

# AMEN! HALLELUJAH! (19:1-10)

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*Worship God, for the testimony about Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.*

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<sup>1</sup>After these things I heard what sounded like the loud voice of a vast throng in heaven, saying,

*“Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God, <sup>2</sup>because his judgments are true and just. For he has judged the great prostitute who corrupted the earth with her sexual immorality, and has avenged the blood of his servants poured out by her own hands!”*

<sup>3</sup>Then a second time the crowd shouted,

*“Hallelujah!” The smoke rises from her forever and ever.*

<sup>4</sup>The twenty-four elders and the four living creatures threw themselves to the ground and worshiped God, who was seated on the throne, saying:

*“Amen! Hallelujah!”*

<sup>5</sup>Then a voice came from the throne, saying:

*“Praise our God all you his servants, and all you who fear Him, both the small and the great!”*

<sup>6</sup>Then I heard what sounded like the voice of a vast throng, like the roar of many waters and like loud crashes of thunder. They were shouting:

*“Hallelujah! For the Lord our God, the All-Powerful, reigns!*

*<sup>7</sup>Let us rejoice and exult and give him glory, because the wedding celebration of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. <sup>8</sup>She was permitted to be dressed in bright, clean, fine linen” (for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints).*

<sup>9</sup>Then the angel said to me,

*“Write the following: Blessed are those who are invited to the banquet at the wedding celebration of the Lamb!”*

He also said to me,

*“These are the true words of God.”*

<sup>10</sup>So I threw myself down at his feet to worship him, but he said,  
*“Do not do this! I am only a fellow servant with you and  
your brothers who hold to the testimony about Jesus. Worship  
God, for the testimony about Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.”*

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*Father*

*Teach us this week how you do and don't want to be  
worshipped. Your judgments are true and just. You are All-  
Powerful. Empower us to do righteous deeds in your presence that  
we may be clothed with fine linen as the Bride of Christ.*

*Amen*

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MONDAY

- 1. To what does the phrase “after these things” refer (19:1; look at how this phrase is used in this book (1:19; 4:1; 7:9; 9:12; 15:5; 18:1; 20:3)?**

This week is a great one for learning about how to appropriately praise God. We are given a glimpse of a worship celebration. It is a celebration of victory! There is much that we can discover that pleases God and can be incorporated in our daily, private worship of the Lord as well as in our weekly gathering.

- 2. Who is this “great multitude in heaven” and what do they say to praise God (7:9; 19:1-2,6)?**

**3. These verses contain some great worship terms that we need to understand. Looking just at John's uses in Revelation, how would you define each of the following:**

- *Salvation* (7:10; 12:10)
- *Glory* (1:6; 4:9, 11; 5:12-13; 7:12; 11:13; 14:7; 15:8; 16:9; 18:1; 19:7; 21:11, 23-24, 26)
- *Power* (1:16; 3:8; 4:11; 5:12; 7:12; 11:17; 12:10; 13:2; 15:8; 17:13; 18:3)

**4. How do these “belong” to our God?**

TUESDAY

**5. To what specific “judgments” is John referring to (19:2)?**

**6. How does *Psalm 19:9* help us understand what is meant by “true” and “righteous” (see also *15:3; 16:7*)?**

**7. Look at God's promise to avenge “the blood of His bond-servants” (Deuteronomy 32:43; Luke 18:7). How does this encourage you?**

- 8. What is emphasized in the worship declaration of 19:3 (see *Isaiah 34:10*)?**
  
- 9. What can we learn from what the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures are doing (19:4-5)?**
  
- 10. What does the great multitude add to our understanding of God (19:6-8)?**
  
- 11. What is the “*marriage of the Lamb*” (19:7)?**
  
- 12. How does the parable in *Matthew 22:1-14* help you understand this passage?**

