

THE FINAL JUDGMENT

Golden Text

“Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. The earth and the heavens fled from his presence, and there was no place for them” (Revelation 20:11).

Useful Practice

All the wicked will have to give an account of their actions before the Supreme Judge.

Scripture Reading

John 3: 18,19; Revelation 20: 11-15 (NIV)

John 3:18 - Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.

19 - This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil.

Rev. 20:11 - Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. The earth and the heavens fled from his presence, and there was no place for them.

12 - And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books.

13 - The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what they had done.

14 - Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death.

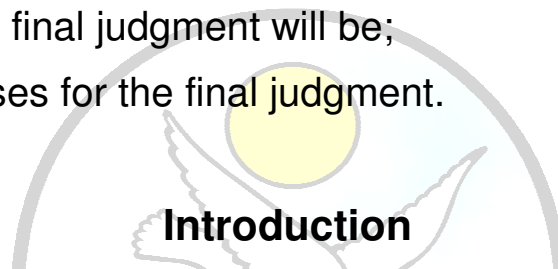
15 - Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.

General Objective

To show that everyone will have to give an account of their actions before the White Throne.

Specific Objectives

- I. **To explain** the events leading up to the final judgment;
- II. **To know** how the final judgment will be;
- III. **To relate** the bases for the final judgment.



In today's lesson we are going to study the Lord's Judgment Day. According to the Word of God, this will be a day of reckoning when all the wicked will stand before God and will have to answer for their actions. The judgment will take place before the "white throne" of God (Rev. 20:11). God loves everyone and wants all mankind to be saved, but for those who do not believe, the unbelievers, He has a sentence that has already been declared by his Son: "Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son" (John 3:18).

I - EVENTS THAT PRECEDE THE FINAL JUDGMENT

1. Satan's last rebellion. After the Millennium period is over, Satan will be released to test those who were born during the Millennium and who have not yet had the opportunity to have their faith tested in the face of evil temptations (1 Peter 1:7). He will deceive the nations and they will not surrender to Christ. So did the crowd who chose to release Barabbas and condemn Jesus (Mt 27:17-21).

2. Satan's life imprisonment. For the second time, God will send his mighty messengers to seize "the Dragon", "that old serpent" (Rev. 20:2), which was in the "Abyss" (Rev. 20:3): "And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the

false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever" (Revelation 20:10). Only after the last rebellion of the evil one, and after he is bound forever, will the Final Judgment be established.

II – THE FINAL JUDGMENT

1. What is it and when will it take place? It will be the judgment of God upon the wicked and their wickedness, in all times and places. According to the Bible, the Last Judgment (of the White Throne) will take place shortly after Satan is bound for the second time, in the final events after the Millennium (Revelation 20:7, 10), after he has deceived the nations once again (Rev. 20:11).

2. Who will be the judge? The Father is the Supreme Judge, but He entrusted to his only begotten son, Jesus Christ, all authority in heaven and on earth (John 5:22,27). According to Pastor Claudionor de Andrade, "to assist him in the judgment, Jesus will have by his side the Glorified Church" (1 Cor 6:2,3).

Jesus, along with his Church, "will judge the living and the dead in view of his appearing and his kingdom" (2 Tim 4:1b; Ps 9:8). If someone wants to be free from eternal condemnation, they need here on Earth, in the days we are living in (1 John 2:1,2), to repent of their sins and turn to Jesus, recognizing him as Savior and Lord, because later it will be impossible (Ps 9:17). Paul says that God "will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead" (Acts 17:31; Heb 12:23). Through Jesus the judgment will be exercised, for He is the Supreme Judge, sitting on the White Throne, in the Last Judgment (John 5:22, 27; Revelation 20:11).

Every knee shall bow before Jesus! Like it or not, dictators, rulers, judges, lawyers, politicians, scientists, military personnel of all ranks, millionaires, in their pride, arrogance and haughtiness, and also the poor, illiterate and miserable, if they do not accepted Christ as Savior. The Bible says, "It is written: 'As surely as I live,' says the Lord, 'every knee will bow before me; every tongue will acknowledge God.' So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God" (Romans 14:11, 12). Glory to God, because today we already have the privilege to bow our knees and worship the Lord in spirit and in truth.

3. Who will have to give an account to the righteous Judge? Let us see all who will be judged: 1) First will be judged all those who, from Cain, have loved and practiced iniquity. These, if they do not repent of their sins,

will face the Divine Judgment; 2) All those who are alive at that time will also be judged; 3) All the saved who had died during the Millennium (Dn 12:2); 4) The fallen angels, who rebelled against God, will also have to attend the judgment to receive their punishment (Jude 6). All false prophets, false workers and pseudopastors who led people astray and prevented them from knowing the Son of God will also give an account to God. There will also be all the governors, magistrates, judges and politicians who passed laws against the divine principles, laws that perverted the right of the poor, orphans and widows. Alive or dead, these will not escape the divine court.

III – THE BASES FOR THE FINAL JUDGMENT

1. Books will be opened. On Judgment Day many books will be opened. But what are these books? These books are a representation of the divine judgment. According to the Word of God, in them all actions were recorded, good and bad, practiced by all human beings from the beginning of the world until the Day of Judgment (Revelation 20:11). God's judgment will be based on the divine records that are contained in there. No one will be able to say they were judged unfairly because everything will be accurately recorded. It is important to highlight that we will not be saved by our works, for salvation is by faith alone, by the divine grace. But our actions show our conversion. Those who have already experienced the new birth need to demonstrate the new life in Christ by their fruit (actions).

2. What the sentence is. The Word of God says that all those who are not found in the Book of Life will be cast into the lake of fire and will experience the second death. These will be eternally separated from God. How terrible a judgment is there for those who do not receive salvation by Faith! The Church must proclaim to everyone the message of the Gospel, winning people for Jesus while there is time. Today is the time of opportunity, the time of salvation. May we be like Noah who proclaimed the judgment of the Lord to his generation. Many rejected Noah's message, but the day of wrath did not take long to come.

CONCLUSION

God's Judgment Day will come to everyone. Are you prepared? Pray, read the Word of God and never allow the flesh, the devil and the world to make you sin and abandon Jesus Christ. In this world we have many tribulations, but "rejoice that your names are written in heaven" (Luke 10:20). If by faith you have already accepted Jesus as your one and only

Savior, your salvation is already guaranteed and if you remain faithful to the end, you will never pass through the Final Judgment: "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit" (Rom 8:1 - KJV).

