



The Great White Throne Judgment
Revelation 20:7-15

MEMORY VERSE

REVELATION 20:12

“And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life.”

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

A funny hat.

A sheet of light colored construction paper for each child, markers, regular sheets of white paper, a hole punch, brass fasteners and thin ribbon.

ATTENTION GETTER!

Roll Call

This activity will demonstrate what it is like to be left out. Call the roll in your class using the sign up sheet for your class. Leave out one name from your list. Bring a clean and funny hat for the child whose name you left out (please don't pick someone shy at first). Let that child wear the hat as you call the roll again leaving out a different name this time, then ask whose name wasn't called. Pass them the hat.

Do this several times then explain that when it is time for going to heaven we certainly do want all of our names on the list...so does God. That is what we are going to be learning about today. **God wants our names to be written in the Book of Life.**

LESSON TIME!

In today's lesson we will see in Revelation an event called “The Great White Throne Judgment.” This is after Jesus returns and Satan is bound for 1,000 years. Jesus will judge all of those who never accepted Him as Savior. It will be a sad time for those who

are judged, but Jesus is extending the invitation today for anyone to have their names written in the Book of Life if they would only believe in Him as their Savior. **God wants our names to be written in the Book of Life.**

It is so important for us to listen to what Jesus has to say. We want to be included with those who are called to the great Marriage Supper of the Lamb as we learned last week. For those of us who are Christians, we won't be at this judgment. We will stand before Jesus and give an account of how we used our gifts and lives for His service at a different judgment called the Judgement Seat of Christ. But that doesn't have to do with our salvation. This judgment here is for those who refused to believe in Jesus and never had their names written in the Book of Life.

As we begin, we find that Jesus has returned and taken all those who believe in Him to Heaven to be with Him. There has been a great celebration called the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. The final battle has been fought and Jesus has conquered all those who had opposed Him. Satan has been bound for 1,000 years. Jesus and His followers have ruled those left on Earth during a 1000-year reign. The time has come for the final judgment of Satan and his followers. **God wants our names to be written in the Book of Life.**

REVELATION 20:7, 8

Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison

and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea.

After Satan's 1000-year sentence is over and he is released from his prison, Satan will go all over the earth to deceive the world again.

He will gather the people of the earth who will follow him for battle. It will be a vast army, too many to count.

One of the ways that Satan is described throughout the Bible is as a deceiver. His purpose is to deceive or fool as many people as possible to keep their names out the Book of Life. Can you imagine a time when Jesus Himself will be ruling and reigning here on this earth that Satan will still deceive many into following him and trying to overthrow Jesus? That is what these verses are describing.

If you don't know Jesus, don't let Satan deceive you. Jesus wants you to come to Him to receive eternal life. If Satan says it, you know that it is a lie. You can always rely on Jesus and what He says in His Word. **God wants our names to be written in the Book of Life.**

REVELATION 20:9

They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them.

They will march across the world and surround God's people in His beloved city of Jerusalem. But before they even can start fighting, God will protect His people by sending fire from heaven to destroy Satan's army.

Satan always thinks that he can destroy Jesus, but he never will. In fact, one day he is the one who will be destroyed. If we follow what Satan says our lives will only be destroyed. If we follow what Jesus says, we will receive eternal life. Jesus has already defeated Satan and all of his lies when He rose again from the dead. Satan can never defeat Jesus.

REVELATION 20:10

The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

Then Satan, the devil who had betrayed them again, will be thrown into the lake of fire where the beast and false prophet were thrown after the final war. Here they will be punished day and night forever. Satan is destroyed for all time.

This will be the final end for Satan. He will never deceive anyone ever again. Praise the Lord that He has the victory already won. Let's be on His side when all of this happens. **God wants our names to be written in the Book of Life.**

REVELATION 20:11

Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them.

Then John sees a great white throne with God seated on it. The earth and the sky disappear. There is no place to hide. Someday everyone will have to stand before Jesus. Even those who don't believe in Jesus will one day stand before Him at the Great White Throne Judgment.

