



The Drone Series

A 52-Week Journey Through the Bible

Soaring through the pages of the Bible and embarking on an inspiring weekly journey from **Genesis to Revelation!** Dive into transformative insights that will uplift your spirit and deepen your understanding. Experience the power of scripture like never before!

We understand that spiritual growth can be a deeply personal journey, and we invite you to join us as we explore a different book of the Bible each week. It's a wonderful opportunity to reflect and find inspiration together. We encourage you to invite a friend to join us, whether in person or online, so we can support each other on this meaningful path.

Background Matters

The judgment of the great white throne (20:11–15)

THE RESURRECTION AND JUDGMENT OF THE WICKED DEAD (20:11–13)

20:11. The final five verses of chapter 20 introduce the judgment at the end of human history and the beginning of the eternal state. John wrote, **I saw a great white throne**. The events here described clearly follow the thousand years of verses 1–6. The great white throne apparently differs from the throne mentioned more than 30 times in Revelation beginning with 4:2. It apparently is located neither in heaven nor earth but in space, as suggested by the statement, **Earth and sky fled from His presence, and there was no place for them**. It is not indicated who sits on this throne, but probably it is Christ Himself as in 3:21 (cf. Matt. 19:28; 25:31; John 5:22; 2 Cor. 5:10—though the throne in these references is not necessarily the same throne as in Rev. 20:11). While Christ is now seated on the throne in heaven and will be seated on the Davidic throne on earth in the Millennium (Matt. 25:31), this white throne judgment is a special situation.

The question has been raised as to whether the earth and the starry heavens as they are today will be destroyed at this point in the future or will be simply restored to a new state of purity. Many references in the Bible suggest that the earth and the heavens, as now known, will be destroyed (cf.



Matt. 24:35; Mark 13:31; Luke 16:17; 21:33; 2 Peter 3:10–13). This is confirmed by the opening statement of Revelation 21, “the first heaven and the first earth had passed away.”

The present universe was created like a gigantic clock which is running down, and if left to itself, would ultimately come to a state of complete inactivity. Inasmuch as God created the universe and set it in motion for the purpose of enacting the drama of sin and redemption, it would seem proper to begin anew with a new heaven and a new earth suitable for His eternal purpose and built on a different principle. The new heaven and new earth described in chapter 21 has no similarity to the present earth and heaven.

20:12. The purpose of establishing the great white throne is to judge the dead. John wrote that **the dead, great and small, stood before the throne**. From other Scriptures it seems that all the righteous dead have been raised, including Old Testament saints, the dead of the Great Tribulation, and the church saints, the body of Christ. Thus it may be assumed that verses 11–15 refer to the judgment of the wicked dead, who according to verse 5 would not be resurrected until after the thousand years and will have no part in what is called “the first resurrection.”

At that judgment John saw **books ... opened**, including a book called **the book of life**. The text does not state clearly what these books are, but the first opened books may refer to human works and “the book of life” is the record of those who are saved (. 3:5; 13:8; 17:8; 20:15; 21:27).¹

This Week's Drone Series takes us to our final book, the Book of Revelation. The great white throne is established to judge the dead. John wrote that all people, both great and small, stood before the throne. Other Scriptures suggest that all righteous people who have died will be raised, including Old Testament saints, those who died during the Great Tribulation, and church saints, known as the body of Christ.

All final judgments focus on actions, whether they are the good deeds of Christians rewarded at the judgment seat of Christ or the actions of those who are not saved. **The question of who is saved is answered not in heaven, but during life on earth.** This text shows how one's fate is confirmed through God's written records.

¹ John F. Walvoord, “Revelation,” in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 982.



Wait! If They are Dead, Why Judge Them?

Revelation 20:11–15

Topics:

Consequences, Death, Earth, Eternal Life, Heaven, Hell, Jesus Christ, Judgment, Last Days, Punishment, Resurrection

Study Guide 52 *This study guide presents daily assignments that are specifically crafted to enhance your **growth in the Word**. Embrace each moment to meditate and reflect, and watch as your spiritual maturity flourishes through your dedicated efforts.*

Open It, Mondays. Open your heart and mind to the truth of the Word.

1. *What is one time you remember getting in trouble as a child?

Explore It, Tuesdays, keep the rhythm of personal study moving.

2. How will creation react to the “great white throne” judgment? (20:11)

3. What will be the effect of God’s presence on “earth and sky” at the great white throne judgment? (20:11)

4. Where will the final judgment of all people take place? (20:11–12)

5. *Who will be involved in the final judgment? (20:12)



6. What records will be used to judge everyone? (20:12)

7. How does God keep track of what people do in this life? (20:12)

8. *On what basis will people be judged at the end of time? (20:12–13)

Explore It, Wednesdays, keep the rhythm of personal study moving.

9. From what diverse places will the dead assemble for this judgment? (20:13)

10. What will happen to death and Hades? (20:14)

11. How did John describe the lake of fire? (20:14)

12. *What will happen to those whose names are not found in the Book of Life? (20:15)

13. Who will be thrown into the lake of fire? (20:15)

14. How does a person get his or her name recorded in the Book of Life?



15. How is it significant that earth and sky fled from the presence of the one seated on the throne of judgment?

16. What is the “lake of fire”?

Get It Thursdays, keep the rhythm of personal study moving.

17. What does it mean that death and Hades “were thrown into the lake of fire”?

18. What does it mean that “the lake of fire is the second death”?

19. Who are the people whose names are not recorded in the Book of Life?

20. *What is the value in knowing that we will be judged for the way we live?

21. Why should the certainty of future judgment affect the way we live?

22. *How should the certainty of future judgment affect the way we live?

Drive it Home, Fridays, keep the rhythm of personal study moving.



23. *What can you do to remind yourself of the reality of a future judgment?

24. How can you help a friend or family member avoid a future in the lake of fire?

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NEW SERIES TO COME SOON!**

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