

DEATH, HELL, AND THE LAKE OF FIRE

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DEATH, HELL, AND THE LAKE OF FIRE

"And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death" - Revelation 20:14.

Some people carelessly confound these two places, as if they were the same. This statement alone proves them to be two distinct localities, though of a similar character. Other citations confirm these facts. Hell is not simply a painful state. It is a certain clearly defined locality. We will consider these two places separately, then their relation to each other.

The word "hell" occurs twenty-three times in the New Testament, translated from three Greek words: "gehenna" twelve times, "hades" ten times, and "tartaroo" once (¹Jude 7). Jesus Christ used the word "hades" four times. It means a place that is down .. "Capernaum, which art exalted unto heaven, shalt be brought down to hell (hades)" - ²Matthew 11:23; ³Luke 10:15. Its gates oppose the Church. Its inhabitants would pull saved folk into its realm, if possible; but "the gates of hell (hades) shall not prevail against" the Church which Jesus builds. Unsound teaching would send weak Christians into hades, if that were possible. Hades is a place of heat and pain. "In hell (hades) he (the rich man) lift up his eyes, being in torments (pain)." He prayed when it was too late - "Send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented (pained) in this flame" - ⁴Luke 16:23, 24. This is an unmistakably plain description of the state of the wicked in hell, from the beginning of time until the end of the Millennium. The rich man had no physical tongue then, neither did Lazarus have a physical finger. The guilty man's soul was suffering from a flame of regret and remorse. It was mental anguish, a burning conscience. His sight of Lazarus aggravated the pain. Observe that he did not repent. He was interested in his brethren's welfare; and their presence with him would increase his torment, because he had not witnessed to them and sought the Lord for them when he was alive on earth. But that was not the lake of fire. That was only "hades," not "ghenna." The adjective "everlasting" never occurs in connection with hades. The phrase "everlasting hell" is not Scriptural.

A DIFFERENT COMPARTMENT

"Therefore did my heart rejoice, and my tongue was glad; moreover also my flesh shall rest in hope: Because Thou wilt not leave my soul in hell (hades), neither wilt Thou suffer (leave) Thine Holy One to see corruption" - Acts 2:26, 27. These words are quoted almost verbatim from ⁵Psalms 16:9, 10. The Greek word "hades" in the New Testament answers to the Hebrew word "sheol" in the Old Testament. It means invariably the habitation of the souls of the dead. It never means the grave, though it is thus translated in thirty-one instances. Note the differences between

¹ **Jude 7** - 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 eternal fire.

² **Matthew 11:23** - And thou, Capernaum, which art exalted unto heaven, shalt be brought down to hell: for if the mighty works, which have been done in thee, had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day.

³ **Luke 10:15** - And thou, Capernaum, which art exalted to heaven, shalt be thrust down to hell.

⁴ **Luke 16:23-24** - And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.

⁵ **Psalms 16:9-10** - Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth: my flesh also shall rest in hope. For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.

this person in hades and the rich man. Lazarus suffers no pain, no regret, no remorse, no despair. Instead, he is glad and rejoices, because he has ground for hope. David experienced all that, for through faith's telescope he saw that his Lord and Redeemer would go that way. However long his soul might be in "sheol" and his body in the grave (queber, Hebrew), some day he would be released from both. Jesus named that place in hades, "Abraham's bosom," which means nearness and intimate fellowship. Jesus "in the bosom of the Father" has the same meaning - ⁶John 1:18.

"Between us and you there is a great gulf fixed" - ⁷Luke 16:26. So sheol, or hades, comprised two distinct and separate compartments. The inhabitants could communicate, but could not change places with one another. Two citations at least in the Old Testament confirm this view. "For a fire (not a literal material fire) is kindled in Mine anger, and shall burn unto the lowest hell (sheol)" - ⁸Deut. 32:22. God's anger is not mentioned with reference to the righteous dead. "For great is Thy mercy toward me: and Thou hast delivered my soul from the lowest hell (sheol)" - Psalm 86:13. David knew that his soul would never be in the lowest hell. Jesus "descended first into the lower parts of the earth"; but not into the lowest parts, or lowest hades - ⁹Eph. 4:9. Those "spirits in prison," to whom Jesus preached, were in upper hades - the lower parts of the earth, as compared with the grave - ¹⁰I Peter 3:19. "The deep," also, evidently means upper hades - ¹¹Romans 10:7. The Lord Jesus named upper hades or Abraham's bosom, "Paradise"; that is, a park. He said to the dying thief, "Today shalt thou be with Me in Paradise" - ¹²Luke 23:43. The spirits of both Jesus and the thief went down into upper hades. That is not a question, but a declaration. The phrase, "shalt be," is one word in Greek. Bear in mind, that Jesus never went by His spirit into lowest hades. He could not contradict Abraham's words, which He quoted. "They which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence" - Luke 16:26. He never crossed the great gulf into lowest hades.

