

TWO RESURRECTIONS AND A THOUSAND YEARS

PART FOUR: DEATH OF SPIRITS

Final Judgment and “The Lake of Fire”

We believe that the teaching of eternal torment is the greatest lie, the greatest deception ever perpetrated by the Evil One. This doctrine has turned millions away from a loving God. To believe that our Heavenly Father has commanded us to love Him, or face torture for eternity in flames - many have been driven mad over this impossible dilemma. You see - it is not possible for anyone to love a supreme being, whom you believe capable of torturing you for even a moment, much less for eternity. Praise Jesus - it is not so. We are presented with life or death. It's that simple.

John 6:23 “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

John 3:16 “For God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”

John 11:25 “Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die [the first death], he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die [the second death]. ...’”

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.”

Revelation 20:14-15 “Then death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.”

To be “cast into the lake of fire” is to “perish.” But what does the word “perish” mean. Strongs #622 - apollumi was translated perish 33 times, and destroy 26 times in the King James. It means: to be destroyed, to die, to pass completely out of existence. There is no suggestion of unending torment. Jesus contrasted everlasting life, with everlasting death - death from which there is no return, no resurrection.

“Fire and Brimstone”

Psalms 11:6 “Upon the wicked He will rain coals; fire and brimstone and a burning wind shall be the portion of their cup.”

There are a several references to “fire and brimstone” in the book of Revelation, and in Genesis, Psalms, Isaiah, Ezekiel and Luke. Are all of these references speaking about the same event? Or the same place?

Revelation 14:6-11 Three angels are seen by the prophet John, “flying in the midst heaven” shouting a warning to the people of earth. “Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour

of His judgment is come. . . ” “Babylon is fallen...” “If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand, he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. And **he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone** in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever, and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name.”

The warning is given just before the beast power, which now rules the earth, commands all to worship his image and to receive his mark. The warning is given before the return of Christ, and before the seven last plagues are poured out.

Those who worship the beast and take his mark will suffer terrible torment. Immediate questions are obvious: **When will their torment begin? For how long will they be tormented? And where is this place of torment?**

Before the second coming:

Those who worship the beast and take his mark, are tormented with “fire and brimstone,” by the demonic powers released to kill a third of mankind **at the sixth trumpet** (Rev. 9:18). The “fire and smoke and brimstone which came out of their mouths” may refer to the intense heat and melted earth caused by the weapons of mass destruction. Atomic weapons do melt elements-resulting in “brimstone.” Certainly, the hatred inspired by these demons may inspire men to use such weapons.

At the second coming:

“The beast” and “the false prophet” are human beings who are used as mediums by evil angels. (Rev. 16:13-14). These “spirits of demons” perform signs using the humans they indwell, to deceive the kings of the earth into making war with the LORD of heaven (Rev. 19:19) When Christ returns in glory with His army of angels, “the beast” and the “false prophet” are “cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone.” If the whole earth is on fire, and is burned up - then these human powers would indeed be consumed on that day. “The elements will melt with fervent heat” (2 Peter 3:10). Brimstone results from the melting of elements (sulphur is specifically mentioned).

We believe that the 7 last plagues will begin on the day that Jesus returns in glory. At the 7th plague Babylon is “burned with fire” when “her plagues come in one day.” (Rev. 18:8). The smoke of this burning “rises up forever and ever” (Rev. 19:3). These words simply mean that the destruction is final. The book of Revelation is full of symbols. The smoke may represent the memory of the event. The phrase does not tell us necessarily that the burning continues. The earth is turned into a dark barren wilderness. The words used in Rev. 14:11 – “and the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever” – are describing the same final burning of Babylon, the kingdom of the Beast power, supported by the False Prophet. “And she (Babylon) will be utterly (completely consumed) burned with fire.” (Rev 18:8). “I will utterly consume everything from the face of the land, ‘Says the LORD.’” (Zephaniah 1:2).

Matthew 13:40-42 “As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in

the end of this world. The Son of Man shall send forth His angels and they shall gather out of His Kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; And shall cast them into a furnace of fire...

