

Who Speaks For You?

Revelation 20:11-15 | Hope City Church

CENTRAL QUESTION

When your name is called before the Great White Throne, who speaks for you?

I. The Courtroom

Key Text: Revelation 20:11-15

- Everyone stands before the throne — great and small, no exceptions
- The books are opened first. Plural. Record books. Every deed, every chapter, every hidden thing.
- The record is not a misunderstanding. It is not an exaggeration. It is real.
- The question is not whether the record is true. The question is who stands between the books of works and the Book of Life.

II. Zechariah's Courtroom

Key Text: Zechariah 3:1-4

The Scene

- Joshua the high priest stands before the Angel of the Lord
- Satan stands at his right hand — not to tempt, but to accuse
- Joshua's garments are filthy. In the Hebrew, this is the language of extreme contamination — the most defiled condition a priest could be in before a holy God.
- The accuser doesn't have to lie. The record is real.

What Happens Next

- God doesn't argue Joshua's innocence. He doesn't dispute the record.
- He speaks first.

"Is not this a brand plucked from the fire?" — a declaration of identity, not a defense of the record.

- The filthy garments are removed. Clean vestments take their place.
- Not because Joshua earned them. Because someone intervened.

The Christophany

- The Angel of the Lord doesn't deliver a message from God. He is the authority in the room.
- He rebukes Satan. He declares iniquity removed. He commands the clean garments.
- Many scholars believe this is a pre-incarnate appearance of Jesus Christ.
- The one who removes Joshua's filthy garments in Zechariah 3 is the same one whose blood purchases the clean garments in Revelation.

III. The Advocate

Key Texts: 1 John 2:1 | Romans 8:33-34 | Revelation 3:5

Greek Word: Parakletos — one called alongside, who comes and stands with you when you cannot stand alone.

- He advocates on the basis of His righteousness, not yours
- Your record doesn't determine the strength of His case. His character does.
- Jesus intercedes from the right hand of God — the position of highest authority, not weakness
- Paul uses the present tense: not who interceded, not who will intercede — who is interceding. Right now.
- He doesn't just preserve your name in the book. He speaks it out loud before the Father.

IV. What the Advocate Asks of Us

Key Texts: Revelation 3:3 | Revelation 12:11

- An advocate represents those who remain with him
- The promise and the obligation sit in the same passage. Jesus doesn't separate them.
- The overcomer is not the person who never falls. The overcomer is the person who doesn't walk away.
- There is a difference between falling and walking away. Between stumbling and abandoning.
- The danger is not that He will leave you. The danger is that you will leave Him.

The Question That Matters

Not "am I good enough?" — none of us are. That's why we need an Advocate. The question is: *am I still His?*

Closing

- The Great White Throne is not a metaphor. The books are real. The record is real.
- The Advocate is real too. He is alive. He is at the right hand of the Father. He is interceding today.

Two invitations:

- If you have never placed your trust in Jesus — the courtroom is coming, but the Advocate is available right now.
- If you walked in carrying a chapter of your record that has made you feel disqualified — He knows every word of it. And He is not ashamed to say your name.

Hold fast. Repent. Remain.

FOR FURTHER REFLECTION

1. What part of your record feels most disqualifying? How does the image of Joshua's filthy garments — and what happened to them — speak to that?

2. What is the difference between falling in your faith and walking away from it? Where do you see yourself right now?

3. Romans 8:34 says Jesus is interceding right now. What does it mean to you personally that this is present tense and ongoing?

4. Jesus promises to confess your name before the Father. How does that change the way you think about your standing before God?

5. The sermon ends with a question: Am I still His? How would you answer it honestly?

Scripture References: Revelation 20:11-15 | Zechariah 3:1-4 | 1 John 2:1 | Romans 8:33-34 | Revelation 3:3-5 | Revelation 12:11