

1 **A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION**

LESSON 67

2 **THE BOOK AND THE BOOKS**

- We are finishing up chapter 20 in the Book of Revelation
- We were asked some questions last week about verse 12
Revelation 20:12

12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

- We see here 2 separate books: one is singular and the other is a set of books

3 **THE BOOK AND THE BOOKS cont.**

- The "books" plural doesn't say how many there are but there are most likely a great number of them
- The one book is called the Book of Life and the others are not named
- We were asked the question last week as to the difference between the singular book and the books plural
- We also looked at the phrasing of the words in verse 11
- The phrasing used here is almost identical to what we studied in Revelation 13:8:

And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

4 **THE BOOK AND THE BOOKS cont.**

- This Scripture actually tells us that that the Book of Life was written before we were ever created, from the foundations of the world
- This is not from the creation of Adam and Eve, the first man and woman

- God also tells us there are those who are predestinated in their walk with Him (Ephesians 1:5, 11)
- We are predestinated for a certain place, doing certain things; He has our life all planned out
- Other Scriptures tell us that He knew us before the foundations of the world (Ephesians 1:4)
- What we are seeing here in chapter 20 is almost the same thing

5 **THE BOOK AND THE BOOKS cont.**

- John is seeing this judgement happen but it hasn't happened yet
- John saw it as it was and he wrote it as it was because he was shown the end since God sees the end from the beginning
- God knew all along those who would serve Him
- There is no feeling like the understanding of Revelation 13:8 where God knew who was His, wrote their names in the Book of Life and then He created the world for them
- Sometimes we can overstudy God's Word and, without other Scriptures to lead us, we can begin to use our own thoughts but we have to have Scripture give us the answers

6 **THE BOOK AND THE BOOKS cont.**

- There were names in the Book of Life of those who did not make the right choice and their names have been blotted out
- There are many reasons why a name is blotted out
- The Book of Life is not just our lifetime, it goes all the way back and all the way forward
- Even the ones that know Jesus and know God to a certain extent but they don't obey Him can have their names blotted out
- When someone is born their name is written in the Book of Life, everyone that has ever been born
- Even a baby who takes his first breath is written in the Book

7 **THE BOOK AND THE BOOKS cont.**

- Everyone has been written in the Book of Life before the foundations of the world

- God knows who is His as He can look down through time and sees all that will ever take place
- The Scriptures do not support infant baptism as the Word says he that believeth and is baptized....(Mark 16:16)
- Since babies do not have the understanding to believe they are God's until the age of accountability for the individual child

8 **THE BOOK OF LIFE**

Daniel 12:1

1 And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.

- This promise is for those whose name has not been blotted out of the Book of Life
- Blotted out means that the name has been there at one time but it has been removed for a number of reasons

9 **THE BOOK OF LIFE cont.**

Revelation 21:27

27 And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Revelation 22:19

19 and if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

- The Book of Life is very simply just that, it is one book that has the names of everyone who has ever been born

10 **THE BOOK OF LIFE cont.**

- Just because your name was entered into the Book does not mean it is still there
- Back to Revelation chapter 20 and verse 12; what are these other "books" mentioned here that the dead were judged out of ?
- There are many, many dispensations and classes of people that we need to realize and be aware of
- All of us will be judged by this Word of God, always have been and always will be
- John 1:1 tells that the Word of God is God:
In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

11 **SOME THINGS ABOUT GOD**

- God is not a book; it is God giving us the written Word showing Himself
- The Holy Spirit is that portion of God that deals with mankind
- God is everywhere at all times and all knowing, He cannot be contained
- Remember God is Almighty, Omnipotent, Omnipresent, Omniscient: it is hard for the human mind to grasp this but we get flashes of comprehension from time to time
- Mankind has always tried to put God in a familiar and recognizable form but in reality this is impossible

12 **THE BOOKS**

- We will only truly know God through His Word and through the man Jesus Christ who was the Word brought to life
- There are a number of Scriptures that tell us a lot about these books
- Revelation 20:12.....the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.
- The dead who do not have immortal bodies are to be judged by what's in the books except there is another book, the Book of Life,

opened; what is this for?