We must conclude from the above Scriptures that hades is a place of conscious existence. See also ¹³Isaiah 14:9-11. They that deny it, explain away Luke 16:19-31, saying that it is a parable. Lazarus and Abraham are mentioned, but names are not given in parables. If that is a parable, is not ¹⁴Psalm 16:9, 10 also a parable? Then is not Acts 2:25-32 a parable? Nay. Peter declares boldly, "He (David) seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that His soul was not left in hell (hades), neither His flesh did see corruption (in the grave). This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses" - Acts 2:31, 32. Russellism (Jehovah Witnesses) denies

⁶ **John 1:18** - No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared *him*.

⁷ **Luke 16:26** - 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.

⁸ **Deuteronomy 32:22** - For a fire is kindled in mine anger, and shall burn unto the lowest hell, and shall consume the earth with her increase, and set on fire the foundations of the mountains.

⁹ **Ephesians 4:9** - Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth?

¹⁰ **1 Peter 1:19** - By which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison;

¹¹ **Romans 10:7** - Or, Who shall descend into the deep? (that is, to bring up Christ again from the dead.)

¹² **Luke 23:43** - And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.

¹³ **Isaiah 14:9-11** - Hell from beneath is moved for thee to meet *thee* at thy coming: it stirreth up the dead for thee, *even* all the chief ones of the earth; it hath raised up from their thrones all the kings of the nations. All they shall speak and say unto thee, Art thou also become weak as we? art thou become like unto us? Thy pomp is brought down to the grave, *and* the noise of thy viols: the worm is spread under thee, and the worms cover thee.

¹⁴ **Psalms 16:9-10** - Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth: my flesh also shall rest in hope. For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.

Christ's resurrection. It says, "His human body may be somewhere, kept as a grand memorial, having been super- naturally removed." What blatant infidelity. It is plain where Russell went. "For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised: And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins." But God be praised eternally - "But now IS Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept" - I Corinthians 15:16, 17, 20. The Truth gives us undisturbed rest, and thrills us with unspeakable joy, and fills us with an undying hope of seeing Jesus in His glorified body and of being with Him forever.

WHERE ARE THE DEAD TODAY?

Abraham, Lazarus, and the thief are not in hades today. Upper hades has been vacated. Lowest sheol, or hades, is still occupied by the wicked dead; and it will be so until the end of the Millennial reign of Christ. John wrote as if His reign were accomplished. He said, "But the rest of the dead (the wicked) lived not again until the thousand years were finished. And death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works" - Rev. ¹⁵20:5, ¹⁶13. Jesus Christ's body was in the grave three days only. His soul and spirit were in "the lower (not in the lowest) parts of the earth" for three days only - ¹⁷Eph. 4:9. Noah preached the Gospel for one hundred and twenty years while building the ark. Only his family believed unto salvation. When the multitudes saw that they would be drowned as he had warned, many of them repented and accepted his message and were saved from their sins; but they were not saved from drowning. Peter says that they "some- time were disobedient"; namely, before they repented - ¹⁸I Peter 3:20. They were in prison in upper hades. They were not in torment in a flame like the rich man. They did not ask Abraham to cool their tongues. But they were conscious, for Jesus preached unto them. What was His theme? We conjecture wisely that He announced to them that He was the Redeemer whom Noah proclaimed; and that He bore their sins on a Cross, and would presently be raised up to save all that should believe on Him. Doubtless, He promised also to take them out of that prison. Paul tells us what happened next.

"Wherefore He saith, When He ascended up on high, He led captivity captive (led a multitude of captives or prisoners), and gave gifts unto men." We would not understand this verse were it not for the apostle's parenthetical words. Mark God's parentheses - "Now that He ascended, what is it but that He also descended first into the lower parts (Paradise, Abraham's bosom, the deep) of the earth?" - Eph. ¹⁹4:8, 9. Peter has told us what Jesus did in that lower region. We infer reasonably that by leading a multitude of captives Jesus opened the gates of upper hades and caught away all its prisoners, from Adam and Eve until that hour, and took them to Heaven with Him. Having that vast throng with Him augmented "and what is the exceeding greatness of His power to usward who believe, according to the working of His mighty power, which He wrought in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead, and set Him at His own right hand in the heavenly

¹⁵ **Revelation 20:5** - But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This *is* the first resurrection.

