Daniel Chapter 12 – Part 10 The Resurrection at Jesus 3rd Coming







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And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them.

Exodus 25:8

Psalms 77:13



Health Snippet – Ginger

Health Benefits of Ginger (Seek Medical Advise)
Osteoarthritis (OA) is a common health problem.
It involves degeneration of the joints in the body, leading to symptoms such as joint pain and stiffness.

4. Can help with osteoarthritis:

In a study, 247 participants with knee osteoarthritis were given either 255 mg of ginger capsules or placebo capsules twice a day for six months.

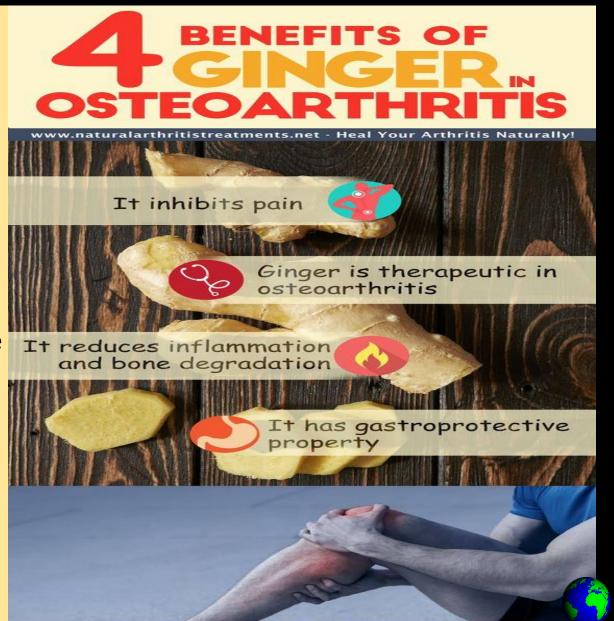
 Paracetamol was given as a rescue drug for pain relief during the study.

63% of the participants who were treated with ginger had significant reduction in knee pain compared to 50% of the placebo group.

The severity of pain and overall improvement of osteoarthritis-related symptoms were also significantly reduced in the group taking ginger compared to the placebo group.

• The ginger group reported more gastrointestinal sideeffects (like heartburn), but they were relatively mild and tolerable.

Ginger is easy to ingest in capsules if taste is disliked.



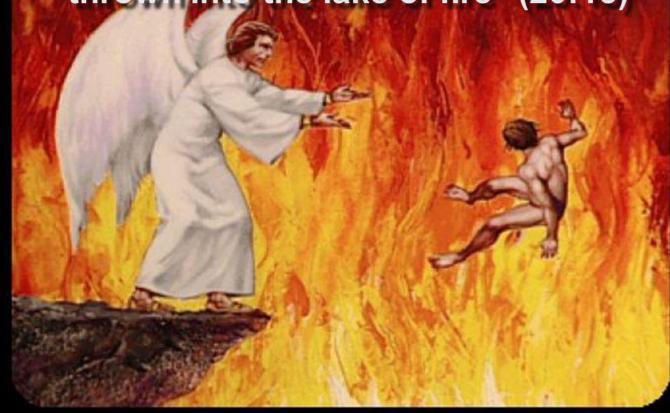
Can We Trust Bible Prophecy?





Yes we Can!

"And anyone whose name was not found recorded in the Book of Life was thrown into the lake of fire" (20:15)





Daniel Chapter 12 – Part 10 The Resurrection at Jesus 3rd Coming







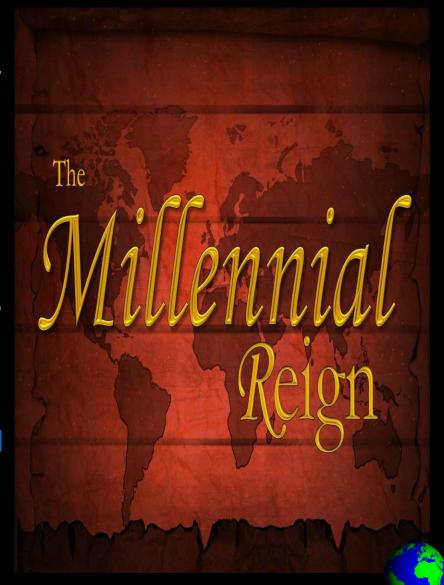
Introduction

Christ in Heaven With the Redeemed:

At His second advent Christ takes His followers to heaven, to the dwelling places He has prepared for them in the New Jerusalem. Like Moses and the Israelites, the redeemed, filled with gratitude, sing a song of their deliverance—"the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying: 'Great and marvellous are Your works, Lord God Almighty! Just and true are Your ways, O King of the saints!" (Revelation 15:3).

The Saints Reign With Christ:

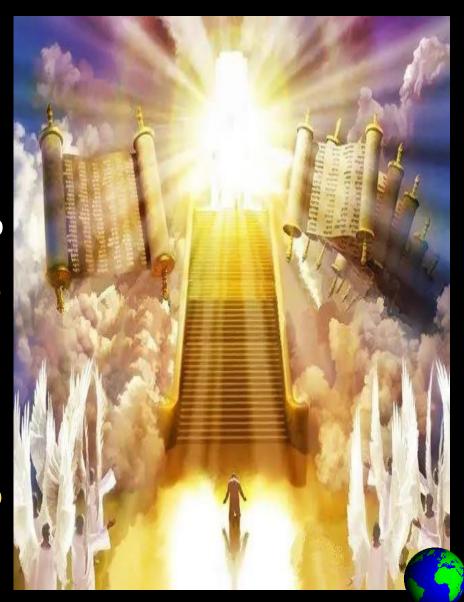
It is during the millennium that Christ will fulfill His promise to give the overcomers "power over the nations" (Revelation 2:26). Daniel saw that after the destruction of Christ's enemies "the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High'" (Daniel 7:27). Those whom Christ raises in the first resurrection will reign with Him for a thousand years (Revelation 20:4). But in what sense can the saints be said to reign if they are in heaven and all the wicked are dead? Their reign will consist of involvement in an important phase of Christ's governing.



