

The Eternal View

Jesus was unique. He said and did things that set Him apart from the world. One reason was the way He viewed things. Jesus saw everything from an eternal perspective and always lived with eternity in mind.

As a discipler for Christ, it is essential that we live in this world while viewing it from the next. We do this by holding fast what God's Word reveals about our eternal destiny and the destiny of this world.

The Bible says that at the end of time, everyone will stand before God to give an account of their lives.

The Great White Throne

- 10 And the devil who deceived them
was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone,
where the beast and the false prophet are also;
and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.
- 11 Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it,
from whose presence earth and heaven fled away,
and no place was found for them.
- 12 And I saw the dead,
the great and the small,
standing before the throne,
and books were opened;
and another book was opened,
which is *the book of life*;
and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books,
according to their deeds.
- 13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it,
and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them;
and they were judged,
every one of *them* according to their deeds.
- 14 Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire.
This is the second death, the lake of fire.
- 15 And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life,
he was thrown into the lake of fire.

Revelation 20:10-15

This passage describes events at the end of time ... and most certain. It reveals the destinies of individuals and entities that have actively or passively opposed God and His Purpose.

Observation

Underline where the devil was thrown. (v 10)

Circle who else was there. (v 10)

Underline what will happen to them there. (v 10)

Underline what John saw. (v 11)

Circle who was standing before before the throne. (v 12)

Circle what was opened first. (v 12)

Circle what was opened last. (v 12)

Underline what that book was. (v 12)

Underline how the dead were judged. (v 12)

Circle what 'gave up the dead'. (v 13)

Underline what happened to the dead. (v 13)

Circle how many of the dead were judged. (v 13)

Underline how they were judged. (v 13)

Underline where 'death and Hades' were thrown. (v 14)

Circle what 'the lake of fire' is. (v 14)

Underline what happened to anyone whose name was not found in the 'book of life'. (v 15)

Justice Prevails

At the Great White Throne Judgment, there will not be any plea bargains or shortened sentences. The full punishment for sin will be required of everyone, except the Believers who have contritely accepted Christ's gracious payment on behalf of their sins.

v 10 What does the fate of the devil, the beast and the false prophet reveal about

God's character. _____

v 11 From the following verses, Who is sitting on the 'great white Throne'?

"For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of His Father with His angels,
and WILL THEN REPAY EVERY MAN ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS.

"But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him,
then He will sit on His glorious throne.

"All the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another,
as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats;

"and He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left.

"Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed of My Father,
inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

"Then He will also say to those on His left, 'Depart from Me, accursed ones,
into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels;

"These will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

"And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying,

"All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

Matthew 16:27; 25:31-34, 41, 46; 28:18

"For not even the Father judges anyone,
but He has given all judgment to the Son,

"and He gave Him authority to execute judgment, because He is the Son of Man.

John 5:22, 27

v 12-13 According to this and the following verses, on what basis will we be judged?

"Therefore do not go on passing judgment before the time, *but wait* until the Lord comes
who will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness
and disclose the motives of *men's* hearts;
and then each man's praise will come to him from God.

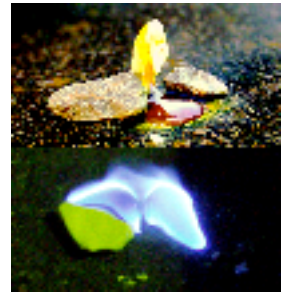
"For nothing is hidden that will not become evident,
nor *anything* secret that will not be known and come to light.

"But there is nothing covered up that will not be revealed, and hidden that will not be known.

"Accordingly, whatever you have said in the dark will be heard in the light,
and what you have whispered in the inner rooms will be proclaimed upon the housetops.

1 Corinthians 4:5; Luke 8:17, 12:2-3

v 15 In light of how we will be judged, explain why God will spare those whose names
are found to be written in the 'book of life'? _____



'Brimstone' is an ancient name for sulfur. The 'lake of fire and brimstone' will be blood-red tinged with blue flames having the smell of burnt matches. (photo above showing melting and burning sulfur)

The Great White Throne

The One sitting on the Throne to judge the world will be none other than Jesus Christ Himself! The giving of His life for the sins of the world qualifies Him as the One who will fairly and rightly judge all mankind. The Judgment will culminate both the end of this present earth, and the beginning of a new creation decreed by God.

The Basis for Judgment

We will be judged on the basis of our works. Everything we have ever done, from things done in public to the most private, even those done in the hidden recesses of our hearts, will be exposed in the light and 'proclaimed' before God. And if even one be found sinful, the verdict of guilty will be pronounced and an eternity in 'the lake of fire' will be decreed.

Jesus Christ Our Savior

The 'book of life' is the book of Jesus Christ for He is Life! All who are in Him will be credited with His works and declared righteous, and thus be saved from God's wrath.

