



A Study of Revelation

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Week Ten – The Final Judgement, Hell, and Lake of Fire

A BRIEF PREFACE TO THE AFTERLIFE

➤ *Hebrews 9:27* – *And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment.*

To understand the nature of our death and judgment, we must understand that, as God’s creation, we have two unique features that affect the ultimate destiny of every person:

- **We are _____ beings with _____ experiences.** This means the things we experience in this world are only partial reality—there is another realm that we have lost sight of yet affects us as much as the physical realm. This is why our physical actions do not determine our standing before God or our ultimate destiny.

More importantly, our ultimate destiny is primarily spiritual with a physical aspect. This is why our destiny (whatever it may be) is eternal, because it is not based on the physical realm but the spiritual realm.

- **We have a divine _____ as personal _____ of an eternal God.** We are the only created beings that were made in God’s image. God is Spirit and He breathed His Spirit into us, which is what made us spiritual (and therefore eternal) beings. But being made in God’s image also means we are the only ones who can relate to God and commune with Him. Therefore, our standing before God and our ultimate destiny are relational in nature, not legal.

With these two features in mind, we can begin to understand that what happens when a person dies is based on what they have done with Jesus.

- Those who have received Jesus only die physically (“once”), and their judgment is a reward ceremony in celebration of arriving to their heavenly home.
- Those who have rejected Jesus not only die physically, but their judgment is a revealing of what their decision to reject Christ means—that they are eternally separated from the relational love of God in Christ (“second death,” Rev. 20:14).

I. Hades/Hell: The Temporal Torment of the Lost¹

- Hell is neither the devil’s playground nor someone’s punishment on earth.
- Hell was _____ created for _____, but for the devil and his angels (Matt. 25:41).
- Hell is a necessary expression of the _____ of God.

- ❖ **Hell** – Greek term *Hades* (*a-*, negative particle + *idein*, “to be seen” = “ _____ ”), and it generally means the place of death.
 - The term is only found _____ times in the New Testament. As a proper name, *Hades* or *Pluto* refers to the Greek mythological god of death and the underworld (see Homer’s writings; *Orcus* in Roman mythology, Theocritus).
 - Seventy times in the Septuagint, the Hebrew term _____ is translated with *hades* this word (every time except one; 2 Samuel 22:6), implying the infernal regions, a dark (Job 10:21) and dismal place in the very depths of the earth (Job 11:8; Isaiah 57:9; Amos 9:2), the common receptacle of disembodied spirits (Luke 16:23).

➤ **Luke 16:19-31**

The torments of hell are both real and explicit:

- 1) Loss of _____ (“rich man” vs. “Lazarus”, vv 19-22)
- 2) _____ of being lost (v 23)
- 3) _____ (v 24)
- 4) Unquenchable _____ (v 24)
- 5) Reality of what was _____ (v 25)
- 6) Loneliness/ _____ (v 26)
- 7) Conviction by _____ (v 27-28)
- 8) The sudden realization that this is _____ (Rev. 20:14-15)

WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT GOD'S JUDGEMENT?

Mark each of the following as TRUE or FALSE.

- 1) _____ Those who appear will be judged in terms of their earthly lives. (*Matthew 13:37-43; 16:27; 24:29-35; 25:31-46; John 5:27-29; 1 Corinthians 4:5*)
- 2) _____ God the Father is the judge. (*Matthew 25:31-33; John 5:22,27; Acts 10:42; 2 Corinthians 5:10; 2 Timothy 4:1*)
- 3) _____ All of humanity will be judged. (*Matthew 7:21-23; John 5:29; 2 Corinthians 5:10*)
- 4) _____ All the angels will be judged. (*2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6*)
- 5) _____ The final judgment for the lost occurs between the second coming and the millennium. (*Revelation 20:11-15*)
- 6) _____ It's a future event. (*Matthew 25:32; Romans 14:10; Hebrews 9:27*)
- 7) _____ The Antichrist and false prophet will be judged at the final judgment. (*Revelation 19:20*)
- 8) _____ The judgment will determine the individual's eternal destiny. (*Matthew 25:46; Revelation 20:11-15*)
- 9) _____ The standard on the basis of which judgment will be made is Word of God. (*John 12:48; Romans 2:12*)

II. The Great White Throne Judgment: The Final Judgement of the Lost (20:11-15)

Just as there is coming a day when the Lord Jesus Christ is coming back for His people, called the Rapture of the Church, and just as there is coming a day when the Lord Jesus Christ is coming to set up His physical kingdom on this earth, called the Millennial Reign, there is also coming a day when the Lord Jesus Christ is coming to judge those who failed to accept the gift of His sacrificial death at Calvary. We call this the Great White Throne Judgment.

1. The _____ (20:11)

- The _____
 - “For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son,” **John 5:22**
 - “...because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.” **Acts 17:31**
 - ...in the day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my gospel. **Romans 2:16**

We have already discussed who the final judge will be. It is the Lord Jesus Christ who treads the winepress of the wrath of Almighty God. Having done all that could be done to save man, He is the One whom those who rejected Him must now face as their Judge.

