

“AND THEY WERE JUDGED”: MAN’S ETERNAL DESTINY

Introduction

- 1) **Revelation 20:11-15** – Picture of the final judgment of all men
 - a) “And they were judged, each one according to his works”
 - b) There will be a Judge, a gathering of the dead, a standard for judgment, a registry of the righteous, a judgment rendered on the basis of obedience, and a destiny assigned each one based on that judgment
- 2) Since we shall all be there, let us understand what that Day will be like

I) THE APPOINTED DAY AND JUDGE (Acts 17:31)

- A) The Day of final judgment
 - 1) The last day/hour (Jn. 5:28-29; 6:40, 44)
 - 2) This day/hour is not known (Matt. 24:36; 2 Pet. 3:10)
- B) The ordained Judge
 - 1) Christ on His throne of judgment (Matt. 25:31-33; 2 Cor. 5:10)

II) THE RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD

- A) The dead will be “standing before God” – implies resurrection (Heb. 9:27)
 - 1) No purgatory, haunting, or reincarnation
- B) Resurrection is God’s plan for complete victory for righteous (1 Cor. 15:20-23, 51-54)
 - 1) Man is created body and soul in unity; death divides soul and body (Jas. 2:26)
 - 2) Resurrection re-unites soul and body fit for eternal life (1 Cor. 15:42-50)
 - 3) Conformed to His glorious body (Phil. 3:20-21; immortal, incorruptible)

III) THE STANDARD FOR JUDGMENT AND THE BOOK OF LIFE

- A) “The books” – God’s revelation to man throughout all dispensations; OT and NT
 - 1) For Christians, Jesus’ words will judge us (Jn. 12:48; “the faith” Jude 3)
- B) The Book of Life – registry of the faithful (Lk. 10:20; Phil. 4:3; Heb. 12:23; Rev. 13:8; 21:7)
 - 1) God knows perfectly who are His (2 Tim. 2:19; Rev. 7:3)

IV) “ACCORDING TO DEEDS”

- A) Salvation is not by faith alone; justified by works – obedience of faith (Jas. 2:24; 1:21-22)
- B) Will be “according to what he has done, whether good or bad” (2 Cor. 5:10)
- C) Difference between wise and foolish man (Matt. 7:24-27), and those on the right hand and the left hand (Matt. 25:34-45)

V) HEAVEN AND HELL

- A) Two destinies – both eternal (Matt. 25:46; Rev. 20:10; 21:8)
- B) **Hell** = outer darkness, unquenched lake of fire, worm not die (Matt. 25:30; Mk. 9:43-44)
- C) **Heaven**
 - 1) New heaven and a new earth (2 Pet. 3:13; Rev. 21:1 – new righteous dwelling place)
 - a) All faithful pictured as the holy city, New Jerusalem, a bride adorned
 - 2) Full fellowship with God (Rev. 21:3, 7)
 - 3) Former things have passed away – no more death, sorrow, crying, pain (21:4)
 - 4) Unparalleled description of the beauty of God’s people in glory (21:9-22:5)

Conclusion

The invitation of the bride and the Spirit say “Come!” The water of life is freely offered to those who will come to God in obedient faith (Rev. 22:17; Heb. 11:6). May we so live as to say with the apostle John, “Even so, come, Lord Jesus!” (Rev. 22:20)!