



# God Will Judge at the Great White Throne

*Revelation 20:1–15*



## LESSON GOAL

The child will understand the upcoming earthly kingdom of Christ and will realize the price of failing to believe in Him.

## LESSON OBJECTIVES

- Describe what will happen to Satan and his followers.
- List the characteristics of Christ's upcoming earthly kingdom.
- Tell by what standard the dead will be judged at the Great White Throne of Judgment.
- Explain what will happen to those whose names are not found in the book of life.

## KEY VERSE

"And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire." —*Revelation 20:15*

## APPLICATION

- Be encouraged that Satan will one day be done away with.
- Make sure you escape God's judgment by believing in Christ and repenting of your sins.
- Eagerly share the gospel with others who are not saved.

## NEXT WEEK

Jesus Is Coming Soon

*Revelation 21:1–8, 22–27; 22:12–17*

### Symbol Key



Craft



Memory Verse



Object Lesson



Game



Visual Aid



Activity



Q & A



Work Sheet



2 Grade Level



## PREPARE WITH THE TRUTH

*“Therefore you shall lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul... you shall teach them to your children.” —Deuteronomy 11:18–19*

Please take time to prepare your mind and heart to accurately handle the truths of God’s Word (2 Tim. 2:15). Read through the Bible background and study the truths contained in this lesson. Crucial background information is included here that will aid you in understanding the Scripture.

### Bible Background

#### Introduction

Imagine a world ruled by a perfect, glorious Ruler, who instantly and firmly deals with sin. As the curse of sin is removed and the environment is restored to the pristine purity of the Garden of Eden, the world would be dominated by righteousness and goodness. While such an earth may seem far-fetched, it accurately describes the conditions during the future earthly kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ. God’s people have eagerly anticipated such a time when Christ would return to defeat His foes and set up His earthly kingdom. Such anticipation has persisted because Christ’s earthly kingdom is to be the culmination of God’s redemptive plan and the realization of the hope of all the saints of all the ages. The church will have been raptured and brought to the heavens, a great tribulation of seven years will have fallen upon the earth, and all that will be left is for judgment to be finalized. In chapter 20 John writes of his vision regarding such judgment. Christ, the Worthy Lamb of God, and Ruler of the earth will establish His millennial kingdom and justly deal with all those who oppose Him.

#### **The Binding of Satan Ushers in Christ’s Earthly Kingdom (Rev. 20:1–6)**

The first matter for the King’s attention as He sets up His kingdom is the confinement of the chief rebel. By this time, God will have destroyed all human rebels (Rev. 19:11–21) and the beast (Antichrist) and false prophet will have been thrown into the lake of fire (19:20). The final step in preparation for the kingdom will be the removal of Satan and his demon hosts, so that Christ reigns without opposition of supernatural enemies.

In order to remove Satan from the earth, God chooses to send one of his angels. While the identity of this angel is unknown, we do know that he possesses great power; holding in his hand a great chain and the key to the bottomless pit (20:1). In possessing this key, he alone has the authority to open and close this created place of punishment. As he comes down from heaven, John sees that the angel has been sent to earth with one agenda: to seize, bind, and cast Satan (also referred to here as the dragon, serpent of old, and the devil) into the bottomless pit for a duration of a thousand years. Because of his opposition to God’s Son, which is pictured through the various titles he is referred to here, Satan would be sealed away for the entire thousand-year period that Christ is to rule in His earthly kingdom. During this time, Satan will not be able to deceive the nations (20:3); meaning that he will not be able to influence the world in any way.

With Satan, his demon hosts, and all God-rejecting sinners out of the way, the millennial kingdom of peace and righteousness will be established. The supreme ruler in that kingdom will, of course, be the Lord Jesus Christ (Luke 1:32; Rev. 19:16). Yet Christ has also promised that His saints will reign with Him (Dan. 7:27;

Matt. 19:28; 1 Cor. 6:2; 2 Tim. 2:12; Rev. 2:26; 3:21; 5:10.) That such a promise will be fulfilled is clear in the rest of John's vision. John sees God's people as being resurrected, rewarded, and reigning with Christ. He "saw thrones," signifying authority, and God's people "sat on them, and judgment was given to them" (Rev. 20:4). Enjoying a subordinate rule under Christ, the saints will be perfectly carrying out God's will throughout every aspect of life in the kingdom.

