

# "Earth & Heaven Fled Away!"

**A Particularly Enigmatic Passage is found in Revelation Chapter 20, verse 11, Which Presents a Picture of a REAL Future Event. Who can explain what it Means?**

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As the Millennial Age is shown drawing to a close, and the release of Satan will have come and gone in a blast of fire, the next scene described in the running narrative of the book poses a number of obvious questions. Not the least of which is, How exactly can this happen, and Why? What does this scene actually reveal about God's overall plan?

In some seven decades of church attendance, with a variety of 'evangelical' organizations, including the Church of God, I can truthfully say that I have not heard this particular passage brought out, except perhaps in passing, nor explained. With it being an important event, or at least marking the beginning of an important development in the redemption of greater humanity, you would think that it would be high on the priority of focal events.

## What Happens After Satan is Banished?

The passage in question reads: "*And I saw a **great white throne**, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and **there was found no place for them.** [12] *And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the **books were opened**: and another book was opened, which is the **book of life**: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.*"*

Now, it's important that we recognize just where we are in the prophetic timeline. The millennium is by now concluded, Satan has been released from his 1000 year imprisonment and has been defeated in his attempt to conquer the 'camp of the Saints' in Jerusalem (world headquarters at that time).

The very NEXT development is this scene, which introduces us to the condition we know as "the *Great White Throne*" upon which God sits (in the Person of His Son) to extend Judgment to a vast number of people – who never were actually yet 'judged' (sentenced) – who are to be raised from the dead! This is astounding, especially to people

who never incorporated this event into their theological understandings. The world's religions, for the most part, don't understand this development, and have no idea of the reason for it.

## A Great White Throne

Exactly what IS this event? Who does it involve? We have several aspects of this scene to factor-into our awareness.

First, that there is a new period of Judgment to be carried out involving people who never were pre-judged. An extended period of time (and its not just a momentary event) where people are to be raised from their unconscious state in order to be Judged. Were they never 'judged' before?

Second, that there is to be a vast space especially created for the purpose. Why is such a space an important part of this operation?

Third, that both insignificant and significant people who lived and died in the past are to stand alive again before this Judge. From other accounts, we understand these 'raised' peoples to be 'the rest of the dead' identified in verse 5 of the same chapter, who are to arise after the 1000 year millennium.

Fourth, that 'the books' are to be opened to them (for comprehension) for the first time and another key book also, with these other books, is to be re-opened for new names to be added into it.

## The Last Great Day

This event identifies that period of time mentioned in a number of places which we understand is the 'second resurrection' era. The Great White Throne represents a period of time allotted for providing a true and just opportunity period for those who in their previous lifetimes never had any real opportunity for salvation. It is not a 24 hour day in prophetic fulfillment. That's why where it shows the '*books ... opened* to them' is a significant aspect of this period of time.

This same period of time is also identified as the *Last Great Day* (the eighth day after the seven days of Tabernacles) identified in Leviticus 23:39 and John 7:37. <sup>1</sup> There can be no greater “Day” than what is described will happen in this insightful revelation. It’s such an exceptional and unique situation that it warrants this graphic scene. It should raise many profound questions.

### Numerous Questions!

When earth and heaven spreads back, we have to wonder what is meant. Is there no atmosphere left to breathe and no solid earth left to stand upon? If so, it would pose certain conflicts with what else we expect to be happening at this point.

How long does this away-fleeing of earth and heaven continue? Is it applicable to the entire second resurrection era? Is the event actual or merely illustrative of some other aspect of this new age?

### What or Who is the “Them”?

Also, does the “*no place found for them*” refer to the physical elements or does it apply to those people being raised? In respect to this consideration, we would logically consider that it refers to earth and heaven having no place. We could also consider the possibility that it refers to the individuals: that there is no place for them to hide, (from pending judgment), or that there is no place where they, at this early point, can rightfully and justifiably be consigned. They at this point are as yet worthy of neither Life nor Death, not having been truly ‘called of the Father’ having purposely been blinded by Him or by Satan. <sup>2</sup>

### In Either Event:

Even if the statement applies to earth and heaven, it remains that these resurrected people have no accountability as yet for their spiritual condition, in that they weren’t offered any opportunity for salvation previously.

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<sup>1</sup> This was the **eighth day** of the Feast of Tabernacles season, which can be seen by reading the Gospel of John chapter 7. Some pose that the reference is to the seventh day of the Feast of Tabernacles, but when we understand what is to occur, what is represented by this eighth day, nothing as great could be offered as to what’s happening on that previous day. And, the Great White Throne is clearly after the Tabernacles period is over.

<sup>2</sup> John 6:44; Romans 11:7&8; 2Cor. 3:14; 2Cor. 4:4.

Now, we should also remember that the LORD, this same Judge, will have been on earth for 1000 years at this point in time, and earth and heaven did not flee away from Him for all those years! What is the situation with this Great White Throne event that sets up the scene we are presented?

If there is any conclusion that we can and should draw from this scene it’s that this age is to be vastly different from any previous age. There had been nothing like it in history, nor will there ever be again. The Plan for the Redemption of all of humanity (at least providing them an opportunity for it) requires such an ‘open book’ age. Those who come awake again in this age will realize that a whole new world order is extant at this time.

This age is to be truly different! What they rise up into will be unlike anything in their past. Will they think in the first moments that they are seeing the ‘heaven’ they’d always thought of?

### Space Accommodation

When earth and heaven flee away as described, what happens? Well, for one thing, a huge space is created which can accommodate a vast number of people. Those called up and who hear <sup>3</sup> at this point will likely number in the 50-billions. The number of people who’ve lived and died since the beginning of time prior to the Second Coming is vast! With the earth drawn back, no obstruction or geological feature would prevent their seeing and being seen, and no cloud would be there to do the same. Perhaps we should consider it to be saying that “*no place is found for them...*” to assemble as being the reason for this space being created.

This massive assemblage of humanity will stand before their Creator to be TOLD what is happening, being made fully aware of where they now are and what their future will require of them! And, does this scene not suggest that all who come up in the second resurrection will rise at one time?

While the scene described may challenge our comprehensive abilities, we can know at least that this scene marks the opening of the transitional period between the millennial age and the second resurrection era: the Last Great Day. 

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<sup>3</sup> John 5:25 “... *those who hear will rise...*” suggests that not all will hear at this point in time. This call to arise will exclude any who previously had an opportunity for salvation, but who spurned it.