

**“Judgment Day”**  
**Revelation 20:11-12**

These verses describe the final judgment of all the unbelievers of all ages ([Matt. 10:15](#); [Luke 10:14](#); [John 12:48](#); [Acts 17:31, 24:25](#);

Our Lord referred to this event as the “resurrection of judgment” ([John 5:29](#)).

“Great white throne”: Nearly 50 times in Revelation there is the mention of a throne. This is a judgment throne, elevated, pure, and holy God sits on it as judge in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ. [Revelation. 21:5-6](#); [John 5:22-29](#);

Now John describes the terrifying scene set before him. He sees the Judge who is seated on His throne of Judgment and all of the accused standing before Him. The verdicts handed down from this throne will be equitable, righteous and just.

“The earth and the heaven fled away”: John saw the contaminated universe go out of existence. Peter described this moment. [2 Peter 3:10-13](#); The universe is “uncreated”, going into non-existence [Matt. 24:35](#);

We also remember ([Ecclesiastes](#)), which promises, "God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil". [Ecclesiastes 12:14](#), [Romans 2:5-6](#)

**Revelation 20:12 "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."**

“Stand before God”: In a judicial sense, as guilty, condemned prisoners before the bar of divine justice.

The "dead" are those who are spiritually dead because of their rejection of Christ.

“**Books**”: These books record every thought, word, and deed of sinful men, all recorded by divine omniscience (see note on [Dan. 7:9-10](#);

These statements immediately call our attention back to the words of the Lord Jesus: [Luke 12:3](#), [Luke 8:17](#)

Remember that the Christian dead have already won their victory. Those were judged by Jesus at the Bema Seat

“**Book of life**”: It contains the names of all the redeemed ([Dan. 12:1](#)

“**Judged** ... according to their deeds”: Their thoughts ([Luke 8:17](#); [Rom. 2:16](#)), words ([Matt. 12:37](#)), and actions ([Matt. 16:27](#)), will be compared to God’s perfect, holy standard ([Matt. 5:48](#); [1 Peter 1:15-16](#)), and will be found wanting ([Rom. 3:23](#)).

This also implies that there are degrees of punishment in hell (compare [Matthew 10:14-15](#); [11:22](#); [Mark 12:38-40](#); [Luke 12:47-48](#); [Heb. 10:29](#)).

**Revelation 20:13 "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."**

“Death and hell” Both terms describe the state of death. All the places that have held the bodies of the unrighteous dead will yield up new bodies suited for hell.

The terrible thing is that they are aware that they will be thrown into the lake of fire on judgment day. These are all of the unbelievers though all ages who have died. They will be raised up by Christ for judgment called the second resurrection.

**Revelation 20:14 "And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death."**

The "second death" is eternal punishment in the lake of fire, experienced only by the unsaved. Once this final judgment occurs, there is no further need for either death or hell. [Isaiah 25:8](#); [1 Cor. 15:26-55](#).

An eternal separation is now made between those who have life and those who have "death" [Dan. 12:2](#); [John 5:29](#).

**Revelation 20:15 "And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."**

Therefore, a body without the spirit suffers physical death (Gen. 35:18). The expression "second death", defines the separation of a man from God.

When a person is saved, he has passed from death to life, and can be assured he will never come into condemnation ([John 5:24](#); [Gen. 2:17](#); [Mark 9:43](#)).

And yet why our Lord tells us of these awesome events. To give us every opportunity to escape the terrible judgment that is to come. Remember, "no believer in Christ" will stand before God at the great white throne. That terrible spot is reserved only for those who have rejected Christ as Savior, who have decided to crown themselves king, and who have refused to accept Jesus Christ as their true Lord. [Romans 10:9-10](#)