

# JUDGMENT DAY

(Rev 20:11-15)

The judge in Rev 20:11-15 is not named, but 'he who is seated on the throne' is universally thought of as God, but we wouldn't be wrong if we interpreted the judge to be Jesus the Messiah. Jesus made it very clear that the Father judges no one but has given all judgment to the Son (Jn 5:22). The one seated on the throne is God, whether Father or Son.

The context is the very end of this world. John said that the earth and sky will flee from God's presence and no place will be found for them (Rev 20:11). That sounds like the end of the physical creation, the world, and maybe the entire universe (cf. Heb 12:26-27). When the judgment is over, death and Hades and anyone whose name is not found in the Book of Life will be thrown into the lake of fire which is a metaphor for hell.

The Last Judgment is mainly for the damned. Most of the righteous will have been reigning with the Messiah for 1000 years, but millennial converts, including Israel, will be resurrected, judged, and found righteous. There is no condemnation for those who are in union with the Messiah Jesus (Rom 8:1).

The judgment seat of Christ (1 Cor 3:13, 2 Cor 5:10) is for all believers and can be compared to passing through a fire. The true value of all their attitudes and deeds will be made manifest and individuals will be rewarded accordingly. There is no punishment for sins, that is covered by the blood of Christ, but rewards may be withheld, and some will suffer loss because it will be a divine assessment of their worth. This judgment will occur at the start of the millennium so that rewards might be enjoyed during that time.

The judgment of the 'sheep' and the 'goats' in Mt 25 where the righteous and wicked are all judged at the same time is a parable, as are the other passages in that chapter. The details should not be taken too literally, but it would seem to be premillennial because the righteous are invited to inherit the kingdom prepared for them from the foundation of the world. The emphasis is based on judgment; people's attitudes to the Messiah's brethren. Their faith is shown by

what they did during their lifetimes to help fellow Christians, especially during the Great Tribulation.