

REVELATION

chapter 20 part 4 (v.11-15)

The Great White Throne Judgement!

Commentaries with cross references verses
compiled by Gaetan.

Let's begin with a review of the chronology of the events we already covered in chapters 19 and 20. It says in the 19th chapter that after or during the Battle of Armageddon, the Beast and the False Prophet are cast directly into the Lake of Fire but that the remnant of their followers, those with the Mark of the Beast, were only slain at this time, not thrown into the lake of fire. They apparently are not yet judged until after the millennium.



Satan is bound during the thousand-year Millennial Reign of Christ on the Earth, and after 1000 years, Satan is loose and leads the rebels against the camp of the saints in the Battle of Gog and Magog. Then Satan is immediately cast into the lake of fire, where the Beast and the False Prophet have been.

Now from verse 11 to 15, we will see the fate of their followers as well as of all the unsaved dead



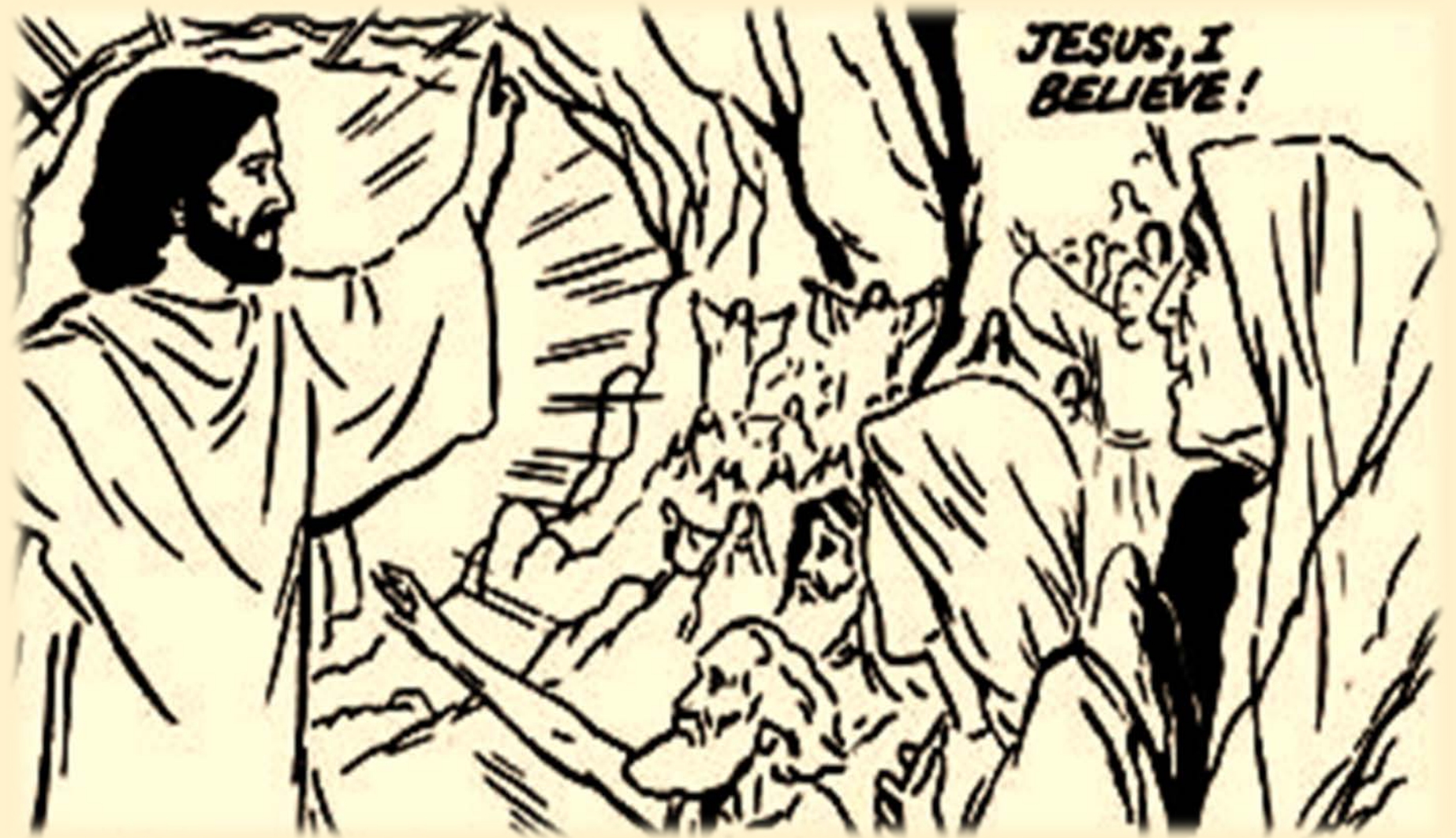
from the beginning of history -- the Final Judgement. Some are already so evil that their judgement has already been settled ahead of time, and the minute they die, they go straight to Hell! With others it's almost as though they're put on probation for a period in the Afterlife until the Final Judgement of all the unsaved at the Great White Judgement Throne.