¹⁶ **Revelation 20:13** - 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.

¹⁷ **Ephesians 4:9** - Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth?

¹⁸ **1 Peter 3:20** - Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water.

¹⁹ **Ephesians 4:8** - Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.

places (in the heavenlies)" - Eph. 1:19, 20. There is an innumerable host of saved spirits in Heaven awaiting the resurrection of their bodies, including the antediluvian believers and the saved Israelites. The same Paul exclaimed, "I knew a man in Christ ... caught up to the third Heaven ... caught up into Paradise" - II Cor. ²⁰12:2, ²¹4. Before Jesus died, Paradise was down below. Now Paul locates it up in "the third Heaven." John also locates it on high - Rev. ²²2:7; ²³22:2. Our text implies the same truth. Hell (hades) will come to an end. Meanwhile, until the Lord comes, the home of departed believers is in Heaven - the Paradise on high. The apostle says, "We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord" - II Cor. 5:8. Study the context. Also he wrote, "For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better" - Phil. 1:23. Then he fills us with thrilling hope, by informing us of the resurrection and translation of the saints, in I Thessalonians four and I Corinthians fifteen. Jesus had said, "Occupy till I come" - ²⁴Luke 19:13.

THE LAKE OF FIRE

"And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire" - ²⁵Revelation 20:14. Let us consider the second part of our text. It declares two facts; namely, that the first has an end, and the second absorbs the first. We saw that the Greek word "hades" was translated "hell" ten times in the New Testament. Now we shall see that another Greek word, "gehenna," is translated "hell" twelve times. Hell (hades) has been likened to a jail, a temporary prison; and the lake of fire to a penitentiary, a lifelong prison. Jesus Christ used the word "gehenna" (hell) to express the punishment everlasting of unbelievers. Various descriptive terms are stated by Scripture citations. Gehenna is a place of fire, even "fire that never shall be quenched" - Matthew ²⁶5:22, ²⁷29, 30; ²⁸18:8, 9; Mark ²⁹9:43, ³⁰45. Only soul and spirit go into hades. But the whole man goes

²⁰ **2 Corinthians 12:2** - I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third heaven.

²¹ **2 Corinthians 12:4** - How that he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.

²² **Revelation 2:7** - He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.

²³ **Revelation 22:2** - In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, *was therethe* tree of life, which bare twelve *manner of* fruits, *and* yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree *were* for the healing of the nations.

²⁴ **Luke 19:13** - And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come.

²⁵ **Revelation 20:14** - And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

²⁶ **Matthew 5:22** - But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire.

²⁷ **Matthew 5:29-30** - And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast *it* from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not *thatthy* whole body should be cast into hell. And if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and cast *it* from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not *thatthy* whole body should be cast into hell.

²⁸ **Matthew 18:8-9** - Wherefore if thy hand or thy foot offend thee, cut them off, and cast *them* from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life halt or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet to be cast into everlasting fire. And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast *it* from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire.

²⁹ **Mark 9:43** - And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched:

into gehenna, which shows that gehenna was our Lord's way of expressing the lake of fire -
³¹Matthew 10:28; ³²Luke 12:5. James says, "It (the tongue) is set on fire of hell (gehenna) -
³³James 3:6. Jesus said to the self-righteous scribes and Pharisees, "How can ye escape the
damnation (judgment) of hell (gehenna)" - ³⁴Matthew 23:33.

