

**The Biblical Doctrine of
The Great White Throne Judgment
Part 3: The Nature of the Great White Throne**

The character of the throne is a reflection of the character of the one who sits upon it. The great white throne of God reminds us that He alone is sovereign and in control of the final direction and destiny of human history. There are three identifying features of this throne upon which Yahweh the God of creation and redemption sits.

- (1) **It is “Great”** – the word “great” (Gk. *megan*) sometimes refers to size but also may be used, as it is here, to refer to the importance or significance of something or someone. This is the “great” white throne of the Lord God Creator and Ruler of the Universe. It is the judgment seat of final appeal and ultimate authority. It is the judgment seat from which there is no release or retreat from judgment dispensed.

The great white throne represents the tribunal at which the final destiny of everyone who appears before it shall be eternally sealed. It is the “great” place of judgment for those who have passively neglected or openly rejected God’s salvation. Thus, the writer of Hebrews 2:3 says, “How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation . . .?” No one who is unsaved will escape the eternal and punitive judgment at this tribunal.

- (2) **It is “White”** – as a reminder of the purity and holy character of Him who sits on the throne. White is symbolic of His ability to dispense judgment from His righteous holy character. As Dwight Pentecost points out in *Things to Come*, the “white” throne also is to be a purging, cleansing, purifying place of judgment, as in 2 Pet 3:10-12. It is here, at the great white throne of judgment that sin and unsaved sinners will be purged from the heavenly environment forever.
- (3) **It is a “throne”** – this is the seat of God’s divine justice, of His holiness, of His righteousness, of His dominion, of His ultimate power and of His omnipotence. Hereupon is seated the King of Kings, Lord of Lords, Yahweh, the Sovereign God of Creation, and Lord of Redemption. John witnessed, in Revelation 7:9-12, a great doxology of praise and worship to Him who sits on the throne of heaven and reigns forever and ever.

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