Next John sees the last group of saints who will reign with Christ in His kingdom. As his vision continues, John "saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands" (Rev. 20:4). These are the martyred believers of the Tribulation (6:9; 7:9–17; 12:11). During his forthcoming empire, the Antichrist will exterminate Tribulation saints for a variety of reasons: (1) their testimony of Jesus (19:10), (2) they will faithfully proclaim God's Word (6:9), (3) and they will not worship the beast or his image, and will not receive the mark on their forehead and on their hand (19:20). Like King Nebuchadnezzar in Daniel's day, the Antichrist will try to mandate upon others that they worship him. For those who refuse to worship the image of the Antichrist, the death sentence will be decreed (13:15). In fact, many of the martyrs that are mentioned earlier in Revelation (cf. 6:9–11; 7:13–14) are those who will be killed during this terrible time of persecution.

As part of his plan to enforce the worship of the Antichrist, the false prophet (who has at this point been thrown into the lake of fire with the Antichrist) will require all individuals to be given a mark on their right hand or on their forehead (13:16). This mark will signify those persons bearing it as being worshippers and loyal followers of the Antichrist. Those who refuse to take such a mark will be subject to execution. Because these tribulation saints seen here will be faithful even to death, evidencing their true salvation, they too will come to life and reign with Christ for a thousand years.

Such a resurrection of the saints John refers to as the first resurrection; and those who partake in it will be considered blessed and holy (20:5). Those that will take part in the second resurrection will be the unbelieving dead of all ages, whose resurrection to judgment and damnation is described in verses 11–15 following. Those who have a part in the first resurrection are blessed first of all because the "second death has no power" over them (20:6). This second death, defined in verse 14 as "the lake of fire," is eternal hell. The comforting truth is that no child of God will ever face God's eternal wrath (Rom. 5:9; 1 Thess. 1:10; 5:9). Those who participate in the first resurrection are also blessed because they will be "priests of God and of Christ" (1:6; 5:10; 20:6). Believers now serve as priests by worshiping God and leading others to the knowledge of Him (1 Pet. 2:9), and will also serve in that capacity during the millennial kingdom.

### **The Release and End of Satan (Rev. 20:7–10)**

As previously noted, Satan and his demons will be imprisoned in the bottomless pit for the duration of the Millennium, in which the Lord Jesus Christ will rule with unopposed sovereignty. They will not be permitted to interfere in the affairs of the kingdom in any way. Satan's binding will end, however, when "the thousand years are completed" and he is "released from prison" to lead a final rebellion of sinners. Despite the personal rule of Christ on earth, and despite the most moral society the world will ever know, many unsaved descendants of those who entered the millenium kingdom in their physical bodies will go about loving their sin and rejecting Christ (cf. Rom. 8:7). Even the wonderful conditions of the Millenium will not change the sad reality of human depravity. Satan's release and return to earth will provide the supernatural leadership needed to bring to the surface all

remaining rebellion left in the world (20:8).

Amazingly, John saw that the number of such rebels will be “like the sand of the seashore”—a figure of speech used in Scripture to describe a vast, uncountable multitude (Gen. 22:17; Josh. 11:4; Heb. 11:12). Such rebels will surround the saints, who will at that time be encamped within “the beloved city” of Jerusalem (cf. Pss. 78:68; 87:2). All saints will have gathered here because it will be the place of the Messiah’s throne and the center of the millennial world (cf. Isa. 24:23; Ezek. 38:12; 43:7; Zech. 14:9–11).

Because the rebellious will have gathered to oppose Christ, the battle will be but an execution. According to John’s vision, as the rebel forces moved in for the attack, “fire came down from heaven and devoured them” (20:9). They will be swiftly, instantly and totally exterminated, which is often the way God judges sinners (cf. Gen. 19:24; Lev. 10:2; Luke 9:54). Satan’s forces will be physically killed, and their souls will go into the realm of punishment, awaiting their final sentencing to eternal hell, which will take place shortly (20:11–15). John also records how their evil leader will not escape his fate. “The devil who deceived them” will be “thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone” (20:10). There he will join his cronies “the beast and the false prophet,” who by that time will have been in that place of torment for a thousand years (19:20). Once directed to that horrible place, they “will be tormented day and night” (20:10). There will not be a moment’s relief “forever and ever” (20:10); as hell will be an eternal place (Matt. 25:46; 2 Thess. 1:9; Rev. 14:10–11) of unquenchable fire (Mark 9:43).

