

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE RAPTURE AND THE REVELATION OF CHRIST

RAPTURE

First Phase of 2nd Coming

Before the Tribulation
(I Thess. 1:10; 5:9)

FOR the saints in the air
(I Thess. 4:17)

Saints taken to **Heaven**
(John 14:1-3)

Deliverance for saints
(Rev. 3:10)

Marks the **Revealing** of Antichrist
(II Thess. 2:1-12)

Accompanied by Michael the
Archangel
(I Thess. 4:17)

No Geographical changes on earth

REVELATION

Second Phase of 2nd Coming

At the **End** of the Tribulation
(Matt. 24:29-30; 25:31-34)

WITH the saints to earth
(Zech. 14:5; Jude 14-15a; Rev. 19:14)

Saints return to **earth** with Christ
(Dan. 7:18, 22. 27; Rev. 5:9-10; 20:6)

Judgment for the ungodly
(Rev. 19:15)

Marks the **Demise** of Antichrist
(Rev. 19:20)

Accompanied by the armies of
saints and a multitude of mighty angels
(Rev. 19:14; II Thess. 1:7-8)

Mount of Olives splits and creates
a great valley
(Acts 1:11-12; Zech 14:4)

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST THE JUDGMENT OF THE NATIONS AND THE GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGMENT

Many people falsely assume that at the end of the world there will be a general judgment of the lost and the saved to determine whether they will go to Heaven or Hell. Many folks entertain the false notion that God will weigh their good works versus their bad deeds on a scale of Divine justice and whichever weighs the most determines where they will spend all eternity. In this false scenario if you have enough "good works" it means you have earned the glories of heaven. If your evil deeds outweigh the "good" you will be consigned to hell. These falsehoods have arisen in large part from Roman Catholic and amillennial heresies that promote a general resurrection and a general judgment.

Due to the confusion and misinformation regarding the judgments the following is a simple, scriptural overview of the judgments highlighting the location, time, subjects, and results of each one individually.

DIFFERENCES IN THE TIMING OF THE JUDGMENTS

The Judgment Seat of Christ: Will take place sometime after the resurrection of the just and the Rapture of living saints while the Tribulation Period is taking place on the earth (Luke 21:34-36; Rev. 3:10-11).

The Judgment of the Nations: Will take place after the Tribulation Period at the beginning of the Millennial kingdom (Matt. 24:29-30; 25:31-34).

The Great White Throne Judgment: Will take place at the end of the Millennium following the final defeat of Satan (Rev. 20:7-11).

DIFFERENCES IN THE LOCATION OF THE JUDGMENTS

The Judgment Seat of Christ: Will take place in Heaven while the Tribulation Period is taking place on the earth (Matt. 5:12; 6:20).

The Judgment of the Nations: Will take place on the earth at the beginning of the Millennial kingdom (Psalm 67:4; Jer. 23:5; Joel 3:2, 11-12; Matt. 25:31-32).

The Great White Throne Judgment: Will take place after the Millennium in an undisclosed location suspended somewhere in the Universe (Rev. 20:11).

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE SUBJECTS/PARTICIPANTS IN THE JUDGMENTS

The Judgment Seat of Christ: Only those who are saved by sovereign grace, redeemed by the blood of Christ, and born of the Spirit will participate in the Judgment Seat of Christ (II Cor. 5:8-10; Rom. 14:10, 12). Believers will not be judged for their sins because Christ was already judged for them on the cross (Rom. 8:1-3).

The Judgment of the Nations: Lost and saved survivors of the Tribulation Period identified as reprobate goats or elect sheep will be judged to determine who will enter the Millennial kingdom (Matt. 25:32-34; 41, 46).

The Great White Throne Judgment: Only the lost of all time will be judged at the Great White Throne judgment following the resurrection of the unjust to determine their place in the Lake of Fire (Rev. 20:11-15).

DIFFERENCES IN THE WITNESSES TO THE JUDGMENTS

The Judgment Seat of Christ: It appears that other saved people will witness the proceedings of this judgment. However the ungodly will play no role in this judgment. It is an event concerning Christ and His people.

The Judgment of the Nations: Christ will come back to the earth accompanied by angels in flaming fire (II Thess. 1:8-9) who will assist in the judgment by gathering the wicked from the four corners of the earth (Matt. 13:41-43; 24:31). Christ will also be accompanied by the glorified saints who are called the armies of heaven (Rev. 19:14). The saints will assist in some way in this judgment (Psalm 149; I Cor. 6:2). The apostles will assist in the judgment of Israel at this time as well (Matt. 19:27-30).

The Great White Throne Judgment: It appears that the wicked of all time will be summoned to witness the damnation of one another. The book of life, as well as a book that recorded their evil deeds will also be opened as each sinner stands before the Lord (Rev. 20:12-15). Every wicked thing they have ever done will be revealed for all to see (Luke 12:1-2).

DIFFERENCES IN THE PURPOSE OF THE JUDGMENTS

The Judgment Seat of Christ: To examine the motives of believers and their service rendered to Christ to determine their rewards (Matt. 6:1, 4; I Cor. 9:24-27).

The Judgment of the Nations: To purge the earth of the wicked at the beginning of the Millennium (Psalm 37:9; 101:6-8; Prov. 2:21-22; Matt. 25:41, 46).

The Great White Throne Judgment: To judge all of the unsaved of all time who will be resurrected to stand before the Lord Jesus Christ (Rev. 20:12-13).

DIFFERENCES IN THE RESULTS OF THE JUDGMENTS

The Judgment Seat of Christ: God's elect will receive rewards for faithful service (I Cor. 9:24-27). A variety of crowns will be distributed by Christ as rewards; 1) Crown of rejoicing (I Thess. 2:10); 2) Crown of righteousness (II Tim. 4:8); 3) Crown of glory (I Pet. 5:4); 4) Crown of life (James 1:12; Rev. 2:10). It also appears from Scripture that rewards gained may be lost due to unfaithfulness in some regard (I Cor. 3:13-15; I John 2:28; Rev. 3:11).

Other results of the Judgment Seat of Christ are the rewards associated with being a faithful member of one of the Lord's New Testament churches is the honor of being in the bride (Rev. 3:4; 3:21; 19:6-9). Positions of authority in the Millennial kingdom will be given to believers based on their level of faithful service according to the Parables of the Pounds (Luke 19:11-19) and Talents (Matt. 25:14-23).

The Judgment of the Nations: The saved who are referred to as sheep will enter into the Millennial kingdom to reign with Christ (Matt. 25:33-40).

The wicked who are referred to as goats will be cast into the fires of hell to await their final destination in the Lake of Fire (Matt. 25:41-46).

The Great White Throne Judgment: All of the unsaved will be judged according to their works and be cast into the Lake of Fire to suffer infinite and eternal torments (Rev. 20:11-15). There will be different degrees of punishment in the Lake of Fire which is why everyone will be judged individually according to their works (Matt. 11:20-24).