The best way to picture verses 7–9 is to remember the two important steps in ancient Jewish marriage. First came betrothal in which there was an agreement to marry. During this extended period, the groom and bride called each other “husband” and “wife” and remained faithful to each other, but there was no consummation of the relationship.... The second step was the wedding ceremony itself. At this time the groom went in procession

to the bride's house and then escorted her back to his home for an elaborate wedding feast of several days.<sup>1</sup>

**13. Who is the bride of the Lamb?**

**14. How does this passage say the bride has “made herself ready” (19:7-8)?**

THURSDAY

**15. Do you think the invitation to the “marriage supper of the Lamb” for all believers? Why or why not?**

**16. How do you feel about being the bride of Christ and what difference should that make in how you live?**

FRIDAY

What a great thing it is to worship. Our times of praising God should be *cognitive (thoughtful), emotional, and physical.*

**17. Chart out where in this passage these show up:**

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<sup>1</sup> Kendell H. Easley, *Revelation*, Holman New Testament Commentary, 349-50.

<b><i>Cognitive</i></b>	<b><i>Emotional</i></b>	<b><i>Physical</i></b>

**18. What *bizarre* thing did John attempt and why do you think he did so (19:10)?**

**19. Does the fact that he did this again give you any insight (22:8)?**

**20. What does the angel's response teach us about worship?**

**21. What does the following phrase mean: "For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy?"**

Have you ever thought about the order of end-time events? The *Bible Knowledge Commentary* puts these together this way:

**EVENTS CONCLUDING THE SEVEN-YEAR PERIOD**

- Two witnesses slain by the Antichrist (Rev. 11:7)
- Two witnesses resurrected (Rev. 11:11-12)
- The king of the South (Egypt) and the king of the North fight against the Antichrist (Dan. 11:40a)
- Antichrist enters Palestine and defeats Egypt, Libya, and Ethiopia (Dan. 11:40a-43)
- Armies from the East and the North move toward Palestine (Dan. 11:44; Rev. 16:12)
- Jerusalem is ravaged (Zech. 14:1-4)
- Commercial Babylon is destroyed (Rev. 16:19; 18:1-3, 21-24)
- Signs appear in the earth and sky (Isa. 13:10; Joel 2:10, 30-31; 3:15; Matt. 24:29)
- Christ returns with the armies of heaven (Matt. 24:27-31; Rev. 19:11-16)
- Jews flee Jerusalem facilitated by topographical changes (Zech. 14:5)
- Armies unite at Armageddon against Christ and the armies of heaven (Joel 3:9-11; Rev. 16:16; 19:17-19)
- Armies are destroyed by Christ (Rev. 19:19, 21)
- The “beast” (Antichrist) and the false prophet are thrown into the lake of fire (Rev. 19:20)

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## EVENTS FOLLOWING THE SEVEN-YEAR PERIOD

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- Final regathering of Israel (Isa. 11:11-12; Jer. 30:3; Ezek. 36:24; 37:1-14; Amos 9:14-15; Micah 4:6-7; Matt. 24:31)
- A remnant of Israelites turn to the Lord and are forgiven and cleansed (Hosea 14:1-5; Zech. 12:10; 13:1)
- National deliverance of Israel from the Antichrist (Dan. 12:1b; Zech. 12:10; 13:1; Rom. 11:26-27)
- Judgment of living Israel (Ezek. 20:33-38; Matt. 25:1-30)
- Judgment of living Gentiles (Matt. 25:31-46)
- Satan cast into the abyss (Rev. 20:1-3)
- Old Testament saints resurrected (Isa. 26:19; Dan. 12:1-3)
- Tribulation saints resurrected (Rev. 20:4-6)
- Daniel 9:24 fulfilled
- Marriage supper of the Lamb (Rev. 19:7-9)
- Christ begins His reign on earth (Ps. 72:8; Isa. 9:6-7; Dan. 2:14-35; 44; 7:13-14; Zech. 9:10; Rev. 20:4)<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, Eze 48:35 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1983-).

