

# Sentencing Day

Compiled by Paul R. Blake

Introduction:

A. Rev. 20:11-15

1. What do you imagine about Judgment Day?
2. A line of people extending into the distance waiting to plead their case before the Lord, each one thinking of the sins they committed, the good deeds they performed, and what reasons and defenses they might make to God. Each one is hoping he or she will somehow receive the verdict, Well done, good and faithful servant; enter into the joy of the Lord; this, in spite of the nagging awareness they might lose the case
3. Am I close? Did I get it right?

B. What will Judgment Day really be?

## I. Rev. 20:11-12 - THE SETTING

A. The Background

1. A terrifying fact - We will stand in the presence of God stripped of all pretenses and will appear as we really are. We will hide nothing from God - Heb. 4:11-13
2. A terrifying figure - Jesus, the One whom men denied, cursed and mocked will be the One before whom they will stand.
  - a. John 5:22; Rev. 6:15-16
3. A terrible fear - They will want oblivion rather than to face the Lord and the punishment their works have earned for them - Rev. 9:6
4. A terrible fellowship - The petty sinner and the greatest among the wicked will fall together before the throne of the Judge.
  - a. Cain, Hitler, Saddam Hussein, serial killers, drug lords, and all sinners great and small, from the filthiest, to the relatively good
  - b. Rev. 21:8

B. The Books - God doesn't forget un-forgiven sins

1. The book of life - God's record of the saved; your name **MUST** be there!
2. The books of judgment - John 12:46-49
  - a. All will be judged for sins of commission and sins of omission  
Matt. 25:41-46
  - b. For flagrant and open sin as well as secret sins  
Rom. 2:16; Ecc. 12:14
  - c. All will be judged not only for we have done, but also for what we are, sinners

## II. Rev. 20:13 - THE SUMMONS

A. There will be no hiding place

1. The Garden of Eden, on a ship to Tarshish running from Nineveh, or buried in a busy, secular life

B. Every grave will give up the dead - John 5:24-29

### **III. Rev. 20:14-15 - THE SENTENCE**

A. The books are consulted and the sentence is given.

1. There is no room in this or any other text for making a defense or arguing our case.

B. The fearfulness - Matt. 25:41; Heb. 10:26-31

C. The finality - No appeals court, no stay of execution, no governor's clemency

1. It is not your day in court; it is your day to be sentenced

Conclusion:

A. That is the reason we preach lessons like this - 2Cor. 5:9-11

B. Here is the good news: It is not too late today.

1. 2Peter 1:10; 2Cor. 6:2