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Seeing God's THRONE

Pastor Ken Sistrunk

Revelation 20:11-15 ¹¹Then I saw a great white throne and the One seated on it. Earth and heaven fled from His presence, and no place was found for them. ¹²And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne. And there were open books, and one of them was the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their deeds, as recorded in the books. ¹³The sea gave up its dead, and Death and Hades gave up their dead, and each one was judged according to his deeds. ¹⁴Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death—the lake of fire. ¹⁵And if anyone was found whose name was not written in the Book of Life, he was thrown into the lake of fire. (BSB)

I. Let's look at some background information on this passage.

A. The judgement mentioned here in Revelation is not for **believers**. We will be judged but not for Hell.

II Corinthians 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive his due for the things done in the body, whether good or bad. (BSB)

B. There are no righteous people in **Hades**, the abode of the dead. They were raised when Christ was crucified.

Ephesians 4:9 Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? (BSB)

The Apostles Creed states that Jesus descended into Hell.

Matthew 27:50-53 When Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, He yielded up His spirit. At that moment the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth quaked and the rocks were split. The tombs broke open, and the bodies of many saints who had fallen asleep were raised. After Jesus' resurrection, when they had come out of the tombs, they entered the holy city and appeared to many people. (BSB)

C. The Lake of Fire was **created** for the devil and his angels.

Matthew 25:41 Then He will say to those on His left, 'Depart from Me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. (BSB)

D. The **Book of Life** contains all the names of those who are going to be saved by receiving Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.

E. **Read** today's text again in light of all of this.

II. What can we learn from all of this?

A. Our **righteousness** matters! We will be judged and rewarded for our faithfulness. Ken's theory- Our capacity to enjoy heaven depends on how much we grow spiritually here on earth.

B. Our physical death is not the end of our existence. We should not **live in fear** of death.

C. There is an offer for **salvation** for all humans. **John 3:16**.

D. All of this creates an urgency for us to share our **story** with others.