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# CHRIST'S SECOND COMING

(19:11-21)

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<sup>11</sup>Then I saw heaven opened and here came a white horse! The one riding it was called “Faithful” and “True,” and with justice he judges and goes to war.<sup>12</sup>His eyes are like a fiery flame and there are many diadem crowns on his head. He has a name written that no one knows except himself.<sup>13</sup>He is dressed in clothing dipped in blood, and he is called the Word of God.<sup>14</sup>The armies that are in heaven, dressed in white, clean, fine linen, were following him on white horses.<sup>15</sup>From his mouth extends a sharp sword, so that with it he can strike the nations. **He will rule them with an iron rod**, and he stomps the winepress of the furious wrath of God, the All-Powerful.<sup>16</sup>He has a name written on his clothing and on his thigh: “King of kings and Lord of lords.”

<sup>17</sup>Then I saw one angel standing in the sun, and he shouted in a loud voice to all the birds flying high in the sky:

*“Come, gather around for the great banquet of God,<sup>18</sup>to eat your fill of the flesh of kings, the flesh of generals, the flesh of powerful people, the flesh of horses and those who ride them, and the flesh of all people, both free and slave, and small and great!”*

<sup>19</sup>Then I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies assembled to do battle with the one who rode the horse and with his army.<sup>20</sup>Now the beast was seized, and along with him the false prophet who had performed the signs on his behalf – signs by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. Both of them were thrown alive into the lake of fire burning with sulfur.<sup>21</sup>The others were killed by the sword that extended from the mouth of the one who rode the horse, and all the birds gorged themselves with their flesh.

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*Father*

*We long for the day when our Lord will return in triumph to complete the work of judgment and to establish Your kingdom on this earth. Those wicked men who deceive the earth need to be dealt with and Your righteousness needs to be seen. Guide us as we study this week to understand the meaning of the images and to learn to apply this to our daily living.*

*Amen*

MONDAY

- 1. Why do you think Jesus rides on a white horse (19:11; compare 6:2; Isaiah 63:13; Jeremiah 12:5; Judges 5:10)?**
  
- 2. In Revelation, what does the color white symbolize (see 1:14, 2:17; 3:4-5,18; 4:4; 6:2,11; 7:9,13-14; 19:14; 20:11)?**

TUESDAY

- 3. Describe at least 10 features of the appearance of the one riding on a white horse (19:11-17):**
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 4. How does this visual imagery of the coming of Christ make you feel?**

**5. What difference does the hope of Christ coming make in our every day lives?**

**6. How does this episode contrast sharply to that of Jesus' first coming (*Matthew 21:5 from Zechariah 9:9*)?**

WEDNESDAY

**7. Who are "the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean" (*19:14; cf. 17:14; 19:8*)?**

**8. Look at some of what the Bible says about the *hosts of heaven*.**

*Genesis 2:1 -*

*Deuteronomy 4:19 -*

*1 Samuel 1:3,11 -*

*Joshua 5:13-15 -*

*2 Chronicles 18:18 -*

*Nehemiah 9:6 -*

*Psalms 103:21; 148:2 -*

*Daniel 4:35 -*

*Luke 2:13 -*

THURSDAY

**9. How is the "the great supper of God" (*19:17*) a terrible counterpart to "the marriage supper of the Lamb" (*19:9*)?**

**10. Do you think these are two separate events? Why or why not?**

The imagery used is familiar to those who have studied Ezekiel in the aftermath of another great battle (*Ezekiel 39:17-20*).

**11. What does the fact that these conflicts continue tell you about the nature of people apart from Christ?**

**12. How does the *Parable of the Great Banquet* help us understand what will happen to those who reject the Lord of Host (*Luke 14:16-24*)?**

FRIDAY

**13. What happens to the beast and the false prophet (*19:19-21*)?**

**14. From whom did God originally prepare the lake of fire (*Matthew 25:41*)?**

**15. What happens to the mighty armies of the world (*19:21*)?**

# THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM (20:1-6)

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*Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection.*

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<sup>1</sup>Then I saw an angel descending from heaven, holding in his hand the key to the abyss and a huge chain. <sup>2</sup>He seized the dragon – the ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan – and tied him up for a thousand years. <sup>3</sup>The angel then threw him into the abyss and locked and sealed it so that he could not deceive the nations until the one thousand years were finished. (After these things he must be released for a brief period of time.)

