

I. ATTENTION TO THE THRONE

- A. This induces awe – it is awesome in the true meaning of the word
 - 1. This is the final judgment
 - a. ROM. 14:11 – “For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.”
 - b. ISA. 45:23 – “I have sworn by myself, the word is gone out of my mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, That unto me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear.”
 - c. All will be judged! He is the JUDGE OF ALL!
 - 2. You can't see me there because I'm behind the throne
 - a. You see, I'm Saved – and that's important
 - b. By this point I've already been judged at the judgment
 - i. 1 COR 3:12-13 – “Now if any man build upon this foundation (Salvation) gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; (13) – “Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.”
 - c. Why would Paul be judged at Caesar's judgement seat?
 - i. Because he was a citizen of Rome!
 - ii. Well, I'm a citizen of Heaven!
 - iii. I'll be judged at the Mercy Seat of Christ!
- B. The Great White Throne
 - 1. My lost friend, please let yourself ponder on this just a moment
 - a. After a complete victory against the devil in only an instant
 - b. Great White Throne speaks to Sovereignty and Righteousness
 - c. He saw Him who sat upon it from before whose face both
 - i. The earth fled away
 - ii. The heaven fled away...
 - iii. And there was NO place found for them
 - iv. 2 PETER 3:6-13
 - 2. So mighty so powerful so ultimate that nothing could escape Him
 - 3. And nothing does!
- C. This will be the end of everything that happened on this World
 - 1. The great wars, the great figures of history, the great events
 - 2. Everything comes to this CERTAIN END. This one terminus.

3. We turn our Attention to the Throne!
4. There will be Attendance of the Dead, and Accounting by the Books
5. And most importantly: Judgement by the BOOK

II. ATTENDANCE OF THE DEAD

- A. The dead. That's a VERY particular term there (vs. 12)
 1. That's not me. That's not the Saved
 2. JOHN 3:16 – *“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”*
 3. EPH. 2:1 – *“And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;”*
- B. The “Dead” means those who are spiritually dead
 1. Small and great, young and old, rich and poor, mighty and weak (vs. 12)
 2. All there! None were missed in that call
- C. The sea (vs. 13) gave up the dead in it
 1. Remember that the “sea” means the masses of Humanity in Revelation
 2. This means that the unsaved living on Earth will be there!
- D. Death gave up the dead that were in it
 1. Hell gave up the dead that were in it
 2. The Bible says things so heartbreakingly simply
 - a. Death holds the body of the lost man
 - b. But Hell holds his soul
- E. Consider this: It is possible that the only thing more frightening to that lost soul than the fires of hell will be that throne of white.

III. ACCOUNTING BY THE BOOKS

- A. We see more curious words here in vs. 13
- B. It seems mysterious at first but let me point out the grammatical numbers used
 1. The dead are standing before God
 2. All who rejected Christ now standing before his Great White Throne
- C. And the books (plural) were opened...
 1. MAL. 3:16 – *“Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name.”*
 2. JOB 16:19 – *“Also now, behold, my witness is in heaven, and my record is on high.”*
 3. What horror must set in upon the sight of those books

4. But more terrifying still is that other book
- D. This is a different book
 1. Two sets of ledgers
 2. One group of books distinct from this other single book
 3. But the Word of God explains what that book (vs. 12)
 4. It is the Lamb's Book of Life
 5. And the Bible tells us what happens
 - a. The dead are judged out of those things written in the books (plural)
 - b. According to their works
 6. It has all been recorded
 - a. Everything that was ever done
 - b. No matter who saw it, no matter if alone
 - c. It's all written in the ledgers
 - d. The Bible says in Mathew 6:6 *"Thy Father that seeth in secret will reward thee openly..."*
- E. "I'm Okay" "No Worries" "I Just Want Justice"
 1. There are many unfortunate mistakes people make in their thinking
 - a. I'm a decent person. I go to church. I even give money.
 - b. I'm alright with being judged by my good works.
 - c. All I want is justice.
 - d. I'm betting my good will outweigh my bad.
 2. Sadly, that wager has never paid out.
- F. Not even one time.

IV. ACCORDING TO THE BOOK

- A. The books may hold the evidence, but the book has the sentence!
 1. All of those works, whether good or bad
 2. Account for nothing in God's economy
 3. He said this about our good works
 - a. ISA. 64:6 – "...all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags..."
 - b. Refuse. Without value.
 - c. Not good enough.
- B. The book is all that matters (vs. 15)
 1. Whosoever WILL means anyone, but also whosoever WON'T
 2. Remember: small and great, rich and poor, mighty and weak
 3. Their names were not found
 4. And they were cast into the lake of fire
 - a. Where the devil already was
 - b. Where the beast and the false prophet already was

- c. Where death and hell had just been cast
 - d. That's where their works got them
- C. It only makes sense when compared to Jesus
 - 1. HEB. 7:26 says Jesus is *"holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners and made higher than the heavens;"*
 - 2. 1 PET. 2:22 tells us that Jesus *"did no sin,"*
 - 3. 1 JOHN 3:5 tells us that in Jesus *"is no sin."*
 - 4. 2 COR. 5:21 tells us that Jesus *"knew no sin;"*
- D. But you and I are not like Him
 - 1. He is the mark of perfection that we miss
 - 2. ROM. 3:10 tells us that none of us is *"righteous, no, not one."*
 - 3. ROM. 3:11 tells us that none of us *"seeketh after God."*
 - 4. ROM. 3:12 tells us that none of us *"doeth good, no, not one."*
 - 5. ROM. 3:23 tells us that *"...all have sinned, and are come short of the glory of God."*
- E. We compare ourselves among ourselves
 - 1. And the Bible says that is not wise
 - 2. We must weigh ourselves against the sinless perfection of Christ
 - 3. Yes, yes, you can choose to be judged by your works
 - 4. And if you will be honest with yourself, my lost friend
 - a. You will see what I saw in myself in 1991
 - b. You will be confronted by same fact that confronted me
 - c. The fact that we have missed the mark
 - d. The fact that there is no hope in my flesh. No hope in this world.
- F. But there is Hope!

V. ATONEMENT BY THE CROSS

- A. John 19:28-30
 - 1. Finished – tel-eh'-o "to end, to complete, execute, conclude, discharge a debt, accomplish, make an end, expire, fill up, finish, pay, perform"
 - 2. The master piece is finished! The work has been done!
- B. A "good work" has purchased my Salvation
 - 1. But it was no good work of mine!
 - 2. It is the perfect work of Christ already completed upon the Cross
 - 3. It is only the blood of Christ that can purchase atonement
 - a. ROM. 6:23 – "The wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."
 - b. The word "atone" means fully paid, the debt satisfied,
 - c. It means a propitiation has been made – an act to appease wrath

- d. 1 JOHN 2:2 – “And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.”
- e. Every sin – past present and future
- C. It comes down to a simple choice:
 - 1. Will you let His good work pay your debt ?
 - 2. Or will you try pay for it yourself with filthy rags?
 - 3. You can be judged by your works
 - 4. You can be judged out of the books
 - 5. Or you can have your name written down in the Lamb’s Book of Life
- D. He has already purchased Salvation enough for the whole world
- E. And He wants to pay the debt you owe
- F. Will you accept His gift of eternal life?