The “fire and brimstone” may be caused by meteor showers, by an asteroid hit, by weapons of mass destruction, by molten lava flooding the earth, or by the sun “heated seven times hotter.” In Part Two of this study - “Absolute Destruction and An Ark of Safety” we looked at passage after passage describing the complete and utter destruction of the earth. It will remain desolate for 1000 years.

After the 1000 years:

Revelation 20:7-9 “Now when the thousand years have expired Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea. They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. **And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them.** (Revelation 20:7-9).

In part three of our study - “The 8th Day” - we studied about the time following the 1000 years. Christ will set up His kingdom on the earth. The “rest of the dead” will be raised. These people will now have the opportunity to learn of Christ, to repent of sin, and to choose Him as their Savior and King. Finally there will come a day when Christ will judge these people - the nations.

Matthew 25:31-46 " When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:' ... "Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: ... And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

NOTE: All of the nations are not “gathered before Him” at the second coming. Most are being killed by the plagues. I believe that this prophecy will be fulfilled during the 8th Day, after the millennium. Satan will deceive those who were turned away, into believing that they can take The City by force. They will surround the city - most likely with star wars type weapons inspired by demons. All this firepower could melt the elements. But the “fire” which comes “down from God out of heaven” and devours those who come up to attack the City, seems to be more than a human weapon of mass destruction.

NOTE: There are many examples (types) in the Bible, of the “fire of God.” The story of Nadab and Abihu describes one such event. These two men came into the most holy place of the sanctuary with their own formula incense in their own censors (something God had forbidden). They were devoured by fire which “went out from the Lord.” Notice that the text says that their bodies were not consumed, because “they carried them out by their coats.’ (Leviticus 10:1-5). The destruction of the 250 princes led by Korah is another type.

So we have a LOT of “fire and brimstone.”

Fire and brimstone will consume enemies of God during the trumpets, during the 7 last plagues, and again outside the city, after the 1000 years. In each of these scenes - those human beings consumed by the fire are dead - completely and utterly destroyed. Only Satan (and I believe his angels) will be “tormented day and night forever and ever.”

Psalm 9:3
Ezekiel
Joel 3:12

THE “FIRE OF GOD”

God Himself is the eternal, glorious “fire” that cannot be put out. His presence is joy to those whom He indwells, but is a consuming fire to those without His indwelling presence. Like sound which fractures crystal, the presence of God destroys evil.

Isaiah 33:10-16 “Now I will arise, says the Lord, now I will be exalted, now I will be lifted up. You have conceived chaff, you will give birth to stubble; My breath will consume you like a fire. And the peoples will be burned to lime. Like cut thorns which are burned in the fire. Sinners in Zion are terrified; trembling has seized the godless, who among us can live with continual burning? He who walks righteously, and speaks with sincerity. He who rejects unjust gain, and shakes his hands so that they hold no bribe.”

Exodus 33:20 “But He said, You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me, and live.”

Deuteronomy 4:24 “For the Lord thy God is a consuming fire, even a jealous God.”

Hebrews 12:29 “for our God is a consuming fire.”

Matthew 28:2, 3, 4 A Legion of soldiers “fell as dead men,” overcome by the glory of just the one angel, who came to call Christ from the tomb.

We are talking about a higher order of beings - spirit beings. They are high energy. Though they were cast out of heaven long ago, Satan and his angels are still spirit beings and we human beings cannot possibly fight against them. Only God Himself and His divine “fire” can overcome such powerful beings. Which is why “the lake of fire” was “prepared for the Devil and his angels.”

II Thessalonians. 2:8, 9 When Jesus returns, the wicked will be slain “with brightness of His coming.”

Numbers 16:35 In rebellion against Moses, 250 princes of Israel entered the courtyard of the Sanctuary to worship with “strange” incense (their own formula) in their own censers. “Fire” (glory) flashed from the Pillar of Cloud over the Sanctuary and “consumed them.” They had refused the mediation of Moses and Aaron whom God had appointed. They had come to stand in the presence of God and His presence consumed them. They were evil and rebellious at heart.

Note: the glory kills the rebellious, but does not consume their bodies. This explains why the survivors are described – burying the bodies of the defeated after the war in Ezekiel ____.

