

A Great White Throne!



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VIRTUAL

In *searching for Truth*, we discover *overwhelming evidence*—that God’s *Word* is *true* and *accurate*; that we have *this life* to *decide* how we are going to live, and that everyone receives a *One-Way Ticket to Eternity*. We must be absolutely *sure* that we are living as God explains in Scripture, and that we are keeping the *first commandment*—Mark 12:30 “*Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength.*”

Loving *God* means loving *everyone*—even if they have wronged us; offended us; or seriously harmed us in some way. We must love *enemies* and truly *forgive* them—whether they apologize and ask to be forgiven or not. John 13:34 “*A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.*” Loving others just proves that divine love is in our heart. 35 “*By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.*”

Having no idols in our *life* because God has first place in our *heart*, yields great rewards. 1 Corinthians 2:9 “*As it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him*”—and to love *Him* is to love

everyone—even those who oppose and ridicule us. This love of God in our heart reveals itself by our showing *mercy, compassion, kindness, consideration, and forgiveness* offered to everyone.

We will all be judged by our *conduct* on earth; by our *attitude* toward God and toward His Word; and toward everyone else with whom we had contact. Revelation 20:11 “*And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them [to hide].*”

Everyone will answer for the way they lived and for the attitudes they showed toward people they interacted with while on earth. Romans 14:12 “*So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.*” The way we treat people on earth just gives evidence if the *love of God* is in our heart or not.

Our *One-Way Ticket to Eternity* must be to the *place* God wants it to *be!* He has written the plan; He has promised His Spirit to give understanding; and He sent His Son to pay the price for our sins. Now it is our *choice* and *decision* to *trust* in Him—and we will all be *judged* by that decision.

John 12:47 “*If anyone hears My words and does not believe, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. 48 He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him—the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.*”

The Word Jesus spoke is that we truly *love* others and be willing to forgive *everyone* of every *offense*; every *wrong*; and every *insult*. If we harbor any *resentment* or any *bitterness* toward *anyone*, we will have to explain to the Judge of everyone, *why* we were not willing to *forgive*, when Jesus has already forgiven *us* so many, many times!

Revelation 20:12 “*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 [what they had done].”

A person’s *first* death is when their soul separates from their body. At *that* moment in time, if the person was truly believing *in*; trusting *on*; and loving *God* with all their heart, soul, and mind, they would be with Him. 2 Corinthians 5:8 “*We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.*”

A person’s *second* death is the *last* judgment at the Great White Throne! If a person did *not* love; did *not* trust; and had *no* faith in God while living on earth, they would go to the Lake of Fire. The second death is when they are officially sentenced, along with the rest of the unbelieving and condemned people—separated from God forever with no way to reverse that horrible situation!

If the Lord *tarries*—and He is not likely to wait much longer—we will have to experience the *first* death, but at that point we must be sure that we do *not* experience the *second* death. We must *know* what *determines* the difference between eternal life in Heaven and eternal death in the flames! No one would want to go anywhere *near* that dreadful place for even ten *seconds*, let alone for ten-million *years!*

Hell is a real place—we have to know *how* to avoid it. After giving the definition of adultery, Jesus tells this story. Luke 16:19 “*There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day: 20 And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores.*”

Two types of people are contrasted—the *wealthy* who show no compassion for the less fortunate; and the *poor* who live and trust for the needs of each day. Luke 16:22 “*The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to*

Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried. 23 In hell, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side."

The rich man in Hell still has all *five* of his senses. He was tormented by the intense heat and asked for a drink. There is no access from one side to the other side—judgment is set once a person passes from this life. Lazarus could *not* help the man. Hebrews 9:27 *"It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment."* We all get a One-Way Ticket to Eternity—to one of two places!

We *must* know which side of the chasm we will be on forever when our time on earth is done! The rich man felt compassion for his brothers but was not able to warn them to *not ever* come to 28 *"this place of torment."* The only thing Abraham could say is Luke 16:29 *"They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them."*

We *still* have the Torah—the first five books of the Bible—Genesis; Exodus; Leviticus; Numbers; and Deuteronomy written by Moses. We can still read them; and we *still* have the Major and Minor Prophets of Scripture—written from the time of Elijah, 874 B.C., until Malachi 400 B.C. Isaiah; Jeremiah; Lamentations; Ezekiel; Daniel—Hosea; Joel; Amos; Obadiah; Jonah; Micah; Nahum; Habakkuk; Zephaniah; Haggai; Zechariah; and Malachi.

Reading any of those Books, and being enlightened by the Holy Spirit, would have informed the brothers of divine principles of trust on God. Isaiah 53:5 *"[Jesus] was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed."* Like everyone on earth, the five brothers had a *One-Way Ticket to Eternity*, but they wasted their time on earth, and went to the *wrong* destination. Once

they left this earth, there was no reversing that wrong direction!

A recent study on Christianity indicated that the lake of fire would be sparsely populated. Only one-half of 1% of Americans thought they would go there after this life, but 64% think they are going to Heaven. This is not accurate according to Jesus.

Matthew 7:13 *"Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: 14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it."*

Millions of people think that *millions* are making it to glory; and *few* end in the lake of fire. *That* is much *different* from what *Jesus* is telling us. Today, Satan is so active in bringing people down to the level of the world, and influencing them to give up their faith in God, that it is a *constant* danger—it calls for *serious* watchfulness and prayer. Matthew 24:44 *"Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh."*

What actually *determines* our final destination! What *criteria* will decide which *side* of the chasm we end up being on when we leave *this* life! We must have *right* and *truthful* and *accurate* answers—and *such* can only come from God's Word.

At a Great White Throne, we will all give an account of how we lived on earth—whether we *accepted* or *rejected* the Gospel message of the Lord Jesus—the *true* Gospel the Lord gave us, *taught* us, and *showed* us while He was here. Proverbs 24:12 *"Shall not he render to every man according to his works?"* Romans 14:12 *"So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God."*

If we choose correctly—placing 100% of our trust on God, and on the merit of the shed Blood

of Christ, as the Holy Spirit inspires faith in us, we will *not* be judged. Jesus paid for our redemption, but the world has flatly rejected God's salvation plan—a plan that would save them from the flames.

God's safe plan is to *accept* the eternal sacrifice made for us on the Cross; to *believe* in His Son who gave His life for us; and to live every day by faith in Him. He paid for all the sins and errors we have made with His Blood, and we are now to be truly *sorry* for those mistakes—truly *wanting* to do God's will in our life from that point of repentance.

Everyone will *be* at a Great White Throne at some point; it is *then* that we will know if we are on the *left* or the *right*; if we are a *believer* or *unbeliever*—there will be no *excuses* given—nor any *accepted* at that time.

Everything that *happens* in this life is a *test* to see how we will respond—whether we will meet it in the *Lord's* way or the *world's* way. It will prove whether we *love God* with all our heart, soul, and mind, or whether they were just words with no substance.

It *cannot* be with *us* what Jesus said about those in Matthew 15:8 *"These people draw near to Me with their mouth, And honor Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me."*

Our *faith* in God and our *trust* on Jesus, must be real! Luke 21:36 *"Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man."* Everyone will stand before a *Great White Throne*—now is the time to repent!



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