

# Apocalypse Now ( Revelation Revisited)

Session 14

## THE GREAT WHITE THRONE

1 The war-stricken German city of Nuremberg lay in smoke and ruin as the autumn of 1945  
2 approached. Added to the malaise hanging over the once-gorgeous area was the now  
3 highly-anticipated trials of leading Nazi war criminals. The main hearings would be held  
4 between November of 1945 and October of 1946. Some twenty Nazi officers and  
5 figures of authority would stand trial for their very lives. Nearly a dozen of them would  
6 be hanged. One, head of the Luftwaffe (Nazi air force) and #2 Nazi behind only Hitler,  
7 Hermann Goering would take his own life by biting down on a cyanide capsule only  
8 hours before his scheduled execution by hanging. Hitler himself had committed suicide  
9 April 20 th, 1945, deep down in his Berlin bunker just hours before Russian General  
10 Zhukov's men would swarm into the building.

11  
12 But their stories did not conclude at the end of a taut rope. Since that grim day, the souls  
13 of these men have been in Hell awaiting a final trial. This one will take place before a  
14 several-nation military tribunal; this one will take place before God. And the verdict  
15 will be far more grim.

16  
17 Here is the story from God's Word:

18  
19 Rev. 20:11-15

20 **And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth**  
21 **and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. [12] And I saw**  
22 **the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and**  
23 **another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of**  
24 **those things which were written in the books, according to their works. [13] And the**  
25 **sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead**  
26 **which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. [14]**  
27 **And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. [15] And**  
28 **whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.**

29  
30 The Holy Spirit wanted to make sure that each of us gets the message clearly about the  
31 coming judgment of the UNREDEEMED, the unsaved, those who have refused the  
32 salvation of Christ on the cross. So the judgment reality is brought to our attention  
33 clearly and unmistakably throughout scripture:  
34



German Nazi leaders await their verdicts at the famed Nuremberg trial - November 1945 to October 1946. Of the 21, half were condemned to death.

2 Peter 2:9

**The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:**

2 Peter 3:7

**But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.**

Matthew 12:36 (The very words of Jesus Himself)

**But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.**

Hebrews 9:27

**And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:**

There are actually several judgments still pending:

- THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST - see I Corinthians 3. This hearing is for

1 believers only, not to determine salvation or eternal life for that issue has already  
2 been settled. No, this hearing will determine if the saint have any rewards.

- 3 • THE GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGMENT - our subject for tonight in which  
4 the eternally lost souls will hear God's final decision on their fates.

5  
6 One of the great American statesmen from yesteryear was Daniel Webster. Near the  
end of his life, he attended a luncheon with some younger government officials. The  
chairman of the group turned to Mr Webster and asked, "What is the greatest thought  
that has ever passed through your head?" Instantly, Webster replied, "My  
accountability to God."

7  
8 Death does not end one's accountability to the Creator. The world's most heinous  
9 dictators will stand one day at God's "tribunal" beside nice people - but people who  
10 rejected God's one and only plan of salvation and hear God's judgment. No, not all the  
11 sentences will be same; however, all will be devastating - eternity without God and  
12 absolutely no corrective procedures possible. Revelation 20:12 declares that "both small  
13 and great" will stand before that awesome throne. THIS GROUP WILL INCLUDE  
14 ALL THOSE WITHOUT JESUS CHRIST.

15  
16 Scriptures teach that even the seas will give up the dead which are in them. The great  
17 ship the Titanic sank in the North Atlantic on April 15<sup>th</sup>, 1912, with the loss of over 1500  
18 lives. Nothing has ever been found of those victims. (The souls of those who were lost  
19 were either with the Lord or in Hades - the place of torment where lost spirits go - upon  
20 their demises.) However, there will be two "recoveries" of those bodies: 1) at the  
21 rapture when the saved instantly arise from their watery graves to be with Jesus; 2) the  
22 unsaved dead will be resurrected

23  
24 There is still speculation on whether Hitler died in his bunker in 1945. (I am convinced  
25 that he did, that he took his own life.) But regardless, his death did not make it possible  
26 for him to evade his appointment with God. "Death and Hell gave up the dead which  
27 were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done." How? The  
28 BOOKS will be opened. There will be **the book of life** and the **books of our works**, or  
29 deeds. God has kept accurate records.