### **The Great White Throne Judgment (Rev. 20:11–15)**

After witnessing the eternal end of Satan, along with the ushering in of Christ’s millennial kingdom, John next receives a vision of a Great White Throne. It is here that unrepentant sinners, those who reject God’s grace and mercy in this life, will inevitably face God’s justice in the life to come. For this reason, this passage is the most serious, sobering, and tragic passage in all of Scripture. After this there will never again need to be a trial, and God will never again need to act as judge.

The apostle is shown the Judge seated on His throne of judgment, and all the accused standing before Him. This Judge is none other than the exalted Lord Jesus Christ. The whole of the New Testament teaches that it will be God in the Person of His glorified Son who will sit in final judgment of unbelievers (John 5:22, 26–27; Acts 10:42; 17:31; Rom. 2:16; 2 Tim. 4:1). John also notes the startling reality that from the Judge’s “presence earth and heaven fled away” and that “there was no place found for them” (20:11). This is nothing else than the sudden, violent termination of the universe (cf. Ps. 102:25–26; Isa. 51:6; Matt. 5:18; 24:35; Heb. 1:11–12; 12:26–27). Even though the earth will have been restored during Christ’s millennial kingdom, it will still be tainted with sin and subject to the effects of the Fall—decay and death. Hence it must be destroyed, since nothing corrupted by sin will be permitted to exist in the eternal state (2 Pet 3:13). This is why God will create a new heaven and a new earth, as we will see in our last and final lesson.

The dead pictured here standing before the throne of divine judgment are not just from the millennial rebellion, but include all the unbelievers who ever lived. Since their deaths, their souls have been tormented in a place of torment known as Hades; and now the time has come for them to be sentenced to the final eternal hell. The all encompassing nature of such judgment demands that the sea, death, and Hades be forced to disgorge the vast number of souls they have kept captive over the ages. On this day, all of those who have died in unbelief will be required to stand before Christ—the Great Judge. Such judgment upon the unregenerate will not commence however apart from a divine standard. The books opened

before the Great White Throne contain the record of every thought, word, and deed of every unsaved person who ever lived. God has kept perfect, accurate, and comprehensive records of every person's life. Since God's justice demands payment for every person's sins, every person who does not measure up to God's perfect holy standard will be "judged from the things which were written in the books, each according to their deeds" (20:12–13). While Christ paid this penalty for believers (thus saving them from judgment), unbelievers, not having Christ's righteousness imputed to them (Phil. 3:9), will themselves pay the penalty for violating God's law—eternal destruction in hell (2 Thess. 1:9).

After the books containing the prisoners' evil deeds were opened, "another book was opened, which is the book of life" (Rev. 20:12). This book contains the names of all those whose "citizenship is in heaven" (Phil. 3:20). Thus the book of life is the record of all those who have responded to Christ in faith and repented of their sins. Those who refused to plead guilty to their sins in this world, repent, and ask God for a pardon based on the substitutionary work of Christ will not be found in the book of life. Such individuals will be pronounced guilty on the Day of Judgment and will have to suffer eternally for their sins. That such an end exists for unbelievers is evident at the close of John's vision of the Great White Throne of Judgment. According to this record, once the verdict is rendered; judgment will be swiftly carried out. While the blessed and holy participants in the first resurrection will not experience the second death (20:6), the rest of the dead, who did not participate in the first resurrection (20:5), will face the second death or hell, which is depicted here as the "lake of fire" (20:15). As horrible and painful as this place will be, those who die in their sins in this present world of time and space will die a "second death," sentenced to suffer an eternity in the lake of fire.

### **Conclusion**

There is only one way to avoid this terrifying reality of hell. Those who confess their sins and ask God to forgive them on the basis of Christ's substitutionary death on their behalf will be delivered from God's eternal wrath (Rom. 5:9; 1 Thess. 1:10; 5:9). While this passage stands as a warning to the unbelieving world, it also challenges believers to lead careful, watchful, godly lives, and to evangelize a hopelessly lost world headed for destruction. Believers therefore are to faithfully proclaim the saving gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, and thereby rescue the souls of men and women from the disaster that currently awaits them.