<sup>4</sup>Then I saw thrones and seated on them were those who had been given authority to judge. I also saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of the testimony about Jesus and because of the word of God. These had not worshiped the beast or his image and had refused to receive his mark on their forehead or hand. They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. <sup>5</sup>(The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were finished.) This is the first resurrection.

<sup>6</sup>Blessed and holy is the one who takes part in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and they will reign with him for a thousand years.

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*Father,*

*Show us this week that Your Word is true, and Your promises do not fail. Help us understand how You intend the world to be. Lord we are glad that soon the “Kingdom of this world has become the Kingdom of our Lord and of Our Christ. May we rejoice that Your perfect plan marches forward.*

*Amen*

MONDAY

- 1. Where else in the book of Revelation did we see the bottomless pit? (9:1) Is this the same pit that the angel has keys to open in 20:1?**
- 2. Why do you think the devil was seized for 1000 years? (2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6)**

After binding Satan for a 1000 years, 20:3 says “after that he must be released for a little while.”

- 3. Why must Satan be released after 1000 years? (20:7-8)**

TUESDAY

- 4. In 20:4, what are the thrones? Who are those that are sitting on the thrones? (Matthew 19:28; Luke 22:30; 1 Corinthians 6:3)**

John says that he saw the “souls” of those who had been beheaded for their faith in Christ.

- 5. How was John able to see “souls”? Compare 6:9 .**

Being a witness for Christ can be expressed in both the positive and negative, by what’s done and what’s not done.

- 6. In verse 4, How did the martyrs witness for Christ in both the positive and the negative? To restate, what did the martyrs do to be a witness for Christ, and what didn’t the martyrs do to be a witness for Christ?**

7. Who are the “*rest of the dead*” in verse 5?
8. What is the “*first resurrection*” in verse 5? (This is not referring to the occurrences in 1 Thessalonians 4:16)
9. What is the job description for those who are apart of the first resurrection? What qualifies them for the job? (Rev 20:6)

THURSDAY

Not a lot of information is found about the millennial reign of Christ in the book of Revelation. For the next two days we will look at Old Testament and Gospel accounts to find truths concerning the millennium. Today we will answer the question, “*What is the purpose of the millennium?*”

**Read carefully each verse, and beneath it write what you discover about the purpose of the millennium.**

Isaiah 40:10 (NKJV) — Behold, the Lord God shall come with a strong hand, And His arm shall rule for Him; Behold, His reward is with Him, And His work before Him.

Genesis 13:14–15 (NKJV) — *And the Lord said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him: “Lift your eyes now and look from the place where you are— northward, southward, eastward, and westward; for all the land which you see I give to you and your descendants forever.*

2 Chronicles 13:5 (NKJV) — *Should you not know that the Lord God of Israel gave the dominion over Israel to David forever, to him and his sons, by a covenant of salt?*

Jeremiah 31:33 (NKJV) — *But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.*

In the model prayer Christ gives to the disciples, Christ prays, “Thy Kingdom come.”

### **10. How does the millennium fulfill that prayer? (Luke 11:1-4)**

Many theologians argue that the millennium is not a literal 1000 earthly reign of Christ. Instead, they teach that the millennium is a spiritual condition meant to be understood symbolically.

**In your own understanding, how important is the reality of the millennium?**

FRIDAY

Yesterday’s study was to find out the purpose of the millennium. Today we will answer the question, “*What will the thousand-year reign of Christ be like?*”

**Record below each verse what you discover about the nature of the millennium.**

Isaiah 2:4 (NKJV) — He shall judge between the nations, And rebuke many people; They shall beat their swords into plowshares, And their spears into pruning hooks; Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, Neither shall they learn war anymore.

