

The White Throne Judgment

I. Introduction

A. *This Week in Clear Living*

1. Jacob's Trouble (Jeremiah 30:1-10)
2. The Church at Work (Luke 19:1-10 and Mathew 28:16-20)
3. Not Obeying the Holy Spirit has Penalties (John 15:1-8)
4. Jesus Told Peter to Feed His Sheep (John 21:1-25)
5. Closing the Final Curtain (Revelation 21:1-27)

Question: Based on Jeremiah 30:1-10, how can Christians know that the Great Tribulation and the White Throne Judgment are not intended for them?

- B. The Bible teaches that the Tribulation is for the Jews and those that have rejected the Lord.
- C. The Tribulation will be a time when God clearly deals with the Jews.
 1. Jeremiah 30:7 says, "Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: *it is even the time of Jacob's trouble*; but he shall be saved out of it."
 2. Daniel 9:27 says, "And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week *he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease*, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate."
- D. The Tribulation is not for the church.
 1. I Thessalonians 5:9 says, "For *God hath not appointed us to wrath*, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,"
 2. Wrath (*orge*) - anger exhibited in punishment, hence used for punishment itself, of punishments inflicted by magistrates.
 - a. Matthew 3:7 says, "But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee *from the wrath to come?*"
 - b. Luke 21:23 says, "But woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck, *in those days! for there shall be great distress in the land*, and wrath upon this people."
 - c. John 3:36 says, "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; *but the wrath of God abideth on him.*"
 - d. Romans 5:9 says, "Much more then, being now justified by his blood, *we shall be saved from wrath* through him."
 - e. I Thessalonians 1:10 says, "And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, *which delivered us from the wrath to come.*"
- E. Ephesians 1:1-14 promises great eternal blessings for Christians.
 1. In verse 3, we have spiritual blessings in heavenly places in the Lord.

The White Throne Judgment

2. In verse 4, we have been chosen from the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him.
3. In verse 5, we have been adopted by Jesus to Himself.
4. In verse 7, we have been redeemed through His blood.
5. In verse 11, we have received an inheritance because of our walk of faith.

Question: Why was Jesus incarnated, and what should the church do because of it?

- II. Jesus was born to die so that He could become our Savior.
- A. He is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.
 1. He was born of a virgin (Matthew 1:23).
 2. He lived His life and was without sin (Hebrew 4:15).
 3. He was, is and forever will be the Son of God. He did not become a god. He is God (John 8:58).
 4. He died on the cross as payment for our sins (John 1:29).
 5. He arose from His grave because death could not hold Him (Matthew 28:6).
 6. Today, we can be set free from the penalty of our sins (John 3:16).
 7. Today, we can have a personal relationship with Jesus (I Corinthians 6:19).
 - B. He told His disciples that He is the Vine.
 1. John 15:1 says, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman."
 2. He empowers us to do His work.
 3. John 15:2 says, "Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit."
 - C. Jesus came to seek and to save the Lost (Luke 19:10).
 - D. He gave His disciples the Great Commission, and that has been passed down to the church (Matthew 28:16-20).
 - E. Christians can do the Lord's work through surrendered lives and the indwelling Holy Spirit.
 1. Galatians 2:20 says, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."
 2. I Corinthians 12:13-14 says, "For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. For the body is not one member, but many."
 3. Romans 12:1 says, "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."

The White Throne Judgment

Question: How does the Lord treat Christians that fail to produce fruit?

- III. Christians have a serious responsibility, and the Lord deals with those that are disobedient.
- A. The Lord sometimes chastens those that do not obey.
1. Hebrews 12:8 says, "But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons."
 2. David was chastised for numbering the Israeli troops when he should not have (I Chronicles 21:1-30).
 3. Every Christian occasionally endures chastisement so that we can be conformed to the image of Christ (Romans 8:29).
- B. He sometimes takes away a person's eternal rewards.
1. The Judgment Seat of Christ is probably not punitive in the same way as the White Throne judgment.
 2. It is probably positive in that Christians will receive certain crowns.
 - a. I Corinthians 9:25 says, "And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an *incorruptible*."
 - b. I Thessalonians 2:19 says, "For what is our hope, or joy, or *crown of rejoicing*? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming?"
 - c. II Timothy 4:8 says, "Henceforth there is laid up for me a *crown of righteousness*, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing."
 - d. James 1:12 says, "Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him."
 - e. I Peter 5:4 says, "And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a *crown of glory* that fadeth not away."
 3. The punishment aspect will be that the individual does not receive any crowns, and that will be embarrassing.
- C. He sometimes ends a life prematurely.
1. Acts 5:5 says, "And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost: and great fear came on all them that heard these things."
 2. Of Sapphira, Acts 5:10 says, "Then fell she down straightway at his feet, and yielded up the ghost: and the young men came in, and found her dead, and, carrying her forth, buried her by her husband."
 3. Because the church was not popular, Ananias and Sapphira were probably saved. But the Lord ended their life swiftly because of their transgression.
 4. II Samuel 6:7 says, "And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Uzzah; and God smote him there for his error; and there he died by the ark of God."

