

Scriptural Truths

E-Mail Meditations

The Lord Will Come . . . Perhaps Today . . . Behold, I Come Quickly . . . Rev. 22:7

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Being Brought Face To Face With God

Introduction

As human beings we are restricted by our physical senses, and it is only as the Spirit of God enlightens and makes real to us spiritual truthfulness that we can begin to grasp what it means to be brought face to face with God. The passage which deals with the Great White Throne is perhaps the apex of solemnity (Rev. 20:11-15), not being a hypothetical narrative, but a very frightening unveiling of the final trial when every Christ neglecter and rejector will be made to stand before God.

As in any courtroom, when the judge is about to give the verdict or sentence, the accused will be told to stand, and no matter who else is there, it is a dreadfully lonely place as the individual waits for the next words to be spoken. Deliberately the judge begins the results of his deliberations and in so many words, clearly and with great authoritative dignity he begins to speak. Depending on the severity of the crime, the accused in silence waits and listens to every word spoken. His or her future all depends on the next few words. No one can comprehend what it will be like for an individual who has rejected God's salvation to stand and wait to hear the sentence pronounced, knowing what it will be.

The Throne

Contrasts:

- a) Unlike the Throne mentioned in Rev. 4:4 (translated "seats"), there is no mention here of any other thrones. This one stands alone, consequently there is no other adjudicators. At this trial there will be no debating, no appeals, just the torturing quietness of books being opened and the agony of a guilty mind knowing what is recorded, and what is not recorded in the books.
- b) Unlike the throne of Matt. 25:31, this throne is not set up on earth, neither is it in Heaven, but from what can be gathered it is set in space.
- c) Every unveiling of that place of judgments intimidating:
 - i) It is a Throne:
 1. This is the place of ultimate authority.
 - ii) It is great because:
 1. Every unsaved individual will stand before it. It is irrelevant if they are a pauper who stood on the crossroads, a monarch in a palace, the illiterate or greatest mind the world knew, whither they were atheists, agnostics, idolators, Muslims, or any other religion, all shall stand before the Throne. There will be no laughing, no sniggering, and no escape. Irrespective of how, when, or

where an individual died is of no consequence. Whither they were buried on land or sea, in a mausoleum, burial ground, or cremated, there is no escape. The graves will give up the dead in them, the sea the same, tombs and vaults will be vacated, cremated bodies will be raised, and nationality or culture will count as nothing (Rev. 20:12-13).

2. Not only will every individual stand, but then every knee will bow (Rom. 14:11), and that includes the most rebellious anti-God and Christ venomous individuals the world has ever known. Not only will they bow, but will be broken declaring that, "Jesus Christ is Lord" (Phil. 2:11). However, it will be too late, it is only in time on earth an individual can accept Christ as their Lord and Saviour. In that day, it will simply be the acknowledging of it.
 3. The consequences which arise from it, because everything about everyone is known.
 4. Of its finality.
- iii) It is white:
1. It is the place of Moral Absolutes and perfect justice.

[The Throne Sitter](#)

During the tribulation under a judgment by God, in demonstrating to humanity their helplessness and God's power He will cause the earth to, "reel to and fro like a drunkard" (Isa. 24:20), but that will not happen in Rev. 20:11. The scriptures record, "The earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them". I am reminded of the people in New York when the twin towers collapsed. They ran in utter terror, and as the cloud of darkness threatened to engulf them, they looked for shelter but none was to be found. Unspeakable terror filled hearts and minds. That is the way the earth and heaven shall be. Although amoral in themselves, they are stained by sin before the intensity of divine holiness.

[Illustration Of Meeting God By Joseph](#)

I am sure for Joseph's brothers it was a nagging thought that came to mind from time to time, "What happened to Joseph and somehow could his dreams come to fruition"? More troubling would have been the question, "If that ever happened and we had to meet him, what would happen, what will he do with us, for we sold him as a slave? Then unexpectedly, after long years had passed, without warning their worst nightmares came true. They were standing before the governor of all Egypt and he just said three words which made them tremble, "I am Joseph" (Gen. 45:3). If that was not frightening enough, he then said, "whom ye sold into Egypt" (Gen. 45:4), reminding them of what they did to him.

It is a very faint picture of a coming day when every individual who is unsaved will stand before the Lord Jesus. Rank, intelligence, wealth will mean nothing. With consciences firing scalding memories across their brain they will think of the times they heard the gospel and rejected it, when they were aware of the need of salvation and they mocked the convictions of the Holy Spirit, and the times when His sacrifice for their sins meant nothing to them. Now, to stand before Him and as He sits in judgment on His Great White Throne, He opens the books as they endure the most frightening experience of their lives to that point.