The Judgment of the Wicked

John saw that during the millennium the saints would be involved in judgment; he saw "thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them (Revelation 20:4). This is the time of the judgment of Satan and his angels that Scripture notes (2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6). It's the time when Paul's declaration that the saints would judge the world and even the angels (1 Corinthians 6:2, 3) will come to pass. - SDA Bible Commentary, rev. ed., vol. 7, p. 880

The millennial judgment does not decide who is to be saved or lost. God makes that decision before the Second Advent; all those who were not either resurrected or translated then are forever lost. The judgment in which the righteous participate serves the purpose of answering any questions the righteous may have as to why the wicked are lost. God wants those to whom He has given eternal life to have full confidence in His leadership, so He will reveal to them the operations of His mercy and justice.



The Judgment of the Wicked (cont'd)

Imagine you were in heaven and you found that one of your loved ones whom you certainly expected to be there was not.

Such a case might cause you to question God's justice—and that kind of doubt lies at the very base of sin. To lay to rest forever any occasion for such doubts—and so to ensure that sin will never rise again—God will provide the answers to these questions during this review phase of the millennial judgment.

In this work the redeemed fulfill a crucial role in the great controversy between good and evil. "They will confirm to their eternal satisfaction how earnestly and patiently God cared for lost sinners. They will perceive how heedlessly and stubbornly sinners spurned and rejected His love. They will discover that even seemingly mild sinners secretly cherished ugly selfishness rather than accept the value system of their Lord and Saviour."



Satan's Time for Reflection

During the millennium Satan will suffer intensely. Confined, with his angels, to a desolate earth, he cannot carry on the deceptions that had constantly occupied his time. He is forced to view the results of his rebellion against God and His law; he must contemplate the part he has played in the controversy between good and evil. He can only look to the future with fear for the dreadful penalty he must suffer because of all the evil for which he is responsible.



Daniel 12:2 - The Resurrection to Shame

Daniel 12:2 And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.

And many of them that sleep - Here we have a resurrection taking place during the time of the 7th of the 7 last plagues.

Some to everlasting life and some to shame and everlasting contempt - The many that awake, or are resurrected, are a mixed multitude consisting of some that will gain eternal life and others that will not. These are being resurrected at the same time. This cannot be only the first resurrection that takes place when Jesus comes as only the righteous dead are raised in it. (1 Thessalonians 4:16) It also cannot only be the second resurrection that takes place at the end of the thousand years as only the wicked dead are raised in it. Revelation 20:4-6, 14-15)

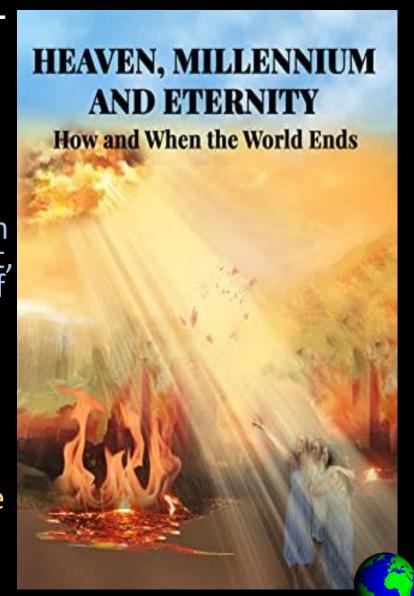


Events at the End of the Millennium

At the end of the thousand years "the rest of the dead"—the wicked—will be resurrected, thus releasing Satan from the inactivity that has imprisoned him (Revelation 20:5, 7). Deceiving the wicked once again, he leads them against "the camp of the saints and the beloved city [the New Jerusalem]" (Revelation 20:9), which, with Christ, have descended from heaven by this time.

Revelation's portrayal of the descent of the New Jerusalem does not necessarily indicate the exact time of the descent, for we see that "beloved city" surrounded by the armies of the devil. This scenario leads to the conclusion that the New Jerusalem must have originally descended before the rejuvenation of the earth (made new by the creator).

Christ, the Saints, and the City Descend. Christ descends to earth again, with the saints and the New Jerusalem, for two purposes. He will end the great controversy by executing the decisions of the millennial judgment, and He will purify and renew the earth so that He can establish on it His eternal kingdom. Then, in the fullest sense, "the Lord shall be King over all the earth" (Zechariah 14.9).

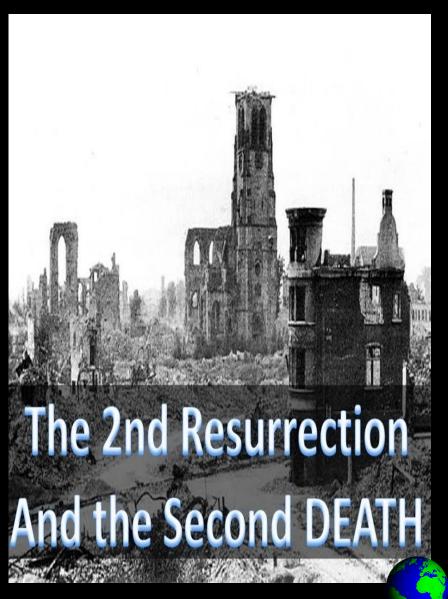


The Resurrection of Condemnation

Now the moment has arrived that will complete the fulfilment of Christ's promise that "'all who are in the graves will hear His voice'" (John 5:28). At His second advent Christ brought the righteous dead from their graves in the first resurrection, "the resurrection of life." Now the other resurrection Jesus spoke of will take place, "'the resurrection of condemnation'" (John 5:29). Revelation also refers to this resurrection: "The rest of the dead [those who were not raised in the first resurrection] did not live again until the thousand years were finished" (Revelation 20:5).