- **His** : It is called the Great White Throne. It is GREAT, because the sinners that stand before it have rejected a great salvation. It is WHITE, because the judgment is holy and pure. It will be a righteous judgment that will not be able to be refuted. It is a THRONE, because He who sits upon it has authority and dominion over all.
- **His** : He has terror because of who He is, not that He is inherently terrible, but that His terror is a response to the rejection of His love and purity. The judged will recognize His face, whom they ignored, denied, cursed, spat upon, and abused, leaving His face marred more than any other's. Now, they gaze upon Him again and realize what they've done. Therefore, they react with fear. In fact, the very elements of the heavens try to flee from the Lord God Omnipotent. In that moment, pride and arrogance are suddenly replaced with pity and abasement. Thus, they are reduced to failure, for there is no place to hide. They all stand naked under the piercing microscope of the Lord.
- **The _____ (20:12a)**
 - **The** : There is not a person who is so insignificant that they will be missed by the scrutiny of God's holy judgment. Therefore, there will be no excuses that you were not "good enough" to save.
 - **The** : There is not a person who has made so big a fortune, nor amassed a great deal of knowledge that will escape the judgment of God. Just as the cross, so also is the throne level ground where all are seen as the same; for God does not deal with man based upon what they do, but what they are.
- **The _____ (20:12b)**

The Bible states that there are two testimonies which, when combined, will determine the destiny of the judged.

- **The Testimony of the**
 - *"He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him—the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day."* **John 12:48**
 - *Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.* **Romans 3:19**

- **The Testimony of the**

- ²⁰“Therefore by their fruits you will know them. ²¹Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. ²²Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ ²³And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’” **Matthew 7:20-23**

2. **The _____ (20:13)**

- **The Place of the _____ : Sea & Death**
- **The Place of the _____ : Hades**

3. **The _____ (20:14-15)**

- **The Final Destination: _____ of _____**
 - *For Sin and Its Offspring:* Death and Hades are a result of sin and its curse. Upon the final judgment, their role is complete, leaving their existence only a reminder of rebellion against the Almighty. Therefore, as with all aspects of sin, they are sentenced to eternal destruction.
 - *For Sinners:* The people who chose the world instead of Christ will be cast into the Lake of Fire by virtue of their own decision. They were born sinners by nature; yet, they remained sinners in the eyes of God by choice. This is the consequence of that choice.
- **The Free Deliverance: _____ of _____**

The book of life contains the names of all who have trusted Him. The absence of one’s name will be witness to the fact that he did not accept Him.

III. The Lake of Fire: The Eternal Fate of the Lost (20:11-15)

➤ **Matthew 10:28** – “And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.”

❖ _____ (*geenna*, Greek transliteration of the Hebrew term, “valley of Hinnom”)

- Most severe word for hell in the Scriptures and one used almost only by Jesus (except James 3:6).
- The Greek word is a transliteration of the Hebrew *Gai Hinnom*, “the _____ of _____.” The valley of Hinnom was a real place just outside of Jerusalem. In the dark days of Jewish apostasy, children were sacrificed there. There they “passed through the fire” to the horrible idol _____ (1 Kings 11:7; 2 Kings 23:10).
- By the time of Christ, the terrible idolatries of Israel were long over. The valley’s fires were used for burning the bodies of executed criminals and the _____ of the city.ⁱⁱ Thus the word *geenna* naturally passed into the language as a descriptive word for the place where “the fire never shall be quenched and where the worm dieth not” (Mark 9:43-48).ⁱⁱⁱ
- Some of “characteristics” of the lake of fire:
 - 1) Matthew 25:30 –
 - 2) Matthew 25:30 –
 - 3) Matthew 25:41, 46; Revelation 20:10 –
 - 4) Mark 9:48 –

Calvin Coolidge was vice president of the United States between 1921-1923, under President Warren Harding. He was not a very active vice president, but he took great pleasure in presiding over the Senate. One day as he was presiding, a senator angrily told another to go "straight to hell." The offended Senator openly complained to Coolidge as the presiding officer. Coolidge was leafing through the book of rules as he made his complaint. Coolidge looked up from the book and replied: "I've looked through the rule book. You don't have to go." That is the good news that we have to share with the world. We have looked it up in God's book. No one has to go to hell, for the Bible says that He "wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth" (1 Tim. 2:4).

ⁱ Larkin, Clarence. *Dispensational Truth*. Glenside, Penn.: Clarence Larkin, Est. 1918. 92-96; 108-109.

ⁱⁱ William V. Crockett. *Four Views on Hell*. (Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1992), 20.

ⁱⁱⁱ Gordon Franz, “Gehenna: Garbage Dump or a Place of Eternal Punishment?” *Evangelical Theological Society Papers*. (Portland: Theological Research Exchange Network, 1989), 12.