Perhaps God puts them on probation to see what they will do, if they're going to repent when they realize that there actually is an Afterlife and a time of accountability regarding their sojourn in the earthly realm.

When Jesus went and preached to the spirits in prison (in Hell) after His Crucifixion, it is obvious that He wasn't just wasting His time, and many of those spirits were ready to repent and move towards the Light of God. (See verses below.) So there must be some period of probation and a "second chance" for those who will receive it then.

**** MAT.12:40** For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

**** 1PE.3:19-20** By which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison; Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited **in the days of Noah**, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water.



**** 1PE.4:6** For this cause was **“the gospel”** preached also to them that are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit.

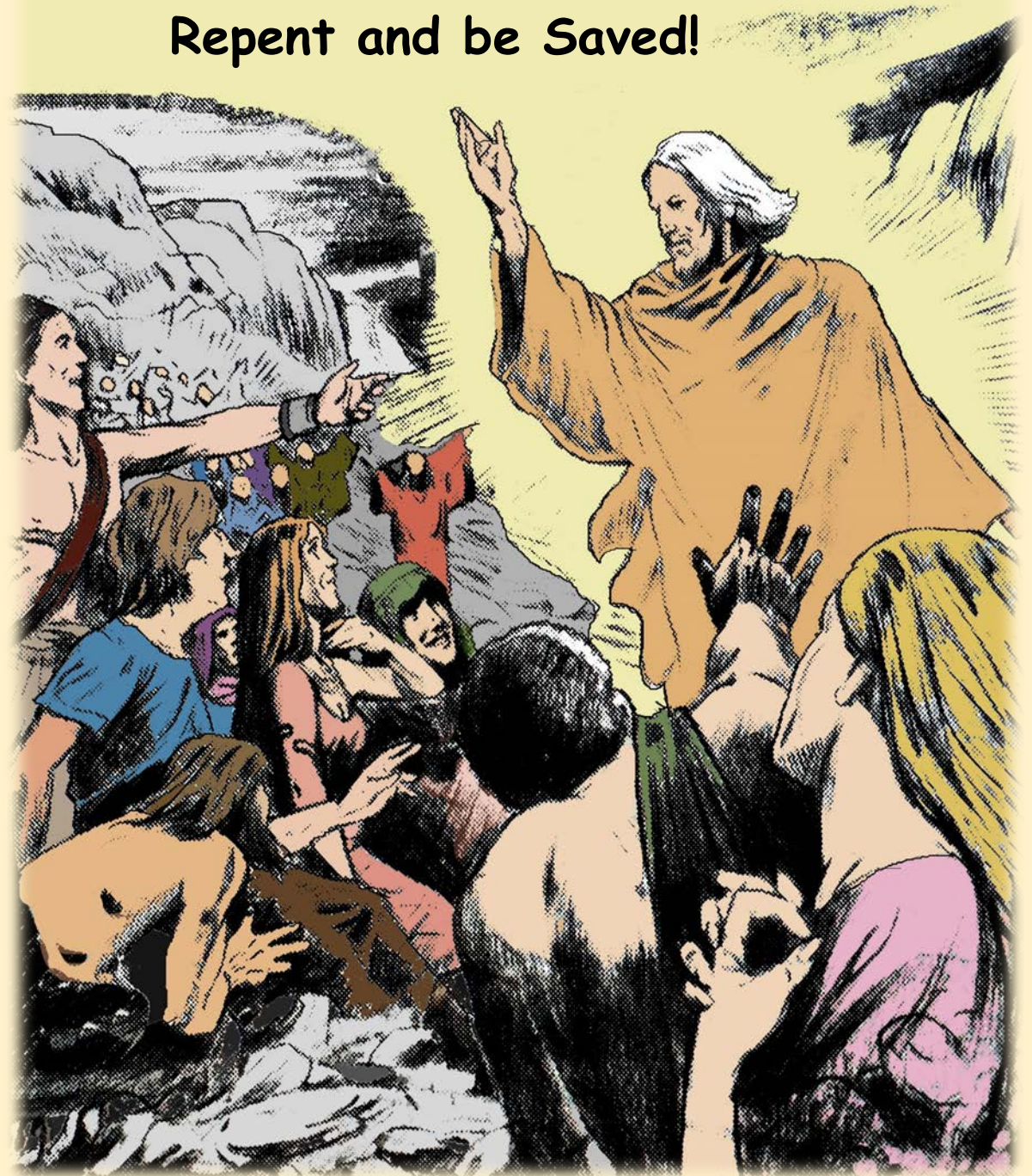
**** EPH.4:9** Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth?

