

Title of Study: “The Revelation of Jesus Christ”

Theme of Revelation: The majesty and glory of the warrior lamb, King Jesus, who is coming again to rule and reign forever.

Purpose: To encourage and give hope to the persecuted church and call the church to faithful obedience.

Title: “Book of Deeds or Book of Life: Part 2”

Main idea: God will judge all unbelievers!

### 3 Facts

1. There will be nowhere to hide! (see notes from part 1).
2. All unbelievers will be judged according to their own righteousness!
  - vs (12) “the dead”
    - Mentioned 4 times in vs. 12-13.
    - First, we know this is only the unbelieving dead.
    - vs (14) All of them cast into the eternal lake of fire.
    - Believers will not be judged at this judgment.
    - John 3:18
    - John 5:24
    - Romans 8:1
    - Believers will be judged for reward at the Judgment Seat of Christ for rewards.
    - “The dead” are those that are not part of the First Resurrection.
    - Revelation 20:6
    - They are the “rest of the dead”
    - Revelation 20:5
    - “Small and great”
    - From Hitler or Hussein to the unbeliever who lived in solitude.
    - Social status, popularity, fame, fortune, citizenship, race – none of these will have any bearing on the judgment.
  - vs (13) “Sea gave up the dead”
    - I believe these are the bodies from the sea.
    - Some say but there is no sea.
    - Revelation 21:1
    - This could refer to evil as the sea is sometimes used in Scripture to describe evil.
    - However, if not, then I believe before there is no sea, it will give up the bodies that are in it.
    - This would include victims of the flood, shipwrecks, drownings, where bodies are not found, etc.
  - vs (13) “Death” delivered up the dead”
    - This refers to the dead bodies everywhere else.

- vs (13) “Hades” “delivered up the dead”
  - Similar to the Hebrew word ‘Sheol’
  - “Sheol” is used some 67 times in the Old Testament.
  - It refers to realm of the dead in general or sometimes to the grave.
  - “Hades” is used 10 times in the New Testament and is the place of punishment for the wicked dead spirits.
  - It is not the final hell because it is about to be thrown into the Lake of Fire.
- So, the bodies of unbelievers will be resurrected from the ground and the sea. The souls of unbelievers will be raised from Hades.
  - This is the resurrection of the wicked!
  - Daniel 12:2
  - John 5:28-29
  - Acts 24:15

\*But how will they be judged?

- vs (12) “books were opened”
  - What books?
  - John 12:48
  - It is possible that one of the books used at the scene will be the Word of God, which is the standard for righteous living.
- vs (12) “another book “ Book of Life”
  - Luke 10:20
  - Philippians 4:3
  - Revelation 13:8
  - Revelation 17:8
  - Revelation 21:27
  - This book contains the names of all believers.
  - Some believe everyone’s name is written there to begin with and then unbelievers’ names are “blotted out”.
  - Exodus 32:32-33
  - This is the book of the living.
  - Psalm 69:28
  - “blotted out” of it simply meant to die physically and no longer be recorded among the living.
  - Revelation 3:5
  - The promise not to be blotted out does not necessarily mean that others will be blotted out.
  - Revelation 13:8 implies that unbelievers names were not recorded there from the foundation of the world.
- So, the Word of God is likely there and the Lamb’s Book of Life is there, but what are the other books?
- vs (12) “judged according to their works”
  - “the things written in the books” are their works.
  - Luke 8:17
  - 1Corinthians 4:5 (see also Romans 2:16; Luke 12:2-3; Matthew 12:36-37; Jeremiah 17:10).

- That problem is this: God is not going to look at His Word and look at their works and say “Oh well, you messed up but you did pretty good”.
- The standard is perfection!
- Galatians 3:10
- James 2:10
- All mankind falls short!
- Romans 3:10-20
- Romans 3:23
- Romans 5:12
- Romans 5:18
- Adam’s sin condemned us to die!
- As sinners, we also will never be justified on our own because we will fail to be perfect.
- Our works will not justify us!
- Romans 3:20
- Galatians 3:11
- Anyone judged by his or her own righteousness will be condemned to eternal separation.
- vs (13) “according to their works”
  - Mentioned a second time!
- vs (15) “not found written in the Book of Life”
  - The basis of their judgment is their works.
  - The Book of Life affirms that they never trusted Christ as Savior and Lord.

\*Perhaps they are judged by their works and then cry out what Matthew 7:22 says “Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in your name, cast out demons in your name, and done many wonders in Your name?”

\*Perhaps he shows them that their name is not in the Lamb’s Book of Life and says to them “I never knew you, Depart from me, you who practice lawlessness.”

\*There are two ways to be judged – based upon your own righteousness or the righteousness of Christ!

### 3. The punishment for unbelievers will be separation and torment!

- vs (13) “They were judged”
- vs (14) “Then”
  - The results of the judgment are being made known next.
- vs (14) “death and Hades”
  - Death here represents the bodies in the grave of the ground or the sea.
  - “Hades” is their soul.
- vs (14) cast into the lake of fire”
  - There is a judge but no jury!
  - There is a prosecution but no defense.
  - There is a sentence but no appeal.
  - There is no chance of a delayed sentence.
  - There is no chance of parole.
  - There is no universal salvation.
  - There is no 2<sup>nd</sup> chance.
  - Only certain eternal punishment.

- vs (14) “Lake of Fire”
  - This is the final Hell!
  - The Devil, the false prophet, the Antichrist, the armies of Satan and all unbelievers will end up here.
  
- vs (14) “second death”
  - 1<sup>st</sup> death was spiritual – separation from God.
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> death is eternal separation from God!
  - The first death was not necessarily eternal.
  - Anyone who trusts Christ will no longer be separated.
  - They will not experience the 2<sup>nd</sup> death.
  - All who reject Christ will and it will be too late then to change that.

\*So unbelievers will be in the eternal lake of fire!

“Gehenna” was the place where they burned things outside of Jerusalem. It is the term most frequently used for hell.

- It is used 12 times in the New Testament, 11 of those are by Jesus!
- Matthew 5:22 (see also Matthew 5:29-30).
- Matthew 10:28
- Matthew 23:33
- Mark 9:43-44 (see also vs 45-48).

\*Our world says God would never do this!

\*We make light of hell or pretend it doesn’t exist!

\*”Think lightly of hell and you will soon think lightly of the cross”. Charles Spurgeon

- Genesis 3:4
- Satan is still telling this same lie!
- You will surely die, eternally separated in a place of fire and torment!

**UNLESS!**

- Romans 5:8-9