

What is the Great White Throne?

1. Read Revelation 20:11-13. What does the apostle John observe? Can you list at least 3 observations?

Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled, and no place was found for them. 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. And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them; and they were judged, each one of them according to their deeds. (Rev 20:11-13, NASB)

2. What other names are used for the Great White Throne?

But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. And all the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, just as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats; and He will put the sheep on His right, but the goats on the left. (Matt 25:31-33)

But as for you, why do you judge your brother or sister? Or you as well, why do you regard your brother or sister with contempt? For we will all appear before the judgment seat of God. For it is written:

“AS I LIVE, SAYS THE LORD, TO ME EVERY KNEE WILL BOW,

AND EVERY TONGUE WILL GIVE PRAISE TO GOD.”

So then each one of us will give an account of himself to God. (Rom 14:10-12, NASB)

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive compensation for his deeds done through the body, in accordance with what he has done, whether good or bad. (2 Cor 5:10, NASB)

What is the Great White Throne?

Teacher Notes

Read the various biblical passages to the student with expression and drama to help the student understand God's word. Re-read parts to place an emphasis on what you think is important to explain. Encourage the student to listen carefully and learn how to observe with their ears.

1. Read Revelation 20:11-13. What does the apostle John observe? Can you list at least 3 general observations?

Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled, and no place was found for them. 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. And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them; and they were judged, each one of them according to their deeds. (Rev 20:11-13, NASB)

There are a few concepts introduced here that will be foreign to the student.

Resurrection has occurred here. This is when people are brought back to life to face the consequences for their thoughts and actions when they were alive on earth.

The Book of Life lists all the names of Believers. The names found here are forgiven of their sins and have eternal life with God and His Son. The other books lists the names and their sins of non-Believers.

While it is not stated that Jesus Christ is sitting on the Great White Throne, this conclusion is based on Matthew 25:31-33 listed below.

Ask the student: what did the apostle John see? Re-read parts, if needed, to help him "observe."

The apostle John sees a) a great white throne, b) Jesus Christ sitting on it whose presence earth and heaven fled, and c) the judgment of the dead from things written in a number of books, including the Book of life, according to their deeds.

Take some time to answer questions the student may have.

2. What other names are used for the Great White Throne?

But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on **His glorious throne**. And all the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, just as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats; and He will put the sheep on His right, but the goats on the left. (Matt 25:31-33, NASB)

Help the student understand that God used many different authors to write the Bible, and each author may have used a different name to describe the same object.

The apostle John describes where Jesus Christ sits and judges the Great White Throne.

Jesus calls His seat of judgment His glorious throne.

But as for you, why do you judge your brother or sister? Or you as well, why do you regard your brother or sister with contempt? For we will all appear before the **judgment seat of God**. For it is written:

“AS I LIVE, SAYS THE LORD, TO ME EVERY KNEE WILL BOW,
AND EVERY TONGUE WILL GIVE PRAISE TO GOD.”

So then each one of us will give an account of himself to God. (Rom 14:10-12, NASB)

For we must all appear before the **judgment seat of Christ**, so that each one may receive compensation for his deeds done through the body, in accordance with what he has done, whether good or bad. (2 Cor 5:10, NASB)

The apostle Paul calls Jesus' seat of judgment two different but similar names:

Judgment seat of God

Judgment seat of Christ