

**The Biblical Doctrine of
The Great White Throne Judgment
Part 1: The Necessity of the Throne**

Revelation 20:11-15 reveals the awesome specter of the final judgment of the unsaved that often is called the “great white throne” of final judgment. John witnessed this heartbreaking scene as the “books were opened” in which are the recorded deeds of every person who has ever lived. Also, he saw “the book” opened that is the book of life that contains the name of the saved. Only those whose name is in this book will be saved.

There is no more important consideration than our individual accountability to God. Dr. Criswell said, “There is no more somber or solemn passage to be read in all of God’s Word than this description of the final Judgment Day of God.” (*Sermons on Revelation, Vol. 5, p. 83*). He said that its awesome character lies in its subject, the final judgment of all unbelievers who are lost consigned to the lake of fire, bringing a final resolution to their eternal destiny. There is no more tragic word in human language than “lost,” and especially so when it pertains to the final destiny of those who have rejected God.

Revelation 20:11-15 is a sobering reminder that every person on the face of the earth is accountable to a thrice-holy God, who in the coming Day of Judgment will reveal the secret deeds of every human being who has ever lived. Why a throne of judgment? It is because God’s determination to rid the world of sin is indiscriminate. He is not capricious. He does not judge sin or sinners out of delight. The scripture reveals two reasons for the necessity of the Great White Throne of judgment:

- (1) **The character of God demands it** – He is a just, righteous and holy God. Deuteronomy 32:4 says, “He is a Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are justice, a God of truth and without injustice: Righteous and upright is He. He is a holy God who demands holiness of all people everywhere. Peter in 1 Peter 1:15-16 echoes Leviticus 11:44 and says “but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, ‘Be holy, for I am Holy!’”

- (2) **The wages of sin demands it** – The wages of sin demands judgment. God has built a self-destruct mechanism into sin. The Bible warns that one day sin will be paid its just wages. Romans 6:23 says, “The wages of sin is death – but the gift of God is everlasting life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

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