

Witnesses of a Most Sobering Event

And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. (12) And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. (13) And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. (14) And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. (15) And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

~*Revelation 20:11-15*



The Scriptures seem to indicate that believers in Christ will be present at the Great White Throne judgment. Christ will be the Judge, and His Bride, the Church, will be with Him (1 Thess. 4:17). In Revelation 3:9 the believers in the church of Philadelphia were promised that certain unsaved

people would some day worship (bow down) at their feet (Rev.3:9). These unsaved people will know that Christ has loved the very people whom they once persecuted. This is an amazing promise for all of God's people down through the centuries who have been abused and persecuted by the ungodly. Prophetically, the only occasion when this could happen would be at the final judgment. Also, Revelation 20:15 suggests a contrast between those whose names are not found written in the book of life and those whose names are found therein. The saints, as witnesses at this great event, would represent the ones whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life. The saints will "judge the world," which will happen during the millennium (Rev. 20:4; Matt. 19:28), but perhaps also at the Great White Throne as we will participate with Him in this judgment as witnesses.

Imagine the awesome solemnity of that event, as the unsaved are condemned based on the wicked works they have done (Rev. 20:12). As I witness this, I realize that I too have been guilty of crimes against God, and that I am as fully deserving of this condemnation as they. Once a child of wrath (Eph. 2:2-3), now a child of God only by God's grace, yet deserving of hell as much as the ones I'm watching who are being sent to their doom. Today I have a very small grasp of what it means to be delivered from the wrath to come. At that day I shall know more fully.

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