

Passage: Revelation 20:7-15

Title: Judgement Day

Summary: Our passage today is the “Day of Judgment”, also called the “Great White Throne Judgment”; At that Throne, on that Day, we read that books will be open that recorded our “works”, and that will determine the judgement of God upon each person. When that Day comes, and those books are opened, will you pass, The Good Person Test? Join us to be sure that you are sure.

*Revelation 20:7–15 (NKJV)*⁷ Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison ⁸ and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea. ⁹ They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them. ¹⁰ The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. ¹¹ Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. ¹² And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. ¹³ The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. ¹⁴ Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. ¹⁵ And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

Blessing / John on Patmos

The only book that comes with a promised blessing for those who read it:

(Revelation 1:3 NKJV) Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near.

John on Patmos / John wrote 5 Books / Believe – Eternal Life – Be Ready

John on the Island of Patmos receives this revelation of Jesus Christ. The Apostle John wrote 4 other books to the church. The Gospel of John, and 1,2,3 John, and this fifth book, Revelation. In the Gospel of John he wrote that we might believe, he uses the word believe some 60 times:

(John 20:31 NKJV) but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

He wrote us in 1,2,3 John so that we might know that we have eternal life:

(1 John 5:13 NKJV) These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.

So he wrote that we might believe, then that we might know, and now he writes Revelation so that we might be ready:

(Revelation 2:7 NKJV) "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God."

Before Glorified Christ / Write these Things / All Things Coming Before Throne

John is now before the glorified Christ, and Jesus says John now write these things so that they might be ready, for this book is all about man coming before the Holy God, the flow of all humanity is flowing to the throne of God whether man realizes it or not, John writes so that all of man might be ready:

(Ephesians 1:10 NKJV) that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times **He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth; in Him.**

Book of Revelation Outline

- The Things Which You Have Seen - (Chapter 1).
 - Revelation of the Glorified Risen Christ
- The Things Which Are - (Chapters 2-3).
 - The 7 Churches
- The Things Which Will Take Place After This - (Chapters 4-22).
 - The Scene around the Throne of God – Rev 4-5
 - The Tribulation Period – Rev 6-19
 - 7 Seals
 - 7 Trumpets
 - 7 Bowls
 - Marriage Supper of the Lamb
 - Battle of Armageddon

- Millennial Kingdom – Rev 20
- New Heaven and New Earth – Rev 21-22

(Revelation 1:19 NKJV) "Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.

Outline for Chapter 20

- Satan Bound – 20:1-3
- The Millennial Kingdom – 20:4-6
- Satan Loosed/Cast into Lake of Fire – 20:7-10
- White Throne Judgment – 20:11-15

Summary: Our passage today is the “Day of Judgment”, also called the “Great White Throne Judgment”; At that Throne, on that Day, we read that books will be open that recorded our “works”, and that will determine the judgement of God upon each person. When that Day comes, and those books are opened, will you pass, The Good Person Test? Join us to be sure that you are sure.

Satan Loosed/Cast into Lake of Fire (20:7-10)

(Revelation 20:7 NKJV) Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison

(Revelation 20:8 NKJV) and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea.

Telos – Expired

The word expired (GK: Telos) means finished, completed. It is the form of the word that Jesus said on the cross. It's done a thousand years will be exactly a thousand years. It'll be down to the year, to the month, to the day, to the hour, to the second. Jesus will say it is done and then the devil will be released and he will go out to deceive the nations.

John 19:30 (NKJV)³⁰ So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, “It is finished!” And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.

As for nations, some think this literally means the formation of nations during Millennial Kingdom, as the world that we know that I'm not fully sure of. If we rule and reign with Christ, I can't see us allowing nations (separation and unity) being formed, but it will be exciting to find out what this all looks like come that day . I definitely know when we speak of nations it speaks of the sea of humanity altogether. But nonetheless, Satan will deceive all of humanity to the four corners of the earth. And as many as the sand and the sea shall be, will gather to follow him

God and Magog, is used to tie us back to Ezekiel 38 and 39, that the world may have forgot the battle of Gog and Magog,. But what had happened there should remember that you'll never defeat God in any battle.