God’s Word says that “the Lord ... is not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance” (2 Peter 3:9).

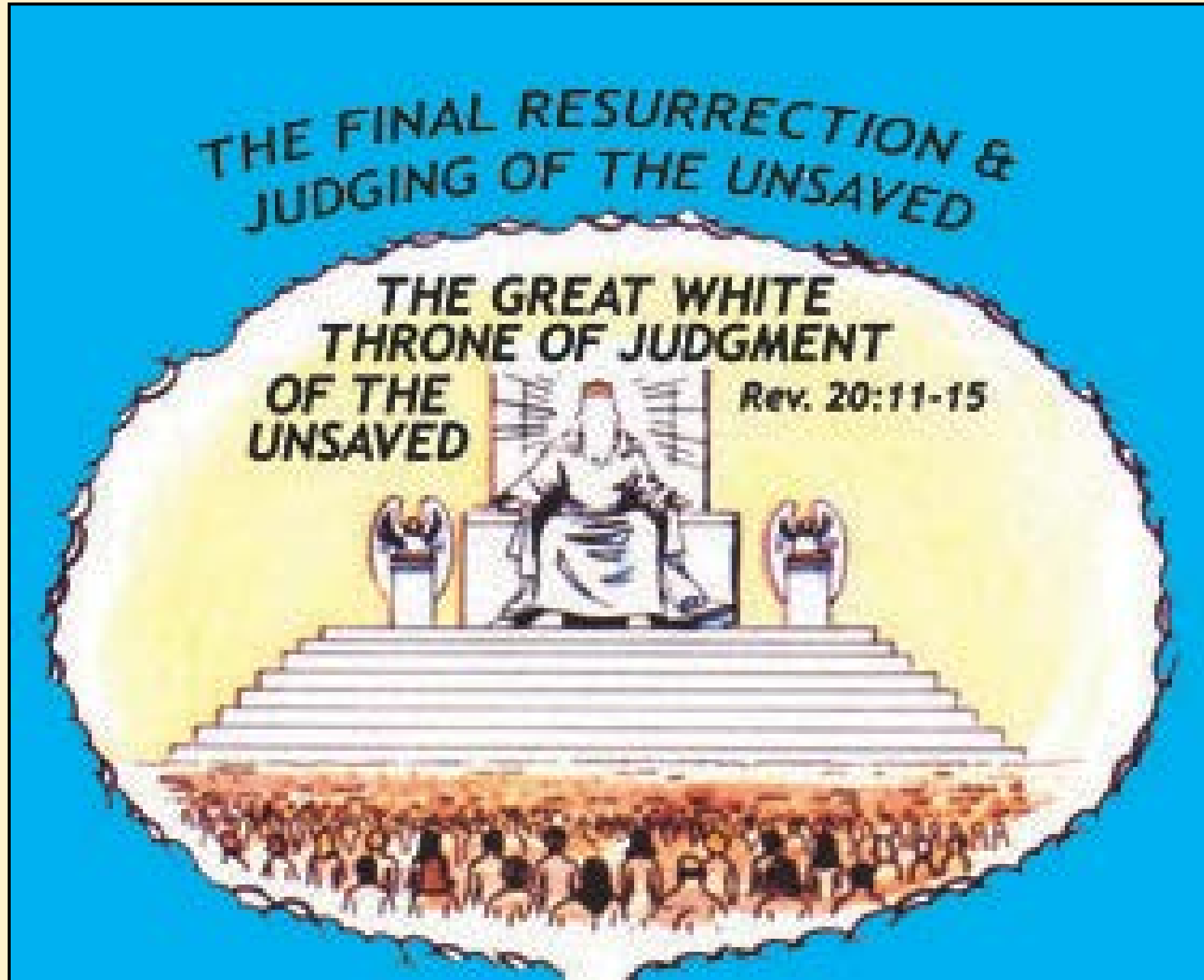
To show His love to all men, He sent Jesus to live, die and suffer for us:

