

REVELATION 20:7-15

The Wrath of God: Our Sin Has a Consequence

Memory Verse

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.

Revelation 20:12

Real-life Problems

Accountability—As sinners we do not naturally believe that we are accountable to God for our lives. In reality, we all must answer to the Lord for the lives we lead.

The Good News

When a person puts their faith in Christ, God writes their name in the book of life forever, meaning we are secured for eternal life with God in heaven. Jesus answered for our sins on the cross, so that we do not have to answer for them on Judgment Day.

Gospel Definition

God's **grace** and redemption for **sinners** through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

As sinners, we deserve judgment for our sins. However, God is gracious and merciful to believers in the way that He offers us the gift of forgiveness rather than judgment.

I. Introduction

What's going on?

REMIND:

In the previous lessons, we first learned about how God made us to live in close relationship with Him. However, mankind decided to be their own god and that relationship was broken.

TODAY WE'LL LEARN:

- 1) Every person has to stand before God to account for their life in some way.
- 2) Believers in Christ have their names written in the book of life and are saved from judgment because Jesus faced condemnation for their sins on the cross.
- 3) Those who do not trust Christ but instead rely on themselves are judged and condemned eternally.
- 4) Believers in Christ still go before God to present their lives as an offering to Him; therefore, we want to serve the Lord out of love and worship, looking toward that day.

Read

Read **Revelation 20:7-15** on your own.

II. Questions

A. WHAT?

1) What do Satan and his followers attempt to do to God's people in Revelation 20:7-9? What does the Lord do to defend His people?

2) What is the ultimate fate of Satan in verse 10?

3) Who do you think is seated on the throne in verse 11?

4) In verse 12, what is the second book that was opened? Read Luke 10:20 and Philippians 4:3. What does it say that book contains?

5) In verse 12, who does it say goes before the throne of God? What does God do when people come before the throne at this moment in Revelation 20?

6) What was the fate of those whose names were not written in the book of life in verse 15?

B. SO WHAT?

1) How does the image of the devil and his followers surrounding the camp of God's people make you feel? What does God demonstrate about His character by sending fire down on them?

2) What do you think is significant about the book of life only containing names without deeds of any sort?

3) Why do you think all people must give an account for their lives God? Do you think this is fair? Why or why not?

4) For those who were judged “according to what they had done,” what does that tell you about who they were trusting in? In whom did those whose names were written in the book of life trust for salvation?

5) Why do you think trusting in yourself and your own works is a losing strategy for salvation?

C. NOW WHAT?

1) Why do you think some people in the world are so insistent on denying that God created us? If God did not make us, how does that affect the need to account for our lives before God?

2) As a Christian, how does knowing that your name is written in the book of life make you feel? What assurance does it offer? How does knowing that we all give an account for our lives influence the way you live? (Important note: Christians do not give account for their lives in order to receive salvation; Jesus secures that. Christians do offer up their service and obedience in life as an offering to God.)

3) How does this text impact your passion and desire for evangelism? What images in the text motivate that? What steps does it compel you to take?

III. Closing

GOSPEL BUILDING BLOCKS:

Building Block #3: Every person, Christian and non-Christian alike, must answer to God for their lives. Non-believers answer for their sin at Judgment Day; Jesus answered for believers' sins on the cross, saving us from His judgment. Christians still go before the judgment seat of Christ to present their lives as an offering to God as an act of loving worship.

Building Block #2: Mankind has broken that relationship through sin and thereby created separation from God.

Building Block #1: A holy, loving God made us to live in blessed relationship with Him.

Supporting resources

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

- 1) When we act as if we do not have to give account for our lives to God, how does that tend to influence the way we live?
- 2) Think about seeing your name written in Jesus' book of life. See your full name there. Write about the emotions you experience in thinking about your name there.
- 3) Jesus faced your Judgment Day on the cross and was judged for your sins. How does this influence the way you feel about Christ? What kind of comfort and relief does this provide for you?

QUESTIONS FOR PARENTS:

- 1) Why do you think we, as sinners, do not like accountability and do not like to admit our faults to others?
- 2) How can thinking about presenting our lives to God in heaven as an act of worship influence the way we live?
- 3) What are moments in your life when you feel as if you are experiencing a "judgment day" of sorts? (Tests, games, auditions, etc.) How does knowing Jesus already experienced your "Judgment Day" on the cross comfort and help you as you consider these trials in life?