Note other statements of the nature of the lake of fire. Jesus warned His hearers of "everlasting
fire, prepared for the devil and his angels" and of "everlasting punishment" - Matthew ³⁵25:41,
³⁶46. They that offend and do iniquity shall be cast "into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing
and gnashing of teeth" - Matthew ³⁷13:42, ³⁸50. Paul gave warning of flaming fire, everlasting
punishment, damnation, "destruction and perdition" - II Thess.³⁹1:9; ⁴⁰2:12; ⁴¹I Timothy 6:9.
Jesus called Judas Iscariot "the son of perdition" - ⁴²John 17:12. Peter speaks of "the day of
judgment and perdition of ungodly men" - ⁴³II Peter 3:7. "Perdition" means "the lake of fire." See
⁴⁴Revelation 17:8. "Gehenna" is the Hebrew word for the Greek "gehenna." It was "the valley of
Hinnom," where the dead bodies of the worst criminals were destroyed by fire. Worms infested
those corpses continually. Our Lord used that burning valley as a fiery figure of the lake of
unquenchable fire" - Mark ⁴⁵9:43, ⁴⁶45, ⁴⁷47, 48. "The bottomless pit" is another term for lower

³⁰ **Mark 9:45** - And if thy foot offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter halt into life, than having two feet
to be cast into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched:

³¹ **Matthew 10:28** - And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him
which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

³² **Luke 12:5** - But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast
into hell; yea, I say unto you, Fear him.

³³ **James 3:6** - And the tongue *is* a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the
whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell.

³⁴ **Matthew 23:33** - *Ye* serpents, *ye* generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?

³⁵ **Matthew 25:41** - Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting
fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

³⁶ **Matthew 25:46** - And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

³⁷ **Matthew 13:42** - And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

³⁸ **Matthew 13:50** - And shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

³⁹ **2 Thessalonians 1:9** - Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and
from the glory of his power;

⁴⁰ **2 Thessalonians 2:12** - That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in
unrighteousness.

⁴¹ **1 Timothy 6:9** - But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and *into* many foolish and hurtful lusts,
which drown men in destruction and perdition.

⁴² **John 17:12** - While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept,
and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled.

⁴³ **2 Peter 3:7** - But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire
against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

⁴⁴ **Revelation 17:8** - The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go
into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life
from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.

⁴⁵ **Mark 9:43** - And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two
hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched:

⁴⁶ **Mark 9:45** - And if thy foot offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter halt into life, than having two feet
to be cast into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched:

⁴⁷ **Mark 9:47-48** - And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out: it is better for thee to enter into the kingdom of God
with one eye, than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire: Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not
quenched.

hades. The Revised Version says "the abyss." We read of "the abyss" in ⁴⁸Luke 8:31 and ⁴⁹Romans 10:7. That region was "hades," upper and lower; though Romans 10:7 refers to upper hades only. Satan will be cast into the pit of the abyss when Jesus begins His Millennial reign. The references in Revelation ⁵⁰9:1; ⁵¹11:7; ⁵²17:8 and ⁵³20:1-3 to that place imply that the upper part will have been vacated, as taught by ⁵⁴Ephesians 4:8. Satan will be in that prison for a thousand years, then be "cast into the lake of fire and brimstone" - Rev. ⁵⁵20:7, ⁵⁶10. That will be the "everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels" - ⁵⁷Matthew 25:41. Fallen angels are even now in that prison "reserved in everlasting (perpetual, aidiois, Greek) chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day" - ⁵⁸Jude 6. Then they, too, will be cast into the lake of fire.

EVERLASTING PUNISHMENT

Our Lord counted the wickedness of the self-righteous scribes and Pharisees so heinous that He pointed out their final doom first. He passed over their temporary imprisonment in hell (hades) - Matthew ⁵⁹5:22, ⁶⁰29, 30. John learned the truth about the destiny of unbelievers from the Lord. The last four chapters, of the revelation made to him, furnish unanswerable proof that their punishment will have no end. The battle of Armageddon will end with the beast or anti-Christ, and the false prophet, cast alive into the lake of fire; and the remnant of the enemies of Christ slain by His mighty Word - ⁶¹Rev. 19:19-21. Again we say that only the souls and spirits of men

⁴⁸ **Luke 8:31** - And they besought him that he would not command them to go out into the deep.

⁴⁹ **Romans 10:7** - Or, Who shall descend into the deep? (that is, to bring up Christ again from the dead.)

⁵⁰ **Revelation 9:1** - And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit.

⁵¹ **Revelation 11:7** - And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them.

⁵² **Revelation 17:8** - The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.

⁵³ **Revelation 20:1-3** - And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.

⁵⁴ **Ephesians 4:8** - Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.

⁵⁵ **Revelation 20:7** - And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,

⁵⁶ **Revelation 20:10** - 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.

⁵⁷ **Matthew 25:41** - Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

⁵⁸ **Jude 1:6** - And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.

⁵⁹ **Matthew 5:22** - But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire.