Satan's Captivity Ends:

The resurrection of the wicked at the end of the thousand years releases Satan from his captivity "for a little while" (Revelation 20:3). In his last attempt to challenge God's government he "will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth" (Revelation 20:8). Since the wicked are raised with the same rebellion spirit they each possessed when they died, his work will not be difficult.



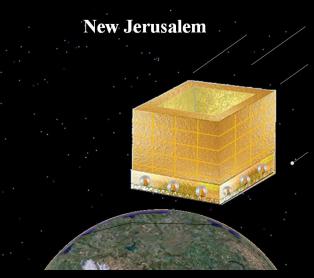
The Attack on the City

In his final deception Satan seeks to inspire the wicked with the hope of capturing the kingdom of God by force. Gathering the nations of the world, he leads them against the beloved city (Revelation 20:8, 9).

The names Gog and Magog were associated with the enemies of Israel, who were to attack God's people and Jerusalem after the exile (see Ezekiel 38:2, 14-16). Various of the Old Testament prophecies regarding Israel were not fulfilled. They will meet their fulfilment in spiritual Israel. So the mighty enemy confederation Ezekiel spoke of as coming against Jerusalem will find its fulfilment when God allows Satan, with his armies of the unsaved, to come against His people and His beloved city for the final battle of the great controversy.

"The wicked who stubbornly refused an entrance into the City of God through the merits of Christ's sacrificial atonement, now determine to gain admission and control by siege and battle."

The fact that the wicked, as soon as God gives them life again, turn against Him and attempt to overthrow His kingdom confirms the decision He has made about their fate. In this way His name and character, which Satan has sought to besmirch, will be fully vindicated before all. - SDA Bible Commentary, rev. ed., vol. 4, p. 708.





The Great White Throne Judgment

John indicates that when God's enemies have surrounded the city and are ready to attack it, God sets up His great white throne. As the entire human race meets around this thronesome secure inside the city, others outside, terrified in the presence of the Judge—God will carry out the last phase of judgment. This is the time Christ spoke of when He said, "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 thrust out." (Luke 13:28).

To carry out this executive phase of the judgment, God's record books will be 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." (Revelation 20:12). Then God pronounces the sentence of doom.



The Great White Throne Judgment (cont'd)

Why does God raise these people to life only to end their existence again? During the millennium, the redeemed have had an opportunity to examine the justice of God's treatment of every intelligent being in the universe. Now the lost themselves—including Satan and his angels—will confirm the justice of God's ways.

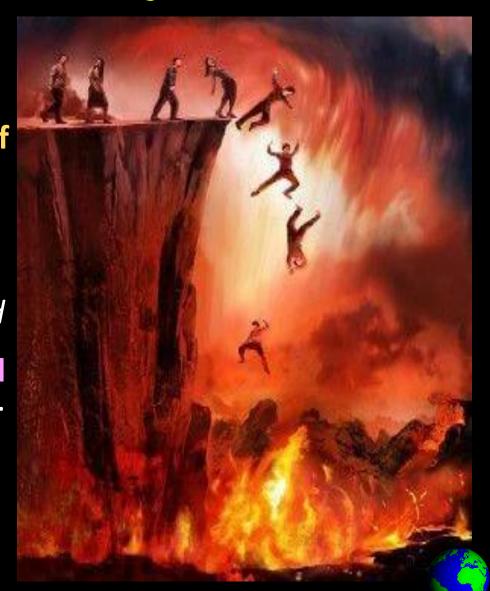
It is at this great white throne judgment that Paul's words, "We shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ" (Romans 14:10), will be fulfilled. There all creatures—unfallen and fallen, saved and lost—bow the knee and confess that Jesus Christ is Lord (Philippians 2:10, 11; cf. Isaiah 45:22, 23). Then the question of God's justice will have been forever resolved. Those who receive eternal life will have an unshakable faith in Him. Never again will sin mar the universe or wreak havoc on its inhabitants.



Satan and Sinners Destroyed

Immediately upon their sentencing, Satan, his angels, and his human followers receive their punishment. They are to die an eternal death. "Fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured" all the unsaved (Revelation 20:9). The very surface of the earth outside the city appears to melt, becoming a vast lake of fire for the "judgment and perdition of ungodly men" (2 Peter 3:7). The "'day of the Lord's vengeance" (Isaiah 34:8), upon which He will perform "his strange act" (Isaiah 28:21) of destroying His enemies, has arrived. Said John: "And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire" (Revelation 20:15). The devil and his associates also suffer this fate (Revelation 20:10).

The context of the entire Bible makes clear that this "second death" (Revelation 21:8) that the wicked suffer means their total destruction. What then of the concept of an eternally burning hell? Careful study shows that the Bible teaches no such hell or torment.



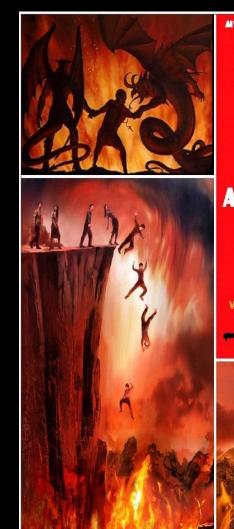
Punishment of the Wicked In Light of The Cross

The biggest lie out of the Dark Ages is not that Sabbath was changed to Sunday, or that when you die you go straight to heaven. No lie distorts the character of the loving heavenly father like the lie that sinners will be tormented throughout the endless ages of eternity.

Fact is:

It is no arbitrary decree on the part of God that excludes the wicked from heaven; they are shut out by their own unfitness for its companionship. The glory of God would be to them a consuming fire. They would welcome destruction, that they might be hidden from the face of Him who died to redeem them. –Ellen White, Steps to Christ, page 17

Did you ever notice that Jesus did not tell the demons He could not be around them? The demons told Jesus they could not around Him! (For example, see Matthew 8:29) So to the unconverted heart, the glory of God is hell, while to the converted heart God's glory is paradise!



