

Dear Darryl,

Thank you for submitting your thoughtful question to us at Christian Questions Radio. You said that one of the meanings of the Greek word “krisis” is judgment and that the word seems to have this rendering in Matthew 23:33, Mark 3:29, Hebrews 10:27, Revelation 18:10 and 19:2. You stated that in the Matthew, Mark and Hebrews accounts it describes second death. You said that in the Revelation verses it is used to describe the eternal death of the world’s systems. You asked how we could be sure that Jesus did not use this word (“krisis”) to refer to the second death when he said in John 5:29 that those that have not followed after Him would have a resurrection of judgment. You asked how we could be sure that the resurrection of judgment in John 5:29 does not correspond to Revelation 20:13 and 15, which describe the dead coming forth and “anyone not written in the book of life being thrown into the lake of fire?”

The Greek word “krisis” is Strong’s #2920 and means a decision (for or against), an accusation, condemnation, damnation or judgment. From the context of Matthew 23:13, Mark 3:29, Hebrews 10:27 and Revelation 18:10 and 19:2 we agree that the judgment, either on the individual or on the system, is a clearly a final one—second death. However, John 5:28-29 is a direct reference to the harvest of the Gospel age and the Millennial age (the Day of Judgment) when people will come forth from their graves to have an opportunity to make right the wrongs of their previous lives and to learn what true righteousness is and have it written in their hearts. “Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming in which all that are in their graves [those who have followed after Jesus during the Gospel age as well as everyone else] shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good unto a resurrection of life [they receive a heavenly reward]; and they that have done evil [the remainder of the world who have not qualified for a heavenly reward, due to the time in which they lived, their character, etc.] unto a resurrection of damnation [judgment].” (John 5:28-29) The Millennial age will give everyone who has ever lived a second chance for everlasting life on earth.

The translators of the KJV rendered #2920 (krisis) in John 5:29 “damnation” because they supposed (as most Christians unfortunately still do today) that there was no hope except this present life, and consequently could think of no object God would have in calling the unjustified from their graves, except to damn (condemn) them publically. The KJV’s rendering of “krisis” (damnation) in John 5:29 is a serious error, which has assisted in confusing the minds of many respecting the true import of the passage. We see this same viewpoint of the translators in John 5:24 where “krisis” (#2920) is translated “condemnation.” However, “krisis” is rightly translated “judgment” in John 5:27. Moreover, the same word (#2920) is rendered as “judge”, “judgment”, and “just” in John 5:30.

We believe that Jesus in the entire passage of John 5:24-30 is talking about two classes of people, those who are already judged during the Gospel age and have achieved a heavenly reward and those who have yet to be judged. The second class will be awakened from their graves to a period of future on-going judgment where they will have an opportunity to learn righteousness and achieve life everlasting on earth. If #2920 is rendered “judge’ or “judgment” in every place it is used in John 5:24-30, the passage makes complete sense and is not confusing.

The word “judged” in Revelation 20:13 is Strong’s # 2919 (“krino”) and means to decide, distinguish, condemn, try, or punish. By definition we can see that it implies finality. “And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged [final judgment] every man according with their works [not works during their previous life on earth, but works throughout the period of judgment, the 1000 year Millennial age]. . . . And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire [the second death].” (Revelation 20:13,15)

How can we be sure that the resurrection to judgment in John 5:29 does not correspond to Revelation 20:13 and 15? “Krisis” in John 5:29 refers to coming under judgment (the Millennial Day—the 1000 year judgment period). This will be a period where reformation will be possible. John 5:29 is part of the larger context of John 5:24-30, which bears out this perspective. However, Revelation 20:13-15 refers to the end of the 1000-year Judgment Day and uses the word “judged” (“krino”) implying finality. That finality is brought out in verse 15, where those found lacking righteousness at the end of the Judgment Day are cast into the lake of fire (the second death).

We hope we have answered your question. Be sure to sign up for CQ Rewind at www.christianquestions.net. The service is free without obligation and will provide you with scriptural perspective on many questions and topics.

Sincerely,

Christian Questions Radio