

God is a God of love, and He has no pleasure in the death of the wicked. However, He will not permit sin and wickedness to last forever and continue to mar and stain His great universe. The thought of a loving God burning up those whom He has created doesn't make sense to many. This is largely due to a misconception of the nature and duration of hell's fire. Many religious leaders teach that the wicked will burn mercilessly throughout the ceaseless ages of eternity. This false pagan concept of "eternal torment" has turned many away from religion and made countless atheists out of those who would otherwise be Christians. In this study, we will reveal the truth about hell's fire from the scriptures. We will discover that hell's fire, as terrible as it will be, is an act of love by a loving and merciful God. Let's study and learn What God Says About..."Hell's Fire."

THE NEW JERUSALEM DESCENDS TO EARTH

Note: *In this study, we will be introduced to the holy city of God, the New Jerusalem, which we will study in greater detail in our next lesson. The New Jerusalem will descend from heaven to the earth at the end of the 1,000-year millennium and before the world is destroyed by fire. This beautiful city will become the capital of the new earth. However, before God re-creates the earth, the wicked will see the city, seek to overtake it, and be devoured by hell's fire! The righteous will be in the city safe with Jesus, and the wicked will be outside the city and will perish with Satan.*

1. **Where will Christ and the New Jerusalem land on earth at the end of the 1,000-year millennium? When Christ descends to earth, what will happen to the Mount of Olives?**

   "And his feet shall stand in that day _____ _____ _____ _____ _____, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south." *Zechariah 14:4*

Note: *At the end of the 1,000-year millennium, Jesus leads the procession of the saints back to earth for the final judgment, destruction of the wicked, and re-creation of the earth. As Jesus and the saints descend, the feet of Jesus touches the Mount of Olives, and it parts and becomes a mighty plain. Shortly thereafter, the New Jerusalem, with glistening glory, descends from God out of heaven down to the earth (Revelation 21:10).*

2. Who will return with Christ when He descends to earth at the end of the millennium?

"And ye shall flee to the valley of the mountains; for the valley of the mountains shall reach unto Azal: yea, ye shall flee, like as ye fled from before the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah: and the LORD my God shall come, and _____ _____ _____ _____ _____." *Zechariah 14:5*

Note: *According to Zechariah 14:5, the saints will return to the earth with Jesus and will be in the New Jerusalem with Him after it descends to earth.*

THE SECOND RESURRECTION

3. The "rest of the dead" or wicked are to be resurrected when what has finished?

"But the rest of the dead lived not again until _____ _____ _____ were finished . . ." *Revelation 20:5*

Note: *As explained in our previous study on the millennium, punctuation and chapter divisions are not in the original Greek text. The translators inserted them to aid the reader, but made mistakes. Clearly the end of this verse belongs with the next verse and should read, "This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years." Obviously, "the rest of the dead" or wicked are not blessed and holy. Indeed, they will be resurrected at the end of the millennium in the second resurrection.*

4. According to Jesus, there are two resurrections, what is the resurrection of the wicked called?

[27]"And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man. [28]Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, [29]And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto _____ _____ _____ _____." *John 5:27-29*

Note: *The resurrection of the righteous, those that have done good, will occur at the second coming of Christ. This is called the resurrection of life—this is the first resurrection. The resurrection of the wicked, those that have done evil, will occur at the end of the 1,000-year millennium. This is called the resurrection of damnation—this is the second resurrection. The resurrection of the righteous saints begins the millennium, and the resurrection of the wicked occurs at the end of the millennium.*

SATAN DECEIVES THE NATIONS AND ATTACKS THE HOLY CITY

5. What will Satan do after his 1,000-year millennium prison sentence has ended?

[7]"And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison. [8]And shall go out to _____ _____ _____ 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." *Revelation 20:7, 8*

Note: *According to scripture, the wicked—numbered as the sand of the sea—will be raised in the second resurrection at the end of the 1,000-year millennium. When they rise, Satan will deceive them and lead them to seek to overtake the holy city—the New Jerusalem.*

6. What did Satan and the wicked nations encircle? What is the New Jerusalem called?

"And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and _____ _____ _____ ____ _____ _____ about, and _____ _____ _____: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them." *Revelation 20:9*

