

Facing Eternity **Rev. 20:7-15**

I. Rebellion Against Christ – 20:7-10

1. Satan is released after 1,000 years – 7
God is still in control – 20:3
“He must be released for a little while”
Humans must be allowed to choose
A love relationship cannot be forced
2. He deceives the nations on earth – 8
Gathers them for battle against God’s “Anointed”
The number is like the sand of the sea
3. This army marches against the “beloved city”
With all the perfection on earth they rebel
Because they have not been born again
They do not have a spirit that is alive unto God
They are not suited to eternity with God
4. Fire comes down from Heaven & consumes them – 9-10
Satan, the deceiver, is thrown into lake of fire, tormented forever
Satan and his army of demons are forever judged for their evil
They rebelled against God as angels – Ezek. 28:11-19
Satan deceived Adam & Eve and brought sin into God’s creation
Satan brought persecution on Israel during the Tribulation – Rev. 12:13-17
Satan joins the beast (antichrist) & false prophet in lake of fire – 10

II. Final Judgment – Rev. 20:11-12

1. A Great White Throne – 11
This throne is “Great” because of the One so seated
It is God’s time of judgment on humans
It is described as “White” speaking of absolute justice
It is “pure” based upon that which is “true”
The evidence is laid out before those judged
2. The One who judges is God Himself – 11
The One who is holy, absolutely perfect
The One from whose presence earth & sky fled away
He is the creator, but He is far greater than His creation
Nothing can stand in His presence, challenging His judgment
3. Those who are to be judged – 12
“The Dead”, “great and small”
Who are these dead ones?
These are the unbelieving dead – those not followers of Christ – 20:4-6
4. The ones seated on thrones ruling with Christ, have risen
Remember there are two groups in the first resurrection – 20:4
(1) Those risen from the dead at the rapture –

1 Thess. 4:13-18

This rapture is recorded in Rev. 7:9-17
Jesus is coming to take believers home before God’s judgment

This coming is in the air so they can escape judgment – Rom. 8:1

These are seen in heaven as 24 elders seated before the throne – Rev. 4:4

(2) The second group are the martyrs from the Tribulation – 20:4

This completes the first resurrection – 20:5-6

5. Rest of the dead happens after the 1,000 years reign of Christ – 5

If believers are risen before the 1,000 years

Those judged after the 1,000 years must be unbelieving dead

Those to be judged are “great and small” – 12

God is no respecter of person, all are included in this

6. Judgment will be based on evidence – 12

Written records of actual deeds were kept

Note that these books are plural – many

There is also another book kept – 12

This book is called “The Book of Life”

7. Judgment was based on what was in the books – 12

What a person had actually done

This is just and righteous, based on facts

III. The Second Death – 20:13-15

1. None can escape this judgment – 13
The Sea gave up the dead who were in it
Almighty God can gather all the dead
If God made bodies from the dust, surely He can regather dust or ashes
Death & Hades gave up all in them
2. They were judged, each one – 13
According to what they had done
3. Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire–14
This is the second death, the lake of fire
Absolute separation from God
4. The Book of Life provides a check – 15
What the records show that all have sinned
But God has provided a Savior for all who sinned
The Book of Life lists those who believe in that Savior– Jesus
Those who are not listed are cast into the lake of fire
5. Lake of Fire speaks of existence, separated from God
Humans have denied God’s glorious creation
They have rebelled against God’s Son
They have rejected God’s gift of eternal life
Provided for them by the sacrifice of God’s Son