

Shayla: I find the Bema and the Throne of Judgment confusing.

Extended question: I find the Bema Seat and the Great White Throne of Judgment confusing. I get them mixed up all the time. I have a few questions.

Meforshim:

1. Christians do not go to the Great White Throne of Judgment Seat, but rather the Bema Seat, correct?

We may attend, but we will not be under scrutiny.

2. Therefore, when we die and go to Heaven, we are aware that we are in Heaven and will one day face the judgment of the Bema Seat. We have certain blessing at that point as we are not in our earthly bodies and are with Christ, but also terrible regrets for not fulfilling our potential while on earth, right?

That is correct. In the article, I give you two passages intimating Paul felt this should be a motivating factor for a righteous life. (2 Peter 3:11-12)

3. All Christians go to the Bema Seat at the same time right before the New Heaven & Earth?

The timing of the Bema Seat is debatable. I personally believe that it will take place before the Judgment Seat as 2 Peter 4:17 seems to teach that judgment starts with God's household. I have good reason to believe that it will take place during the Day of the Lord while the earth is undergoing God's wrath.

4. So, do the unsaved know when they are in Sheol that they aren't going to go to Heaven or do they think when they face the Judgment Seat there is a possibility that their name will be found?

In the story of the rich man and Lazarus (Luke 16:19-31), the rich man was very conscious of his doom and was trying desperately to make sure that his brothers who remained on earth escaped a similar fate.

5. If it's just for the unsaved, no one's name is found, correct?

That is correct. Again, you will find ample evidence of this in the attached article under the footnote for "Book of Life". However, you may find further details concerning the Book of Life in the following passages: Exodus 32:33; Psalm 9:5; 139:16; Philippians 4:3; Revelation 3:5; 13:8; 17:8; 20:12-15;

For further consideration...

- **Revelation 20:12-15 HCSB** I also saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life, and the dead were judged according to their works by what was written in the books. (13) Then the sea gave up its dead, and Death and Hades gave up their dead; all were judged according to their works. (14) Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. (15) And anyone not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.

What are the things which were written in the books? These books record everything we have done (every idle word spoken relating to God and Jesus).

- **Matthew 12:36 HCSB** I tell you that on the day of judgment people will have to account for every careless word they speak.

The other books mentioned are likely biographies of the individuals. The times they heard the Gospel and rejected it, their good and bad deeds that will determine their degree of punishment, not their salvation. God has perfect record keeping.

The term "another book," refers to the roll-book of the regenerated, those washed and sanctified through faith in His blood sacrifice for their sins. The first death consisted in the separation of the soul from the body temporarily until this judgment. The second death in the separation of both body and soul from God forever. The first death has a resurrection to eternal life without sin. From the second death is there is no recovery.

Those who received Christ find that their name remains written in His book of life (the Lamb's book) and it is also retained in the Book of Life. Those who reject him, never have their name written in His (the Lamb's) book. Their name is also removed from the book of life, of which everyone's name is written down that ever lived.

- [Psalms 9:5 HCSB](#) You have rebuked the nations: You have destroyed the wicked; You have erased their name forever and ever.
- [Hebrews 12:23 HCSB](#) to the assembly of the firstborn whose names have been written in heaven, to God who is the judge of all, to the spirits of righteous people made perfect,