

Living Word Fellowship Church

A Biblical Outline of the Rapture

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Part II

I. The Final Judgement

A. Introduction:

Everyone will be judged, whether saved or unsaved. At the time of the rapture, those saved will be judged apparently in the clouds. There is no judgment in heaven. Saved in the clouds, unsaved somewhere between the earth at the end of time, somewhere between hell and heaven.

There will be two sites of judgment. One judgment is for believers, and the other is for unbelievers. The Great White Throne judgment is for the unbeliever (Revelation 20:11-15), and the Bema Seat is for the believer [also known as the Judgment Seat of Christ (2 Corinthians 5:9-11; Romans 14:10-12; Revelation 20:12-21:8; Hebrews 9:27). Bema in Greek means 'raised part' – the official seat of a judge; Daniel 12; 1 Corinthians 3]. This involves Old Testament believers and unbelievers, New Testament believers and unbelievers, and those saved during the tribulation period. *"In the year of King Uzziah's death I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple. Seraphim stood above Him, each having six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one called out to another and said, "Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord of hosts, The whole earth is full of His glory."* (Isaiah 6:1-3; NASU; Isaiah 66:1)

Bema Seat – Its History – when runners win a race in the Roman Colosseum, they are put on a platform that is then raised for everyone to see them, and then they are provided their medals before everyone.

A. The Certainty of the Judgement:

1. **Jesus** mentions it in Matt. 11:24; 13:37-43; 16:27; 24:29-35; 25:31-46.
2. **Paul** mentions it when he defended himself before Felix; Acts 24:25, as well as in Rom. 2:5; 1 Cor. 4:5.
3. Other passages are Heb. 9:27; Rev. 20:11-15.

B. Who Will Judge?:

1. Christ sits on His glorious throne to judge all the earth (Matt. 25:31-33; John 5:22,27).
2. Even though God has functioned as a Judge, He passes this over to Christ (John 5:22,27; Philippians 2:10-11).
3. The disciples are involved in judging the tribes of Israel (Matt. 19:28; Luke 22:28-30).
4. Believers are on thrones and judge the world and angels (1 Cor. 6:2-3; Rev. 3:21, 20:4).

5. Angels will participate in judgment by gathering all who are judged (Matt. 13:41; 24:31).

C. Who Will Be Judged?:

Unbelievers:

a) Satan and his angels are judged (Rev. 20:10; Jude 6-7; 2 Pet. 2:4)

b) Unbelievers are judged at the end of the Millennium. Those who died before and during the Millennium and before the rapture (John 5:29; Rev. 20:11-15) are judged for the following things:

§ Christ opens the Book of Life, and they are not in it.

§ Their sinful deeds while in the flesh.

c) The Old Testament unbelievers (Dan. 12:1-3; Rev. 20:11-15).

d) Jews that survived the tribulation period (Lev. 27:32; Ez. 20:34-38; Matt. 25:1-30).

2. Believers:

a) Believers are judged for their deeds after getting saved, not for their sins (2 Cor. 5:10; Rom. 14:10). The following occurs:

§ Believers are judged by fire to test whether their service to God was done for self-serving purposes or His glory (1 Cor. 3:10-15).

§ Believers lose their rewards if they serve with wrong motives (2 John 8; 1 Cor. 9:24-27).

§ Believers are ashamed because of their deeds in the flesh (Luke 12:1-3; 1 John 2:28).

b) People saved during the tribulation period that were killed and resurrected just before the Millennium began (Matt. 25:31-46; Rev. 20:4-6).

3. Finality of the Judgement:

a) Judgments are all final (Matt. 25:46).