Revelation 20:11-15

20:11 – "Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them."

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- 1. "earth and sky fled"
 - a. Destroyed and recreated
 - i. 2 Peter 3:7, 10-12
 - ii. Luke 16:17 "But it is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for one dot of the Law to become void."
 - iii. Luke 21:33 "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away."
 - iv. Matt 24:35 "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away."
 - v. Mark 13:31 "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away."
 - b. Renovated

20:12 – "And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done."

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- 1. "dead" are the unbelievers of all time coming out of sheol or hades
- 2. "great and small" in worldly staus, and possibly some reference to some sort of spiritual status
- 3. "standing" = resurrected
 - a. Rev. 20:5 "
 - b. Daniel 12:1-3 "At that time your people shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book. And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. And those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky above; and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.."
- 4. "books" refer to recordings of their deeds as in "the dead <u>were judged by what was written in</u> <u>the books</u>, *according* to what **they had done**."
 - a. Deut. 32:34 "
 - b. Ps. 56:8 "You have kept count of my tossings; put my tears in your bottle. Are they not in your book?"
 - c. Isa. 65:6 "Behold, it is written before me: 'I will not keep silent, but I will repay; I will indeed repay into their lap.' "
 - d. Dan. 7:10 "A stream of fire issued and came out from before him; a thousand thousands served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him; the court sat in judgment, <u>and the books were opened</u>."
 - e. Mal. 3:16 "Then those who feared the Lord spoke with one another. The Lord paid attention and heard them, and a book of remembrance was written before him of those who feared the Lord and esteemed his name."
 - f. Matt. 12:36-37 "I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak, for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."
 - g. The GREAT WORK is believe in Jesus or faith as in John 6:29 "Then they said to him, 'What must we do, to be doing the works of God?' Jesus answered them, '<u>This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has</u> <u>sent</u>.' "

- i. This is the only "work" or "deed" that eternity (eternal life or eternal death) pivots on.
- ii. This "work" or "deed" places your name into the Lamb's Book of Life
- iii. John 5:24 "Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me <u>has eternal life</u>. He <u>does not come into judgment</u>, but has <u>passed</u> <u>from death to life</u>."
- 5. "book of life"
 - a. Rev. 3:5 "Like them, he who overcomes will be dressed in white. And <u>I will never blot</u> out his name from the **Book of Life**, but I will confess his name before My Father and His angels."
 - b. Rev. 13:8 "all who dwell on earth will worship it, <u>everyone whose name has not been</u> <u>written before the foundation of the world</u> in the **book of life of the Lamb** who was slain."
 - c. Rev. 17:8 "The beast that you saw was, and is not, and is about to rise from the bottomless pit and go to destruction. And the <u>dwellers on earth whose names have not</u> <u>been written in</u> the **book of life** from the foundation of the world will marvel to see the beast, because it was and is not and is to come."
 - d. Rev. 20:15 "if anyone's name was <u>not found written</u> in the **book of life**, he was <u>thrown</u> <u>into the lake of fire</u>.
 - Rev. 21:27 "But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who practices an abomination or a lie, but <u>only those whose names are written in</u> the Lamb's Book of Life."
 - f. Isa. 4:3 "he who is left in Zion and remains in Jerusalem will be called holy, everyone who has been recorded for life in Jerusalem
 - g. Ps. 69:28 "Let them be blotted out of the book of the living; let them not be enrolled among the righteous."
 - h. Dan. 12:1 "At that time shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people. And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book."
 - i. Luke 10:20 "Nevertheless, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your **names are written in heaven**."
 - j. Phil. 4:3 "Yes, and I ask you, my true yokefellow, to help these women who have labored with me for the gospel, along with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the **Book of Life**."
 - k. (Exodus 32:32 Moses said, "now, if you will forgive their sin—but if not, please blot me out of your book that you have written."
 - I. (Deuteronomy 9:14 "Let me alone, that I may destroy them, and blot out their name from under heaven: and I will make of thee a nation mightier and greater than they.")
 - m. (Deuteronomy 25:19 –" Therefore it shall be, when the LORD thy God hath given thee rest from all thine enemies round about, in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee for an inheritance to possess it, that thou shalt blot out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven; thou shalt not forget it.")
- 6. Since the deeds of the resurrected unbelievers are judged (evaluated) and rewarded according to Rev. 20:13 ("they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done.") there does seem to be room for levels of punishment or degrees of judgment in eternal damnation.

a. Matthew 11:20-24 – "...it will be more bearable on the day of judgment or Tyre and Sidon than for you...it will be more tolerable on the day of judgment for the land of Sodom than for you..."

20:13 - "And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done."

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- 1. "Sea gave up the dead who were in it"
 - a. All the dead bodies of all the unbelievers in the state of "death" whose souls are kept in the location of "Hades" are resurrected to rejoin the dead souls.
 - b. The "sea" is mentioned because these are bodies that were lost to time and decayed without burial or a tomb location. The bodies at sea represent all the lost bodies that have no burial location.
 - c. Point: Every body of the unbeliever is resurrected
 - d. Jesus warned there would be a resurrection of not only the righteous, but also the unrighteous, unbeliever:
 - i. Matthew 10:28 "do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell."

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ii. Luke 12: 5 – "But I will warn you whom to fear: fear him who, after he has killed, has authority to cast into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him!"

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- 2. Since the deeds of the resurrected unbelievers are judged (evaluated) and rewarded according to Rev. 20:13 ("they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done.")
 - a. There does seem to be room for levels of punishment or degrees of judgment in eternal damnation.
 - i. Matthew 11:20-24 "...it will be more bearable on the day of judgment or Tyre and Sidon than for you...it will be more tolerable on the day of judgment for the land of Sodom than for you..."
- 3. Judged for "works" or "deeds" is a principle through out the Scriptures:
 - a. Ps. 62:12 "O Lord, belongs steadfast love. For you will render to a man according to his work."
 - b. Matt. 25:45-46 The Sheep and Goat Judgment "Then he will answer them, saying, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."
 - c. Romans 2:6-11 "He will render to each one according to his works: to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life; but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury. There will be tribulation and distress for every human being who does evil, the Jew first and also the Greek, but glory and honor and peace for everyone who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek. For God shows no partiality."
 - d. Heb. 4:12-13 "For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account."
 - e. Hebrews 9:27 "...it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment
 - f. Including believers at the Bema Seat of Christ:
 - i. Rom. 14:10 "For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God."
 - ii. 1 Cor. 3:13 "Each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done."
 - iii. 2 Cor. 5:10 "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil."

20:14 – "Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire."

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- 1. "Death" is the state of these souls. These souls are dead and death is separation from something such as:
 - a. Separation from the body
 - b. Separation from God
- 2. "Hades" is the location of these souls. These souls are in Hades, the underworld which was called Sheol in the OT.
- 3. The "second death" is separation from God in the Lake of Fire while eternally existing in a resurrected body
 - a. The first death is separation from the body.
 - b. The second death is eternal separation from God.
- 4. 1 Cor. 15:26, the last enemy, "death", is here defeated as Paul predicted:
 - "The last enemy to be destroyed is death."

20:15 – "And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire."

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- 1. Eternal damnation is a solid biblical doctrine:
 - a. Matt. 18:8; 23:15, 33; 25:41, 46
 - b. Mark 9:46