⁶⁰ **Matthew 5:29-30** - And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast *it* from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not *that* thy whole body should be cast into hell. And if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and cast *it* from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not *that* thy whole body should be cast into hell.

⁶¹ **Revelation 19:19-21** - And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army. And the beast was taken, and with him the false

inhabit hell (hades), also fallen angels and demons; but men will dwell in the lake of fire in their bodies.

After one thousand years in prison in the pit of the abyss (lower hades), Satan will be hurled into the lake of fire to keep company with the beast and false prophet - "and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever (into the ages of the ages)" - ⁶²Rev. 20:10. John says, "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. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it (dead bodies raised to life); and death and hell (hades) delivered up the dead which were in them (that is, the bodies in graves and the souls in hades came forth for judgment): and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire." Note that there will be no more death nor hell after that, for "death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death" - Rev. 20:12-15.

Death is separation. Men are dead in trespasses and sins, separated from God and light. The first death implied here is separation of the soul from the body, and the temporary abode is in hades. The second death is the lake of fire. Death is an enemy to Christ and His people. Hence, "the last enemy that shall be destroyed is death." The Christian shouts, "Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave (hades), where is thy victory?" - I Cor. 15:26, ⁶³54, 55. Jesus said, "If any man eat of this Bread (Himself), he shall live for ever" - John ⁶⁴6:51, ⁶⁵58. He said to weeping Martha, "And whosoever liveth and believeth in Me shall never die. Believest thou this?" - John 11:26. "On such the second death hath no power" - ⁶⁶Rev. 20:6. They will never be separated from God. Physical death to believers is not real death; it is a divinely protected sleep. Jesus said, "Lazarus sleepeth." "Them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with Him" - ⁶⁷I Thess. 4:14. The Lord said, "Behold, I make all things new. And He said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful. He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be My son" - ⁶⁸Revelation 21:5,7.

prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone. And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which *sword* proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh.

⁶² **Revelation 20:10** - 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.

⁶³ **1 Corinthians 15:54-55** - So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where *is* thy sting? O grave, where *is* thy victory?

⁶⁴ **John 6:51** - I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.

⁶⁵ **John 6:58** - This is that bread which came down from heaven: not as your fathers did eat manna, and are dead: he that eateth of this bread shall live for ever.

⁶⁶ **Revelation 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 be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

⁶⁷ **1 Thessalonians 4:14** - For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

⁶⁸ **Revelation 21:5** - And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.

Now mark the dismal eternal contrast. "But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, 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" - Rev. 21:8. That state is "forever and ever," or into the ages of the ages (eis tous aionas ton aionon, Greek). Stop and think. Ask yourself these questions: What ages and how many will follow the Millennial period? How long will each one continue? Can we wonder why they are translated, "forever and ever?"

The devil is deceiving people continually and tripping them, by leading them to wrest the Scriptures from their contexts and thus giving wrong interpretations. Satan uses human reasonings to hurl men into gross errors. They deny and try to overthrow the final chapters of Revelation. Some teach that the wicked will be annihilated or burnt up literally. Destruction does not necessarily mean annihilation or utter extinction. The earth was destroyed by a flood, but it still exists. The final fire of Divine judgment in perdition will not be physical. Like the rich man in hell, men will suffer the pangs of remorse and regret, shut out from God's Presence with not the slightest hope of deliverance. "And whosoever shall speak a word against the Son of Man, it shall be forgiven him, neither in this world (age), nor in that which is to come" - ⁶⁹Matthew 12:32 R. V. "And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever (into the ages of ages, Greek)" - ⁷⁰Rev. 14:11. Material fire would consume the bodies into ashes. The soul anguish of the rich man in hades is an earnest of the torments of the lost in the lake of fire.

Erroists make a great ado over the Hebrew word "olam" or "alam," and the Greek word "aion" and "aionios." They try to prove universal salvation by these words. It is true that "olam" and "aion" mean a space of time, a period, an age, a very long period, a period out of mind; that is, an age beyond human conception. The Greek "aionios" literally means "age-lasting," or "age-continuing." But, instead of these meanings contradicting our King James translation, they confirm it and make the facts plainer and more positive. Turn to some sample citations in your Bible and compare them with the original. The context determines the length of the period mentioned. "Have not forgiveness, neither in this age (the Church period), nor in the coming one (the Millennium)" - Matthew 12:32. "In the world (age) to come life everlasting (life age-lasting)" - ⁷¹Luke 18:30. Compare ⁷²Hebrews 9:12. Jesus was addressing Israel. "God ... hath given us (Christians) everlasting (age-lasting) consolation" - ⁷³II Thess. 2:16. "Unto all the generations of the age of the ages" - ⁷⁴Eph. 3:21 R. V. These may refer to the Millennium. But Ephesians 2:7 reaches beyond that period - "That in the ages to come (Millennial and succeeding periods) He might shew the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us through Christ Jesus."