[The Problem We Have](#)

It is my understanding that there is a difference between "knowing" and "believing", and there are degrees of "believing". I am aware that there are readers who will automatically be ready to debate that last observation, and almost call it heretical. However, before doing so, in John chapter 4 the Lord told the father of the son who was dying, "Go thy way: thy son liveth", and the next cause is, "And the man believed the word that Jesus had spoken unto him" (Jn. 4:50). Then when the father arrived home the following day his servants met him and told him the good news, and when he asked of the hour the healing began, he was told, "Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him" (Jn. 4:52). Now observe, it was then we read that which is recorded of the father, "And himself believed" (Jn 4:53). It is my understanding that while he did believe when the Lord first spoke, there were lingering doubts. But when he heard the preciseness of the time the healing began, all doubts were removed, confidently and assuredly he believed.

- a) There is a difference in "knowing" and "believing". Nebuchadnezzar knew the warnings from God but he did not confidently without question believe them, for had he assuredly believed God, he would have changed his ways (Dan. 4:27). However, when the discipline of God fell and he came to his senses, he had no doubts that God does not make meaningless threats (Dan. 4:34-37).

The reason I write this is because it is known there will be a day of judgment, but it is an "intellectual belief" with the presumptuous seeing it as a pie-in-the-sky thing. If every unsaved person really was confident in the assurance that there is coming a time when they will stand before God, and due to their rejection of Christ be cast into hell for eternity, they would hasten to get saved. If every believer really was confident in the assurance that there is coming a time when the

unsaved with whom they work, family members, associates, neighbors will stand before God, they would know what it is to cry in earnestness for the Lord to speak to them as gently or as loudly as is needed.

The problem we have is, we just do not assuredly believe, and consequently so much “gospel” preaching is perspiration instead of inspiration and intellectual reciting of data, void of any personal conviction. No wonder the Lord tells the church in Laodicea, “knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked” (Rev. 3:17).

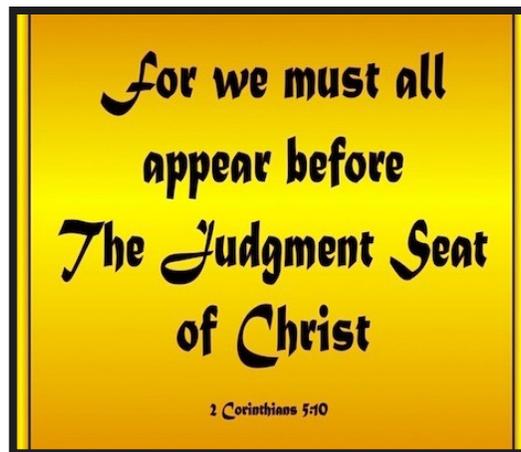
The Judge

Today the Lord longs to save the whosoever and deliver them from the wrath to come and ultimately hell for all eternity, but then, it will be different. In perfect righteousness the Lord will judge, no lawyer will be there trying to explain extenuating circumstances, no character witnesses will be there, only then the books will be opened. There will be no need of a witness for the individuals will know the times they had for the acceptance of Christ but refused it. Perfect records of every opportunity, every iota of their understanding and knowledge will be brought to bear in the judgment.

Interesting, while the Lord is the Judge, it is the recording books which are the witnesses, for men are judged, “out of those things which were written in the books” (Rev. 20:12). Then another book will be opened, “The Book of Life” (Rev. 20:12), and if the name of the individual is not written in it, such an one will be cast into the lake of fire (Rev. 20:15), into blackness of darkness. The thundering voice will with trumpet clarity sound pronouncing the judgment, will say as it were, “Depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity” (Lk. 13:27). What have they done to deserve such condemnation? In life they had knowingly rejected Christ as the only way of salvation and trusted in that which was told them by men. There will be no argument for the individual will know they had opportunity to seek the truth out for themselves but could not be bothered, or decided to leave it to another time. They had an intelligence to understand the truth the Lord spoke and yet deliberately they rejected the offer of salvation. Then it will be too late.

Many years ago in Scotland there were two little friends, one time while playing in the water one got into difficulties, and being in danger of drowning, his friend pulled him out and saved his life. The years passed. One became a criminal and the other a judge. Then it happened, the criminal had murdered an individual and the judge was the one who had once been his friend. Finding the former friend guilty, the judge said, “At one time I was your saviour, today I am your judge”. Today, at this moment, the Lord wants to be the Saviour of all humanity, but if His offer is rejected, then each can be assured, death is not the end, He will be their judge. That is frightening.

. . . Rowan Jennings



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