Those raised in the first resurrection, or “changed in a moment” at the return of Christ will be given spiritual bodies. (I Corinthians 15:42-44). Those raised in the second resurrection are not said to be changed. They come forth with mortal bodies, subject to death.

LUKE 24:36-39

JOB 19:26

PSALM 17:15

PHILL 3:20,21

+++++

THE GLORY OF HIS PRESENCE

Describing the Indescribable

Exodus 33:20 God said to Moses “No man can see my face and live.”

John 1:18 Jesus said “no man has seen God at any time.”

“Not that anyone has seen the Father, except He who is from God; He has seen the Father” (John 6:46).

Exodus 19:21 God said to Moses “Go down (from Mt Sinai) and warn the people, lest they break through to gaze at the Lord, and many of them perish.”

Exodus 34:28-35 When Moses came down from Mt. Sinai his face was shining so brightly that the people could not stand to look at Him. He wore a veil over his face until the glory faded.

Exodus 40:34-3 When the Israelites finished building the wilderness tabernacle, God's presence was manifest there and “Moses was not able to enter into the tent of the congregation, because the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle.”

Leviticus 16:13 On the ancient Day of Atonement the high priest carried the golden censer filled with smoking incense into the Most Holy Place so that the smoke would shield him from the glory, “lest he die.”

Matthew 28:3-4 At the resurrection of Christ, the glory of just one angel caused the roman guards to faint from fear.

Acts 9:3-4 On the Damascus road, Saul the persecutor was blinded by this glory.

GOD HIMSELF IS THE FIRE

If God does not dwell in us, then His presence will consume us - like matter and anti-matter. After sin, man could no longer live in the visible glorious presence of God.

Deuteronomy 4:24 “For the Lord Thy God *is* a consuming fire.”

Hebrews 12:29 “For our God *is* a consuming fire.”

CONSUMED BY THE FIRE (GLORY) OF GOD

Leviticus 10:2

Psalms 73:1-18 David the psalmist laments the success of the wicked, until he enters the Sanctuary. Then he says that he “understands” what will be the end of sinners.

The sacrifice on the alter represented Christ, who “was made to be sin for us,” but it also represented the sinner, and all sinners who will be consumed by the presence of God, because they refused His indwelling.

Psalms 37:20 “But the wicked shall perish, and the enemies of the Lord shall be as the fat of lambs.” The fat of the lambs was burned on the alter, representing sin. It was consumed by the fire until nothing remained.

(compare *Malachi 4:1-3*).

[Some translations read: “like the glory of the fields.” To a Jew this meant sheep, not flowers.]

“YOU SHALL NOT BE BURNED”

The righteous are indwelt by the Spirit of God, therefore they delight in His presence.

Isaiah 43:2 “. . . when you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned.”

Isaiah 33:10-16 “. . . who among us can live with continual burning (with God)? He who walks righteously,”

The “fire that burns forever” is not a place where Satan lives, where he tortures men forever. Satan also will finally be destroyed by the “fire of God.” (Isaiah 14:12-15; Ezekiel 28:12-19)

+++++

THE GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGMENT

Rev. 20: 12 “And another book was opened which is the Book of Life.”

Why open The Book of Life again?

If the saved were all raised in the first resurrection at the start of the millenium, then WHY open the book again before sentence is executed against those whose names were not found there? Could it be that new names have been added, since that first judgment prior to the second coming????

SAME PROPHECY - MORE THAN ONE FULFILLMENT

In *Ezekiel 28* the destruction of the King of Tyre is also a prophecy of the destruction of Satan.

In *Isaiah 14*, the destruction of the king of Babylon is a prophecy of destruction of Satan.

In *Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Zephaniah, Zechariah 14*, the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans is parallel with the last destruction of the wicked. I

In the new testament, *Matt 24* and *Mark 13* are predictions made by Jesus of the destruction of Jerusalem in 71 AD by the Romans. But they are also predictions of the last events prior to His second coming.

Most Bible prophecies have more than one application or fulfillment.