"WHEN A WICKED
MAN DIETH, HIS
EXPECTATION
SHALL PERISH:
AND THE HOPE OF
UNJUST MEN
PERISHETH."
www.giftsofdevotion.org
Proverbs 11:7



Punishment of the Wicked In Light of The Cross (cont'd)

When the fire in Revelation 20:9 comes down out of heaven and consumes the wicked, that fire is the actual presence of God. God's presence will be hell to those who hate Him, while it will be paradise to those who love Him. I believe this is why the Bible refers to an eternal fire. God is the eternal fire. But God's love is not going to torture the wicked throughout eternity. God's love will burn for eternity, but it will put sinners out of their misery instead of torturing them for eternity.

A skewed understanding of hell skews our understanding of God's love and character, which is exactly what Satan wants. To properly understand the punishment of the wicked, like all other Bible teachings, we must look at it in the light of the cross.



The Punishment of the Wicked

Overview:

The wicked will be destroyed by fire. The punishment will die instead of being tormented for all eternity. See John 3:16, Romans 6:23, Obadiah 1:16, Matthew 10:28, Ezekiel 18:4, 20.

the wicked:

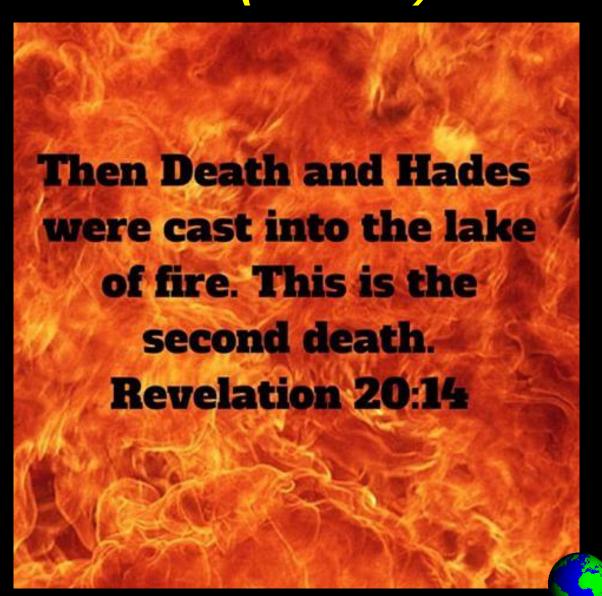
The teaching of people being tortured throughout all eternity is the most satanic false doctrine of all! It totally misrepresents the love and character of God, making it impossible to love and know Him the way He loves and knows us.

Many churches use hell and fear as a motivation for doing good because they do not properly understand the love motivation. They do not understand the depths of Christ's sacrifice in dying the second death. They seem to understand the cross to be a mere pain endurance marathon instead of seeing a Saviour who was actually willing to say good-bye to life and heaven forever in order to save the world.



The Punishment of the Wicked (cont'd)

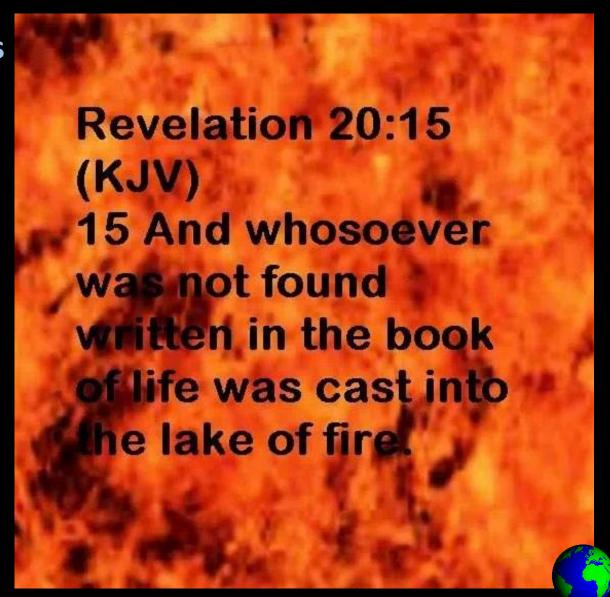
When the early church saw the depths of Jesus' love and sacrifice it turned the whole world upside down! It changed everything. God's love constrained, empowered and motivated the believers. And this love is the only motivation that will actually succeed today in transforming people. In Galatians 6, Paul writes of a faith that works by love, not a fear of punishment. In John 14, Jesus says, "If you love Me, keep My commandments," not "if you don't want to go to hell you better keep my commandments." Followers of Jesus must uplift the cross and the truth about the cross at all times.



The Punishment of the Wicked (cont'd)

Young men in juvenile centres and people everywhere else need to know that there is a God who did way more than suffer for six hours on a cross. He faced the second death for them. He loved them more than He loved his own life. He loved them so much that when tempted to come down from the cross and go back to heaven He chose to die instead. Jesus stayed on that cross for the young men in the juvenile detention centre because the thought of heaven without them was hell to Jesus!

When the love motivation receives its proper emphasis, it will accomplish so much more than fear motivation. Some people quote John 3:16 while preaching of an eternal torment of sinners, but that verse clearly says those who do not believe will perish instead of being tortured throughout the ceaseless ages of eternity.



Further study on the punishment of the wicked

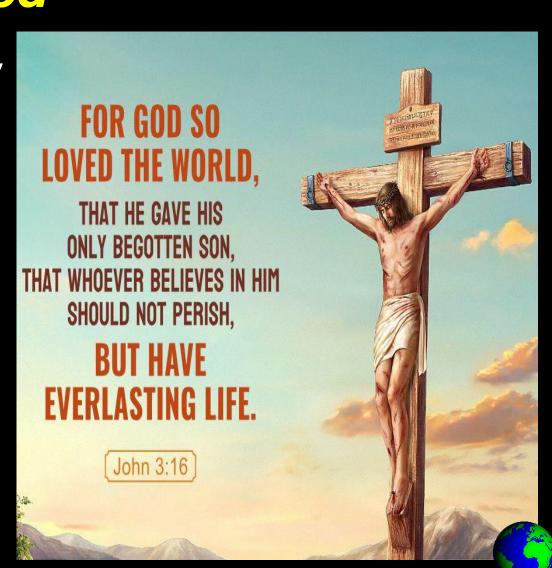
What is the opposite of eternal life?