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved” (John 3:16-17).

Repent and be Saved!



REV.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.



We know from our previous studies that all of the children of God of all ages, who have been re-born and saved by the Spirit, will be raptured and resurrected before the Millennium, at the end of the Great Tribulation period when Jesus comes and gathers together His Church, His Bride, to be with Him forever! We also know that they will then *"live and reign with Christ for a thousand years"* on the Earth. (Rev.20:4) – But what about the billions of unsaved people of all ages, what has become of them?

"The rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished." (Rev.20:5)

The Great White Throne Judgment is for the rest of the dead, all the dead of all ages who were not re-claimed by the Lord, and therefore were not resurrected at Christ's Second Coming. It includes all those who lived through the Millennium and yet followed the Devil at the end of it and were then destroyed in the Battle of Gog and Magog. All the people who ever lived, if not re-claimed or saved, whether they were good or bad in their earthly lives, will have to stand at this Great White Throne Judgment of God.

And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God...



REV.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. (See *Dan.7:9, 10, 26, 27; Mt.25:31-46*)

So it is then, at the end of the Millennium after the battle of Gog and Magog, that the great Second Resurrection takes place, the



"*resurrection of damnation*", as Jesus called it, which is better translated as the "*resurrection of judgment*". (*Jn.5:29*) At this time all of the unsaved dead are finally raised to stand before God Himself in the great final Judgement in which they are all given their final sentences and are assigned to their final places in the hereafter. These verses are clear – all the dead, those who accomplished some good in life and those who did not, will stand before the Lord. "**Standing**" implies awareness, as they are brought before Him. They are not asleep; they're alert and waiting. Jesus Himself said:

**** John 5:24-29 Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.**

Those, therefore, who already belong to the Lord (the saved) are not being judged at this Judgment.

*Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, **when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live.** For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself, and has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man. Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in **the graves will hear His voice and come forth**—those who have done good, to the **resurrection of life**, and those who have done evil, to **the resurrection of condemnation.***



The author of Revelation says that he saw several books, a lot of books.

“And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life”—a very important book.

“And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books”.

These *“books”* could be their own memories and consciences, or records that God keeps of their words and works. As the Bible states, *“The eyes of the Lord are in every place, keeping*

watch on the evil and the good”. (Pro.15:3)

Certainly, God is able to access people’s memory banks and run through their entire lives, in a fraction of a second if necessary, and judge everything they’ve ever done. So this *“opening of the books”* might be the Lord reading off everything everyone’s ever done, in order to judge him or her fairly.



Wherever anyone is, Jesus Himself made it clear that they which knew the Lord's will, yet still disobeyed and did things requiring correction, shall receive severe chastisement! But those who did not know His Will and yet did things that require correction shall receive light chastisement.

**** Lk.12:47,48** *And that servant, which knew his Lord's will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to His will, shall be **beaten with many stripes**. But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be **beaten with few stripes**. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required.*

It's obvious that some are going to be chastised worse than others, and some are going to get very little chastisement, if any! Others are going to get plenty, just what they deserve, but no more! God is going to make a difference and judge everybody justly, righteously and mercifully, according to their works!