Satan Deceives Millennium People / Living Force Righteousness / Now Given Choice

Who will Satan try to deceive? Those born in the Millennium—those living in enforced righteousness and peace because there's no other choice, those who never had an opportunity to decide whether or not they would follow the Lord. You and I have made such a choice. We have “chosen to be chosen.” We have “selected to be elected.” Here, those born during the Millennium are also given this choice.

Somehow Satan Deceives Them / Perfect Environment – Peace – Prosperity – Gov't / Heart

I am blown away by the fact that somehow Satan will be able to persuade a great number of people to rebel against the One who will have done nothing but good for them and who will have given them a perfect environment wherein plenty, prosperity, peace, and perfection prevail. But I am only blown away until I stop to realize how good the Lord has been to me; how He gave His life for me; how He provides for me, walks with me, blesses me—and how often I turn my back on Him, fail to learn of Him, refuse to talk to Him. And then I understand how Satan will be able to get a number of those living in the Millennium to echo the cry of Jerusalem: “We will not have this Man to reign over us” (Luke 19:14). No one can blame the environment, that the government was not there for them, at the end of the 1.000

years we will see that it was always about man's heart, the condition of his heart. Remember the 7 Dispensations, man has run through them all, and it just reveals that it has always been man's heart. *(Luke 19:14 NKJV) "But his citizens hated him, and sent a delegation after him, saying, 'We will not have this man to reign over us.'*

Why – Love Requires a Choice

Why will the Lord allow this to happen? Because God is love, and love requires a choice. If my wife agreed to marry me simply because I was the only man on earth or only because I held a gun to her head—our relationship wouldn't be based on love, but on the absence of any other choice.

Satan Loosed – Choice

So, too, God lets Satan loose for a short season in order to give people a choice.

God says I have given you all these over the ages, and have shown you that even when you have these things, you still won't be happy; it will only be a personal relationship with me that will make you happy. So he marches us through these periods of dispensations in the Bible. (Scholars agree on at least 7, but some add merge the last 2, some break them out – they are interesting to ponder, but not doctrine/theology that is worth dividing over)

Seven/Eight Dispensation Periods (see notes below for more detail)

- #1 Dispensation of Innocence:** (from creation to fall).
- #2 Dispensation of Conscience:** (from fall to flood,)
- #3. Dispensation of Government:** (from flood to Babel)
- #4 Dispensation of Promise (Vision):** (from Abraham to Exodus).
- #5 Dispensation of the Law:** (from Exodus to Calvary - The law was given).
- #6 Dispensation of Grace:** from Calvary to the Rapture – the Church Period)
- #7 Dispensation of Tribulation:** (7 year period)
- #8 Dispensation of Millennial Kingdom:** (1000 yr period).

(Revelation 20:9 NKJV) They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them.
(Revelation 20:10 NKJV) The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

Breadth of the Earth

Verse nine speaks of the breadth of the earth. It's as if the whole earth is moving from the perspective of looking down upon it. It's as if the sand is moving. But as you zoom in, you'll see that every grain of sand is a person, a human being, a soul, and they're all on the move and they're heading to this great battle, that they think they can defeat God.

Earth Population

Now how many people does it take to have the earth look like it is moving, we will not know until that day. But consider this, the flood was 4500 years ago. Eight people got off that boat, and 6 of them were of fertile age. From those six, those 3 couples, fast-forward 4,500 years and from that 6 there are now 8 billion on this planet. On this planet in the last 50 years the World Health Organization says there are 73 million abortions a year, and thus 73 million who will never reproduce. On this planet is wars and wars and wars. According to a study and analysis by the University of Maryland, they estimate that 231 million have died because of wars on this earth, and thus for our consideration today will never reproduce. Imagine the diseases caused by man, the virus, the pollutants, the greed that brings famines.... And yet we are still 8 billion people from those 6. And all these things I have just stated (abortion, wars, famine, manmade disease and virus) will not be present in the Millennial Kingdom. I have no problem with tens of billion be a guess,

How Subtle Devil is / We Learn Something about him

My mind tries to ponder how Satan deceives, how long does it take him to deceive, how he gather all of them to come to this battle? It's quite interesting to me, but I think it'll be the way he always draws man.