Jeremiah 31:13 (NKJV) — “Then shall the virgin rejoice in the dance, And the young men and the old, together; For I will turn their mourning to joy, Will comfort them, And make them rejoice rather than sorrow.

Isaiah 4:3 (NKJV) — And it shall come to pass that he who is left in Zion and remains in Jerusalem will be called holy—everyone who is recorded among the living in Jerusalem.

Zechariah 9:11–12 (NKJV) — “As for you also, Because of the blood of your covenant, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit. Return to the stronghold, You prisoners of hope. Even today I declare That I will restore double to you.

Isaiah 32:16 (NKJV) — Then justice will dwell in the wilderness, And righteousness remain in the fruitful field.

Isaiah 35:9 (NKJV) — No lion shall be there, Nor shall any ravenous beast go up on it; It shall not be found there. But the redeemed shall walk there,

Zephaniah 3:19 (NKJV) — Behold, at that time I will deal with all who afflict you; I will save the lame, And gather those who were

driven out; I will appoint them for praise and fame In every land where they were put to shame.

Amos 9:15 (NKJV) — I will plant them in their land, And no longer shall they be pulled up From the land I have given them,” Says the Lord your God.

Isaiah 62:8–9 (NKJV) — The Lord has sworn by His right hand And by the arm of His strength: “Surely I will no longer give your grain As food for your enemies; And the sons of the foreigner shall not drink your new wine, For which you have labored. But those who have gathered it shall eat it, And praise the Lord; Those who have brought it together shall drink it in My holy courts.”

Ezekiel 34:26 (NKJV) — I will make them and the places all around My hill a blessing; and I will cause showers to come down in their season; there shall be showers of blessing.

Isaiah 30:26 (NKJV) — Moreover the light of the moon will be as the light of the sun, And the light of the sun will be sevenfold, As the light of seven days, In the day that the Lord binds up the bruise of His people And heals the stroke of their wound.

**How excited are you about the future millennial kingdom?**

# THE FINAL JUDGMENT (20:7-15)

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*If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, that person was thrown into the lake of fire.*

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<sup>7</sup>Now when the thousand years are finished, Satan will be released from his prison<sup>8</sup>and will go out to deceive the nations at the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to bring them together for the battle. They are as numerous as the grains of sand in the sea.

<sup>9</sup>They went up on the broad plain of the earth and encircled the camp of the saints and the beloved city, but fire came down from heaven and devoured them completely. <sup>10</sup>And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet are too, and they will be tormented there day and night forever and ever.

<sup>11</sup>Then I saw a large white throne and the one who was seated on it; the earth and the heaven fled from his presence, and no place was found for them. <sup>12</sup>And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne. Then books were opened, and another book was opened – the book of life. So the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to their deeds. <sup>13</sup>The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and Death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each one was judged according to his deeds. <sup>14</sup>Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death – the lake of fire. <sup>15</sup>If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, that person was thrown into the lake of fire.

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*Father*

*What a fearful thing it is to fall into Your wrathful hands! We know that our own sins have earned us condemnation as rebels to Your goodness. Our hope is not in our own righteousness, but in the fact that our names are graciously written in the Book of Life.*

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Give us boldness to speak lovingly to our friends, family, and neighbors to encourage them to hear and believe the Gospel.

Amen

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MONDAY

1. **What clues do you see here for why God binds Satan for the 1,000 years and then releases him from the Abyss (20:1-3, 7)?**
2. **Satan is successful in his attempt to “deceive the nations.” What does this tell us about the nature of man?**

**What is total depravity?** It is not that any person is as bad as they could be. But it is the sad truth that sin has so effected every aspect of our being that there is no part of us, whether *intellect*, *emotions*, or *will*, that is not spoiled. Sin is not the result of our environment or upbringing. Satan is not the author of sin in the human heart. He cannot tempt us to things which we do not desire. The problem of sinfulness arises within each of us with our own desires (*James 1:14*).

