

**PASTOR RUSSELL'S SERMON
THE GREAT WHITE THRONE
Day of Doom Much Misunderstood**

London, November 6.—Pastor Russell at Royal Albert Hall yesterday gave a most encouraging explanation of the Great White Throne of Revelation xx, 11. Pastor Russell's discourse at the Royal Albert Hall last night closed his present engagement here, so far as the public are concerned. He leaves for home next Saturday to fill an appointment at Cleveland, Ohio, on the 20th inst. With him will go the love and prayers of many English friends, whom he has practically promised he will return next spring.

That last evening's audience at Royal Albert Hall was deeply interested in Pastor Russell's address was evidenced by the earnest expression upon their faces and the close attention which they gave, notwithstanding the address was much more lengthy than is usual here.

The speaker sympathized with his audience in the general dread with which the Day of Judgment is usually regarded. He also once had the common view and now well knows its inconsistency and terrible misrepresentation of the Divine Program. The false view, he declared, began to be introduced in the Second Century and human fear and superstition continually made it worse and worse. The Bible, on the contrary, represented it as a period of glory and blessing. He noted the Psalmist's declaration, calling upon humanity and all creation to rejoice because the Lord would come to judge the earth in righteousness and the poor with equity. (Psalm cviii, 9.)

According to the Bible the world's judgment day will be the world's time of opportunity for coming to a knowledge of God and then being tried, tested, or judged as to their willingness to serve and obey God and his righteousness government. Those found heartily obedient will be granted everlasting life with every joy and blessing appropriate to man in his perfection. Those rebellious to the light of righteousness of Jehovah will be destroyed in the Second Death without hope of any future whatever.

That will be the time when all the heathen will have their trial, after they shall all be brought by Messiah's Kingdom to a clear knowledge of the truth. That will be the time when the great masses of Christendom will for the first time hear the real character of God and his requirements of them. Although some of them may have been in churches occasionally, nevertheless the eyes of their understanding were darkened. They saw not; they heard not; they understood not. The god of this world blinded them (II Corinthians iv, 4.)

That Judgment day, the thousand years of Messiah's Kingdom, will not only blind Satan, but chase away with the glorious beams of the Sun of Righteousness all the darkness, superstition and error of the world.

The Church will not be judged during that thousand year Judgment Day because her trial, her judgment, takes place now—during this gospel age. The saintly few who will gain

the great prize of joint-heirship with the Redeemer, Messiah, will be his Queen and sit with him in the Great White Throne of Judgment mentioned in the text, as the Apostle declares, "Know ye not that the saints shall judge the world?" (Corinthians vi 2.)

Our former and very unreasonable view was that man, "born in sin, shapen in iniquity," depraved in all of his appetites, would be condemned of God in the Judgment Day on account of his heredity and environment, for which he is not responsible. The theory was that the heathen also would be damned in that Judgment Day, because they did not know and did not accept "the only name given under heaven." The theory was also that the masses of civilized society would in that Judgment Day be damned because they would not, and because they did not, live perfectly, notwithstanding their heredity.

Now, said the speaker, we see that the death sentence was upon Adam and all of his race, who were in his loins when he sinned. We see that they could not be put on trial a second time until released from the first sentence. We see that their release will be at the second coming of Messiah in the glory of his Kingdom, when he shall cause the knowledge of the Lord to fill the whole earth and open all the blinded eyes. Then, because of having satisfied the claims of justice against the race, the Great Redeemer, as the Mediator of the New Covenant will grant the world of mankind another trial—additional to the one given to Adam, in which they all failed and from the penalty of which failure Jesus redeemed them.

True, the measure of light and knowledge now enjoyed and wilfully sinned against will work a corresponding degradation of character; all such downward steps will need to be retraced.

Symbolically the whiteness of the throne indicates the purity of the justice and judgment which will be meted out by the Great Redeemer as the Messiah-King. The heavens and earth which will flee away from the presence of that throne are not the literal, but the symbolical. The ecclesiastical heavens and the social earth of the present time will not stand in the presence of that August Tribunal. The people will not be judged nationally nor by parliaments and systems in society, but individually. The judgment or trial will not merely test those living at the time of the establishment of the Kingdom, but will include all the dead.

The books of the Bible will then be opened—understood. All will then see that the Golden Rules laid down by the inspiration through Moses and the Prophets, Jesus and his Apostles, are the very ones which God will require of men in the future and which Messiah will then enable the willing and obedient to comply with by assisting them up out of their sin and degradation. The judgment of that time, the test, will not be of faith, for knowledge will be universal and all the darkness and obscurity created by ignorance and superstition will have passed away. The test at that time will be of works, whereas the tests of the Church at the present time are of faith.

Pastor Russel declared that the Lamb's Book of Life alone is open now and only those called to be members of the Bride class and who accept the call are written therein. Put in the great day of the world's trial or Judgment another book of life will be opened. A record will be made of all who, by obedience, show themselves worthy of everlasting life on the human plane, and, if faithful, they will eventually be accepted of the Father to life eternal.

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