THE EXECUTIVE JUDGMENT

Note: *According to scripture, there are three phases of the judgment. The first phase is the pre-Advent judgment of the righteous that began in 1844 and extends to the second coming (see Lesson 20). The second phase is the judgment of the wicked during the 1,000-year millennium when the righteous will be in heaven reviewing the record books (see Lesson 29). The third and final phase is the executive judgment which occurs at the end of the 1,000-year millennium. This is when hell's fire—the punishment for the wicked—will be determined according to their works.*

7. Jesus returns to earth with his saints in the final phase of the judgment for what purpose?

14"And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, 15_____ _____ _____ upon all, and _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ among them _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him." *Jude 1:14, 15*

Note: *At the end of the 1,000-year millennium, Christ will return to earth with his saints to execute judgment on the wicked. Their cases have already been decided by their own deliberate choices. During the millennium, the saints have had a thousand years to review the record books and examine the verdict of the wicked. They have had an opportunity to ask questions and have been fully satisfied that God is just and righteous. This executive or final phase of the judgment will convict the wicked, including Satan and his angels, of their wicked deeds and that God's judgment is just. Ultimately, God will be fully vindicated before the universe.*

8. As it pertains to the books of record, what will the final sentence of the wicked be based upon?

5"Let the saints be joyful in glory: let them sing aloud upon their beds. 6Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, and a two-edged sword in their hand; 7To execute vengeance upon the heathen, and punishments upon the people; 8To bind their kings with chains, and their nobles with fetters of iron; 9To execute upon them _____ _____ _____: this honour have all his saints. Praise ye the LORD." *Psalm 149:5-9*

Note: *The saints will be with Christ for the execution of the judgment on the wicked. Clearly, judgment will be executed based on what is written in the record books.*

THE EXECUTIVE JUDGMENT—CONTINUED
THE GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGMENT

Note: *The scriptures speak of the great white throne judgment in which all, both the righteous and the wicked, must appear before the judgment seat of Christ. This phase of the executive judgment precedes hell's fire. Undoubtedly, the righteous will be safe in the city with Jesus, and the wicked will be outside the city with Satan. At this time, the judgments of God will be made manifest before the universe (Revelation 15:4). In other*

words, all will clearly acknowledge the justice of God in the final verdict of each case. As a result, the character of God will be fully vindicated before the entire universe prior to hell's fire. Satan and his angels, the wicked, and the righteous will all bow and confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

9. According to the apostle Paul, all shall stand before what? All are required to give what before God?

10"But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before _____ _____ _____ _____ _____. 11For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. 12So then every one of us shall _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____."
Romans 14:10-12

10. According to Jesus, the righteous will be in the kingdom or the New Jerusalem, but the wicked will be what?

"There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God, and you yourselves _____ _____."
Luke 13:28

11. What powerful object did John the Revelator see in vision?

"And I saw _____ _____ _____ _____, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them." *Revelation 20:11*

12. Who stood before God in the great white throne judgment? What was opened? What other important book was opened? The final verdict was based upon what?

"And I saw _____ _____, small and great, stand before God; and _____ _____ were opened: and another book was opened, which is _____ _____ _____ _____ and the dead were judged out of _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____, _____ _____ _____ _____." *Revelation 20:12*

Note: *John the Revelator saw the resurrected dead stand before God in the final judgment. Revelation 11:18 refers to this period as "the time of the dead, that they should be judged." At that time, the books will be opened, including the Book of Life, and the final verdict will be based upon what is written in the books, according to their works. None will escape this judgment. All will be present for the rendering of the final verdict.*

13. How many people will bow to Jesus? How many tongues will confess that Jesus is Lord?

[9]"Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: [10]That at the name of Jesus _____ _____ should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; [11]And that _____ _____ should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." *Philippians 2:9-11*

Note: *Before God rains fire and brimstone upon the wicked, every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord! The righteous, inside the holy city, will bow to Jesus and confess that He is Lord. The wicked, along with Satan and his angels, outside the holy city will bow to Jesus and confess that He is Lord. God's judgments will be made manifest before the universe, and it will be evident to all that God's ways are just and true (Revelation 15:3, 4). No question will remain regarding the purity of God's character in His dealings with those whom He has created. Indeed, He will be fully vindicated before the universe.*

THE THREE PHASES OF THE JUDGMENT

Judgment/Phases	Duration	Reviewer of the Records
Phase 1 Pre-Advent Judgment of the righteous	1844— Second Coming	The Angels (The Angels will Affirm God's Judgments)
Phase 2 The Judgment of the wicked	1,000-year Millennium	The Saints (The Saints will Affirm God's Judgments)
Phase 3 Executive Judgment Punishment Phase	After 1,000-year Millennium	The Wicked (The Wicked will Affirm God's Judgments)