30  
31 Fortunately, for those who have been saved, redeemed, our record has been expunged - or  
32 eradicated, erased - by the blood of Christ. Think of this scenario with me: We hear the  
33 name called out, APOSTLE PAUL! We strain our necks to get a good look at this hero  
34 of the faith about whom we have heard so much. OPEN THE BOOK OF PAUL'S LIFE,  
35 we hear God call out. Oh my - there is murder on that record. Luke said Paul breathed

1 out slaughter. An angel opens the pages of Paul's book, one by one, but does not say  
2 anything. We hear God call out, "Angel....read the record!" "I cannot!" we hear the  
3 angel say. "Each page in Paul's book has been blotted out by the blood of Your Son  
4 Jesus. All those records have been obliterated! Oh - wait - here's the first entry - it's  
5 when Paul met Jesus on the Road to Damascus!" So it will be with all of us who are  
6 saved by Jesus' precious sacrifice on Calvary. Not only has our record, which would  
7 have condemned us to Hell been removed, but also our names have been inscribed in  
8 THE LAMB'S BOOK OF LIFE! This is what those "books" will show! But there  
9 will be no mercy, so second chance, no forgiveness, who have pitched away their possible  
10 day of grace. They are lost for all time to come.

### 11 A TRIAL UNLIKE ANY OTHER

12  
13  
14 As we consider THE GREAT WHITE THRONE, don't let your mind think about any  
15 trial you have ever seen - either in person or in film. This will be a very different kind of  
16 court.

- 17
- 18 • There will be no debate about guilt or innocence.
- 19
- 20 • There will be a prosecutor but no defender
- 21
- 22 • There will be an accuser but no advocate.
- 23
- 24 • There will be an indictment but no case for the charged.
- 25
- 26 • There will be a swift presentation of the convicting evidence but no rebuttal, a  
27 testimony with no cross-examination.
- 28
- 29 • There will be an utterly unsympathetic judge and no jury.
- 30
- 31 • There will be a sentence but no appeal - a punishment with no parole in a prison  
32 from which there can be no escape.

33  
34 Note carefully that this throne is called GREAT - the Great White Throne Judgment.  
35 Our minds cannot properly digest this truth.

- 36
- 37 • It is called GREAT not so much because of its size as because of its importance,  
38 its significance, its elevation, its authority, its majesty, its power.
- 39
- 40 • It is white because of purity and holiness and righteousness. God's holiness is

1 beyond anything that we mortals can understand in this life - only by faith in the  
2 blood of Christ can we appropriate any of it.

3  
4 • It is a seat of authority, a final place of reckoning, a dazzling, blinding, blazing,  
5 pure, holy divine throne of the presence of God where He sits in utter and absolute  
6 judgment.

7  
8 • Daniel described this place like this: Daniel 7:9-10 I beheld till the thrones  
9 were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as  
10 snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne was like the fiery  
11 flame, and his wheels ( feet? ) as burning fire. [10] A fiery stream issued and  
12 came forth from before him: thousand thousands ministered unto him, and  
13 ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and  
14 the books were opened.

15  
16 • John added his witness: Rev. 4:2-10 And immediately I was in the spirit: and,  
17 behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne. [3] And he that  
18 sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and there was a  
19 rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald. [4] And round  
20 about the throne were four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four  
21 and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their  
22 heads crowns of gold. [5] And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and  
23 thunderings and voices: and there were seven lamps of fire burning before the  
24 throne, which are the seven Spirits of God. [6] And before the throne there  
25 was a sea of glass like unto crystal: and in the midst of the throne, and round  
26 about the throne, were four beasts full of eyes before and behind. [7] And the  
27 first beast was like a lion, and the second beast like a calf, and the third beast  
28 had a face as a man, and the fourth beast was like a flying eagle. [8] And the  
29 four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes  
30 within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God  
31 Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come. [9] And when those beasts give  
32 glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne, who liveth for  
33 ever and ever, [10] The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat  
34 on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their  
35 crowns before the throne...