Just back to the garden. Throughout his whole history of 6,000 years on this earth, he whispers little subtle challenges. Did God really say, has God withheld something for you? And we learned something more again about our adversary, the devil. And it's the power of his ability to whisper lies to individuals and yet somehow has the means to whisper lies that the breadth of man can hear all at the same time.

This battle's going to be but in a moment. And he has the ability to gather all nations through a whisper campaign that fans and burns through the whole face of the earth. This is a mighty powerful devil with that ability, although he has no power in and of himself with a subtle whisper and a lie, he can raise up an army ready for war. And I think we as a nation, we as a church, we as family, we as husbands and wives need to realize the whisper of wicked and how he can an army against the people of God.

And if we're not careful against each other by hearing the lie, nobody wants to admit this, but every Christian needs to hear it. He who says that he loves God, he hates his brother. The truth is not in him and therefore he is a liar. And that should bring fear because Jesus says that Satan is the father of all lies. Satan is raising up an army of haters, at the end here of the Millennial Kingdom, during the Tribulation, and right now as we speak. Why would we think he wouldn't want to raise up an army of haters in the "church", so he can march for war.

1 John 4:20–21 (NKJV)²⁰ If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? ²¹ And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God *must* love his brother also.

John 8:44 (NKJV)⁴⁴ You are of *your* father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *resources*, for he is a liar and the father of it.

Circle Jerusalem

The rebellious group led by Satan encircles the city of Jerusalem in a futile attempt to wrest power from the One who reigns within.

And verse nine goes on to say they surrounds the camp of the saints and the beloved city. We know that the beloved city, refers to Jerusalem. So that is where we will return for the feast of the Lord established at the time of the millennial kingdom. And we will take that road as Isaiah 35 has told us, the highway of holiness.

Isaiah 35:8 (NKJV)⁸ A highway shall be there, and a road, And it shall be called the Highway of Holiness. The unclean shall not pass over it, But it *shall be* for others. Whoever walks the road, although a fool, Shall not go astray.

It'll lead us right into the kingdom. We'll get to see him, we'll get to see him on his throne, we'll have a celebration. It even says those who won't come, speaking of the mortals who have made it into the tribulations, that drought will come upon them. And that's such a picture when you forsake the assembly of the brethren. Hebrews 10 forsake what God's told you. Whether that's a Sunday or some other day that he says, I want you to go and fellowship with the brethren. You'll find yourself in a spiritual drought and you'll find yourself with no harvest and no fruit, A barren land with sparse crops, you'll be hungry and you'll eat, but you'll never find satisfaction.

Hebrews 10:24–25 (NKJV)²⁴ And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, ²⁵ not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

Zechariah 14:16–18 (NKJV)¹⁶ And it shall come to pass *that* everyone who is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall go up from year to year to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles. ¹⁷ And it shall be *that* whichever of the families of the earth do not come up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, on them there will be no rain. ¹⁸ If the family of Egypt will not come up and enter in, they *shall have no rain*; they shall receive the plague with which the Lord strikes the nations who do not come up to keep the Feast of Tabernacles.

It the camp of the Saints, I believe it's back to what we saw in the time of the Joshua and Judges, the time of Israel when they took the promised land. They would make the journey to a place called Shiloh. That's where the tabernacle was. And they would fellowship there. They would celebrate the feast and interesting meals that were eaten at the feast were considered holy. And therefore the plates and the vessels that they used was considered holy so they wouldn't wash 'em. Nor would they take 'em home. They would break 'em. And there's archeological excavations in that area of Shiloh. See the pictures on

the web of their amazing, of all this broken pottery because after they ate they would shatter it as part of a celebration. Then after the Temple was built in Jerusalem they would come to the Feasts in Jerusalem and lodge in homes, and setup camp outside the city as well.

Joshua 18:1–2 (NKJV)¹ Now the whole congregation of the children of Israel assembled together at Shiloh, and set up the tabernacle of meeting there. And the land was subdued before them. ² But there remained among the children of Israel seven tribes which had not yet received their inheritance.

Judges 18:31 (NKJV)³¹ So they set up for themselves Micah's carved image which he made, all the time that the house of God was in Shiloh.