Note: *God already knows who will be saved or lost. However, the judgment, according to the books of record, is conducted for the benefit of God's created beings—both angels and human beings. God will not arbitrarily burn the wicked in hell's fire. They will only burn after all affirm the justice of God. All will receive the reward that they have consciously and deliberately chosen. Scripture is clear. Hell's fire is prepared for the devil and his angels (Matthew 25:41). However, God loves us so much that He will allow us to receive the reward of our choice. Our loving Savior will not force anyone to spend eternity with Him against their will. In this sense, hell's fire is an act of love for the wicked.*

14. What shall God rain upon the wicked?

"Upon the wicked he shall rain _____, _____ and _____, and _____ _____ _____: this shall be the portion of their cup." *Psalm 11:6*

15. What happened when Satan and the wicked nations circled the holy city? What did the fire do to the wicked?

"And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____, and _____ _____." *Revelation 20:9*

Note: *According to the book of Revelation, the fire devours the wicked. They do not burn mercilessly throughout the ceaseless ages of eternity!*

16. What happened to the devil that deceived the wicked nations?

"And the devil that deceived them _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ and _____, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever." *Revelation 20:10*

Note: *The devil, along with all the wicked, will be cast into the lake of fire and brimstone. The surface of planet earth will become a seething "lake of fire." In other words, hell's fire is not some hot spot deep under the earth that is burning now and will continue to roast and torment the wicked throughout eternity! It must be reiterated that in Revelation 20:9, John the Revelator indicates that the wicked will be devoured by hell's fire. This fact is consistent with the Bible's teachings on the nature and duration of hell's fire. Hell's fire will not burn throughout the ceaseless ages of eternity! It is contrary to God's character to unjustly burn someone throughout eternity who only lived on earth for twenty years, for example. God is loving, just, and true in all of His dealings with His creatures (Revelation 15:3). God is not a tyrant as some mistakenly believe.*

17. Those who burn in hell's fire will experience which death?

[14]"And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is _____ _____ _____. [15]And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire." *Revelation 20:14, 15*

Note: *The wicked who burn in hell's fire will experience the second death. They will not live throughout eternity in the fire. Otherwise, this would be considered eternal life in hell's fire. Only the righteous receive everlasting*

life and will not experience the second death (John 3:16; Revelation 2:11).

18. Hell's fire will cause the wicked to become what? What will the fire do to the wicked? The fire will not leave behind what?

"For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be _____: and the day that cometh _____ _____ _____ _____, saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them _____ _____ _____ _____." *Malachi 4:1*

Note: *Hell's fire will burn the wicked up, both root and branch, and reduce them to ashes. Satan is the root, and his followers are the branches (Malachi 4:1-3). According to Ezekiel 28:18, Satan will be devoured in the fire and reduced to ashes. Clearly, neither Satan, his angels, nor the wicked will burn or live in the fire forever. They will be utterly consumed and will perish (Psalm 37:20). Those who burn in hell's fire will be ashes under the soles of the saints' feet (Malachi 4:3).*

19. Sodom and Gomorrah are examples of what type of fire?

"Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of _____ _____." *Jude 1:7*

Note: *God rained fire and brimstone upon Sodom and Gomorrah and utterly consumed them as examples of eternal fire—that is eternal in its results (Genesis 19:24, 25; Jude 1:7). Clearly, Sodom and Gomorrah are no longer burning. Similarly, all the wicked will experience the fate of these wicked cities. They will experience "eternal fire," and the end result will be the same. Hell's fire does not burn forever!*

SUMMARY

Hell's fire is not burning now. It will occur at the end of the 1,000-year millennium. Satan will deceive and marshal the wicked resurrected nations to surround the holy city, the New Jerusalem, which had descended to earth. The righteous will be in the city with Jesus, and the wicked will be outside the city with Satan. God will execute judgment upon the wicked according to their works. All human beings and angelic beings, including Satan, will bow and confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. God's judgments will be made manifest, and it will be evident to the universe that His ways are just and true. God will then rain fire and brimstone from heaven, burn up the wicked, both root and branch, and reduce them to ashes. This is hell's fire.

20. Dear friend, will you purpose in your heart to be inside the holy city, the New Jerusalem, safe with Jesus? _____

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