

Eschatology ABF Series
Sheep/Goat & White Throne Judgments
November 24th

Review

Questions to Be Answered

Sheep & Goat Nations Judgment

1. What is it?
2. Who is involved?
3. When does it happen?

Sheep & Goat Nations Judgment (notes are from MacArthur Commentary on Matthew)

1. What is it? Who is involved? When Does it Happen? (take all three questions at same time)

Matthew 25:31-46 *"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.' Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?' Then he will answer them, saying, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' And*

these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

The subjects of Christ’s judgment will be all the peoples of the nations. *Εθνα* (ethna) (nations) has the basic meaning of peoples and here refers to every person alive on earth when the Lord returns at the end of the Tribulation period. Although He will have taken all believers into heaven at the Rapture, during the following seven years of the Tribulation many other people will come to believe in Him. During that dreadful time, multitudes of Gentiles (Revelation 7:9, 14), as well as all surviving Jews (Romans 11:26), will be brought to faith in Christ.

As Jesus makes clear later in this passage, those who are alive on earth when He returns will include both saved and unsaved, represented by the sheep and the goats, respectively. And those two separate peoples will have two separate destinies. The believers will be ushered into the kingdom and the unbelievers into eternal punishment (Matthew 25:46).

The process of Christ’s judgment will include the absolute and unerring separation of the saved from the unsaved. When all the nations and peoples of the earth will have been gathered before Him at His return, the Lord Jesus Christ will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.

In the ancient Near East, as in much of that land still today, sheep and goats are frequently herded together. But sheep are docile, gentle creatures, whereas goats are unruly and rambunctious and can easily upset the sheep. Because they do not feed or rest well together, the shepherd often separates them for grazing and for sleeping at night.

In a similar way the Lord Jesus Christ will separate believers from unbelievers when He returns to establish His millennial kingdom. He will put the believing sheep on His right, the place of favor and blessing. But the unbelieving goats He will put on the left, the place of disfavor and rejection.

White Throne Judgment (most notes are from David Jeremiah’s Blog)

1. What is it? Who is involved?
2. Where Will it Take Place?
3. Who is the Judge?
4. What is Being Judged?
5. What is the Lamb’s Book of Life and Can a Person be Blotted Out?
6. When does it happen?

1. What is it? Who is involved?

Revelation 20:11-15 *“Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done. And the*

sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done. Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire."

As John views the Great White Throne, he sees the dead. The dead who died without Christ. The spiritually dead. Their bodies are summoned from their graves and from the sea. Their souls are called from death and Hades to stand before the Judge of all the earth. John says this group will be made up of both small and great. That's an expression that appears often in the Bible and over five times in the book of Revelation alone. It's there to remind us that all classes of people will be present from all ranks in the church and in the world. There will be many religious people at the Great White Throne: philanthropists and preachers, miracle workers and lay people.

Erwin Lutzer says this multitude is diverse in its religions. We see Buddhists and Muslims and Hindus and Protestants and Catholics and Baptists, Presbyterians and Grace Brethren. We see those who believed in one God and those who believed in many gods. We see those who refused to believe in any God at all. We see those who believed in meditation as a means of salvation and those who believed that doing great deeds was the path to eternal life. We see the moral and the immoral. The priest as well as the minister, the nun as well as the missionary.

Matthew 7:21-23 *"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'"*

John 14:6 *"Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'"*

2. Where Will it Take Place?



The Great White Throne is a mountain of white Navajo Sandstone in Zion National Park in Washington County in southwestern Utah, United States. The north face rises

2,350 feet in 1,500 feet from the floor of Zion Canyon near Angels Landing. It is often used as a symbol of Zion National Park.

The Bible does not specify where the Great White Throne Judgment will be. We do know where it will not be. It will not be in heaven and it will not be on earth.

- a. **Not on earth** - It cannot take place on earth because at the appearance of the Lord, the earth and the heaven will have fled away.
- b. **Not in heaven** - because no sinner can enter the presence of God there. So, the Great White Throne Judgment takes place somewhere between heaven and earth.

3. Who is the Judge?

The name of the judgment helps us know who the Judge is. And, in fact, perhaps the name of it is more important than its location.

- a. “great” - speaks of the infinite One who is the judge
- b. “white” - speaks of divine holiness, purity and justice
- c. “throne” - speaks of the majesty of the One who has the right to determine the destiny of His creatures

The Person of the Great White Throne Judgment - Jesus

Revelation 20:11a *“Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it.”*

John 5:22, 27 *“The Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son ... And he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man.”*

Romans 2:16 *“... on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus.”*

Acts 10:42 *“And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead.”*

Christ is the judge of the living at the Judgment Seat of Christ when believers come before Him after the Rapture. He is the judge of the spiritually dead at the Great White Throne Judgment. Jesus Christ will conduct the trial, and no one is better qualified. He did all that He could do to redeem man and if man rejects His offer, then man must be judged by Jesus.