But I find it ever so fitting that the devil would know when he would think his opportunity was to strike while we were all fellowshiping, we were faithful, others they came to Jerusalem, they came to a feast and like in the time of early Israel. So to be a time we will just camp around the throne, the tabernacle of God, who's Jesus. And the devil will come saying, this is my opportunity to strike because I know where they are and I know where they can be destroyed. And once again, I find the fitting of it. But this is where the devil today loves to try to hijack, destroy and kill from the saint camp together. Psalm 133. Oh, how good and blessed it is when the brethren dwell together. So once again, we must be on guard.

Psalm 133:1–3 (NKJV)¹ Behold, how good and how pleasant it is For brethren to dwell together in unity! ² It is like the precious oil upon the head, Running down on the beard, The beard of Aaron, Running down on the edge of his garments. ³ It is like the dew of Hermon, Descending upon the mountains of Zion; For there the Lord commanded the blessing— Life forevermore.

He Loses – Cast into Lake of Fire

Satan's purpose in God's plan having been accomplished, he is cast into the lake of fire to join the Beast and the false prophet.

Satan Wants to Quench the Word

Verse nine, A fire from heaven and it's over. Reminds me of the two witnesses that we studied at the wall when they try to silence their word, fire consumed them. And here the devil wants to come to Jerusalem and quench the word became flesh and dwell among us. The word that we live for the word that has changed every last one of our lives. It's the word that's a treasure to us. And fire will come out and consume those who try to destroy it.

Gehenna – Beast and False Prophet Still There

Verse 10 the devil goes into this place called Gehenna. It's noted again that the beast and the false prophet are there, noticed the for tense, not where there not had been cast there and consumed past tense. They're still there a thousand years. Only a blink has begun in their torment, but they have now been sentenced and living 1000 years in a place that's real called kana, where the fires never quenched and the worm parishes not, which speaks of continual consciousness and continual torment and continual agony.

Mark 9:42–48 (NKJV)⁴² "But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were thrown into the sea. ⁴³ If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life maimed, rather than having two hands, to go to hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched—⁴⁴ where 'Their worm does not die And the fire is not quenched.' ⁴⁵ And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life lame, rather than having two feet, to be cast into hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched—⁴⁶ where 'Their worm does not die And the fire is not quenched.' ⁴⁷ And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye, rather than having two eyes, to be cast into hell fire—⁴⁸ where 'Their worm does not die And the fire is not quenched.'

Cartoons Wrong / Lake of Fire – Outer Darkness / Flames shed no Light it is so Dark

The cartoons are wrong, and Hollywood is terribly mistaken in portraying hell as a hot place where people play poker and talk to one another amidst flickering flames and an occasional jab by Satan's pitchfork. Man won't be singing Highway to Hell, Hells Bells, Running with the Devil, or Sin Wagon. You see, in addition to being called a lake of fire, hell is called a place of outer darkness (Matthew 8:12).

Consequently, the torment in a place so dark even the flames of the lake of fire don't shed any light is exceeded only by the inner torment people feel throughout eternity as they recall the sermons they heard and the invitations to salvation they ignored.

TELOS – Complete

Now I take you back to that word, telos. Complete expired full. For 1000 years we will be preaching how long the life is. Does anyone live a whole thousand? I dunno, but for 1000 years, do they live six, 700

years? If 100 years is considered a child and for all those years we will be preaching. You will not live forever. And the other one will be preaching is we will know exactly what day it is. In the thousand years, we'll say there's 600 years left. We'll be saying there's 400 years left. You need to make a decision and they'll all think they got time. Never knowing that even in the perfection of the thousand year reign, they could still die tomorrow.

But we'll be preaching, we'll be given a countdown. We'll be telling them the story of Gog and Magog, we'll telling them the story of a devil. They won't believe us because they can't see him. I doubt there's going to be a sign in the millennial kingdom caution bottomless pit. But we'll tell 'em about it. We'll tell him there's a devil in there and he's going to deceive them. And yet still after a thousand years still, as we give 'em a countdown, their hearts will be so hardened to self that they think there's something better, that they'll reject our word, our counsel, and they will join the breath of the sand of the sea and march against God. And not only that, but march against us camp that there before the throne celebrating the feast. And when they come before this white throne judgment, they will be without excuse because they were told.

