

**Revelation 20:12** Then I saw the dead, small and great, standing before the throne. And books were opened; and another book of a different kind 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.

**v. 13** Then the sea gave up the dead of those in it. Also death and Hades gave up the dead of those in them. Then they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds.

**v. 14** Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire.

#### Analysis:

1. In Revelation 20:11 a sequence of events summarizes the eternal destiny of those who reject Jesus Christ as Savior during human history.
2. The Great White Throne is occupied by the Lord Jesus Christ Who sits as the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Heaven.
3. In verse 11 the phrase, “from whose presence,” describes the event that culminated human history when the Lord will destroy the universe including the earth.
4. Details about this miraculous event are provided by Peter in 2 Peter 3:10–12. The prophesied removal of the universe is described by him in verse 10 with the phrase, “the elements will be destroyed with intense heat.”
5. All fallen angels who occupied the universe are transferred to a place in heaven where the Great White Throne is located.
6. Unbelievers, who previously were incarcerated in the Torments compartment of Hades, are transferred to the Lord’s courtroom as well.
7. The reason for these transfers is because “no place was found for them” since the earth and universe will have “vanished.”

(End JAS1-41. See JAS1-42 for continuation of study at p. 411.)

8. Verse 12 provides a brief description of those who are assembled before the Judge. The “small” includes those unbelievers who were not well known during their time on earth and whose works are classified as human good.
9. The “great” are those who achieved high praise and notoriety during their time on earth. Whatever their accomplishments, their human notoriety pales by comparison to the uselessness of their efforts in the field of human good.
10. Whether small or great, all the useless works of the unbelievers of history were catalogued in a series of books that were opened.
11. This set of books may be classified as *The Books of Works* referring to the human good performed by unbelievers. These volumes of books are joined by another book entitled *The Book of Life*.
12. These two categories of ledgers will serve as witness for the Prosecution in this trial. *The Book of Life* contains the names of all the believers of human history. This registry is documented in Revelation 20:12.
13. Again we see the impact of understanding the doctrine of the divine decree. *The Books of Works* contain the names of those individuals in human history who did not believe in Jesus Christ.
14. The individual or singular book is identified as the *Book of Life*. The name of every person in human history was recorded in the *Book of Life* at physical birth.

*The Book of Life is a scroll kept in heaven that contains the name of every human at the point of receiving the breath of life from God. This occurs when soul life is imputed to biological life at physical birth creating human life. Any such individuals that die as an unbeliever, his name is blotted out of The Book of Life. The Book of Life becomes a roster of only saved people. Once human history is over, The Book of Life contains only the names of believers.*
15. At the Great White Throne judgment, these two categories of books will determine the eternal fate of all unbelievers in human history.

16. The divine requirement for finding an individual guilty of a crime is by the testimony of two or more witnesses (Deuteronomy 19:15).
17. Witness number 1 is *The Book of Life* which contains the roster of every believer in human history. Each person assembled before the throne died in unbelief.
18. As a result, their names were blotted out of *The Book of Life* and then recorded in *The Books of Works*. These works contain all the efforts unbelieving humanity accomplished outside the divine power system, called “dead works” in Hebrews 6:1.

**Romans 3:20** By the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight.

19. Therefore, witness number 2 is *The Books of Works*, the record of human good and evil that the unbeliever trusted in for salvation.
20. Unbelievers are under the impression that their efforts in the devil’s world are sufficient to impress God for entry into heaven. They will be sadly disappointed.

**Proverbs 21:27** The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination, how much more when he brings it with evil intent!

21. Others that gather at the final judgment are described in verses 13 and 14. First of all we read that, “the sea gave up the dead of those in it.”
22. The “sea” refers back to the universal flood which was the global cleansing of the evil invasion of fallen angels recorded in Genesis 6.
23. This was Lucifer’s first major effort to take early victory in the Angelic Conflict. If he were able to destroy true humanity then there would be no more available witnesses for the Prosecution to testify in his appeal.
24. A select group of fallen angels, referred to as the “sons of God,” invaded earth and were permitted to be concupiscent with human women resulting in conceptions that produced a race of half-human, half-angelic creatures, referred to as the Nephilim (Genesis 6:4).

25. The proper noun, Nephilim, is erroneously interpreted to refer exclusively to the offspring of the fallen angels and human women. This was not the case and a study of the word helps resolve this.

נְפִילִים (*Nephilim*). A masculine noun used only in the plural meaning “giants.” The celebrated puzzling passage where this term is first used is Genesis 6:4 which merely transliterates the Hebrew word into English as Nephilim. These beings evidently appeared on the earth in the ancient past when divine beings [sons of God, i.e., fallen angels] cohabited with woman [*Homo sapiens*], and Nephilim [half angel, half-human], the mighty men or warriors of great fame, were the offspring.<sup>1</sup>

26. “Mighty men or warriors of great fame” quite possibly make reference to the heroes of ancient mythology.
- (1) These Nephilim may well be the inspiration for the Greek heroes of antediluvian times and eulogized by such legendary, pre-Homeric poets as Orpheus. He and others write of superhuman individuals such as Perseus (a son of Zeus), Thēseus, Mīnos (a son of Zeus), Hērāclēs (a son of Zeus), Jāson (leader of the Argonauts who sailed on the ship Argo to recover the Golden Fleece), and Castor and Polydeúcēs (Latin: Pollux).
  - (2) These are in contrast to the later heroes of the Trojan War: Odysseus or Ulyssēs (figures prominently in Homer’s *Iliad*) and Ajax who were humans in postdiluvian times.
  - (3) The Nephilim of Genesis 6 are characterized in ancient lore: Dionȳsus, Aesculápius, the Greek god of healing, Promētheus, a Titan, Pelops, a grandson of Atlas, and Apollō, a son of Zeus and twin brother of Ártemis.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Warren Baker and Eugene Carpenter, “נְפִילִים,” in *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: Old Testament* (Chattanooga: AMG Publishers, 2003), 743–44.

<sup>2</sup> Details and diacritical marks in points (1), (2), and (3) provided by M. C. Howatson, ed., *The Oxford Companion to Classical Literature*, 2d ed. (New York: Oxford University Press, 1989).