Peter's use of *Joel 2* in the Pentecostal sermon (*Acts 2:14-21*) would be another new testament example. V. 19-20 were fulfilled at the destruction of Jerusalem in 71 AD by Titus, but they will be fulfilled again just before the return of Christ, and perhaps again, at the final destruction of the wicked after the millennium.

THE FIRE FROM HEAVEN LASTS FOREVER - BECAUSE THE FIRE IS GOD GLORY. THE "FIRE AND BRIMSTONE" DO NOT LAST FOREVER. THE SINNERS IN THAT FIRE DO NOT LAST FOREVER

MALACHI 4:1,3 “For behold, the day is coming, Burning like an oven, And all the proud, yes, all who do wickedly will be stubble. And the day which is coming shall burn them up,’ Says the LORD of hosts, ‘That will leave them neither root nor branch. You shall trample the wicked, For they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet On the day that I do this,’ Says the Lord of hosts.”

ISAIAH 47:13-14 “Behold they have become like stubble, fire burns them; there will be no coal to warm by, nor a fire to sit before.”

OBADIAH 16 “The wicked shall be as if they had not been.”

MATT 3:12 “He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

PROVERBS 10:25 “When the whirlwind passes, the wicked are no more, but the righteous have an everlasting foundation.”

PSALM 37:10 “Yet a little while and the wicked will be no more, you will look carefully for his place, and he will not be.”

PSALM 104:35 “Let the sinners be consumed out of the earth, and let the wicked be no more.”

JEREMIAH 10:11 “The gods that have not made the heavens and the earth shall perish from the earth and from under these heavens.”

**“What do you conspire against the Lord? He will make an utter end of it.
Affliction will not rise up a second time” Nahum 1:9.**

QUESTIONS:

IS ANYONE IN HELL NOW?

REV 22:12 “Behold I am coming quickly, and My reward is with me, to render every one according to his work.”

MATT 16:27 “For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of His father with His angels; then recompense every man according to his deeds.”

II PETER 2:9 “The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptation, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished.” **NO ONE IS BEING PUNISHED NOW!!**

WHERE DOES HELL TAKE PLACE?

Hell takes place on the earth.

REV 20:9 “And they came up on the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, and fire came down from heaven and devoured them.”

EZEKIEL 28:18 “Therefore I have brought fire from the midst of you; it has consumed you. And I have turned you (Satan) to ashes on the earth in the eyes of all who see you.”

PROVERBS 11:31 “Behold the righteous shall be recompensed in the earth: much more the wicked and the sinner.”

WHAT WORDS IN SCRIPTURE ARE TRANSLATED “HELL”?
WHAT DO THESE WORDS REALLY MEAN?

Old Testament: “Sheol”: the unseen world, or the grave

“Hades”: the unseen world or the grave

These two words simply mean the state of death. They are not associated with a place.

New Testament: “Gehenna”: Vale of Hinnom, a burning garbage dump just outside Jerusalem.

The word for Hell, used in *MARK 9:43-48* is Gehenna. It refers to the Vale of Hinnom, which was a dump for rotting garbage, animal carcasses, and bodies of dead criminals, just outside the city of Jerusalem. The bodies were completely consumed, and fires were kept constantly burning. The Vale of Hinnom was a place of pagan worship and human sacrifices under the apostasy of Israel. (*II Chron. 33:6*) It was cursed by God and was destroyed and became a garbage dump. When Christ used this place as a figure for Hell, He meant that the bodies of the wicked will be completely consumed, and the fire cannot be put out until it has completed its work. Isaiah was familiar with this Vale of Hinnom when he wrote “They shall go forth, and look upon the carcasses of the men that have transgressed against me; for their worm shall not die, neither shall their fire be quenched; and they shall be an abhorring to all flesh.” *ISAIAH 66:24*.

Christ’s use of the phrase follows His very consistent pattern of quoting from the Old Testament, and His use of familiar objects. (*MARK 9:43,44*)

WHERE DID MEN GET THE IDEA THAT HELL LASTS FOR ALL ETERNITY?

MATT 3:12 “He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire”.

MATT 25:41 "Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels:

MATT 25:46 "And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

MARK 9:43-48 “To hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched - where the worm never dies, and the fire is not quenched.”