Separated from God – and Their Gods / No Heaven for no Sin

Not only will man be separated from the One True God, they will also be separated from their gods, the gods they made while here on earth. That is one reason why God would not allow them in heaven, for as soon as they get there they will look for their gods, their passions, and it will not be found.

God wishes none Perish

Jesus said specifically that hell was not created for people, but for the devil and demons (Matthew 25:41). Peter said God is not willing that any should perish (2 Peter 3:9). Yet, God, being Light, if man says, "I don't want God," he will be consigned to darkness. God, being health, if man says, "I don't want God," he will be relinquished to a place of pain. God, being a Father, if man says, "I don't want God," he will spend eternity in isolation.

2 Peter 3:8–13 (NKJV)⁸ But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. ⁹ The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. ¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. ¹¹ Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, ¹² looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? ¹³ Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

Rather Die than live without You

God, on the other hand, says, "I would rather die than live without you." And He did just that when He died on the Cross in order that, forgiven of our sins, we might live with Him forever.

White Throne Judgment (20:11-15)

(Revelation 20:11 NKJV) Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them.

(Revelation 20:12 NKJV) And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.

(Revelation 20:13 NKJV) The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works.

Throne is Great & White / No Description – Music – Angel / Frightening / Sin will Stand Out

The throne is great and it is white. No other description, no music, no angels, nothing that we read in Chapter 4. It is a frightening description. All both small and great. The CEO who sat on his throne, to the party person who bowed before the porcelain throne, every one who rejected Jesus will stand in White, and their sin will stand out with no where to hide.

There is an Atmosphere

There's an atmosphere about this throne. And if we just pause, we can start to feel it and sense what this atmosphere must be like to see the awe, the King on this throne and the brilliance of the white and the

greatness of the light. And he that sits on the throne, what an awesome scene. This is a dreadful scene, to be ushered before, to be waiting for your turn to be called to this throne knowing who sits on it and what judgment shall be passed.

Says that earth and heaven fled away and there was found no place for them. The scene that's being painted here by the Lord is all the noise, all the details, all the distractions, all the sea and the breath of the sea of people has all been diminished. And all that someone can see when they come to this throne is he who sat on the throne. They won't see the people next to him. They won't see the angelic host, they won't see the earth. The stars. They'll see him and him alone and they will stand in awe and they'll stand completely naked, fully exposed, no covering, no fake leaves, no one to point at. I can't blame it on the woman God gave them. Can't blame it on the place they live, the city, the environment. They can't point and blame it on their parents. They can't point and blame it on that person who did them wrong. There will be nothing except them and the God on the throne

Alone with God. What a difference for us. As we can say before the throne of God, I have a perfect peace, clothed righteousness because he has clothed me in the brightness, and made me perfected as he sowed my robe. Every stitch of his hand, he would see my name engraved on his hands, making a spotless garment to cover me in. But I can stand before him anywhere in perfect peace. We won't stand before him on judgment. Our judgment was there on the cross 2000 years ago, but I can come into his presence at any time. It's the same scene innocence, the earth and the sea and all the people and all the noises have fled away. When I come into his presence, there's only one thing he sees as me. He's not distracted, he's not put off.

He ushers me into a one-on-one intimacy. How beautiful it is that we can come before the throne of grace, find help and mercy in our time of need. A God who intimately hears and sees every detail,

Verse 12, small and great, they'll all be on equal ground. So much for man's order, man's esteem and man thinking he's better than someone looking at 'em. Looking down upon 'em are as equally so when we look upon somebody, as if there's something, but when we come before the throne, it'll be equal ground and every man will be judged according to their work.

And every man's work will fall short because it's filthy rags. We won't stand in this judgment, but we will stand on works, but it'll be his finished work. His "telos", when he said it is done there upon the cross. The Bible says that all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. How will God establish that someone has met that requirement that they've fallen short of the glory of the perfection standard of God? You'll be through these books as they'll be opened in every idle word, spoken every action, every thought will be written in this book and laid bare, and it will be the works that will determine of the book singular, the book of life. If a person has met the standard of perfection before the holy God, as Paul says in Romans, by the deeds of the law, every mouth will be shut. Man will be judged according to the law of God. And when the books are open and laid next to the law of God, every mouth will be silenced.