There's so much in the Word of God showing that there will be degrees of penalties or chastisement just as there are degrees of reward. God is just, God is thorough and *"every man will be rewarded according to his works"*! (See *Ps.62:12; Jer.17:10; Mt.16:27; 2Co.5:10; Rev.2:23; 22:12*)

So their being *"Judged according to their works"* simply means that they will be rewarded or penalized according to how good they were, or how bad they were, and obviously there's going to be a difference!

"For the work of a man shall He render unto him, and cause every man to find according to his ways. Yea, surely God will not do wickedly, neither will the Almighty pervert judgement."
(*Job 34:11, 12*)

God is just, fair and righteous, everybody is going to get exactly what they deserve and need.



REV.20:13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and **death and hell delivered up the dead** which were in them: and **they were judged every man according to their works.**

Again, here we see the **Second Resurrection**, of all the unsaved dead, some of whom have been confined to the bottom of the sea and other places as ghosts and spirits! --Apparently the punishment, or at least the temporary probation, that some of the unsaved dead are given is to be assigned to or stick around near their dead body or their former habitat, etc. But during this Second Resurrection, all of these **"rest of the dead"** come up from everywhere! --Out of the sea, out of the graves, from past aeons of time--all the lost souls that ever lived! **"Death and hell delivered up the dead."** The word hell here is from the Greek word **"Hades"** and is not the **"lake of fire,"** but is rather the equivalent of the Hebrew **"Sheol,"** rendered variously as **"grave," "hell"** and **"pit"** in Scripture. The original meaning of the words



Hades and Sheol is **"the unseen state"** and describes the temporary place of lost souls, --All those who lost their way during the past 6,000 years of Earthly History, plus all those who lost their way during the Millennium! —they are all going to be raised in this Second Resurrection to stand before the Great White Throne Judgement and be judged out of the Books!

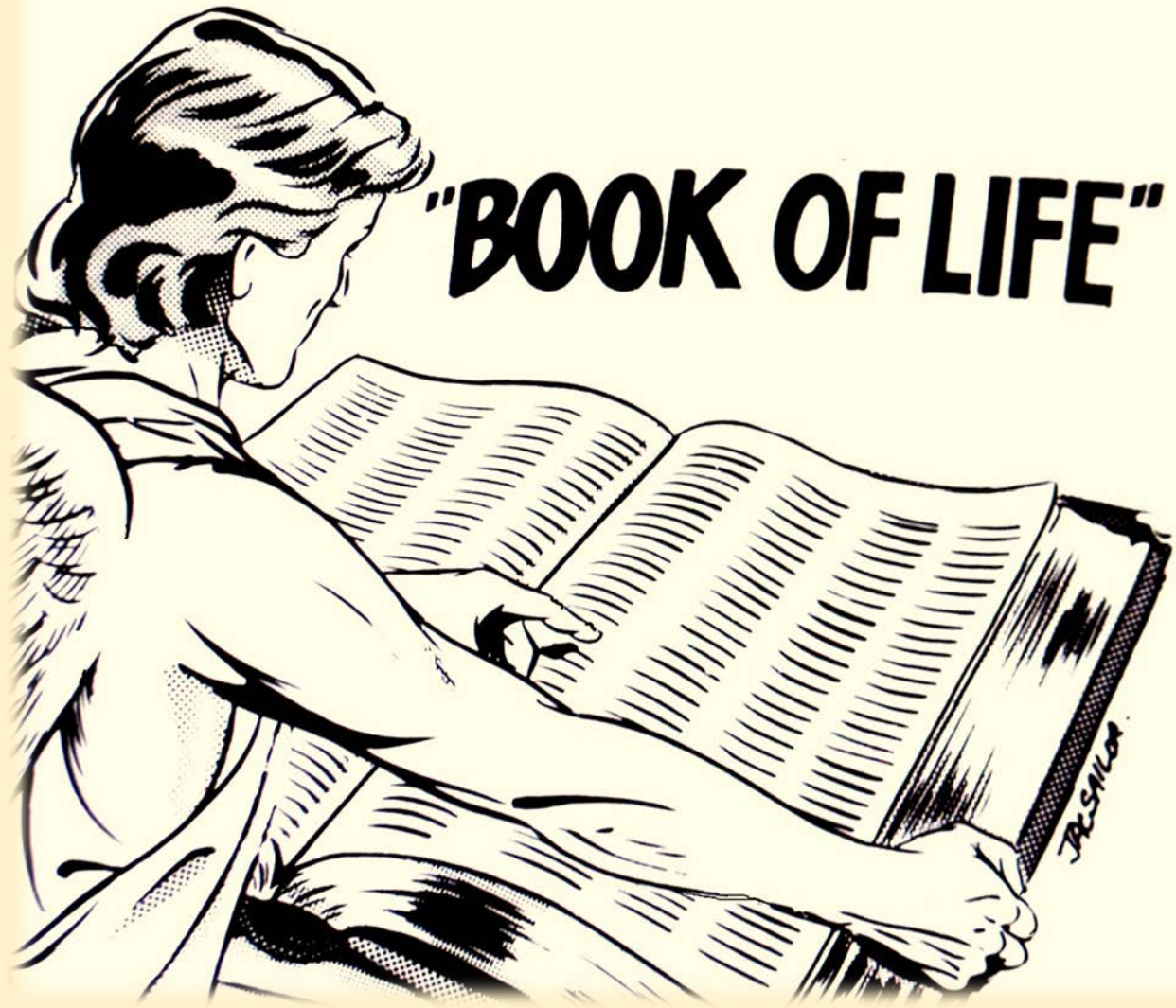
REV.20:14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