REVELATION 20:10 “And the devil who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet ***. **And *** will be tormented day and night forever and ever.**”

EXAMPLE STORIES

1. SODOM AND GOMORRAH are not still burning. They were destroyed as an example of “eternal fire”.

GEN 9:24; II PETER 2:6; JUDE 7; LAMENTATIONS 4:6

2. *II CHRONICLES 36:19-21* predicts JERUSALEM’S DESTRUCTION BY THE BABYLONIANS.

JEREMIAH 17:27 is another prediction of that same event. Jerusalem was burned with “unquenchable fire”. But it is not still burning.

3. *PSALM 73:12-18* David laments the apparent success of the wicked, until he enters THE SANCTUARY. Then he says that he “understands” what will be the end of sinners. The burnt offering, which was consumed to ashes is the only thing in the sanctuary service, which represented

sin; It is a type or symbol of the final destruction of sin and sinners. They will be consumed to ashes.

PSALM 37:20 “But the wicked will perish; And the enemies of the Lord will be like the fat of lambs (a reference to the burning of the fat of the animal as a sin offering in the sanctuary service) they vanish--like smoke, they vanish away.” (NAS and NIV translations say “glory of the pastures” rather than “the fat of lambs”. The “glory of the pastures” was livestock to a Jew, not flowers.)

4. THE REBELLION OF KORAH - The destruction by fire from the cloud completely consumed the 250 Princes.

NUM 16:35

LIFE IS ALWAYS CONTRASTED WITH DEATH.
ONLY TWO CONDITIONS ARE DESCRIBED.

ROMANS 6:23 “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

ROMANS 6:16 “Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or obedience unto righteousness?”

ROMANS 8:13 “For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.”

I JOHN 5:11-12 “And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.”

JAMES 1:15 “Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin; and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.”

JOHN 3:16 “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

JOHN 6:40 “And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on Him, may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day.”

ETERNAL LIFE VERSUS THE SECOND DEATH

JOHN 11:25-26 “Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, (sleeping in the grave in the first death) yet shall he live (He will live again in the resurrection.) ∴

And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die.” (Never die the “second death”, which the wicked will die.)

LUKE 20:35-36 “But they which shall be accounted worthy to obtain that world, and the resurrection of the dead... Neither can they die anymore.” (The wicked will die again in the “second death”.)

THE SECOND DEATH

REV 2:11 "...he that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death."

REV 20:6 "Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall reign with him a thousand years."

REV 21:8 "But the fearful, and unbelieving, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death."

EZEKIEL 18:26 You can die twice.

TEN REASONS TO REJECT ETERNAL TORMENT

1. We reject the teaching of eternal torment because it claims that the lost will continue living forever which is contrary to Scripture's plainest testimony:
"The soul who sins shall die" (EZEKIEL 18:20).
2. We reject the teaching of eternal torment because it robs us of our God of love and substitutes a being whose wrath is never appeased. "His mercy endures forever." PS 107:1
3. We reject the teaching of eternal torment because it cannot be reconciled with the picture the Bible gives of Christ.
4. The redeemed, who will have a part in the final judgment, could never condemn fellow human beings, their loved ones, to unending torture. Their sense of justice could never permit such an atrocity. "Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? and if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters? (I CORINTHIANS 6:2)
5. Eternal torment imposes a punishment all out of proportion to the crimes committed. (JOHN 5:30)
"I judge: and my judgment is just", Christ tells us.
6. Eternal torment for the wicked would cast a shadow forever over the happiness of the redeemed. The Bible says "God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes" (REV. 7:17)
7. We reject the teaching of eternal torment because it demands that an eternal plague of sin taint God's universe and makes it impossible for God to eradicate sin completely from his domain:
"Through death He (Christ) might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil" (HEB 2:14)
8. Eternal torment would immortalize sin, suffering, sorrow, and pain. God's promise is that these things will be no more. "And there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying neither shall there be any more pain; for the former things are passed away." (REV 21:4)
9. The teaching of eternal torment vilifies God's character and makes Him into a monstrous agent of Satan. God would have to miraculously sustain the lives of the lost in an aimless and endless

punishment. Hence God would, in reality, become worse than Satan himself.