Romans 3:10–12 (NKJV)¹⁰ As it is written: "There is none righteous, no, not one; ¹¹ There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. ¹² They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one."

Romans 3:23 (NKJV)²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Romans 3:19–20 (NKJV)¹⁹ Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. ²⁰ Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

The books contain a man's work. Some will find themselves rejected because they made and followed a false religion or made a god fashioned after their own lusts. Some will be damned because they lived for "me and me alone", careless of anyone other than themselves. But then the tragic one, are those who lived their life "in religion" do things in religion, striving, whether the praises of man, or because they thought they could "work" for God, and God would owe them in the end, and they will hear those words, depart from Me I never knew you!

Matthew 7:22–23 (NKJV)²² Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' ²³ And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'

What are the works we are to do? Believe in the Son, and that means what He did on Calvary cross to take our sin away.

John 6:28–29 (NKJV)²⁸ Then they said to Him, "What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?" ²⁹ Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent."

2 Corinthians 5:21 (NKJV)²¹ For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Moses would say to the Lord, when God was going to cast off Israel, Lord then blot me of your book. And he gives us a look that says everybody's name must start in the book and then it's blotted out when they come to the final rejection of Jesus Christ, which is called the blasphemy, the Holy Spirit, and what the blasphemy of the Holy Spirit is to reject the spirit's testifying that the only way, the only truth and the only life that man can have eternal life and forgiveness of sin is through Jesus Christ and the finished work on the cross. When a person rejects that for there comes a time, we know not when there comes a place, we know not where, but a person can reject the witness, the testimony and then be rejected by God himself, by being blotted out of the book of life, which is amazing for us because Colossians two tells us that the handwriting of the sin that was against us was blotted out just like that in a blink when Jesus went to the cross and we received the testimony of the Holy Spirit, a need for a savior.

Exodus 32:31–32 (NKJV)³¹ Then Moses returned to the Lord and said, "Oh, these people have committed a great sin, and have made for themselves a god of gold! ³² Yet now, if You will forgive their sin—but if not, I pray, blot me out of Your book which You have written."

Matthew 12:31–32 (NKJV)³¹ "Therefore I say to you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven men. ³² Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come.

So there's a blot and a blink out of the Book of life and there's a blot and a blank out of all the law and all the works that condemned us in these books because when these books are open, our names not in them and nor is one of our sins recorded because in a blink there's a blot and we're taken out of those books that are written against us.

The Sea Gives Up the Dead

Some think it's those that have died through floods, like if you would the undersea city of Atlantis or just those who have died in the waters such as Noahic flood. The Lord is making the point, it doesn't matter where you die, land or sea, you shall be resurrected and stand before him for judgment and the books will be open. Now death and Hades. If you recall, Hades was that holding place we talked about where Jesus descended and preached at Abraham's bosom on one side. But those who rejected before the cross are in this place called Hades and they are resurrected and everyone at this millennial kingdom, they will be resurrected. They're the ones that came to fight against Jesus in Jerusalem. So all of humanity will stand before him and be judged. Not one shall be missed.

We won't Stand here – Sin Judged / Book of Life – The Books of Damnation

Will believers stand before God at this White Throne Judgment? - No. If you're a Christian, this judgment doesn't apply to you, for you were judged when Christ was on another throne—not a white one, but a wooden one; when He wore a crown not of gold, but of thorns as He died to cleanse you from every sin you ever have or ever will commit. If you're a Christian, your name is written in the Book of Life. The names of those who said, "I didn't buy into that Christian stuff they were always trying to cram down my throat," or, "I needed my space," or, "I had to explore various aspects of spirituality," aren't. "But I lived a pretty good life," they'll protest. Yet the books wherein are recorded the reasons for everything they ever did will prove otherwise....

Handwriting Against Us – Wiped Out

That's why I am so glad I'm saved. The Bible says the "handwriting of ordinances that was against us"—all of our mistakes, sins, and failures—were blotted out by the blood of Jesus Christ (Colossians 2:14). In

other words, the pages and pages containing my sin are all illegible because they're covered with the red blood of Jesus.