## POINT TO THE TRUTH

*“Give ear, O my people, to my law; incline your ears to the words of my mouth.”  
—Psalm 78:1*

This section includes questions to review last week’s lesson and ideas to prepare students for this week’s lesson. Choose from the following ideas to point to the truths of this lesson.



### Review Questions

What vision did God give to John in last week’s lesson?  
*God allowed John to see a vision of heaven.*

What was taking place in this vision?  
*God was holding a scroll that no one was able to open because no one was worthy.*

What did John do because no one could open the scroll?  
*John began to cry.*

Was there anyone that was found who could open the scroll?  
*Yes, the Lion of the tribe of Judah who is the Lamb of God. He is the only one who was worthy to open the scroll.*

What did the elders, four living creatures and angels do when the Lamb was found?  
*The elders, four living creatures and angels fell down before the Lamb and praised Him.*



### Difficult Concepts

**Judgment:** God is a God of love. He loves perfectly. However, He is perfect in every other area too. God cannot allow sin to go unpunished because He is perfectly holy and just. Illustrate justice by asking the students if it would be fair if their parents did not punish a sibling for anything he did wrong. What if he hit the student or took something that wasn’t his? It would only be right to punish him. God punishes sinners too. His judgment on them is to send them to Hell forever. Be sure to explain that Jesus took that punishment for all who believe in Him, and that Christ is the only way to escape God’s just wrath and judgment.

**1st and 2nd:** Every person will die one day. It is normal for people to die. Revelation refers to this as the first death. It also talks about a second death, however, which is when unbelieving people are thrown into Hell forever. This second death is a permanent condition of suffering and pain.

**Satan:** Satan was once one of God’s angels; however, he rebelled against God so God threw him and many other rebellious angels out of Heaven. Satan is an evil angel who continues to fight against God. Satan wants to be just like God and opposes everything God wants. Satan does not know everything like God does, cannot be everywhere like God is, and is not all-powerful like God is. He is very powerful, though, and constantly tries to deceive believers. He accuses them of sin when he talks to God, and the other evil angels who were thrown out of Heaven with him help him. Satan is a liar, and he constantly tries to trick people into believing his lies.



## Millennial Kingdom

Ask the students what they picture a kingdom to be like. “What specific things do you think should be in a kingdom?” Take this time to talk about what the millennial kingdom will be like. Describe to the students God’s plan for this time on earth and what the people will be like. Some of the prophecies which describe the conditions of the millennial kingdom are as follows:

By this time, God will have destroyed all human rebels (19:11–21) and the beast (Antichrist) and false prophet will have been thrown into the lake of fire (19:20).

The supreme ruler in that kingdom will be the Lord Jesus Christ (Luke 1:32; Rev. 19:16).

Christ has also promised that His saints will reign with Him (Dan. 7:27; Matt. 19:28; 1 Cor. 6:2; 2 Tim. 2:12; Rev. 2:26; 3:21; 5:10.)

Believers now serve as priests by worshiping God and leading others to the knowledge of Him (1 Pet. 2:9), and will also serve in that capacity during the millennial kingdom.

The saints will at that time be encamped within “the beloved city” of Jerusalem (cf. Pss. 78:68; 87:2).

All saints will have gathered here because it will be the place of the Messiah’s throne and the center of the millennial world (cf. Isa. 24:23; Ezek. 38:12; 43:7; Zech. 14:9–11).

Despite the personal rule of Christ on earth, and despite the most moral society the world will ever know, many unsaved descendants of those who entered the millennial kingdom in their physical bodies will go about loving their sin and rejecting Christ (cf. Rom. 8:7). Even the wonderful conditions of the Millennium will not change the sad reality of human depravity.



## The Guest Book

Have your students sign in a guest book on their way in to class. Use the book later in the lesson as an illustration of the book of life.