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. -John 3:16

Those who don't believe perish.
They are not tortured for all eternity.

God did not throw Eve out of paradise just because she took a piece of fruit she was told not to. The serpent told lies about God's love and interest in Eve's welfare, that Eve and all mankind bought into. When Eve stopped believing in God's love she stopped believing in her only Source of life. At the cross Jesus died for our sin of unbelief, and when we believe again in His love, we gain back the life we lost when stopped believing in His love.

• This is the message of John 3:16.



Further study on the punishment of the What is the wages of sin? Wicked (cont'd)

For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. — Romans 6:23

Note that the wages of sin is not eternal torment in hell.

What becomes of the soul or person that sins?

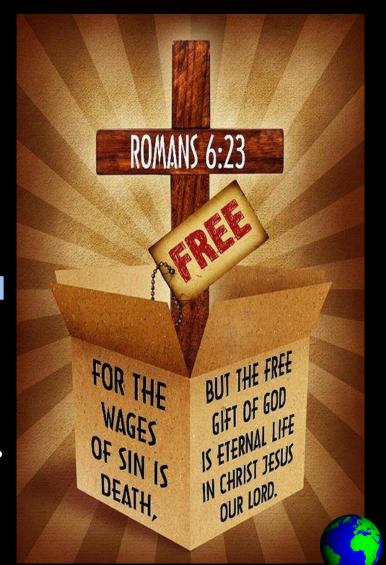
Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sinneth, it shall die. - Ezekiel 18:4

This makes it clear that the entire soul or person dies in hell and will not be tormented throughout eternity.

How long does the devil have?

Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabiters of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time. — Revelation 12:12

The devil does not have eternity in hell or anywhere else. He has but a little time left to exist.



Further study on the punishment of the wicked (cont'd)

What will happen to the devil or Satan?

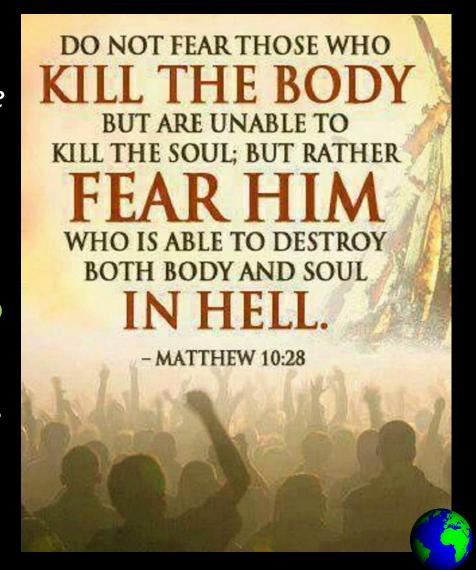
Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffick; therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it shall devour thee, and I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee. All they that know thee among the people shall be astonished at thee: thou shalt be a terror, and never shalt thou be any more. - Ezekiel 28:18-19

Satan, like all sinners, will be annihilated and exist no more.

What happens to both body and soul in hell?

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. – Matthew 10:28

Neither soul nor body are tortured throughout the ceaseless ages of eternity. Both are destroyed.



Further study on the punishment of the wicked (cont'd)

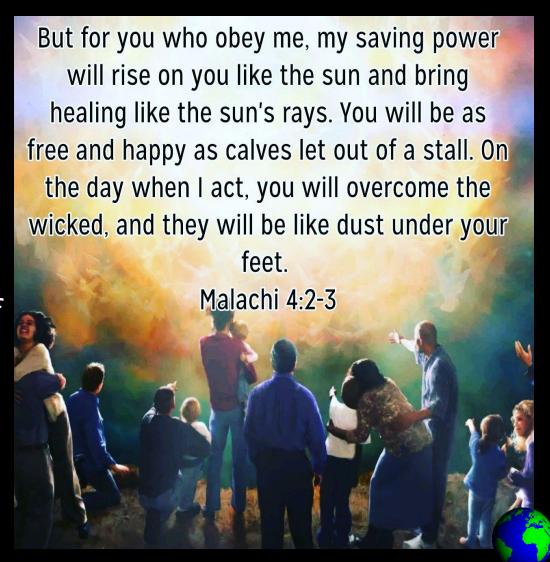
What is the final end of the wicked?

For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch. But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall. And ye shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, saith the LORD of hosts. — Malachi 4:1-3

There will be nothing left of the wicked – nothing but ashes.

What does the lake of fire stand for?

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



Further study on the punishment of the wicked (cont'd)

What is God's promise?

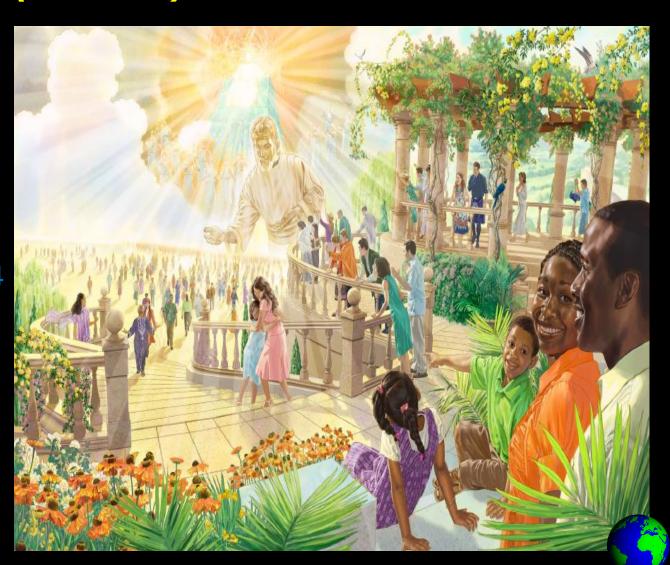
And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. — Revelation 21:3-4

Sinners cannot be eternally tormented in light of the promise that there will be no more pain. The promise is unconditional.

