

The Attackers: Sins Judged on the Cross but Human Good & Evil Rejected: Great White Throne Judgment, Rev 20:11-15; Categories of Life: Everlasting, Temporal, Eternal, Forever, & Immortality; Works of the Law Will Not Save, Rom 2:12-16

- (28) Sins were judged on the cross, but human good and evil were only rejected. They will be used as the indictment for all unbelievers at the Great White Throne in eternity future:

Revelation 20:11 - Then I saw a great white throne [θρόνον μέγρον λευκόν (*thronon megon leukon*): Great: the preeminence of the Judge; White: the integrity of the Judge, and Throne, the authority of the Judge] and He who was sitting on it [Jesus Christ (John 5:22¹)], from whose presence earth and heaven fled away [φεύγω (*pheugō*): vanished], and no inhabited place was found for them.

v. 12 - Then I saw the dead [all unbelievers of human history plus the Nephilim], the great [renowned works] and the small [run-of-the-mill works], standing before the throne [arraignment: charges presented], and the books [plural; Evidence: Exhibit A: containing a record of unbelievers' works] were opened, and another book of a different kind was opened which is the book of life [singular; Evidence: Exhibit B: containing the names of every believer in human history]; and the dead were judged [evaluated] out of those things written in the books, according to their works of human good and evil.

v. 13 - Then the sea [θάλασσα (*thalassa*): the sea gates of the Abyss & Tartarus] gave up the dead [the Nephilim of Genesis 6] that were in it. Also death [those who died physically in unbelief] and Hades [specifically the compartment of Torments] gave up the dead [unbelievers of the human race] those in them. Then they were judged each one individually [verdict: each person is found guilty by evidence presented from the two exhibits] according to their works.

¹ “For not even the Father judges anyone, but He has given all judgment to the Son” (John 5:22, NASB).

v. 14 - Then death and Hades [Torments plus the Sea Gates] were thrown into the lake of fire [sentence & incarceration: forever life separated from God]. This is the second death [the first death is physical; this is spiritual].

Revelation 20:15 - And if anyone was not found registered in the book of life [evidence of Exhibit B: see Psalm 69:28], he was thrown into the lake of fire.

- (29) This is the consequence of rejecting Christ as Savior. Although the soul never dies, the life force that the unbeliever possesses is not eternal life.
- (30) To distinguish among the several categories of life, both physical and soulish that occur within human history and the afterlife, the following nomenclature may prove helpful:
 1. **Everlasting Life:** possessed by Adam and Ishah in Eden prior to the fall. It refers to their perfect *physical* life that without sin would have continued in perpetuity on the earth. Physical death could only occur by eating the forbidden fruit. (See Genesis 2:17)
 2. **Temporal Life:** the *physical* life of an individual that, post-fall, lasts from physical birth to physical death. (See Ecclesiastes 12:7)
 3. **Eternal Life:** possessed by those who believe in Christ. It is classified as “eternal” because it is a divine attribute imputed at the moment of salvation. Also possessed by angels, both elect and fallen. (See John 10:28)

4. **Forever Life:** refers to the unbeliever's soul status at physical death. It is not eternal since it only existed from the time the soul was imputed at physical birth and it continues in perpetuity from Torments to the lake of fire forever. (See Jude 13)
 5. **Immortality:** refers to the *physical* life of the believer in resurrection body. (See 1 Corinthians 15:53)
- (31) Both fallen man and Nephilim possess forever life. Their souls entered history at physical birth and presently reside in Hades. Following judgment at the Great White Throne, their souls continue to live forever in the lake of fire.
- (32) Those who assume their works are sufficient for salvation are locked-in to self-centeredness. Their consciences approve or disapprove based on a distorted frame of reference that has developed and facilitated attitudes which are in violation of biblical standards.
- (30) This brings us back to our central passage which reads this way as far as we have gone in our exegesis:

Romans 2:12 - For as many as without the Law have sinned, without the Law also will perish; and as many under the Law have sinned, through the Law will be judged ...

v. 13 - (For you see the hearers of the Law are not just before God, in fact, the doers of the Law shall not be justified.

v. 14 - For every time that Gentiles, who do not have the Law, do instinctively those things from the Law, these, not having the Law, are a law unto themselves.

v. 15 - The very ones who demonstrate the accomplishment of the Law written in their *kardias*, their consciences confirming the testimony, in fact their thoughts alternately accusing or else defending themselves.)

v. 16 - ... on the day when, according to my gospel, God will judge the secrets of men through Christ Jesus.

- (1) The opening phrase of the post-parenthesis continuation of verse 12 is **ἐν ἡμέραις** (*en hēi hēmerai*): “In the day.”
- (2) The word “day” has a number of meanings in the New Testament. It can refer to a twenty-four hour period, e.g., the Sabbath day, a thousand years, e.g., 2 Peter 3:8, or the day of judgment, e.g., 2 Peter 2:9, dependent upon context.
- (3) The context in Romans 2:16 is the “day of judgment” and refers to the prosecution of unbelievers at the Great White Throne.
- (4) Those who are gathered before the bar of the Supreme Court of Heaven will be a heterogeneous collection of disparate individuals that covers the entire period of human history.
- (5) Both the great and the small will stand before the Lord according to Revelation 20:12; a collection of spiritual miscreants that includes those in high positions of authority down to paupers and vagabonds, the well-known, the non-descript; heroes and cowards; famous and infamous; every race, every creed; the good, the bad, and the ugly. All are united because of one common decision made by each: rejection of Jesus Christ as Savior.

- (6) The identification of the day in question is introduced by the adverb of future time **ὅτι (hoti)** translated “when.”
- (7) What follows is the present active indicative of the verb **κρίνω (krinō)**: to judge.
The present tense is futuristic, denoting an event which has not yet occurred, but which is regarded as so certain that in thought it may be contemplated as already coming to pass.
- (8) *Krinō* is the object of the noun **Θεός (Theos)**: God Who, with the active voice, produces the action of this judgment but does so through the agency of Jesus Christ which comes up later in the verse.
- (9) The indicative mood is declarative for a statement of fact that will take place on a day yet future, namely, the Great White Throne judgment.

Romans 2:12, 16a - For as many as without the Law have sinned, without the Law also will perish; and as many under the Law have sinned, through the Law will be judged ... in the day when God shall judge ...