## The Source of Temptation

Discuss with your student what role Satan plays in believer’s lives. Ask them what our lives would be like if we no longer had to fight Satan’s temptation. Explain that we are still depraved. We sin, not because the Devil makes us, but because we have wicked hearts. In fact, Satan almost never personally tempts believers to sin. Our own wicked hearts and the wicked world Satan is in control of leads us into sin. First Peter 5:8 calls Satan an enemy of the Christian. Like a lion, he looks for Christians to eat. Christians are commanded to resist him by faith. James 4:7 guarantees us that when we submit to God and resist the Devil, the Devil will be forced to run away from us.



## Christ’s Reign

Bring in a picture of a king and a kingdom. Ask your students where Christ is now. Is He reigning now? Explain that He is not reigning over an actual physical kingdom right now, but that He is reigning in every believer’s heart right now. One day He will reign as an actual king over every person and nation. We usually refer to that time as “Heaven,” which will be Christ’s personal reign on a new earth where every Christian will live.



### **Bound**

Have a helper going around the room and trying to trick students into buying their snack for the day. Set up a jail or else chain him behind a table, etc, so he is unable to continue deceiving the students.



### **Reasons for Punishment**

Discuss different reasons people go to jail or are punished. Ask why Satan would be chained and punished.

## **PROCLAIM THE TRUTH**

*“Telling to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and His strength and His wonderful works that He has done.” —Psalm 78:4*

This section includes the Bible lesson, lesson questions, and praise and worship ideas. Song suggestions are included that you can use to proclaim your worship to God. Use the lesson questions to check the students’ understanding. This section also includes various presentation ideas to use alongside the teaching time. Read the Bible passage several times before you read these pages. All teaching should be done right from the Bible.

### **Bible Lesson**

#### **Passage Outline**

The Binding of Satan Ushers in Christ’s Earthly Kingdom (Rev. 20:1–6)

The Release and End of Satan (Rev. 20:7–10)

The Great White Throne Judgment (Rev. 20:11–15)

#### **Reading of the Text**

Read Revelation 20:1–15.

#### **Introduction**

Any rebellion against our parents usually ends up in us being punished in some form or fashion. And this it rightly deserves. Rebellion against those who are over us always deserves punishment. In the last days, a great and severe punishment will be dealt to those who rebel against God. Christ will come and rule on the earth for a thousand years, binding Satan for that entire time. When he is finally released and allowed to rebel one last time, God will deal with him and his followers most severely. To see what will come of those who rebel against God, let us now look at Revelation 20.



#### **Lead-off Questions (LOQs)**

**LOQ:** What is being prepared for at the beginning of today’s lesson?

**Answer:** The book of Revelation contains that which is to take place in the future. For believers, this future is very much welcomed as we look forward to being with Christ in heaven. However before this happens one of the events that must take place is for Christ to come and establish his kingdom on earth. This will be known as the millennial kingdom, for it will last for a thousand years.

**LOQ:** What role does the angel play in preparing for this kingdom?

**Answer:** The final step in preparation for the kingdom will be the removal of Satan and his demon hosts, so that Christ reigns without opposition. This is where the angel comes in. In his vision, John sees the angel coming down from heaven to earth, holding in his hand the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain. He has come for one reason: to seize, bind, and cast Satan into the bottomless pit for a period of a thousand years. Because of his opposition to God's Son, Satan will be sealed away for the entire thousand-year period that Christ is to rule in His earthly kingdom. During this time, Satan will not be able to deceive the nations (Rev. 20:3); meaning that he will not be able to influence the world in any way. Christ will be able to rule in His earthly kingdom without any opposition or rebellion. After the thousand years are up, John notes that Satan will then be released and allowed to come back to earth for but a short time.

**LOQ:** Who else is seen reigning with Christ in John's vision?

**Answer:** With Satan, his demon hosts, and all God-rejecting sinners out of the way, the millennial kingdom of peace and righteousness will be established. The supreme ruler in that kingdom will, of course, be the Lord Jesus Christ. Yet Christ has also promised that His saints will reign with Him (Dan 7:27; Matt 19:28; 1 Cor 6:2; 2 Tim 2:12; Rev 2:26; 3:21; 5:10.) That such a promise will be fulfilled is clear in the rest of John's vision. John sees God's people (i.e., believers) as being resurrected, rewarded, and reigning with Christ.

