they are not born-again, are deemed to have “*received*” Christ and “*received*” the Father based on how they treated the wife of Christ and based upon their refusal to take the mark of the Beast or bow before his image (the “**Righteous**” and the “**Elect**” from amongst the Gentiles and the Jews).

The eternal experience of the wife of Christ in comparison to the Righteous and the Elect will be vastly different. Both will experience eternity with Jesus, but the relationship will be fundamentally different. The wife of Christ will hold places of honor, rule, and authority in the new heaven and the new earth, for they will share in all that the Father has given to the Son. They are joint heirs with Jesus Christ.<sup>12</sup>

Whereas the Righteous and the Elect will experience something more akin to residents who, for all eternity, are faithfully ruled by the **Called and Chosen and Faithful**. We will see this difference pictured for us in the final two chapters of **Revelation** as the wife of Christ is imaged as the New Jerusalem.

Let’s stop here and in our next podcast we will pick up in **Revelation 21** with the new heaven and the new earth and the New Jerusalem.

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

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<sup>12</sup> **Romans 8:17; Galatians 3:29; Titus 3:7; Hebrews 6:17; James 2:5**