13 **THE BOOKS cont.**

Revelation 20:13-15

13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

- Here we find 2 separate classes of people
- We have some people in verses 12 and 13 that are being judged according to their works from the books

14 **THE BOOKS cont.**

- Then we have some that are not going to be cast into the lake of fire that are judged only from the Book of Life, verse 15: *And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.*
- Verse 15 is not repeating verses 12 and 13 as this is a separate book
- Verse 12 and 13 the dead are being judged by their works which means actions or conduct; their life
- Most of these have had no opportunity of being saved by faith
- Those judged out of the Book of Life are not judged out of the books of works

15 **THE BOOKS cont.**

- What is the difference between these 2 classes of the dead?
- Why are some judged out of their actions, their deeds and we find others that are judged if their name was not written in the Book of Life?
- A lot of these judged by their actions and deeds will also have their names blotted out of the Book of Life
- Remember this is the great white throne judgement where there are

these books of actions and deeds and then there is the Book of Life that had everyone's name written in it with some now blotted out

- This is only the dead here; those that overcame and were without spot or blemish have nothing to do with this event

16 **THE BOOKS cont.**

- Those judged out of the books of actions and deeds will not be cast into the lake of fire
- In these books are written the record of the lives of all those who have lived on the earth
- This is the final judgement, the white throne, according to the works; deeds and actions
- For those who have been in this study for some time, remember the message that was preached those 3-1/2 years during the Great Tribulation
- The message being preached from the air of "Fear God who can destroy the soul and not this one who can only kill your body" (Lesson 23)

17 **THE BOOKS cont.**

- Keeping this in mind we find this message was preached only to those who were still alive on the earth
- What about those who had already died? God is no respecter of persons
- There are those who died and yet they have not believed on Jesus Christ
- The preaching of the horsemen was only to those who were alive and they had a choice to make
- There are a great number of people who died who have never heard of Jesus Christ or had no opportunity of being saved by faith
- These books are the basis of judgement for these people

18 **THE BOOKS cont.**

- All of the dead are being judged here
- Many of us focus on just heaven or hell as the final place you end up

- but there is the new earth to consider as a permanent habitation
- The new earth is going to be full of people
 - The greater part of the people in this final judgement are being judged in verses 12 and 13 by the books; their deeds and actions

19 **THE FINAL JUDGEMENT**

Matthew 12:33-37

33 Either make the tree good, and his fruit good; or else make the tree corrupt, and his fruit corrupt: for the tree is known by his fruit.

34 O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.

35 A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things.

36 But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.

37 For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.

20 **THE FINAL JUDGEMENT cont.**

- Jesus brings out something else in these Scriptures as it is not just to the Jews to whom He is speaking
- In verse 36 Jesus brings out "every idle word" which for them at that time was how they were to be judged
- In our dispensation, after the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus, this judgement by "every idle word" will not stand
- We must be born of water and of Spirit to make the Rapture which is our judgement; we have had the chance and made the choice
- There are those, living and dead, who have never had the chance to make the choice we have had

21 **THE FINAL JUDGEMENT cont.**

- Doesn't Romans chapter 1 say we are accountable? (Romans 1:17-20)
- The dead will be judged by how much they knew and how much they followed the right that they did know

- So God judges them here by all the things about their life that is written in those books
- If they had the truth and their actions did not follow it woe unto them
- Their judgement is according to what they did know and disobedience is a sin
- Revelation tells us that all liars shall have their place in the lake of fire (Revelation 21:8)

22 **THE FINAL JUDGEMENT cont.**

- The books are the only basis of judgement for those who died and never heard of Jesus Christ and never heard the truth for their dispensation; those who lived according to the best that they knew how in their time period
- Mankind knows there is a Creator by the things that God put in this world and He puts this in the depths of mankind's heart so we know there is a God (Romans 1:19-20)
- Mankind would have to be willfully ignorant to turn their back on Him
- There is only one lake of fire and brimstone

23 **THE FINAL JUDGEMENT cont.**

- Contrary to popular belief the devil is not going to be ruling over people in the lake of fire as he will be in torment as they are
- For any of us, and those that know even the simplest form of the truth, deliberate disobedience would lead us to be judged by verse 15: our name blotted out of the Book of Life and immediately cast into the lake of fire