TUESDAY

3. **At this point in John's account, how long have the Beast and the False Prophet been residents in the lake of fire (20:10)? What can you conclude from this about the duration of punishment in the lake of fire?**

**4. Does the Bible ever teach that individuals are ever annihilated?** (Consider the following Scriptures in your answer):

*“ The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather from his kingdom everything that causes sin as well as all lawbreakers. They will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ”* (Matthew 13:41–42, NET)

*“ but the sons of the kingdom will be thrown out into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” ”* (Matthew 8:12, NET)

*“ Then the king said to his attendants, ‘Tie him up hand and foot and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth!’ ”* (Matthew 22:13, NET)

*“ And these will depart into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”* (Matthew 25:46, NET)

*“ If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off! It is better for you to enter into life crippled than to have two hands and go into hell, to the unquenchable fire. If your foot causes you to sin, cut it off! It is better to enter life lame than to have two feet and be thrown into hell. If your eye causes you to sin, tear it out! It is better to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell, where their worm never dies and the fire is never quenched.”* (Mark 9:43–48, NET)

**5. In light of these passages, how should Matthew 10:28 be properly understood?**

- 6. Do you think God or Jesus sits upon the “great white throne” (20:11)? Consider also *John 5:22-23, 26-27* along with *Revelation 1:4; 3:21; 4:2; 5:1,6***
  
- 7. From your perspective, does it ever look like the throne is unoccupied-that life on planet earth is running recklessly out of control?**
  
- 8. When did God’s sovereignty became more than an abstract theological concept for you?**
  
- 9. Who are the dead who are judged (20:12; 20:5; Daniel 12:2)?**
  
- 10. How are the dead judged?**
  
- 11. Consider the bearing of Romans 3:9-18, 23 upon the outcome of this type of judgment.**
  
- 12. What is the only hope of sinners escaping the condemnation of this judgment (20:15)?**

The Bible mentions the *Book of Life* in two books of the New Testament (*Philippians 4:3; Revelation 3:5; 13:8; 17:8; 20:12, 15; 21:27; 22:19*). There are also veiled references to the consequence mentioned in 3:5 in the Old Testament (*Exodus 32:32-33; Psalm 69:28*).

**13. What do you think the *Book of Life* refers to and how does one get their name in it?**

**14. What then is the ultimate condemnation of sinners (*John 3:18-21; 12:48*)?**

It is like a man who jumps from a ship into the middle of the Atlantic Ocean and begins to swim. He has a limited time before hypothermia will cause him to sink beneath the waves. Suppose someone comes along in a lifeboat and throws him a lifeline with a life preserver attached. The man incredibly grabs the life preserver and tosses it aside out of his way. He continues to swim until he drowns.

Why did he drown? We could say he died because he jumped from the ship. We could say he died because he refused the life preserver. We could say he died because he refused to believe that the lifeboat would hold him up.

Why did he die? All of the above are true.

In 2 Corinthians 5:10, Paul says, "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be paid back according to what he has done while in the body, whether good or evil." The judgment seat of Christ is sometimes called the *bema* (*βῆμα*) seat. *The Dictionary of Biblical Languages* says that the *bema* was a *judicial bench* (Matthew 27:19; John 19:13; Acts 12:21; 18:12, 16, 17; 25:6, 10, 17).

**15. Consider what the Bible says about the judgment in the following passages:**

Luke 19:11-27 –

Romans 14:10 –

1 Corinthians 3:12-15 –

Galatians 6:7 –

Ephesians 6:8 –

Colossians 3:25 –

**16. Is there a difference between the great white throne judgment and the judgment seat of Christ? If so, what is the difference?**

**17. Will there be different degrees of punishment (*Matthew 11:20-24*). If so, what does this seem to be based upon (see *Matthew 10:14-15; 12:36; and Revelation 20:13*)?**