

Revelation 20:11-15 - Judgment Day

Intro – Our study in Rev. has been quite a ride – futuristic and dramatic. It reveals the judgments that Jesus will unleash on the earth in the future. 4 horsemen(deception, violence, famines, plagues), earthquakes, spacequakes, locust, water to blood, islands disappearing, wars, 100 lb. hailstones...

Those judgments pale in comparison to our frightful text today. I cannot think of a more sobering section of scripture than this one. Our text today describes a personal and eternal judgment.

It describes a fate worse than death....the 2nd death

The Court, the Accused, the Evidence, the Sentence, The Hope
Salvation is by grace/Damnation is by works – so let your works cause you to cry out for salvation

The COURT

1. 20:11 great white throne
 - a. Seat of absolute power Matt. 25:31 "...Son..will sit on His glorious throne
 - b. Throne of absolute purity great white throne
 - i. Nobody will get a raw deal before this judge Deut. 10:17
 1. 13 ½ tattoo = 12 jurors +1 judge + ½ chance (1/2 baked lawyer)
2. The ONE seated on the throne is Jesus Christ
 - a. Jesus is the Judge John 5:22 Acts 10:42; 17:31` 2 Tim. 4:1
 - b. Jesus is doing judging in Rev. The Lamb opens the seals/ unleashes the judgments
3. The Judge is glorious
 - a. 20:11 "earth & heaven fled " ("uncreation" MacArthur)
 - i. 1 Tim. 6:16 Dan. 7:9-10 Awesome scene

The ACCUSED

- 20:12a "the dead" the dead are mentioned 4x's in 20:12-13
- Humanity is a unique creation
 - o heaven and earth fled before the throne but the dead stand before the throne
 - mankind is made in God's image. something eternal about us
 - o Heaven and earth will pass away but people do not pass away. They pass into judgment
- Death is not annihilation but transition Heb. 9:27
 - o Death is not escape from judgment but a portal to judgment
 - Murder/suicide the dead do not escape judgment, but enter into it
- The "dead" are different small and great
 - o The rich are not given a pass and the poor are not pitied. (Impartial and appropriate)

The EVIDENCE

1. 20:12b books opened.....dead judged...what they had done as recorded in books
 - a. Sin is recorded Ps. 90:8 Hosea 7:2
 - b. Ticket by mail with picture of car and tag ingenious payment unaccepted
 - i. Worlds dumbest criminals take selfies at crime scenes
 - ii. T. Jefferson "do everything as if the world is watching"
 - c. The Maker of the world is watching and recording "I know your works"
 - i. No one gets away with anything
2. Judged according to what they had done
 - a. Works damnation is by works/deeds
 - b. Words Matt. 12:36 (mumble under breath)
 - i. Matt. 5:22 enough words daily to damn us
 - c. Wishes secret thoughts "I know your thoughts"
 - i. Heb. 4:12-13 Rom. 2:16 thoughts worse than works
3. The evidence is overwhelming and no one gets away with anything
 - a. Secret sins on earth are open scandal in heaven

The SENTENCE

- There is a process involved before the final sentence 20:13-14
 - o Life of crime before the Creator is recorded evidence death is the arrest
 - Hades is the holding cell (county jail) hell is final/eternal prison of torment
- There is a resurrection of the wicked dead (Rev. 20:5; Dan. 12:2; John 5:29)
 - o Bodies in sea and death are reunited with their spirits in Hades-
 - prepared bodies for an eternal hell (not just redeemed are resurrected)
- the holding cells of Death and Hades are thrown into the Lake of Fire (Hell) 20:14
 - o one day there will be no more death!
- There is a fate worse than death
 - o the 2nd death eternal death (Gehenna - burning trash heap)
 - o the 2nd death is not non-existence it is eternal torment in trash heap of history
 - o Jesus the Judge has described it Matt. 13:41-42 Matt. 25:41- 46

A WARNING WITH HOPE

1. God is not mocked - what you sow you will reap Gal. 6:7
 - a. Your sin will find you out. All done before His eyes. He knows. Nobody gets away
 - b. The books will be opened. The evidence is overwhelming
2. I do not preach so you will feel good about yourself....but guilty about yourself
 - a. You feel guilty because you are guilty
3. Nobody gets away with anything but you can be forgiven of everything Psalm 130:3-4
 - a. Salvation is by grace Damnation is by works