The destiny of all who are without the hope of forgiveness through our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ will be an unimaginable eternity of torment in the 'lake of fire'. Were we to glimpse this horrific sight even for a moment, we would be transformed into the most zealous evangelists who would not cease to proclaim the gospel day and night till every person believes! That we do not possess this zeal is a testament to either our ignorance or our unbelief!

Jesus Himself will hold us accountable, for He has already done the work. For it is from His own wrath that He presented Himself as Savior, and we must diligently persuade others to receive Him as Savior lest they stand before Him as King and be found wanting. Then their doom will be sealed and their eternity in the 'lake of fire' of God's wrath be certain.

Do not take these words lightly, for in reading them you have taken on their import, and the consequences of any inaction.

The Bema Seat

- 10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ,
so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body,
according to what he has done,
whether good or bad.

2 Corinthians 5:10

1. What is the significance of this verse knowing that the apostle Paul is writing it to the Christians in Corinth? _____

2. What does this verse say about the place works, good and bad, play in a Christian's life? _____

'Bema' is the greek word translated 'judgment seat'. There is a question whether this judgment, which seems to be directed toward Christians, will occur simultaneously with or before the Great White Throne judgment. There are Bible scholars on both sides, but all agree that it *will* take place.

The prominent place God's grace plays in our salvation sometimes gives the false impression that 'works' plays no part in the Christian's life. Though we are saved solely and absolutely by God's grace through faith, God does expect us to live completely in His power and for His glory ... for which we will be held accountable, judged and rewarded.

Observations

Underline where we must appear.
Circle for what we will be rewarded.
Circle what kind of 'deeds' will be judged.

The Fear of the Lord

Contrary to what some Christians believe, there *is* a place for the fear of God in a Believer's life. (see Acts 9:31; 2 Corinthians 5:11; Philippians 3:12) This is not a fear of losing one's salvation so much as being fearful that our lives may not manifest the salvation we already have. Living a life that discredits Christ should put the fear of God in us, for one day we must stand before His Throne to give an account of *all* our deeds, both good and bad. That fear should cause us to 'work out (our) salvation with fear and trembling' for, ultimately, it is really God working in us, giving us the desire and the power to please Him (Philippians 2:12-13).

At the Bema Seat Judgment, rewards will be bestowed, or withheld, depending on how we lived our lives. Scripture tells us that crowns, or victors' wreathes not unlike Olympic Gold Medals, will be awarded for the following:

Gaining Mastery Over Sin in our Lives

25 Everyone who competes in the games **exercises self-control in all things**. They then *do it* to receive a perishable **wreath**, but we **an imperishable**.

26 Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air; 27 but I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified.

1 Corinthians 9:25-27

Persevering Through Trials

12 Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive **the crown of life** which *the Lord* has promised to those who love Him.

James 1:12

Rejoicing in Christ's Coming - Past and Future

8 in the future there is laid up for me **the crown of righteousness**, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.

2 Timothy 4:8

Faithful Feeding and Shepherding of God's Flock

4 And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive **the unfading crown of glory**.

1 Peter 5:4

It is unclear what we would do with these crowns, but the twenty four elders in Revelation 4:10 tossed theirs before the Lord in worship. In the end, no matter what we do, we do it all for His glory! Amen!

The Christians' Eternal Destiny

The destiny of Christ's disciples is to live eternally in His presence in a city divinely prepared for them. We are given a glimpse of this future dwelling place in the final chapters of Revelation that we might set this hope before us as we sojourn as temporary visitors in this world. Our real home is with God in His heavenly sanctuary, and we are authorized by our Lord to bring as many people as possible with us!

- 1 Then I saw **a new heaven and a new earth**;
for the first heaven and the first earth passed away,
and there is no longer *any* sea.
- 2 And I saw **the holy city, new Jerusalem**,
coming down out of heaven from God,
made ready as a bride adorned for her husband.
- 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying,
"Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men,
and **He will dwell among them**,
and **they shall be His people**,
and **God Himself will be among them**,
- 4 and **He will wipe away every tear from their eyes**;
and **there will no longer be any death**;
there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain;
the first things have passed away."

The Bema Described

10 According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it.

11 For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

12 Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw,

13 each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is *to be* revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test **the quality** of each man's work.

14 If any man's work which he has built on it *remains*, he will receive a reward.

15 If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

1 Corinthians 3:10-15

Our New Home Promised by Christ

1 "Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me.

2 "In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you.

3 "If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, *there* you may be also.

