

Now, in our study, we've reached the end of the Millennium; The Rapture happened 1007 years ago; we spent the first 7 years in Heaven with each other, with the Saints from every age and, most precious, with our Lord Jesus Christ, the One Who chose us and loved us so much that He willingly came to Earth to take all our sin upon Himself and to be crucified in our place, taking all our punishment upon Himself, to satisfy the Wrath of God which should have been poured out on us because of our willful sin and rebellion; we should have been sentenced to Eternity in the Lake of Fire but we were set free, to be with Him forever. We also spent that first 7 years enjoying and learning to drive our wondrous, glorified, eternal bodies like Jesus Christ's Own Body. After that first 7 years, during which the Earth was suffering the terrible Tribulation, we returned to Earth with the Lord Jesus Christ, at Armageddon. He destroyed all His enemies, He established His 1000-year Millennial Kingdom, on Earth, during which we ruled and reigned with Him after the Antichrist and the False Prophet were sent directly to the Lake of Fire and during which Satan was bound and imprisoned in the Bottomless Pit.

Now, the 1000 years of the Lord Jesus Christ's Kingdom on Earth, ruling over still sinful men have ended; this will finally conclude God's patience and long-suffering tolerance of sinful men and sinful angels, all the sinful hearts which have so long rejected God's love and forgiveness. This will, then, finally be the end of every trace of sinful rebellion throughout all Creation; from this time on into Eternity, God's Universe will only know the Righteousness, Holiness and Sinlessness of God Almighty and His children, to whom He will have imputed His Own Righteousness.

Rev. Chapter 20 Verse 7: *'And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog, and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. ⁹ And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city'*

Will this be the final greatest battle of all time? Will Satan and his countless followers finally be able to shake off their resented 'bonds of God?' Will they be allowed to invade Israel and Jerusalem?

Is all Heaven holding its collective breath?

Nah... *Vs 9b:* *'... and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.'* Just like that!

This is what God could have done from the moment of Lucifer's first rebellious thought. This is what He could have done with Man's first sinful desire... but He didn't; for many thousands of years, He patiently forebore the sin and rebellion of angels and men ***because of His love for us*** whom He planned, chose and elected from the foundation of the World.

God did not create us because He was lonely or because He needed someone to love or to love Him; His love for His faithful Son caused Him to plan, elect and choose to create for Him a holy and righteous virgin Bride who would eventually be worthy of Him and His love, not because of anything we will have ever done, but because of His Own Righteousness which He chose to impute to us.

All of these millions who were snuffed out in an instant, with fire coming down from Heaven, received what we deserved while we received what only He deserved, even though He didn't need it: forgiveness... and all of this, to one major purpose... the Glory of God... that He would be glorified and exalted throughout all eternity, that we would praise and exalt His Holy Name forever and ever... time without end!

Verse 10: *'And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.'*

First, every still living, lost human is killed physically; immediately thereafter, Satan is taken, perhaps by the same angel who had bound him 1000 years before, and he is cast alive into the Lake of Fire to be tormented day and night, forever and ever... and notice, here, that the Holy Spirit indicates there will be day and night forever.

Satan knows what's coming... he knows God's Word, even though he refused to believe it; at this point, he's coming to the full realization that God's Word is true, It is sure and It will be fulfilled completely! I imagine, at this moment, the seemingly all-powerful Satan is reduced to kicking and screaming like a spoiled child with every shred of pride dissolved in an instant.

Verse 11: *'And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.'*

This, then, is the Final Judgment; this is the time which every lost soul in Hades, Sheol, has feared but, also, looked forward to. Some who will have been waiting in Hades, some for thousands of years, will know their own evil hearts, knowing that they willingly chose eternity in Hell rather than submit to God. On the other hand, many will have been waiting for their chance to convince God that He made a terrible mistake in sending them to Hades... they were good people, they believe, their good deeds outweighed their bad deeds and, after all, isn't that what matters?

Jesus said: *'Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? ('Didn't our good deeds purchase our way into Heaven? Didn't they outweigh our bad deeds, few as they were?')* ²³ *And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.* ²⁴ *Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock...* ²⁸ *And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine:* ²⁹ *For he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.'* Matt 7:22

We've all heard false teachers and worthless shepherds who, as they preach, say, 'So and so said thus and such...' thinking that by quoting some other worthless shepherd, their words will gain a measure of authority. Jesus' authority was in the Word of God; **He is the Word of God.**

What John is being told and shown, here in The Revelation, is the Word of God and It is sure, true and will be fulfilled, just as It says.

This is all-powerful, all-majestic Lord Jesus Christ, King of kings and Lord of lords sitting upon His Great White Throne of Final Judgment, before Whose Glory nothing and no one can stand... *'from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them;'* This is the final destruction and dissolution of the present Heavens and Earth; 'and there was found no place for them: no place, anywhere at all; He will destroy it all; it will be destroyed, dissolved and burned up with nothing left.