If you are born twice, first time physically, second time spiritually—you will only die once! Because you will only die the physical death once and your spirit will live on in that Heavenly Realm. Jesus died in spiritual torment so your spirit would not have to suffer the same. But He says for the sinners, those who reject Christ, even in the Afterlife (*John 5:25,28-29*), their sins cannot be forgiven, and the Lake of Fire will be their destination. At the end of the Millennium, all the souls who were not part of the First Resurrection are going to be raised from the dead at the Last Judgment and judged according to their works. Some will be sent to the Lake of Fire and some will go to live outside the Heavenly City. (*Rev.22.*) ***"And this is the second death!"*** Why? Because they were born only once and were never re-born. When you receive Jesus, this is a new birth for your spirit, you're a new inner man. So, if you're born twice, you only die once--death to the body but the spirit is free, the spirit lives on in that Heavenly Realm. But if you're only born once and you're not born again, you must endure the ***"second death"***.



What that may entail is something we can only speculate on. For some it may be nothing more than a *"holding cell"* type of situation, while for some it could be more serious - a purgatorial time of re-training.

REV.20:15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.



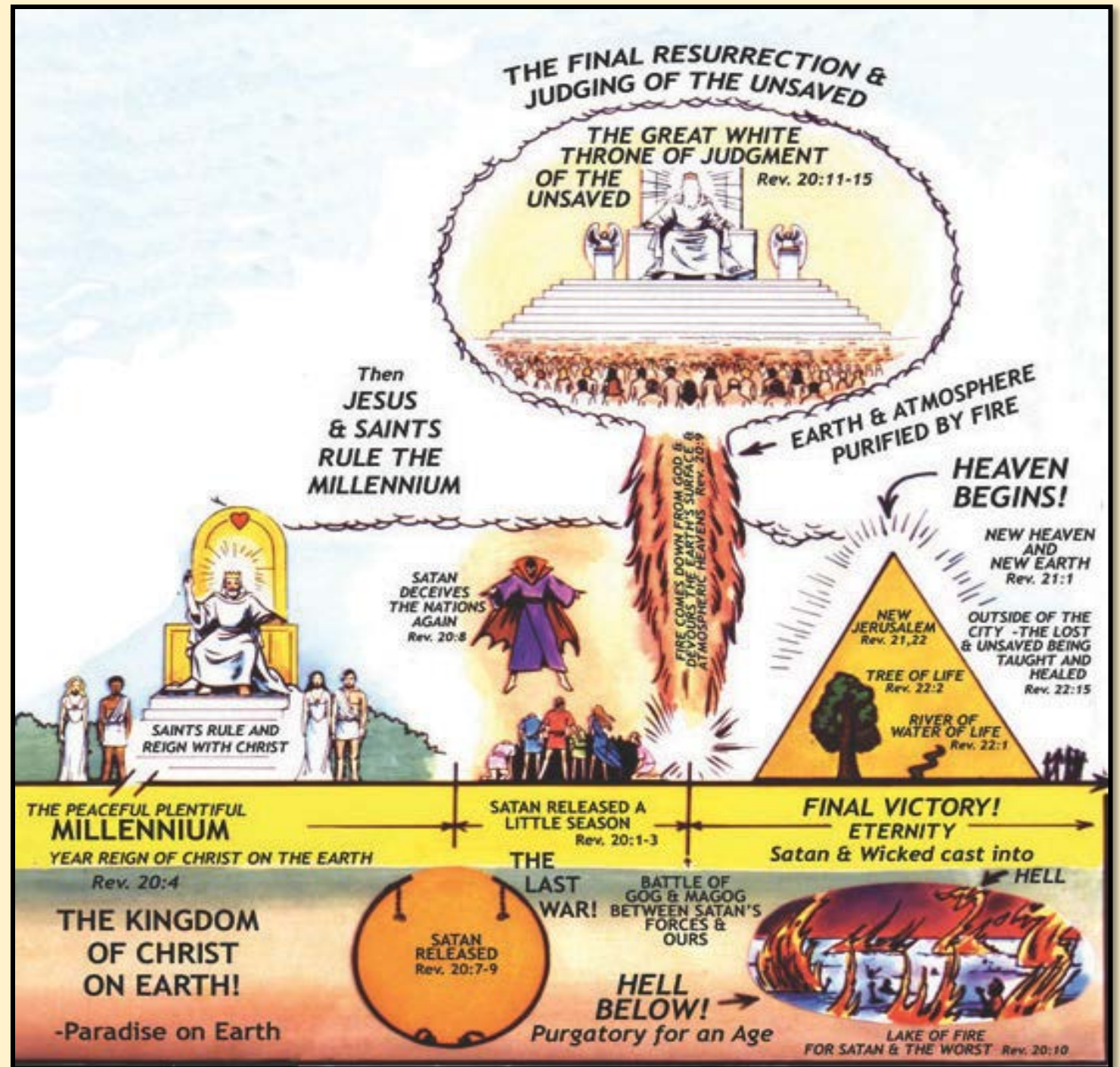
Here is an observation:

Earlier we learned that one of the *"books"* which was opened at this Great Judgement Throne was the *"book of life"*, which you'll find out now is a very, very important book. Because after Death and Hell are cast into the Lake of Fire, we learn,

"And whosoever was not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the Lake of Fire!"