Can we trust that promise?

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. – Revelation 21:5

Lets examine the concluding events...

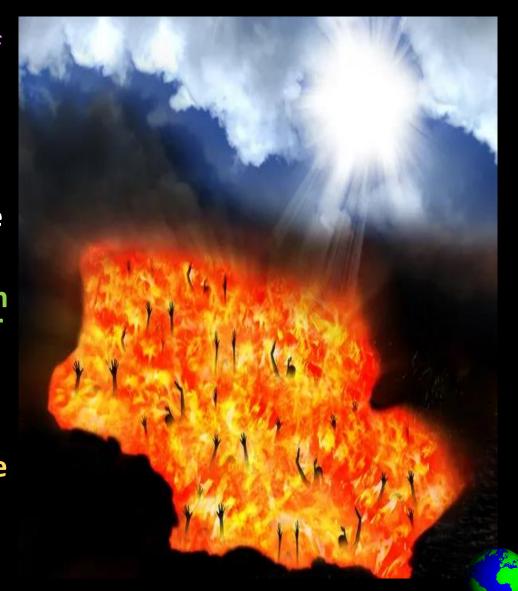


1. Hell

Biblically, hell is "the place and state of punishment and destruction, by eternal fire in the second death, of those who reject God and the offer of salvation in Jesus Christ." - "Hell," SDA Encyclopaedia, rev. ed., p. 579.

English versions of the Bible frequently use the word "hell" to translate the Hebrew word sheol and the Greek hades. These terms generally refer to the grave where the dead—both righteous and wicked—await, in a state of unconsciousness, the resurrection. Because today's concept of hell differs so greatly from what these Hebrew and Greek terms imply, a number of modern versions avoid the word "hell," simply transliterating the Hebrew word as "Sheol" and the Greek as "Hades."

In contrast, the Greek word geenna, which English versions of the New Testament also translate with the word "hell," denotes a place of fiery punishment for the impenitent. In the Bible, then, "hell" does not always have the same meaning—and the failure to note this distinction has often led to great confusion.



1. Hell (cont'd)

Geenna is derived from the Hebrew Ge Hinnom, "Valley of Hinnom"—a gorge on the south side of Jerusalem. Here Israel had conducted the heathen rite of burning children to Molech (2 Chronicles 28:3; 33:1, 6). Jeremiah predicted that because of this sin the Lord would make the valley a "Valley of Slaughter," where the corpses of the Israelites would be buried till there was no more place for them. The remaining bodies were to be "food for the birds" (Jeremiah 7:32, 33; Isaiah 30:33). Jeremiah's prophecy undoubtedly led Israel to view Ge Hinnom as a place of judgement of the wicked, a place of abhorrence, punishment, and shame. - "Hell," SDA Encyclopaedia, rev. ed., p. 475.

Later rabbinical tradition considers it a place for burning carcasses and rubbish.

Jesus used the fires of Hinnom as a representation of hellfire (e.g., Matthew 5:22; 18:9). So the fires of Hinnom symbolized the consuming fire of the last judgment. He stated that it was an experience beyond death (Luke 12:5) and that hell would destroy both body and soul (Matthew 10:28).

What is the nature of hellfire? Do people in hell burn forever?



2. The fate of the wicked

According to the Scriptures, God promises eternal life only to the righteous. The wages of sin is death, not eternal life in hell (Romans 6:23).

The Scriptures teach that the wicked will be "cut off" (Psalms 37:9, 34); that they will perish (Psalms 37:20; 68:2).

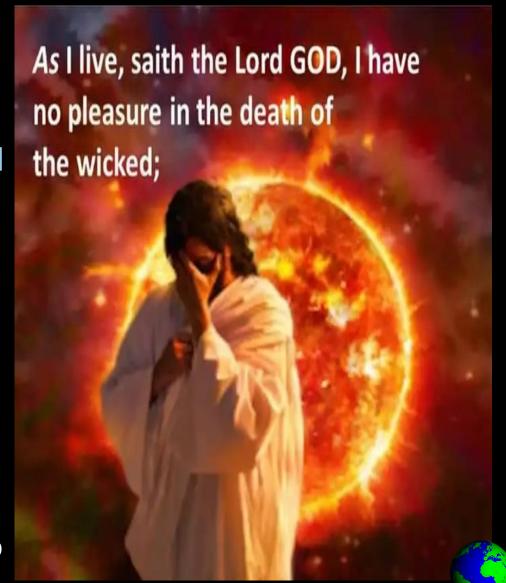
They will not live in a state of consciousness forever, but will be burned up (Malachi 4:1; Matthew 13:30, 40; 2 Peter 3:10). They will be destroyed (Psalms 145:20; 2 Thessalonians 1:9; Hebrews 2:14), consumed (Psalms 104:35).



3. Everlasting punishment

In speaking of the punishment of the wicked, the New Testament uses the terms "everlasting" and "eternal." These terms translate the Greek word aionios, and apply to God as well as to man. To avoid misunderstanding, one must remember that aionios is a relative term; its meaning is determined by the object it modifies. So when Scripture uses aionios ("everlasting," "eternal") of God, it does mean that He possesses infinite existence—for God is immortal. But when it uses this word of mortal human beings or perishable things, it means as long as the person lives or the thing exists.

Jude 7, for example, says that Sodom and Gomorrah suffered "the vengeance of eternal fire." Yet those cities are not burning today. Peter said that that fire turned those cities into ashes, condemning them to destruction (2 Peter 2:6). The "eternal" fire burned until there was nothing left to burn, and then it went out (see also Jeremiah 17:27; 2 Chronicles 36:19).