Do we want to stand before Him as a Christian and receive all of the blessings that He has for us in eternity? Or do we want to stand before Him having said "no thanks" to His wonderful offer of salvation? Either way EVERY person will stand before the Lord to give an account of his or her life. Jesus has provided everything for us by dying on the cross. All that we have to do is to believe in Him. Once we believe in Him, He writes our names down in the Book of Life and we will never have to be at this judgment. **God wants our names to be written in the Book of Life.**

Autograph Book of Life

For this activity you will need a sheet of light colored construction paper for each child, markers, regular sheets of white paper, a hole punch, brass fasteners and thin ribbon. Give each child a sheet of construction paper. Have them fold it in half across the width to make a cover for their “book of life.” Using markers (or other decorative things) write “The Book of Life – Revelation 20:12” on the front cover and then decorate it.

Next, take a few sheets of white paper and fold them in half across the width and place inside of the construction paper cover. At the folds punch two holes using a hole punch at least 2” from the edge. Place brass fasteners through the holes to hold the papers in place. Next, open the book and using a thin ribbon cut a length long enough to go from the top of the book, through the pages and have about 3 inches extra (this will be kind of like a bible marker). Glue one end of the ribbon at the top of the book, just behind the white paper.

Ask the children who would like to have their names written in the book of life. Allow the children to go around the class and collect one another’s autographs. They may keep their books as keepsakes and never forget how important it is to have our names in the Lamb’s Book of Life!

REVELATION 20:12

And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.

Then John sees all the unbelievers who had died standing before God. All the records of what they had done are opened including

the Book of Life. The dead are judged according to what they had done during their lifetimes.

The most important book though will be the Book of Life. This is the book that records all of those who have put their faith and trust in Jesus Christ. If our names are not found there then we cannot inherit eternal life. **God wants our names to be written in the Book of Life.**

REVELATION 20:13

The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works.

All of the unbelievers from all time who had died are raised from the dead, no matter where they are. Each person is judged according to what he has done during his lifetime. No one can escape.

Everyone who is born is eternal. The question is will we have eternal life or eternal death, separated from God forever? Whenever we reject Jesus we are choosing to be separated from God's presence. Hell with the Lake of Fire is a terrible place, but that is the only place where God's presence doesn't exist at all. It is a place that none of us would want to be in. God has provided a wonderful way of escape from that awful place. **God wants our names to be written in the Book of Life.**

REVELATION 20:14

Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

Everyone who is judged to death and hell are thrown into the lake of fire for eternal punishment. This is called the second and final death.

REVELATION 20:15

And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

God knows everything we do, good or bad. Records are kept of all our deeds. The day will come when people will be judged for all the wrong things they have done. They will not get away with all their sins forever.

The most important sin however, is not believing in Jesus. If we refuse to believe, we will be judged and destroyed with Satan. If we ask Jesus into our heart and life, we will receive eternal life in heaven and will live with Jesus forever. What is your choice? Jesus or Satan? Life or death? There are no other choices.

Let's be like the great man of faith Joshua who said, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord. **God wants our names to be written in the Book of Life.**"

ABC Prayer

Wow! How do we know for sure we're going to heaven? We know our names are in the Book of Life when we pray and receive Jesus into our hearts. That prayer may be something like this, the "A-B-C" prayer:

- A. Dear God, I Admit that I have sinned and I am willing to turn away from my sins.
- B. I Believe that Jesus died on the cross for my sins, and then rose again from the dead on the third day.
- C. I want you to now Jesus to come into my life and take control of my life. I Commit my life to you Jesus. Thank you for giving me the gift of eternal life.

If any of your class wants to pray, lead them in the prayer and be sure to write a note to their parents telling them what happened and how and why.

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of praise to the Lord that He has provided a way of escape from judgment through His son Jesus Christ. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the gospel, give them opportunity to do so.