

## 16. The Last Judgment and Future Glory

### Revelation 20:12-21:4

There's going to be a general resurrection and final judgment at the end of time:

John 5:28-29

*Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.*

[28] 你们不要把这事看作希奇。时候要到，凡在坟墓里的，都要听见他的声音，就出来； [29] 行善的，复活得生；作恶的，复活定罪。

And Christ will be our judge:

2 Corinthians 5:10

*For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.*

[10] 因为我们众人必要在基督?前显露出来，叫各人按着本身所行的，或善或恶受报。

*12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.*

[12] 我又看见死了的人，无论大小，都站在宝座前。案卷展开了，并且另有一卷展开，就是生命册。死了的人都凭着这些案卷所记载的，照他们所行的受审判。

Nobody will be excluded from the judgment. And we will be judged according to our works in this life. That should trouble all of us, because we're all going to be found guilty.

*13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.*

[13] 於是海交出其中的死人；死亡和阴间也交出其中的死人；他们都照各人所行的受审判。

This judgment will include everyone who has ever lived. We can't escape it by killing ourselves. We'll all be judged according to how we've lived in the one life that we've been given on this earth.

*14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.*

[14] 死亡和阴间也被扔在火湖里；这火湖就是第二次的死。

There will no longer be any death as we know it, i.e. the soul leaving the body. For the judgment, our souls will be united to an everlasting resurrection body, and then we will face our final, eternal destiny. The word “*hell*” here is “*Hades*,” the holding place of wicked souls between death and the final judgment. That will no longer be needed, so that too is destroyed. There is a lake of fire mentioned here, which is called the “*second death*.” We should make sure we don’t end up there. That’s where the devil, his angels and all the wicked go:

Matthew 25:41

*Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels.*

[41] 王又要向那左边的说：你们这被咒诅的人，离开我！进入那为魔鬼和他的使者所预备的永火里去！

*15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.*

[15] 若有人名字没记在生命册上，他就被扔在火湖里。

Whether we go to the lake of fire or not, does not depend on our entry in the books of our deeds, but it depends on whether our names are written in the book of life or not. The books of our deeds may affect any rewards in heaven, but they don’t affect our eternal destiny. Thank God! And the book of life is Christ’s:

Revelation 13:8

*And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him [the beast], whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.*

[8] 凡住在地上、名字从创世以来没有记在被杀之羔羊生命册上的人，都要拜他。

So, those not written in the book of life go to the lake of fire for their sins, which is eternal:

2 Thessalonians 1:9

*.... who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power ....*

[9] 他们要受刑罚，就是永远沉沦，离开主的面和他权能的荣光。

*22:1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.*

[1] 我又看见一个新天新地；因为先前的天地已经过去了，海也不再有了。

But for those written in the book of life, there is “*a new heaven and a new earth*” to look forward to. And there is no more sea. The “*sea*” is often used in the Bible as a metaphor for the mob, the crowds, the nations. No more will any mob or movement lead us astray.

*2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.*

[2] 我又看见圣城新耶路撒冷由神那里从天而降，预备好了，就如新妇妆饰整齐，等候丈夫。

Christ's people are described in the Bible as His "bride."

Ephesians 5:25-27

*Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.*

[25] 你们作丈夫的，要爱你们的妻子，正如基督爱教会，为教会舍己。  
[26] 要用水藉着道把教会洗净，成为圣洁，[27] 可以献给自己，作个荣耀的教会，毫无玷污、皱纹等类的病，乃是圣洁没有瑕疵的。

Here, we have a slightly different analogy. The new Jerusalem, our final resting place, is here described as the bride of Christ's people.

*3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.*

[3] 我听见有大声音从宝座出来说：看哪，神的帐幕在人间。他要与人同住，他们要作他的子民。神要亲自与他们同在，作他们的神。

This will be our final resting place, where God finally dwells with men. He dwells with His people in their hearts here, in this world, but we live in a world of sin and evil. In the new Jerusalem, there will be no more sin, and indeed no more sin in our hearts either.

*4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.*

[4] 神要擦去他们一切的眼泪；不再有死亡，也不再有悲哀、哭号、疼痛，因为以前的事都过去了。

Let's make sure that we avoid the second death, the lake of fire, by putting all our trust in the Lord Jesus Christ for our salvation. Otherwise there is no hope for anybody.