36  
37 • How awesome is this Visage? Rev. 6:16 And said to the mountains and  
38 rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne,  
39 and from the wrath of the Lamb:  
40

1 **THE REALITY OF THIS GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGMENT IS A PRIME**  
2 **REASON SO MANY DESPERATELY CLING TO THE THEORY OF**  
3 **EVOLUTION!**  
4

5 Listen! If I were not a follower of Jesus Christ I would desperately want to believe in  
6 evolution. I would not want to think or believe there was a "prime mover," a creator God  
7 Who designed me and expects something from me. Pastor John MacArthur wrote:  
8 *Atheism or any invention of a religion that has a god who is benign and poses no ultimate*  
9 *threat to them is all part of Satan's deception. Evolution's popularity is also based on*  
10 *that deception. It suits man just fine that he came out of some piece of protoplasm. It*  
11 *suits him just fine that he emerged out of some division of cells in the middle of some*  
12 *cosmic ooze. It suits him just fine that there is no God because if there's no God then*  
13 *there is no one to whom he is accountable, no one to whom he has to answer. There is*  
14 *no one to sit in judgment. And man is free from the fear of ultimate accountability and*  
15 *free to sin as he pleases and then just pass out of existence. If there's no Creator, if there*  
16 *is no moral judge in the universe, that's just fine - and man will live as he wants to live*  
17 *and go into oblivion. But that's not the case! That is the deceiving lie of Satan and has*  
18 *been through the centuries. Either there is no God and there is therefore no*  
19 *accountability, or that the God who exists is not a God who is going to judge us at all.*  
20 *All these are lies of the enemy.*

21 MACARTHUR SERMON "MAN'S LAST DAY IN GOD'S COURT"  
22

23 **WHEN?**  
24

25 This epic event takes place following the Millennium - the 1,000 year reign of Christ on  
26 this earth. Satan has been banished to the lake of fire as has the Beast and the False  
27 Prophet - the entire hellish triumvirate.  
28

29 **WHERE?**  
30

31 The Throne will be somewhere in the midst of a universe we know nothing about today.  
32 There is an unseen realm to us today where the throne will be situated. We are dealing at  
33 this point with eternal realities, places that have no beginning and no ending. We are tied  
34 up in our minds with temporal verities - houses, cars, furniture, even human relationships.  
35 But we are heading into a realm unknown to us now. The song writer penned:

36 *And the things of this earth will grow strangely dim*  
37 *In the light of His glory and grace.*  
38

39 **THE NEW HEAVEN AND THE NEW EARTH**  
40

1 We are nearing the end of this particular prophecy study. You have heard the  
2 expression: It ended with a bang! That's what is going to happen. The God who  
3 CREATED the universe is going to UN-CREATE IT. In the final two chapters of  
4 Revelation we read about:

- 5 • a new heaven 21:1
- 6 • a new earth 21:1
- 7 • new Jerusalem 21:2
- 8 • new things 21:5
- 9 • a new paradise 22:1-5
- 10 • a new place for God's throne 22:3
- 11 • a new source of light 22:5

12  
13 Rev. 21:1-27

14 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth  
15 were passed away; and there was no more sea. [2] And I John saw the holy city, new  
16 Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for  
17 her husband. [3] And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the  
18 tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his  
19 people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. [4] And God shall  
20 wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither  
21 sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are  
22 passed away. [5] And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things  
23 new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful. [6] And he  
24 said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will  
25 give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. [7] He that  
26 overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son. [8]  
27 But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and  
28 whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the  
29 lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