10. We reject the teaching of eternal torment because of the fruit it has brought forth here on earth. It has caused untold thousands, like Robert Ingersoll to turn their backs on God and become His bitterest opponents. Moreover, it has caused thousands of others to do unspeakable things to their fellow humans in the name of God. Many who led out in the infamous Inquisition of Europe and the witch-hunts of early America were religious men who believed they were carrying out the will of God. These devout persecutors tortured “heretics” in order to save their souls from eternal damnation in the flames of hell.

HIS MERCY ENDURES FOREVER *PS 107:1*

For further study into the reasons why God destroys the unrepentant wicked human beings along with Satan and his angels, please see the study entitled “What is the Wrath of God?”

JOHN 3:16 “He that believeth in Me shall not perish, but have everlasting life.”

“Perish” - in the Greek means: to destroy utterly, to blot out, to vanish into nothingness, to cease, to disappear. *Death is non-existence, not continued existence as a disembodied spirit-being.*

OTHER NOTES:

Revelation 20: “And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.”

One new thought after another started popping into my head. First I heard the words “The horse and its rider He has thrown into the sea!” I recognized them right away as words from the Song of Moses (Exo 15). I also realized that God did not literally pick up Pharaoh’s men and throw them into the Red Sea. These men were intent on overtaking and killing or enslaving God’s own people. God simply defended His people. The picture is given in Revelation 20:7-8 of an attack on the Holy City, lead by Satan and his demons. A plausible scenario might include: 1. The release of Satan. 2. The second resurrection - of the rebellious wicked. 3. The wicked stand before God, outside the city. 4. The wicked are told that they will never be allowed to enter the city. (They will never be able to eat of the Tree of Life - that is really what the attack is about.) 5. The wicked then try to take the city by force. 6. Fire comes down from God and consumes them. 7. Satan, the beast, and the false prophet who led the last rebellion are thrown into the lake of fire.

The “lake of fire” is created by the “fire” that “comes down” from heaven. God is defending His Holy City, and his people who have entered into the city, just as Noah and his family entered into the Ark (and the doors were shut). The earth was flooded by water in Noah’s day, but at the end it will be flooded with fire.

2 Peter 3:11 “looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat?”

2 Peter 3:7 seems to indicate that the earth is destroyed at the same time that ungodly men are judged. Peter even ties this to Noah's flood. V.6 "by which, the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water. v.7 But the heavens and the earth which now exist are kept in store by the same word, reserved for fire UNTIL the day of judgment and perdition (destruction) of ungodly men. "

If someone asked me, "When does hell take place?" I would have to say, "At the time fire comes down from God out of heaven, after the 1000 years, at the time of the final attack on Jerusalem.

Back to the question of "How long does it last?" As I read Rev. 20:10 "And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever," I heard the words of Luke 20:36 "neither can they die anymore, but are equal to the angels." I realized right away that angels CANNOT die. They are a different kind of being. I also realized that the wicked, even the resurrected wicked are simply flesh. They will be consumed, destroyed in the lake of fire. The wicked angels on the other hand will continue in torment "forever and ever." Perhaps this is why they asked Christ, "Have you come here to torment us BEFORE THE TIME?" (Matt 8:29).

Then I noticed that the beast and the false prophet are also said to be tormented day and night forever and ever. The resolution came to me from Rev. 16:13-14. The beast and the false prophet are demons. They are evil angels.

I know that some point to Mark 9:44, 46, 48 as evidence that the torment of lost humans is forever. But Christ was quoting from Isa. 66:24. That verse makes clear that the fire and the worms are consuming corpses, not live human beings.

Some suggest that after the body is consumed, the soul will continue in torment. But Jesus said, "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." Matthew 10:28.

TORMENTED FOREVER AND EVER

"And the devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet *were thrown* " (See Rev. 19:20. The word "are" was supplied by the King James Translators. "And will be tormented day and night forever and ever." (Revelation 20:10). The word "they" was supplied by the NKJ translators. It is not in the original.

Satan himself is the ONLY being who is said to be "tormented day and night forever and ever." The "the beast and the false prophet" are human mediums. Humans will, I believe, be consumed by the fire - spirit beings will not. They will only be contained.