⁶⁹ **Matthew 12:32** - And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the *world* to come.

⁷⁰ **Revelation 14:11** - And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.

⁷¹ **Luke 18:30** - Who shall not receive manifold more in this present time, and in the world to come life everlasting.

⁷² **Hebrews 9:12** - Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption *for us*.

⁷³ **2 Thessalonians 2:16** - Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given *us* everlasting consolation and good hope through grace,

⁷⁴ **Ephesians 3:21** - Unto him *be* glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

The Scriptures speak of past eternity and of future eternity. "The revelation of the mystery which hath been kept in silence through times eternal" means the dispensations from Adam to Christ - ⁷⁵Romans 16:25 R. V. "Before the world began (the ages of time)" - ⁷⁶II Timothy 1:9. This takes us back beyond ⁷⁷Ephesians 1:4 - "Chosen us in Him before the foundation (or re-creation) of the world" - Genesis 1. Observe the phrase "life age-lasting" (or eternal) in such citations as John ⁷⁸3:15, 16, ⁷⁹36 and ⁸⁰5:24, where the age length is proven to be without end by the attendant words "should not perish." ⁸¹John 10:28 reads, "In no wise shall they perish for the age," which must be eternal. In John ⁸²6:40, ⁸³47, ⁸⁴54, ⁸⁵68 we have the assurance of "age-lasting life," by the fourth time utterance, "I will raise him up at the last day." Twice it is written, "He shall live for the age" (or, forever) - John 6:51, 58. Jesus said also, "He that eateth Me (believeth), even he shall live by Me"; and "because I live, ye shall live also" - John ⁸⁶6:57; ⁸⁷14:19. How long has He been living? How long will He live? As long as John wrote that the wicked would be punished - "unto ages of ages," and "unto the ages of the ages" - Rev. ⁸⁸14:10, 11; ⁸⁹20:10 R. V. Just so long we will praise Him - "To the only God our Saviour, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and power, before all time, and now, and for evermore (unto all the ages). Amen!" - ⁹⁰Jude 25 Revised Version.

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- ⁷⁵ **Romans 16:25** - Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began,
- ⁷⁶ **2 Timothy 1:9** - Who hath saved us, and called *us* with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,
- ⁷⁷ **Ephesians 1:4** - 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:
- ⁷⁸ **John 3:15-16** - That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. 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.
- ⁷⁹ **John 3:36** - He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.
- ⁸⁰ **John 5:24** - Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.
- ⁸¹ **John 10:28** - And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any *man* pluck them out of my hand.
- ⁸² **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.
- ⁸³ **John 6:47** - Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.
- ⁸⁴ **John 6:54** - Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day.
- ⁸⁵ **John 6:68** - Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life.
- ⁸⁶ **John 6:57** - As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me.
- ⁸⁷ **John 14:19** - Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also.
- ⁸⁸ **Revelation 14:10-11** - The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture 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 ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.
- ⁸⁹ **Revelation 20:10** - 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.
- ⁹⁰ **Jude 25** - To the only wise God our Saviour, *be* glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.

People who are acquainted with the Bible and deny the eternal punishment of the wicked are not honest. If they mean what they say, then they are virtually saying that God and Jesus and saved folk also may have an end. If Divine judgment of the wicked is not forever, then bliss and salvation are not forever, for the same duration terms are used of both. If Jesus Christ is the life that we receive in the new birth, and He is eternal, then every one who believes on Jesus has eternal life. On the other hand, that human logic which provides salvation for the lost by means of suffering in judgment flames must save the devil also, for he is God's creature. Men sweep away the repeated utterances of God's just wrath, saying that He is too merciful. But true believers agree with God and cry out, saying, "For the great day of His wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand? And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are Thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are Thy ways, Thou King of saints. Who shall not fear Thee, O Lord, and glorify Thy Name? For Thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before Thee; for Thy judgments are made manifest" - Revelation 6:17; 15:3, 4.