Revelation 20:15

15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

24 **THE BOOK OF LIFE**

- The Book of Life shows us this other class of people

- Those that have heard and rejected the salvation plan (willfully ignorant, deniers, etc.), those who have rejected the truth at any point in their progression of the salvation plan or compromised their walk with God are not judged according to their works
- These would have their names blotted out
- This judgement of the dead is not in our time and probably starts during the 1,000 years and is finished after Satan is cast into the lake of fire
- There are those dead who will be judged as living the best that they could according to their time and what they knew and what they had heard as written in the books

25 **THE FINAL JUDGEMENT**

- These do not inherit heaven, they do not inherit the New Jerusalem the capital of the universe, but they will inherit the new earth along with many others
- The Tribulation Saints will be a great number out of every kindred, tongue, and nation and will not a part of the final judgement or second death
- Of the dead, those that never heard, and there are a lot, still one out of two people would be wicked doing what they should know better and one would be doing good, all that they knew to do
- Hell delivered all those in it to be cast into the lake of fire
- We, the saints, judge the earth and the angels but we have not part in this final judgement

26 **FLOOR PLAN GRAPHIC**

27 **REVIEW**

- Revelation chapters 21 and 22 concern the time period from the end of the 1,000 years reign to eternity
- This is Biblical prophecy and we are looking ahead in time
- The next event in prophecy is the Rapture, then the 3-1/2 years of the Great Tribulation, then the 7 years of judgement that ends at the Battle of Armageddon

- At the Battle of Armageddon Jesus actually sets foot on this earth again with His armies, the bride, and sets up His kingdom here on earth for those 1,000 years
- It is by His Word that He destroys all those at the Battle of Armageddon

28 **REVIEW cont.**

- Satan is chained, not destroyed, for the 1,000 years
- It is during the 1,000 years that Jesus and His saints cleanse and redeem the earth
- We are now at the end of this time period in prophecy
- It is this time period that the redeemed and the bride have been waiting for, especially those from the dispensation of grace
- Here we are looking at eternity

29 **A NEW HEAVEN AND A NEW EARTH**

Revelation 21:1

1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

- The new heaven and the new earth are not the result of some unrecorded catastrophe happening between the 20th and 21st chapters
- They are the result of the process of redemption and the reign of Jesus Christ for 1,000 years
- It is unthinkable that the redemptive work of Jesus, culminating in His reign, should result in such a failure that total destruction would be necessary

30 **A NEW HEAVEN AND A NEW EARTH cont.**

- This is a retrospect on the part of John
- "Old things are passed away. Behold all things are become new." (2 Corinthians 5:17)
- Some of the things that are passed away would be those things that could not be redeemed

- Redemption is complete: the earth is cleansed, the judgement of the great white throne and the 1,000 year reign of Jesus and His saints on the earth are complete
- The 1,000 year reign taught people how it is to be, they will be tempted when Satan is loosed after the 1,000 years and those following Satan will be cast with him into the lake of fire

31 **A NEW HEAVEN AND A NEW EARTH cont.**

- Jesus Christ and the saints have been working at the task of restoring all things and the results are recorded in chapter 21 verse 1
- Revelation chapter 21 verse 1 completes the story of redemption that began in the Garden of Eden
- We need to stop and think of the beauty and wonder of God's creation and really appreciate the world He created for us – His creation is perfection
- Every effort of man to restore the earth has failed
- Every civilization has in it the germs of its own destruction
- It was only ever Jesus Christ who could ever straighten out the mess this world has become

32 **A NEW HEAVEN AND A NEW EARTH cont.**

- The conditions of our world today are only going to get worse, much worse, until the Rapture of the church
- Right after the Rapture will come the Great Tribulation which will be the worst time for mankind that there ever was
- Imagine, if you can, what the world will look like after the 7 last plagues and the Battle of Armageddon
- Then imagine the changes that would come by the 1,000 years of reconstruction under the personal supervision of Jesus Christ
- If you can imagine that, then you would see what John saw as it is written in chapter 21 verse 1

33 **A NEW HEAVEN AND A NEW EARTH cont.**

- To help us comprehend this transformation we need only to look at our own lives to see what Jesus Christ has done for us on a personal

level

- Look back at the person you were and what He has, or can, make you through the Holy Ghost
- John was shown the worst it could possibly be and now he is being shown the finished product
- The new heaven and the new earth are not different ones; they are the same one made new
- Sin and the fruit of sin will never come on this earth again
- We will not be judged with the dead, for us who know so much and have lived the DBR, it would be impossible