4. What is Being Judged?

Revelation 20:12 *“And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done.”*

What are two books/sets of books?

1. Books – Lists of what a person has done throughout life.

2. Another Book – Described as the Lamb’s Book of Life – A listing of all those who have put their faith in Christ, from the beginning of time.

What is the basis of the judgment?

Revelation 20:12 *“And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, **according to what they had done.**”*

This is where our overall theology of salvation and works keeps us in check. The Bible is consistent that we are saved by faith, but real faith is evidenced by our works.

Ephesians 2:8-9 *“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.”*

James 2:14 *“What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him?”*

Levels of Punishment – we’ll hold this until a later lesson

What might this look like if we were watching the judgment proceedings on TV?

Person walks up to the White Throne and stands before Jesus.

Jesus asks the angelic bailiff if the person’s name is written in the Book of Life.

When the answer is “No”, Jesus asks if the person would like to say anything before sentencing.

The person begins to list all the good things he/she had done in life and the all bad things that he/she didn’t do.

Jesus calls for the angelic bailiff to open the other books and read what has been recorded for this person.

Shortly into the list of all the sinful behaviors, the person breaks down in complete resignation of how sinful he/she truly was.

Jesus pronounces the sentence of eternal separation for God and the person is escorted out of the throne-room and into eternity.

5. What is the Lamb’s Book of Life and Can a Person be Blotted Out?

Philippians 4:3 *“Yes, I ask you also, true companion, help these women, who have labored side by side with me in the gospel together with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life.”*

Revelation 3:5 *“The one who conquers will be clothed thus in white garments, and I will never blot his name out of the book of life. I will confess his name before my Father and before his angels.”*

Revelation 13:8 “... and all who dwell on earth will worship it, everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain.”

Revelation 17:8 “The beast that you saw was, and is not, and is about to rise from the bottomless pit and go to destruction. And the dwellers on earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world will marvel to see the beast, because it was and is not and is to come.”

This is referring to all those who worship & follow the antichrist.

Revelation 20:12 “And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done.”

Revelation 20:15 “And if anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.”

Revelation 21:27 “But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb’s book of life.”

The names of all of the people born into the whole world are originally entered into the Book of Life. But those names are subject to being removed.

We can speculate that every person’s name entered into the Book of Life is entered in with the time of conception and the time of birth. then, if he’s a Christian, the date of his conversion to Christ as His Savior is there. But if there are no entries for the last items by the time that person dies, the entry will be blotted out and an awful blank space will be left in the book at the place where that name should have been. Exhibiting this blank spot in the book will be the final and conclusive evidence that the person being judged must be consigned to life forever without God.

This is **not** the same as the book referred to in:

Psalm 69:28 “Let them be blotted out of the book of the living; let them not be enrolled among the righteous.”

This verse refers to the enemies of David and is only referring to their physical death, not their spiritual death.

It **does** seem to be similar to the book God had in Moses’ day listing Jews who were faithful to Him.

Exodus 32:32-33 “But now, if you will forgive their sin—but if not, please blot me out of your book that you have written.’ But the LORD said to Moses, ‘Whoever has sinned against me, I will blot out of my book.’”

When does the name first appear in the book?

- a. At the moment of conception - Then, at the time of death, the name is blotted out if the person hadn't come to know Christ.

Seems to be indicated by the possibility of the threat of having a name blotted out in Revelation 3:5 *"The one who conquers will be clothed thus in white garments, and I will never blot his name out of the book of life. I will confess his name before my Father and before his angels."*

- b. From eternity past – This makes this a list of only those who have or will in the future, trust Christ for salvation.

Seems to be indicated by Revelation 13:8 *"... and all who dwell on earth will worship it, everyone whose name has not been written **before the foundation of the world** in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain."*

6. When does it happen?

Revelation 20:11a *"Then I saw ..."*

Context – Revelation 20:7-10 *"And when the thousand years are ended, Satan will be released from his prison and will come out to deceive the nations that are at the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them for battle; their number is like the sand of the sea. And they marched up over the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, but fire came down from heaven and consumed them, and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever."*

So, in context, this judgment must take place after the Millennium, after the final battle and after the judgment of Satan.

This is the last act before Eternity future begins! Sin is finally and forever done away with.