

THE GREAT WHITE THRONE.

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"I saw a great white Throne."—Rev. xx:11

No ordinary magistrate is to preside at this great throne, he will be a king, a heavenly king, a divine king. The tribunal will be the highest before which man can be brought. Before that tribunal there will be a thorough hearing, and it will be a tribunal of last resort and there will be no reversal of its decree. It is not only a judgment, but a *last* judgment, never to be succeeded by any other. Eternity may give endless repetition, but it can never pronounce its reversal. The last judgment is the final judgment. The throne is called great because it is presided over by a great King, and is instituted for a great purpose. Thousands of angels will attend its session; the rich and the poor and the high and the low will be there for judgment.

The judgment throne is also white; it will be of dazzling brightness, because a throne of the purest justice. The Judge is the Saviour of the world, Jesus Christ, of whom Christian creeds declare, from heaven He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. The Son is to be the Judge. Since He made the world by His Son, and governed it through His Son, it is fitting from a divine standpoint that He should judge the world by His Son. It is fitting also from this standpoint. God the Father could not judge as well as the Son. Our Lord will not judge in His divine character, but being incarnate He will judge man as man. The judge must be di-

vine in order to be qualified to judge. When He will appear on the throne He will appear as man. When men look upon Christ they will look upon their Elder Brother who was born in a manger: Who walked upon this earth and knows man through and through, and therefore is qualified to judge man; He knows his infirmities and abilities and is in full sympathy with him. The judgment throne is white, glistening, and pure, because it cannot abide anything in its presence but that which is holy and pure. All else will be cast aside as worthless. It will therefore seem from the word-picture given in the Scriptures, that the presence of Christ on that throne will be so real that anything not strictly pure will not be able to abide in it. Like the direct rays of sunlight, the glance of His eye will consume whatever is wicked. the dissolution of the material world is but an accessory of judgment, and the dissolution of whatever is worldly in man, or earthly, is a fact of which the dissolution of the material world is but a figure. The object of judgment is to see who are fit to dwell forever in the immediate presence of God. If everybody were to be saved, there would be no occasion for judgment. The revelation of judgment is a revelation of partial salvation. Before the great white throne all distinction shall have ceased. Nothing but character can avail a man in that hour—not the character hoped for but the character possessed.

Let us look at the process of this judgment. First, its judgment is impartial, equitable, and merciful. More than this no man can ask. Secondly, when judgment is passed