**LOQ:** Who will be a part of the first resurrection?

**Answer:** Those that take part in the first resurrection will be those who have believed and received true salvation through Jesus Christ. These individuals will have proven faithful in this life, some even to the point of death. Because they have given evidence of true salvation, they too will come to life and reign with Christ for a thousand years. They will be considered blessed because the "second death has no power" over them (20:6). This second death is the "lake of fire" mentioned later in the lesson, which is eternal hell. Because they are God's children they will never face God's eternal wrath.

**LOQ:** Who will be a part of the second resurrection?

**Answer:** Those that will take part in the second resurrection will be those that have failed to believe and submit to Christ in this life. As we will see later in the lesson, these individuals will be brought forth from the dead to encounter nothing but judgment and condemnation. Their end will be the same as that of Satan and the rest of God's enemies.

**LOQ:** What will take place at the end of Christ's thousand-year reign on earth?

**Answer:** When the thousand years are completed Satan will be released from the bottomless pit to lead a final rebellion of sinners. Those on earth who have continued to love their sin and reject Christ during His thousand year reign (which will be a great many) will be tempted and lured into following Satan in his last and final rebellion against God.

**LOQ:** In what way will the enemies of God plan to rebel against Him?

**Answer:** As all the rebellious will rally around the chief enemy Satan, he will lead them into a battle against God and His people. All the ungodly will surround the saints, who will at that be encamped within "the beloved city" of

Jerusalem. All saints will have gathered here because it will be the place of the Messiah's throne and the center of the millennial kingdom.

**LOQ:** How will God end the rebellion?

**Answer:** According to John's vision, as the rebel forces moved in for the attack, "fire came down from heaven and devoured them" (20:9). They will be swiftly, instantly and totally exterminated, which is often the way God judges sinners. All of Satan's forces will be physically killed.

**LOQ:** In the end, how will God ultimately deal with Satan?

**Answer:** John also records how their evil leader will not escape his fate. "The devil who deceived them" will be "thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone" (20:10). There he will join the rest of God's enemies. Once directed to that horrible place, they "will be tormented day and night" (20:10). There will not be a moment's relief "forever and ever" (20:10); as hell will be an eternal place of unquenchable fire.

**LOQ:** After God ends the rebellion, where are the rebellious immediately taken?

**Answer:** After witnessing the eternal end of Satan, along with the ushering in of Christ's millennial kingdom, John next receives a vision of a Great White Throne. The apostle is shown the Judge seated on His throne of judgment, and all the accused standing before Him. This Judge is none other than the exalted Lord Jesus Christ. On this day, every unbeliever who ever lived will be required to stand before Christ—the Great Judge.

**LOQ:** What will happen to the earth in the last days?

**Answer:** John notes that from the Judge's "presence earth and heaven fled away" and that "there was no place found for them" (20:11). This is nothing else than the sudden, violent termination of the universe. Even though the earth will have been restored during Christ's millennial kingdom, it will still be tainted with sin and thus subject to the effects of decay and death. Hence it must be destroyed, since nothing corrupted by sin will be permitted to exist in the eternal state. This is why God will create a new heaven and a new earth, as we will see in our last and final lesson.

**LOQ:** By what standard will unbelievers be judged?

**Answer:** The books opened before the Great White Throne contain the record of every thought, word, and deed of every unsaved person who ever lived. God has kept a perfect and accurate record of every person's life. Since God's justice demands payment for every person's sins, every person who does not measure up to God's perfect holy standard will be "judged from the things which were written in the books, each according to their deeds" (20:12–13). While Christ paid this penalty for believers (thus saving them from judgment), unbelievers, not having Christ's righteousness, will themselves have to pay the penalty for violating God's law. Such a penalty will be eternal destruction in hell.

**LOQ:** In the end, what will happen to those whose names are not written in the book of life?

**Answer:** After the books containing the prisoners' evil deeds were opened, "another book was opened, which is the book of life" (20:12). This book contains the names of all those whose "citizenship is in heaven" (Phil 3:20).

Thus the book of life is the record of all those who have responded to Christ in faith and repented of their sins. Those who refused to plead guilty to their sins in this world, repent, and ask God for forgiveness will not be found in the book of life. Such individuals will be pronounced guilty on the Day of Judgment and will have to suffer eternally for their sins. Such a penalty will be swiftly carried out. For all the ungodly will immediately thrown into the “lake of fire” (i.e., hell).