(Colossians 2:13 NKJV) And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses,

(Colossians 2:14 NKJV) having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.

Heaven Illuminated – Fellowship – Peace - Rest

The books will be there. Heaven will be illuminated by Jesus Christ. Hell will be total darkness. Heaven will be continual fellowship, hell will be total isolation and loneliness. Heaven will be peace and rest, hell will be continually unrest and torment.

Hell Horrible – Hell Avoidable / Can't Guarantee you Anything – But Eternal Life

Hell is the most horrible place, but it is the most avoidable place. Today I can't guarantee you health, wealth, that your spouse won't leave you, that your will child will be healthy, but I can guarantee you that you can avoid this place, if you repent of your sin and accept Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior.

Accept Jesus and you are written in the book of Life, and the other books are thrown out.

(Revelation 20:14 NKJV) Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

(Revelation 20:15 NKJV) And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

Sin & Death Defeated

So we read the culmination and fulfillment of these wonderful words:

1 Corinthians 15:50–58 (NKJV)⁵⁰ Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. ⁵¹ Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—⁵² in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. ⁵³ For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. ⁵⁴ So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." ⁵⁵ "O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?" ⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. ⁵⁷ But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁵⁸ Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

Maybe Say that is Interesting – Concerned with Today / We Win

Maybe you're saying, "What will happen at the end of the world is all very interesting, but the bottom line is that I'm a believer, and I know I'm going to heaven. I'm far more concerned about the problems facing me right now." So was John. The Book of Revelation was written specifically to a group of people facing far greater problems than you'll ever face. And the message it contains is as vital for us as it was to them: It's not over yet. Satan and death itself will be cast into the lake of fire. They lose. And all who embrace what Jesus did on the Cross when He plunged into hell on their behalf—all whose names are written in the Book of Life—win.

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV)¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need

NOTES: Appendix – 7/8 Dispensation Periods

God says I have given you all these over the ages, and have shown you that even when you have these things, you still won't be happy; it will only be a personal relationship with me that will make you happy. So he marches us through these periods of dispensations in the Bible.

#1 Dispensation of Innocence: (from creation to fall). They say, "you see if I just didn't have lousy parents I wouldn't be so messed up". Well Adam was made perfectly and had no parental influence, except by God the father. People can't blame their parents, Adam and Eve had the perfect parent and they still chose to sin. In Ezekiel 18:2, *God said I want this proverb no more heard in the land, our fathers ate sour grapes so my teeth are on edge* - in other words don't blame your family for past problems, if you are grinding your teeth it is your problem. Our generation and culture needs to understand this. Quit the blame shifting, trying to excuse their actions because of the parents. It is one of the leading defense cases now, murders and rapist are trying to claim dysfunctional family caused their horrible behavior. Adam and Eve represented you and me, and proved man will mess up, even in a perfect environment- because we are sinners.

#2 Dispensation of Conscience: (from fall to flood,) They say, "If we can just do what is right in our own sight, then everything will be alright. Live and let live. Do what is right for you, and I'll do what is right for me and we will all get along". Look what happened when everybody followed his or her own conscience. They became so vile, sex with fallen angels (demonic spirits), etc, the world was so perverted, only Noah was righteous. (Genesis 6:5-6 NKJV) *Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart.* God had to flood the earth and start over.

#3. Dispensation of Government: (from flood to Babel) They say, "the government will make everything right". Babel was a government works program. Lets all pull together, become one, and we can achieve anything, and everything will be great. (Genesis 11:3-4) *And they said one to another, Go to, let us make brick, and burn them throughly. And they had brick for stone, and slime had they for mortar. And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top [may reach] unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth.* They said, "We will ascend up into heaven built with bricks and mortar. The mortar was made from asphalt, but in those times the word was "slime" (how fitting as we see so much corporation in our government). Their government works program couldn't get them into heaven and they ended up being dispersed throughout the world.