John 14:-3

- 5 And He who sits on the throne said,
"Behold, I am making all things new."
 And He said,
 "Write, for these words are faithful and true."
- 6 Then He said to me,
 "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end.
 I will give to the one who thirsts
 from the spring of the water of life without cost.
- 7 **"He who overcomes will inherit these things,
 and I will be his God and he will be My son.**
- 8 "But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers
 and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars,
**their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone,
 which is the second death."**
- 9 Then one of the seven angels
 who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues
 came and spoke with me, saying,
 "Come here, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb."
- 10 And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain,
 and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem,
 coming down out of heaven from God,
 having the glory of God.
- 11 **Her brilliance was like a very costly stone,
 as a stone of crystal-clear jasper.**
- 12 It had a great and high wall, with twelve gates,
 and at the gates twelve angels;
 and names *were* written on them,
 which are *the names* of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel.
- 13 *There were* three gates on the east and three gates on the north
 and three gates on the south and three gates on the west.
- 14 And the wall of the city had twelve foundation stones,
 and on them *were* the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.
- 15 The one who spoke with me had a gold measuring rod to measure the city,
 and its gates and its wall.
- 16 **The city is laid out as a square, and its length is as great as the width;
 and he measured the city with the rod, fifteen hundred miles;
 its length and width and height are equal.**
- 17 And he measured its wall, seventy-two yards,
*according to human measurements,
 which are also angelic measurements.*
- 18 **The material of the wall was jasper; and the city was pure gold,
 like clear glass.**
- 19 The foundation stones of the city wall
 were adorned with every kind of precious stone.
 The first foundation stone was **jasper**;
 the second, **sapphire**; the third, **chalcedony**; the fourth, **emerald**;
 the fifth, **sardonyx**; the sixth, **sardius**; the seventh, **chrysolite**;
 the eighth, **beryl**; the ninth, topaz; the tenth, **chrysoprase**;
 the eleventh, **jasper**; the twelfth, **amethyst**.
- 21 And **the twelve gates were twelve pearls;**
each one of the gates was a single pearl.
 And the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.



Artist's Conception
 of the New Jerusalem

The New Jerusalem

Our future and eternal home will be unlike anything we have seen on earth. First, its size is beyond comprehension. The city will be 1500 miles in width, in length and in height. It will be made of pure gold clear as glass and crystal clear jasper. The wall surrounding the city will be adorned with 12 gemstones and the gates will be giant pearls.

Inside, the river of life will flow from the throne of God feeding the tree of life which will bear twelve different kinds of fruit. There will no longer be any tears, deaths, crying, mourning or pain. And Jesus Himself will dwell there, sitting on His throne and illuminating the city with his justice and light. The city will be dazzling to those outside as the Lamb's glory radiates through the multicolored gemstones and pure clear gold!

22 I saw no temple in it,
for the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.
23 And **the city has no need of the sun or of the moon to shine on it,
for the glory of God has illumined it, and its lamp is the Lamb.**
24 The nations will walk by its light,
and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it.
25 In the daytime (for there will be no night there)
its gates will never be closed;
26 and they will bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it;
27 and **nothing unclean, and no one who practices abomination and lying,
shall ever come into it,
but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.**
Revelation 21:1-27

1 Then he showed me a river of the water of life, clear as crystal,
coming from the throne of God and of the Lamb,
2 in the middle of its street.
**On either side of the river was the tree of life,
bearing twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit every month;
and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.**
3 **There will no longer be any curse;
and the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it,
and His bond-servants will serve Him;**
4 **they will see His face, and His name will be on their foreheads.**
5 And there will no longer be any night;
and they will not have need of the light of a lamp
nor the light of the sun,
because **the Lord God will illumine them;
and they will reign forever and ever.**
6 And he said to me,
"These words are faithful and true";
and the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets,
sent His angel to show to His bond-servants
the things which must soon take place.
Revelation 21:1-6

Live in Light of the Eternal!

The subtle danger of this world is the seducing of Believers to think and act as non-Believers. It is easy to believe that what we see with our physical eyes will always be, but the Bible teaches that this world is passing away. (1 John 2:15-17)
Only the foolish hang on to its temporary illusions.

We have been spiritually reborn to live an eternity with God. As disciplers for Christ, our lives must reflect that destiny in our values, in our priorities and in our lifestyle. Knowing the eternal and dissimilar destinies of the non-Believer and the Believer, we would be fools if we did not live in a manner pleasing to God and not do everything we can to 'win, build and send' as many as possible for our Savior!

*Being a discipler for
Christ is to live
in such a way
as to reflect the reality
of the Eternal in our
everyday lives!*

The Eternal View

List key Truths and Principles you learned from this study:

- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____

In light of what you have learned, list what you will do.

- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____
- ✓ _____

*“Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ,
keep seeking the things above,
where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.
Set your mind on the things above,
not on the things that are on earth.
For you have died
and your life is hidden with Christ in God.”*

Colossians 3:1-3

Memorize 