### Summary

In John’s vision he saw an angel come down from heaven holding a key and a great chain in his hand. The angel took hold of Satan and bound him and put him into a bottomless and locked it. Satan was bound there for 1,000 years so that he could not deceive anyone. John also saw thrones and the souls of people who had been beheaded for their faith. These men and women will reign with Christ for 1,000 years. After the 1,000 years Satan will be released for a short time. During this time Satan will create a rebellion against God and God’s people. God will devour these rebels with fire and will throw Satan into the lake of fire. Then John saw a great white throne where God sat with great books opened. The dead who stood before God were judged by their works and if their names were not written in the Book of Life they were cast into the lake of fire.

### Application

This passage serves as a great warning for any who would choose to continue to rebel against God. Those who fail to confess their sins, ask God to forgive them, and submit to Christ will endure a very severe punishment. For this reason, every believer should be careful to see whether his or her life is evidencing true salvation. While on earth, we should be eager to share the saving gospel to those who continue to walk in disbelief and rebel against God.

## Presentation Ideas



### Visual Aids

One effective way to teach the lesson is by using props to help visualize what takes place. Several props to use are as follows: key, chains, toy dragon (representing Satan the enemy), calendar (used to discuss the 1,000 year period of Christ’s kingdom), number 1 (first resurrection), number 2 (second death), flame (lake of fire and brimstone), throne, two books (one representing the book that contained the record of one’s deeds and the other representing the book of life).



### Satan Removed from Power

One characteristic of the millennial kingdom will be the removal of Satan’s influence upon the earth. To illustrate this to the students, have them write down a number of places/ways where Satan has influence today on small pieces of paper (i.e., media, magazines, schools, books, politics, false churches, etc.). Place these pieces of paper in a pile in the middle of the floor of the classroom. When the lesson approaches the moment where Satan is bound, removed from the earth and thrown into the bottomless pit, take a large vacuum and suck up all the pieces of paper. Take this time to talk with the students about how Christ will remove Satan from the earth when He comes to establish His earthly kingdom. Satan will not be allowed to influence the earth during this thousand-year period.



### Teaching Visuals

**20:4:** Bring a water-based ink stamp into class to put on the students' hand/forehead. Describe what the mark of the Beast means, even though we don't know what it will look like. Be sure that the ink will easily wash off before class.

**20:7:** Bring a calendar into class. Ask the students how long they think 1,000 years is. Flip through it, and explain that was only 1. Do it about 10 times and explain there is many more times to go. Alternatively, prepare sheets of paper with 10 year's worth of months on them. Pass them out to every student, then multiply to see how many years you have. Tell the students how many more students would be needed to have enough years to equal 1,000.

**20:11:** When you arrive at this verse, have the students try to hide somewhere in the classroom. Count to 10, then find them. Point out that it is just as easy for God to see people who try to hide from Him as it was for you to find the "hiding" students.

## PRACTICE THE TRUTH

*"That they may set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments." —Psalm 78:7*

Choose ideas from this section that review and apply the truths of the Bible lesson.



### Which Side Are You On?

Collect children in the center of the room. Ask children to pick between two choices and run to the side of the room. For example, choose between hamburger or hot dogs (one to the left, one to the right). The final question is to choose between being on God's side or Satan's side. The Bible addresses this choice in Revelation 20, what it means to choose God's side or Satan's side, the rewards and the punishments.



### "God will judge at the great white throne"

Use this worksheet to reinforce the key truths of today's lesson. It is located at the back of this lesson.

### Coloring Pages

Give each student a copy of the coloring sheets at the back of the lesson. He or she can color the pages in class or take them home to color.



### MEMORY VERSE

*"And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire."  
—Revelation 20:15*



# God

*will judge at the  
great white throne*



**Revelation  
20:1-15**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

1. What did the angel have in his hand? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Who is the dragon mentioned in Revelation 20:2? \_\_\_\_\_
3. How long will Satan be bound? \_\_\_\_\_
4. How long will the saints reign with Christ? \_\_\_\_\_
5. True or False: After the thousand years are finished, Satan will be released.
6. Satan will be cast into the lake of \_\_\_\_\_ after deceiving the \_\_\_\_\_  
(Rev. 20:10).
7. God will judge the dead at the \_\_\_\_\_ .
8. Those whose names are not written in the Book of \_\_\_\_\_ will be cast into  
the lake of fire.