3. Everlasting punishment (cont'd)

Similarly, when Christ assigns the wicked to "'everlasting fire'" (Matthew 25:41), that fire that will burn up the wicked will be "'unquenchable'" (Matthew 3:12). Only when there is nothing left to burn will it go out.

Jeremiah's prophecy of the destruction of Jerusalem by unquenchable fire (Jeremiah 17:27), fulfilled when Nebuchadnezzar took the city (2 Chronicles 36:19). The fire burned until the city was destroyed and then went out.

When Christ spoke of "everlasting punishment" (Matthew 25:46) He did not mean everlasting punishing. He meant that as the "eternal life [the righteous will enjoy] will continue throughout the ceaseless ages of eternity; and the punishment [the wicked will suffer] will also be eternal—not eternal duration of conscious suffering, however, but punishment that is complete and final.



3. Everlasting punishment (cont'd)

The end of those who thus suffer is the second death. This death will be eternal, from which there will not, and cannot, be any resurrection."

When the Bible speaks of "eternal redemption" (Hebrews 9:12) and "eternal judgment" (Hebrews 6:2), it is referring to the eternal results of the redemption and the judgment—not to an endless process of redemption and judgment. In the same way, when it speaks of eternal or everlasting punishment, it is speaking of the results and not of the process of that punishment. The death the wicked die will be final and everlasting.



4. Tormented forever and ever

Scripture's use of the expression "forever and ever" (Revelation 14:11; 19:3; 20:10) has also contributed to the conclusion that the process of punishing Satan and the wicked will go on throughout eternity. But like "everlasting," the object it modifies determines the meaning of the word "forever." When it is associated with God, its meaning is absolute—for God is immortal; when it is associated with mortal humans, its meaning is limited.

Scripture's description of God's punishment of Edom yields a good example of this usage. Isaiah says that God would turn that country into burning pitch that would "not be quenched night or day" and that its smoke was to "ascend forever. From generation to generation it shall lie waste; no one shall pass through it forever and ever" (Isaiah 34:9, 10). Edom was destroyed, but it is not still burning. The "forever" lasted until its destruction was complete.



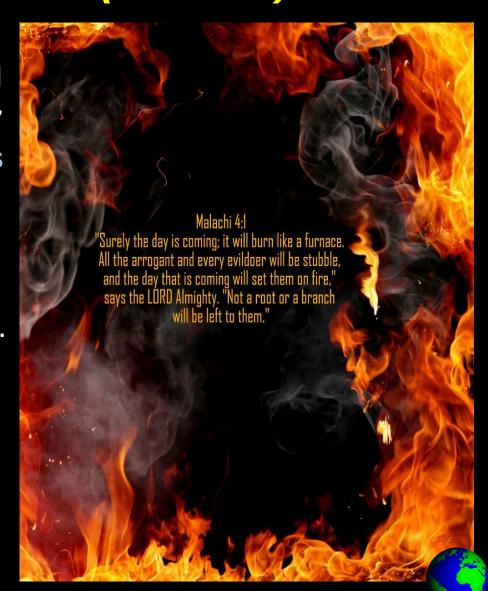


4. Tormented forever and ever (cont'd)

Throughout Scripture it is clear that "forever" has its limits. The Old Testament says that a slave could serve his master "forever" (Exodus 21:6), that the child Samuel was to abide in the tabernacle "forever" (1 Samuel 1:22), and that Jonah thought he would be in the belly of the great fish "forever" (Jonah 2:6). The New Testament uses this term in a similar way: Paul, for example, counseled Philemon to receive Onesimus "forever" (Philemon 15). In all these instances "forever" means "as long as the person lives."

Psalm 92:7 says that the wicked will be destroyed forever. And prophesying of the great final conflagration. Malachi said, "For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch." (Malachi 4:1).

Once the wicked—Satan, evil angels, and impenitent people—are all destroyed by fire, both root and branch, there will be no further use for death or hades. These also God will eternally destroy (Revelation 20:14).



4. Tormented forever and ever (cont'd)

So the Bible makes it very clear that the punishment, not the punishing, is everlasting—is the second death. From this punishment there is no resurrection; its effects are eternal.

Archbishop William Temple was right when he asserted, "One thing we can say with confidence: Everlasting torment is to be ruled out. If men had not imported the Greek and unbiblical notion of the natural indestructibility of the individual soul, and then read the New Testament with that already in their minds, they would have drawn from it [the New Testament] a belief, not in everlasting torment, but in annihilation. It is the fire that is called aeonian [everlasting], not the life cast into it." - William Temple, Christian Faith and Life (New York: Macmillan, 1931), p. 81.

The full penalty of God's law having been executed, the demands of justice are satisfied. Now heaven and earth proclaim the righteousness of the Lord.



5. The principle of punishment

Death is the ultimate penalty for sin. As a result of their sin, all who refuse the salvation God offers will die eternally. But some have sinned flagrantly, demonic in the delight they have taken in causing others to suffer. Others have lived relatively moral, peaceful lives, their guilt mainly that of rejecting the salvation provided in Christ. Is it fair that they suffer the same punishment?

Christ said, the "servant who knows his master's will and does not get ready or does not do what his master wants will be beaten with many blows. But the one who does not know and does things deserving punishment will be beaten with few blows. From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much will be asked" (Luke 12:47, 58).



5. The principle of punishment (cont'd)

Undoubtedly, those who have rebelled against God the most will suffer more than those who have not. But we should understand their ultimate suffering in terms of Christ's "second death" experience on the cross. There He bore the sins of the world. And it was the awful separation from His Father that sin brought that caused the agony He suffered—a mental anguish beyond description. So with lost sinners. They reap what they sow not only during this life but in the final destruction. In God's presence, the guilt they feel because of the sins they have committed will cause them to suffer an indescribable agony. And the greater the guilt, the greater the agony. Satan, the instigator and promoter of sin, will suffer the most. - Cf. "Hell," SDA Bible Dictionary, rev. ed., p. 475.



