

Revelation 20:11-15
The Great White Throne Judgment

“Even the Bible believing Christians have tended to tone down the awfulness of eternal death to somehow reconcile the destiny of the lost with the prospect of the saved of being eternally in the presence of the Lord. A thorough appreciation of eternal punishment however, will in the end enhance the doctrine of the grace of God and make the love of God all the more wonderful for those who enter into its truth. The fact of eternal punishment is not limited to this passage of Scripture, for Christ Himself speaks of the destiny of the wicked in many passages (Matt. 13:42; 25:41, 46; etc.). Earlier in Revelation itself (14:11) eternal punishment is predicted for those who receive the mark of the beast. A confirming note is also added in Revelation 21:8. The only revelation that has been given concerning the eternal state recognizes two destinies only: one of blessedness in the presence of the Lord, the other of eternal punishment.” Walvoord

- I. The conditions that exist during Christ’s literal 1000-year reign on earth will be in many ways without the effect of the fall spiritually, mentally, and physically. Bill Salus states, *“The earth is restored to Garden of Eden-like conditions, Everyone is a believer [at its inception], There are no more handicaps,, the blind see, the deaf hear and the lame leap, People live healthier, happier and longer lives, There is peace on earth, The world is crime-free, There are no more threats of war, No more social injustice, Proof of God’s existence is evident in that the Messiah reigns on earth, Old Testament and Tribulation Saints are resurrected to the astonishment of all the earth-dwellers, The animal kingdom lives in peaceful harmony with mankind, Satan is bound and unable to influence people through their sin nature, For all intents and purposes it is Utopia” (Ps. 72; Isa. 11,35,65; Ezek. 40-48; Zech. 14).* Yet, people will still rebel against the righteousness of Christ and his just and loving rule over them. There will be nothing for them to overcome except the darkness of their own hearts, they are without excuse.

Rev. 20:6

Rev. 2:7

Rev. 2:11

Rev. 2:17

Rev. 2:26

Rev. 3:5

Rev. 3:12

Rev. 3:21

Matt. 25:31-46

Isa. 65:20

1 Jn. 5:4-5 *4 For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. 5 Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?*

- II. At the end of the millennial reign of Christ, Satan will be released from his captivity in the abyss to the deceive the nations into following him instead of the King of kings and Lord of lords. His release and influence prove that man is incapable of changing his heart without the sanctifying influence of the Holy Spirit through salvation. There will be outward conformity to Jesus' reign in those days, but men and women must still be willing to have a heartfelt embrace of his Lordship over their lives. How sad for one to stand before Him and have him say, *'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'*

Rev. 20:7-10

Jer. 17:9

Matt. 7:21-23 *"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. 22 On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' 23 And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'*

- III. Unbelievers from the time of Adam and Eve to the end of the Christ's millennial reign will be the only ones subject to His Great White Throne Judgment. The judgment is necessary to eradicate all godlessness from ever being a part of the new heaven and earth that God will create for His saints to live in for ever and ever. Scripture teaches us that there is a literal hell that exists. It is eternal, a place without the providential existence of God's love, grace and mercy, a place of man's choosing, a place that unredeemed man, in their resurrected bodies, cannot escape from.

Rev. 20:11-15

Jn. 5:22

2 Cor. 5:10

Ps. 62:12

Jude 24

Jn. 5:28-29

Acts. 24:15b

Matt. 12:36-37

Rom. 2:15-16

Eccl. 12:14

Rev. 13:8

Mark 9:43 **γέεννα géenna** - a name for the place (or state) of everlasting punishment:—hell.

Heb. 9:27-28 *27 And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, 28 so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.*