30 [9] And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full  
31 of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee  
32 the bride, the Lamb's wife. [10] And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and  
33 high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of  
34 heaven from God, [11] Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone  
35 most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal; [12] And had a wall great  
36 and high, and had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written  
37 thereon, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel: [13] On  
38 the east three gates; on the north three gates; on the south three gates; and on the  
39 west three gates. [14] And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them  
40 the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. [15] And he that talked with me had a

1 golden reed to measure the city, and the gates thereof, and the wall thereof. [16] And  
2 the city lieth foursquare, and the length is as large as the breadth: and he measured  
3 the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs. The length and the breadth and the  
4 height of it are equal. [17] And he measured the wall thereof, an hundred and forty  
5 and four cubits, according to the measure of a man, that is, of the angel. [18] And  
6 the building of the wall of it was of jasper: and the city was pure gold, like unto clear  
7 glass. [19] And the foundations of the wall of the city were garnished with all  
8 manner of precious stones. The first foundation was jasper; the second, sapphire;  
9 the third, a chalcedony; the fourth, an emerald; [20] The fifth, sardonyx; the sixth,  
10 sardius; the seventh, chrysolite; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, a topaz; the tenth, a  
11 chrysoprasus; the eleventh, a jacinth; the twelfth, an amethyst. [21] And the twelve  
12 gates were twelve pearls; every several gate was of one pearl: and the street of the  
13 city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass. [22] And I saw no temple therein:  
14 for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it. [23] And the city had  
15 no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did  
16 lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof. [24] And the nations of them which are  
17 saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and  
18 honour into it. [25] And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall  
19 be no night there. [26] And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into  
20 it. [27] And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither  
21 whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the  
22 Lamb's book of life.

23  
24 Rev. 22:1-5

25 And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of  
26 the throne of God and of the Lamb. [2] In the midst of the street of it, and on either  
27 side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and  
28 yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the  
29 nations. [3] And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the  
30 Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him: [4] And they shall see his face;  
31 and his name shall be in their foreheads. [5] And there shall be no night there; and  
32 they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light:  
33 and they shall reign for ever and ever.

34  
35 We hear so much today about conserving the earth. I would certainly add my support to  
36 taking care of God's earth and God's creatures. But the fact of the matter is - it is going  
37 to end. All of it. Everything. God destroyed it - at least partially - one time long ago.  
38 Genesis chapters 6-8 tell us of the great flood in Noah's time. Only eight righteous  
39 people were spared. God promised Noah that he would never again destroy the earth by  
40 water.



1 But throughout scripture God has informed us of terrible destruction yet to come in which  
2 nothing will be spared.

3  
4 Why? Because the earth and heavens are tainted by sin. There are “three heavens” –  
5 there is the atmosphere around our planet which is rather thin as every private pilot  
6 knows. Their planes, unless pressurized, can only fly safely below 13-15 thousand feet  
7 altitude when oxygen runs out. There are the galaxies, the stars. And there is the  
8 throne of God. Satan has thoroughly jinxed the atmospheric heavens: Ephes. 6:12  
9 **For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against**  
10 **powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness**  
11 **in high places.**

12  
13 A new heavens and a new earth will be created by God. Will the new planet earth be  
14 limited to our present 8,000 miles in diameter? There is nothing in Scripture to make us  
15 think so. It might be much larger. But one thing we do know: the new earth will be  
16 sensational. It will be at that time that every tear will be wiped away from human eyes  
17 (Rev. 21:3). There will be no more death (21:4). Everything will be made new (21:5).

18  
19 This is a verse that sums it all up: Rev. 21:6 **And he said unto me, It is done.**  
20 *Finished! Over! God will create for us a dimension that we cannot yet comprehend.*  
21 *He plans on an entirely new way of life for His people.*

22  
23 But....as marvelous as this will be for those “in Christ,” consider this: Rev. 21:8 **But**  
24 **the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and**  
25 **whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the**  
26 **lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.**

27  
28 My friend - there are only two classes of people on this earth: those who are saved - and  
29 those who aren't. Any other value is merely temporary and of passing importance.