It does not say that they were ALL cast into the lake of fire. It says, *"And whosoever was not found written in the Book of Life"*. In other words, apparently there's going to be another dividing at the last Great White Throne Judgement between the sheep and the goats, between those who deserve Hell and those who don't!

But if the Book of Life contains only the names of those who were saved in this life, as many preachers have taught, why bring it out at this Great White Throne Judgement of the unsaved? --Just to prove they're not in there? If none of these people are going to be spared at all from Hell, why in the world would the Lord need to open this Book at all? If everyone written in the Book of Life is already saved, already raptured, already in Heaven, and none of these folks at this Judgement are written in there and it's just a bare blank book, then why bother? Now don't forget, only the unsaved are present at this Great White Throne Judgement. Nevertheless, a difference is made among these un-reclaimed souls. There are those who are destined for life on the New Earth, but those not found in the Book of Life are cast into the Lake of Fire.



Note: Do not worry if you don't understand every detail. The important thing is to get a general picture of these extraordinary End-Time events and to be reassured that God loves you and you are in His loving and powerful hands. The best is yet to come in the last two chapters of Revelation, the glorious picture of Heaven and your eternal reward.

Are you going to be part of the first resurrection? Do you want to be born twice? You can. Jesus said:

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again." Jn.3:5-7

If you haven't done it yet, be born twice by praying the following:

"Dear Jesus, I want to know you; please forgive all my faults and sins. I believe that You are the Son of God and that You died for me. I invite You into my heart and life. Thank you for your gift of eternal life and please fill me with Your Holy Spirit. Help me to read and understand Your Word. Amen"

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