'The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. ¹⁰ *But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.* ¹¹ *Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,* ¹² *Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?* ¹³ *Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.'* 2 Pet 39

Only someone who chooses to disregard the clear teaching of God's Word would deny this truth and claim that God has a special love for His Creation and intends that it remain and simply be 'refurbished,' cleaned up, made to conform to its original fashion. He is going to completely destroy the present Heavens and the present Earth.

Verse 12: *'And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.'*

These are all the dead from the time of Adam and Eve, onward, who died apart from God's Salvation: these are the 'Lost' from all time who had been kept in the prison of Hades, Sheol, the hot and miserable place we see in the Biblical report of *'Lazarus and the rich man.'*

This is not a parable; this is the sure and certain story of two very real people; Jesus referred to both of them as, 'certain.' Jesus said: *'There was a certain rich man... And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus... And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; (he went down to Hades)'²³ And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments... And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me... for I am tormented in this flame.'²⁵ But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented.'²⁶ And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence... Luke 16*

Every lost person has gone to the same place as this 'rich man.' They are in constant miserable torment; and that isn't even the worst of it; their next and final destination will be the Lake of Fire, forever.

Everything we've ever done has been recorded in Heavenly books... everything! For us, God's Elect, they will be opened to determine our Eternal Rewards or loss of same. For us, it will have nothing whatsoever to do with our Salvation; that is based solely on the absolute Righteousness of the Lord Jesus Christ and our faith and trust in Him and His finished work on the Cross, in full payment for all our sin. We will only be judged as to our attitudes and motivations in all we've done, whether done for God's Glory or our own.

For the Lost, they will be judged according to everything they have ever done; their works will never be enough to gain Salvation but, and this is very important, their works will determine the severity of their eternal punishment. We see this in many places in Scripture:

'And the Lord said, Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his lord shall make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of meat in due season?'⁴³ Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing....'⁴⁷ And that servant, which knew his lord's will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes.'⁴⁸ But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required... give diligence that thou mayest be delivered from him; lest he hale thee to the judge, and the judge deliver thee to the officer, and the officer cast thee into prison.'⁵⁹ I tell thee, thou shalt not depart thence, till thou hast paid the very last mite.' Luke 12

'Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayer: therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation.' Matt 23:14

'And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear your words, when ye depart out of that house or city, shake off the dust of your feet.'¹⁵ Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrha in the day of judgment, than for that city.' Matt 10:14

'But it shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the judgment, than for you.' Luke 10:14

'My brethren, be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation.' James 3:1

'For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them.' 2 Pet 2:21

'Jesus answered, Thou couldest have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above: therefore he that delivered me unto thee hath the greater sin.' John 19:11

Scripture does not clearly state there are differing levels of punishment in Hell but it is certainly implied.

Verse 13: *'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 every man according to their works.'*

As to the dead who are 'in the sea,' it merely refers to the final place of their physical bodies. Just like the Word refers to 'the dead in Christ shall rise first,' again, it merely refers to the physical body which may have even been completely consumed by worms or sea creatures or fire... God knows where every molecule, and every atom, of every person's body is; He will reconstitute believers' bodies and change them into glorified, eternal bodies like that of the Lord Jesus Christ: *'For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look*

for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: ²¹ Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body...' Philippians 3:20

'Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, ⁵² In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.' 1 Cor 15:51

'Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.' 1 John 3:2

We will be raised, or Raptured, and receive glorified, eternal bodies like Jesus Christ's Own.

The lost dead will be raised in some form of physical bodies which will have been fashioned to facilitate their being able to feel and experience all of God's planned punishment for all Eternity. This seems like a terrible, terrifying future; it is! But it should be what motivates us to take the Gospel of God's Grace and Mercy to every person He brings into our lives whether they be relatives, friends or neighbors or even strangers with whom we have a very short time of influence... as a matter of fact, that is one of the things which will be recorded in God's Heavenly books; every person with whom we've ever come into contact; did we share the Hope that is found only in the Lord Jesus Christ or did we shrink back from fear, embarrassment or simply apathy...

Verse 14: *'And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.'*

Death is a condition and Hell is a place and, yet, both are actually personified; we saw this, previously, in chapter 6 with the Four Horsemen: *'And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him.'*

Both are cast into the Lake of Fire; although every person in Hell is spiritually dead, though a living soul within a still feeling physical body, it's as if an entire city of people, a huge city of people are cast, together, into the Lake of Fire. They will all be judged and sentenced, individually, but, perhaps, cast, as a group, into the Lake of Fire. However it is done, however the Lord Jesus Christ does it, it will be horrific for every one of them.

Verse 15: *'And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.'*

Remember verse 12: *'And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.'*

All the books recording all the works of every person who is lost will be opened and every work will determine their sentence but there is one Book which is all-important, the Book which, by far, is the absolute most important Book: the Book of Life which contains every name but only the names of God's Elect which were recorded in that Book from before God laid the foundations of the Earth:

'All who live on the earth will worship him, everyone whose name has not been written since the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb ...' Rev 13:8 NASB

'Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: ⁴ According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: ⁵ Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶ To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved. ⁷ In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace...' Eph 1:3

God chose His Elect, every single one, before He even laid the foundation of the World.

'All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out. ³⁸ For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me. ³⁹ And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day.' John 6:37