SATAN WILL BE DESTROYED WITH ALL OF THE WICKED:

EZEKIEL 28:12-19 (The lamentation for the King of Tyre is also a lamentation for Lucifer.)

v.12,13 “Son of man, take up a lamentation for the king of Tyre, and say to him, ‘Thus says the Lord God: You were the seal of perfection, Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God; ...”

v. 14 “You were the anointed cherub who covers;”

v. 15 “You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, Till iniquity was found in you.”

v.18 “Therefore, I brought fire from your midst; It devoured you, And I turned you to ashes upon the earth.” NKJ

FOREVER AND EVER

So now lets look at the word forever. The term "for ever," as used in the Bible, means simply a period of time, limited or unlimited. It is used 56 times in the Bible in connection with things that have already ended. It is like the word "tall," which means something different in describing men, trees, or mountains. In Jonah 2:6, "for ever" means "three days and nights." (See also Jonah 1:17.)

In Deuteronomy 23:3, it means "10 generations." In the case of man, it means "as long as he lives" or "until death." (See 1 Samuel 1:22, 28; Exodus 21:6; Psalm 48:14.) So the wicked will burn in the fire until they die. (See Isaiah 47:14; Revelation 21:1,4.) ??? This fiery punishment for sin will vary according to the degree of sins for each individual, but after the punishment, the fire will go out.

Hebrew: forever

5769 ~l'A['owlam {o-lawm'} or ~l'[o 'olam {o-lawm'}

Meaning: 1) long duration, antiquity, futurity, for ever, ever, everlasting, evermore, perpetual, old, ancient, world 1a) ancient time, long time (of past) 1b) (of future) 1b1) for ever, always 1b2) continuous existence, perpetual 1b3) everlasting, indefinite or unending future, eternity

Origin: from 05956; TWOT - 1631a; n m

Usage: AV - ever 272, everlasting 63, old 22, perpetual 22, evermore 15, never 13, time 6, ancient 5, world 4, always 3, alway 2, long 2, more 2, never + 0408 2, misc 6; 439

Greek: forever - (Septuaginta)

aivw/na noun accusative masculine singular common from **aivw,n**

[GING] aivw,n

aivw,n, aivw/noj, o`—1. *very long time, eternity:* in the past, *earliest times, ages long past* [Lk 1:70](#); *evk tou/ aivw/noj since the world began* [J 9:32](#). In the future *eivj to.n aivw/na to eternity, in perpetuity* [J 6:51, 58](#). *eivj tou.j aiv) tw/n aivw,nwn forevermore* [Ro 16:27](#); [Hb 13:21](#).—2. *age, era:* o` aivw.n ou-toj, etc. *this present (evil) age, before the parousi,a* [Mt 12:32](#); [13:22](#); [Lk 16:8](#) (the people of the world); [2 Cor 4:4](#); [Gal 1:4](#). o` aivw.n o` evrco,menoj, etc. *the (happy) age to come, after the parousi,a* [Mk 10:30](#); [Eph 1:21](#).—3. *world, material universe* [1 Ti 1:17](#); [Hb 1:2](#).—4. the *Aeon*, a powerful evil spirit [Eph 2:2](#); perh. [Col 1:26](#). [*aeon*] [pg 6]

Greek: forever - New Testament

165 aivw,n aion {ahee-ohn'}

Meaning: 1) for ever, an unbroken age, perpetuity of time, eternity 2) the worlds, universe 3) period of time, age

Origin: from the same as 104; TDNT - 1:197,31; n m

Usage: AV - ever 71, world 38, never + 3364 + 1519 + 3588 6, evermore 4, age 2, eternal 2, misc 5; 128

I Corinthians 15:50-54 "... Flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. Behold I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep (die), but we shall all be changed – in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: ‘Death is swallowed up in victory.’”

Psalm 21:9-10 “Your hand will find all Your enemies; Your right hand will find those who hate You. You shall make them as a fiery oven in the time of Your anger; The LORD shall swallow them up in His wrath, and the fire shall devour them. Their offspring You shall destroy from the earth, and their descendants from among the sons of men.”