The White Throne Judgment

- D. **The absolute key to being obedient to the Lord is to ALWAYS do exactly what the Holy Spirit wants us to do, not the preacher, Sunday School teacher, or your best friend.**
1. Keep your spiritual ears open. Revelation 2:29 says, "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches."
 2. Keep your spiritual eyes open.
 3. James 2:15-17 says, "If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit? Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone."
 4. Keep your tongue for Holy Spirit use (James 1:26).
 5. Order your life after the Holy Spirit's leading.
 6. ***When we fall short, we should pick ourselves up and get going again.***

Question: Why were Peter and the others fishing when Jesus came to see them? How do we know? What did He tell Peter to do, and how did Jesus possibly hint that Peter would have a long life?

IV. Peter abused his position.

- A. John 21:3 says, "Simon Peter saith unto them, I go a fishing. They say unto him, We also go with thee. They went forth, and entered into a ship immediately; and that night they caught nothing."
1. Peter, John, James, and Andrew had been professional fishermen when Jesus called them to be His disciples.
 2. Matthew 4:18-20 says, "And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: ***for they were fishers.*** And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men. And they straightway left their nets, and followed him."
 3. Fishers (***halieus***) – fishermen.
 4. Jesus was gone, and they did not know what to do. So they were returning to their trade of fishing for their livelihood.
- B. Jesus told Peter to feed His sheep.
1. John 21:15 says, "So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, ***lovest thou me more than these?*** He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, ***Feed my lambs.***"
 - a. Jesus first asked Peter if he loved Him more than being a fisherman.
 - b. Jesus told him to feed His lambs and later sheep.
 2. Jesus was formally calling Peter into the ministry, and Peter responded.

The White Throne Judgment

3. Had he not accepted the Lord's calling, the sermon at Pentecost would have been preached by someone else.
- C. Peter was destined to grow old in the ministry.
 1. John 21:18 says, "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, When thou wast young, thou girdedst thyself, and walkedst whither thou wouldst: **but when thou shalt be old, thou shalt stretch forth thy hands, and another shall gird thee, and carry thee whither thou wouldst not.**"
 2. Peter was forced to watch his wife be crucified during Nero's reign in 61 AD.
 3. Then, Peter was crucified at the same time, and tradition maintains that he was crucified upside down.
 4. The Apostle Paul was also martyred in 61 AD.

Question: Based on Revelation 21:1-27, how does time end?

V. The White Throne Judgment

- A. Now is the time for Christians to work for the Lord.
 1. Matthew 20:26-27 says, "But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; And **whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant.**"
 2. John 9:4 says, "I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, **when no man can work.**"
 3. We serve the Lord under His leadership so that through Him we might be able to lead others to Him.
 4. The Apostle Andrew had a history of bringing others to Jesus.
 - a. His example is good to follow.
 - b. **We can be successful simply by letting the Holy Spirit have control of our heart and life.**
- B. The end of the story will not be good for those outside Christ. **How would you explain the following verses?**
 1. Revelation 20:15 says, "**And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.**"
 2. Revelation 21:4 says, "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."
 3. Revelation 21:8 says, "But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, **shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone:** which is the second death."

The White Throne Judgment

Next week's lesson: "God is the Creator and He Did Not Need Science"

Five Day Recommended Reading:

Monday:	Genesis 1:1-31
Tuesday:	Genesis 18:1-33
Wednesday:	Psalms 121:1-8 and John 1:1-3
Thursday:	John 8:48-59
Friday:	Colossians 1:1-16

Study questions:

1. Who created the world?
2. How do scientists say that the world was created?
3. In your opinion, is the Big Bang theory true?
4. In your opinion, can scientists show that the Big Bang theory is credible? What is dark matter and why is it important to their hypothesis? What is the mission of the Hubble Spacecraft? How do scientists use computer models to approximate the Big Bang theory?
5. In your opinion, is the Theory of Evolution true or false?
6. In your opinion, can scientists show that the Theory of Evolution is credible? Why do they always suggest a very old earth? What is the probability of macroevolution on earth? How have scientists tried to tip the scales in their favor?
7. Why do scientists try to undermine God's role in Creation?