

“Is Your Name On The Roll?”

Revelation 20:11-15

10/11/11

Introduction: In school every teacher is given a class roll. The purpose of the roll is to inform the teacher of the students who are supposed to be attending that particular class. When a student's name is called from this roll and if he or she is absent, this could become a matter of big concern for the student. But, as students of life, there is a more important roll that God wants us to be listed on. In our lesson tonight, we are going to see why it is a matter of life or death to be on this roll.

Verse 11

The Acknowledgment

This verse acknowledges the great white throne and Him that sat on it. This is the **highest** court in the world and it is called great and white, which speaks of the purity of this court. The closest we can come to understanding this court is our Supreme Court. All human courts are stained by sin. But, on the other hand, this court is absolutely perfect, always fair and righteous. The judge who occupies this bench is infallible (**John 5:22**). His presence is so **powerful** that even the earth and heaven flee from Him. Nature has the good sense to bow before this judge. This verse also tells us that there was found no place for them to hide from the One on the throne. This righteous judge sees all and He knows all. There is no sin hidden from Him and no thought has ever been concealed (**Luke 8:17**) (**Hebrews 4:13**). Some people might think (and act like) they are getting away with things now, but the truth is, God knows all about us and what we have been doing and thinking. He knows everything there is to know about us (**Psalms 33:13-15**). The **purpose** of this great throne is to summon all the unsaved/unbelievers. The one on the throne has subpoenaed them who have not believed in Him. What is a subpoena? A subpoena is a legal document that orders one to attend a court of law and sometimes we can be excused from the court date. But, with the heavenly court, there will be no excuses and all that have been ordered to come must (will) show up. This court date cannot be missed. The court has convened and the cosmos has been cleared (earth and heaven fled away) because the most honorable Judge **Jesus** has now entered the court room....All Rise Please!!!

Verse 12

The Judgment

This verse shows us the judgment on the people. Notice the people are standing before the throne in a judicial sense, as guilty, condemned prisoners before the bar of divine justice. We are told that those **standing** before the throne are the “dead, small and great”. This group includes all walks of life, the rich, poor, intellectual (deep), famous, unpopular, educated, uneducated, etc. The only group that will not be present is the **saved**, those who have trusted Jesus as their Lord and Savior (**John 5:24**). This event should not be confused with what the Bible calls the judgment seat of Christ (**2 Corinthians 5:10**). In the correct context, it is clear that this verse is referring to Christians, not unbelievers. The judgment seat of Christ involves believers giving an account of their lives to Christ. The judgment seat of Christ does not determine **salvation** because that was already determined by Christ’s sacrifice on our behalf (**1 John 2:2**). At the judgment seat of Christ, believers are rewarded based on how faithfully they served Christ (**2 Timothy 2:5**) (**James 1:12**). Verse 12 tells us that “books” will be opened, but only one of these books is named and it is called the “book of life”. In the book of life, it records every name of every person who was born. However, when a sinner dies without trusting Christ as his Savior, their name is **removed** from this book (**Revelation 3:5**). The other books are the books of deeds and every lost (unsaved) person will stand before the Lord and hear the record of his life read from the throne. Every sin will be read aloud! Sins of commission, sins of omission, flagrant sins, secret sins, sins of the heart and sins of the mind will be exposed on this day.

Verses 13-15

The Punishment

These verses show us the **final** punishment for the unbelievers. There will be no appeals and all judgments rendered from this bench will be binding and final. The sentence rendered from this bench is death! Not just physical death, but the second death, which is eternal **separation** from God into the Lake of Fire (**Matthew 25:41**). Notice verse 13 says “the sea gave up the dead and death and hell delivered up the dead”. Those who are already dead and unsaved go to hell, but their souls will come out of hell and stand before Jesus to be judged (**Philippians 2:9-11**). The final punishment is a death where there is no dying. This will be the end of the road for them because they will be consigned to the Lake of Fire to suffer eternal **torment**. However, the blood of Jesus and the love of the Lord are still sufficient to save (receive) any person who calls upon Him in faith (**Romans 10:13**). Isn’t it good to know that if your name is on the roll, if your name is written in the book of life, you will not have to go through this suffering? You will spend the rest of your life in His **presence**!

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