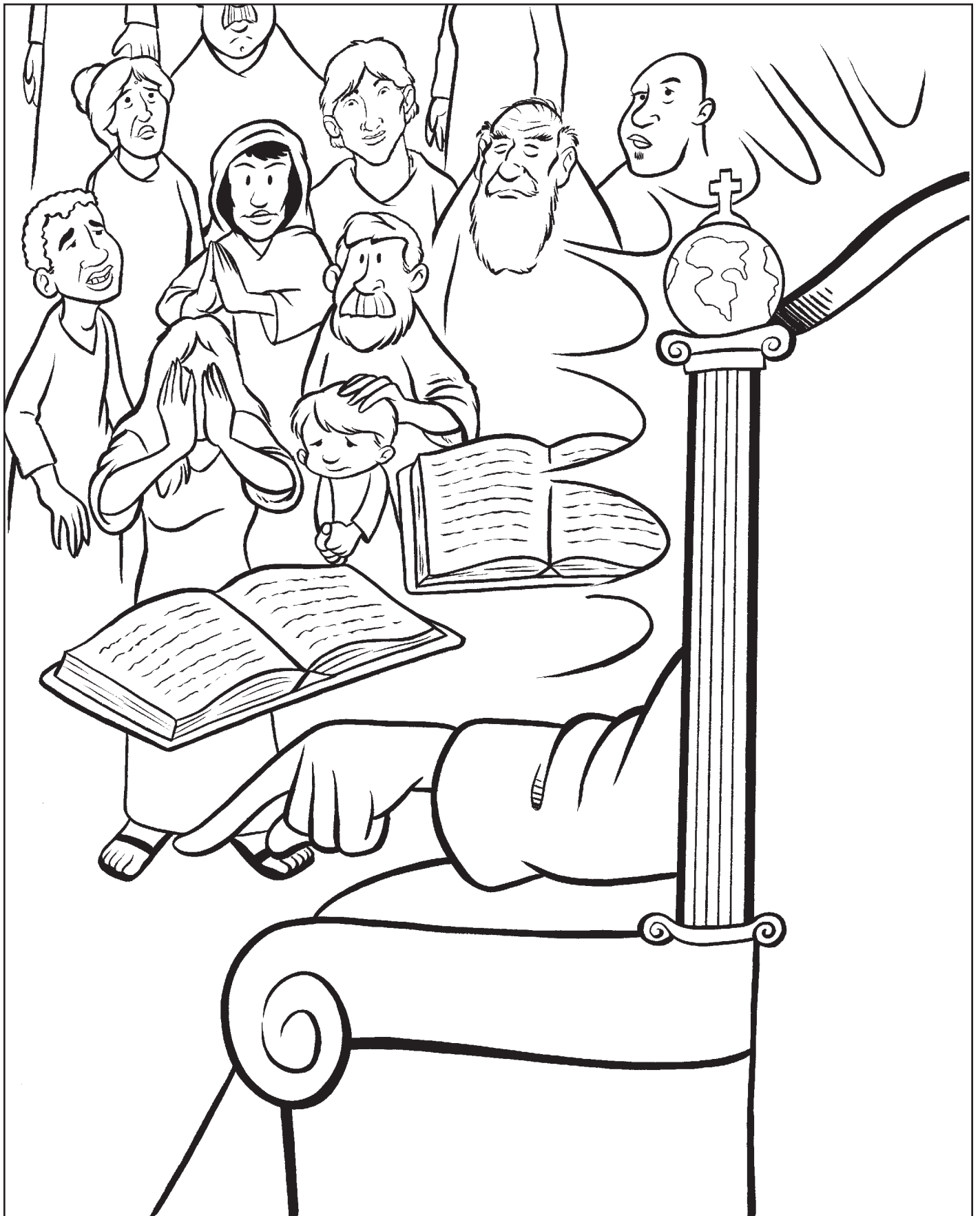




**"Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand."**

**— Revelation 20:1**





**“And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened.  
... And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things  
which were written in the books.” —*Revelation 20:12***