#4 Dispensation of Promise (Vision): (from Abraham to Exodus). They say, "If I just had a vision, something to look forward to, if I could just get out of this mess, then everything would be ok. If I could just have a fresh start". How many times I have seen women with this vision, "if only I can get cosmetic surgery then my husband would love me, or men would notice me, then I'd be happy." But vision doesn't go as planned, for what they find out is that it doesn't bring them closer to God, but into the world. Men have their same; whether it be hair on their head, six pack abs, a sports car. Whatever it is, they find that their vision takes them away from the Lord, and into a bondage.

God gave Abraham a promise/vision that was passed down the line.

(Genesis 15:1 NKJV) *After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a **vision**, saying, "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward."*

(Genesis 15:7 NKJV) *Then He said to him, "I am the LORD, who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to inherit it."*

(Genesis 15:5 NKJV) *Then He brought him outside and said, "Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them." And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be."*

(Genesis 15:18 NKJV) *On the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying: "To your descendants I have given this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates;"*

But somehow with this great vision promised, the next generation begins to fail, and so on, and so on. Abraham's son Isaac was promised the same vision, but he plans on passing this blessing on to the next son Esau based off of food (Genesis 27:4); but the younger son Jacob steals the blessing from his brother by tricking the aged Isaac (Genesis 27:19); Jacob favors his son Joseph over the other brothers, so they in turn sell him into slavery in Egypt.

The whole family ended up going down to Egypt. We had just read that they were promised land **from the river of Egypt**, not in Egypt. They never did see their vision come to pass, instead they ended up baking bricks in Egypt for 400 years of bondage. (Genesis 15:13 NKJV) *Then He said to Abram: "Know certainly that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, and will serve them, and they will afflict them four hundred years."*

#5 Dispensation of the Law: (from Exodus to Calvary - The law was given). They say, "If we just had some rules to live by, some do's and don'ts." The problem with the law was that man couldn't do it, he couldn't keep them. People think if I can just get the 7 habits of effective people, and get that down. If I can just get the "how to's" from the "who's who", I would be happy and successful. So people read this book and listen to that tape, the problem is it might be good stuff, but we just can't do it. We see history repeat itself over and over. Israel does well, then they fail, they do well, and then they fail. They go from the mighty kingdom under David and Solomon, to being captives to the Babylonians. They go from rebuilding their nation and city after the Babylonian captivity to being under Roman rule.

The law is good but we are sinners and just can't do it. The law was to show us how short we fall from God's standard, and the need we have for Him. (Galatians 3:24-25 NKJV) *Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.*

#6 Dispensation of Grace: (the one Paul is speaking about here – Grace; from Calvary to the Rapture) We realize that it isn't living in innocence, or our conscience, or government, nor a vision thing, or rules and regulations – but just grace. I love you, I died for you, I rose again, if you will just embrace me by faith, confess your need for me, you will be saved. This period goes from the resurrection of Christ all the way until the next period – The Tribulation

#7 Dispensation of Tribulation: (7 year period) They say, "I'm not going to believe something I can't see". During the Tribulation people will see and still not believe. In Revelation 6- 19, angels fly across the earth proclaiming the gospel (Rev 14:6-7), the moon turns to blood (Rev 6:12), the rivers and seas turn to blood (Rev 16:3-7), the two witnesses rise from the dead (Rev 11:11-14)..... talk about seeing it, yet people still won't believe. After seeing all this, people cry out to the mountains - fall on me (Rev 6:12). They will not cry out to the Master, the Rock of Ages. The whole idea of seeing before you believe is false. God says believe it and then you'll see it. You believe in me, and it will be amazing what you see.

#8 Dispensation of Millennial Kingdom: (1000 yr period). People say, "if I could just live in a good environment. If we didn't have pollution and disease, and crime, well then we would be happy and content, and live in harmony." The world will have 1000 years of perfection, the lion shall lie down with the lamb, with no more sickness or wars. Things will be right and fabulous, the environment will be right, yet people still won't believe. At the end of the 1000-year millennial reign, there is a rebellion against God. 1000 years of perfection, yet still people rebel against God

You can through the Bible, and see all the various scenarios. Innocence, conscience, government, vision, rules, seeing it, right environment Yet people still don't come to the Lord. All the excuses are still just excuses. The only answer is Jesus Christ, through grace.