The Cleansing of the Earth

Describing the day of the Lord, when all traces of sin will be eliminated, Peter said, "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." (2 Peter 3:10).

The fire that destroys the wicked purifies the earth from the pollution of sin. Out of the ruins of this earth God will bring "a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away" (Revelation 21:1). From this cleansed, re-created earth—the eternal home of the redeemed—God will forever banish mourning, pain, and death (Revelation 21:4). Finally the curse sin brought will have been lifted (Revelation 22:3).



The Cleansing of the Earth (cont'd)

In view of the coming day of the Lord, in which sin and impenitent sinners will be destroyed, Peter says to all, "What kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming." Basing his hope on the promise of Christ's return, he affirmed, "We are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness. So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him" (2 Peter 3:11, 13, 14).

The New Earth:

On the new earth, in which righteousness dwells, God will provide an eternal home for the redeemed and a perfect environment for everlasting life, love, joy, and learning in His presence. For here God Himself will dwell with His people, and suffering and death will have passed away. The great controversy will be ended, and sin will be no more. All things, animate and inanimate, will declare that God is love; and He shall reign forever. Amen. (Isaiah 35; 65:17-25; Matthew 5:5; 2 Peter 3:13; Revelation 11:15; 21:1-7; 22:1-5.)



What Is The New Earth?

Recounting the visions God gave him in Revelation 21:1-3, John quotes the Old Testament book of Isaiah saying that God will make a "new heaven and a New Earth."

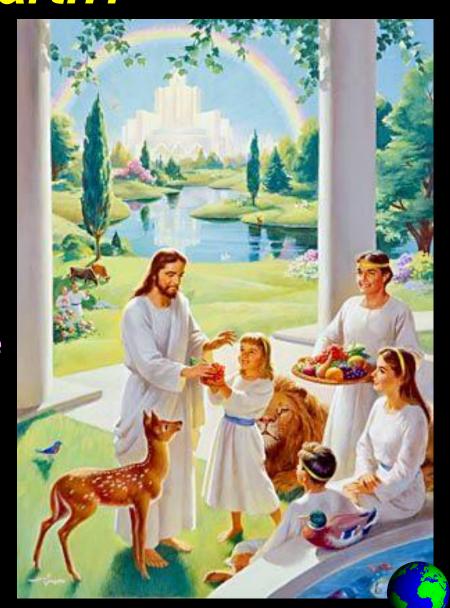
Then John adds that God showed him a beautiful city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven.

The city where God lives is going to relocate to Earth so He can live with us forever! Sounds amazing, right?

But wait! Revelation 21:1 says, "for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away." So, what happened to the earth? Are we getting a new planet?

Not exactly. We are going to get a restored earth. Scripture says that all creation, the entire planet, is suffering because of our sin. Just like we can be restored as a "new creature" (2 Corinthians 5:17) through Jesus, the earth will also be restored to its original perfection as a new creation.

The earth will still be our planet, but it will be restored to God's original plan for humanity. Just like you will still be you, but you will be the person God intended you to be when He makes you "new." Your personality will be the same, but your mind and body will be transformed into what God intended at creation.



What Is The New Earth? (cont'd)

Both heaven and earth have been negatively impacted by sin (Revelation 12:7–10). When sin is finally eradicated from our existence God will make everything new—as if sin never existed.

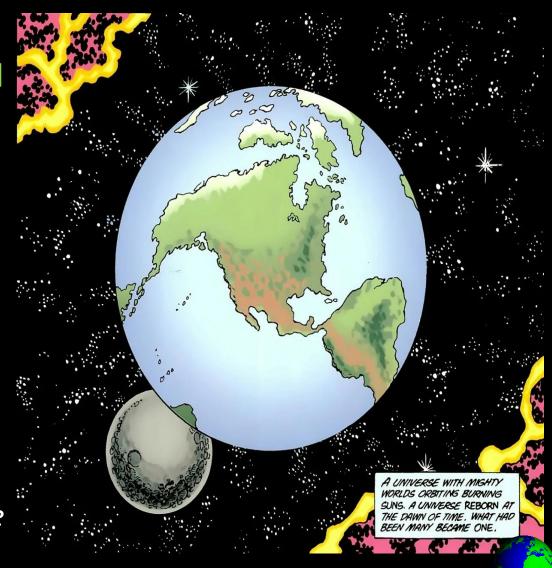
"For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind." - Isaiah 65:17

On the New Earth, in which righteousness dwells, God will provide an eternal home for the redeemed.

It will be a perfect environment for everlasting life, love, joy, and learning in His presence.

There will be no more sin, or suffering, or even negative thoughts!

And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life. – Revelation

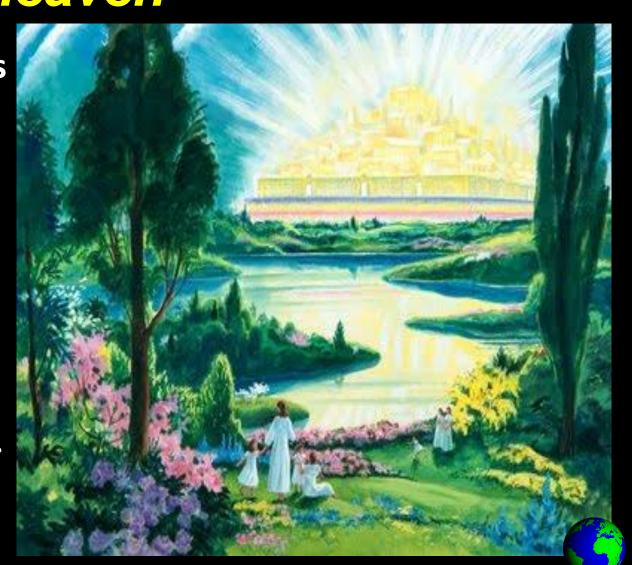


The New Earth Is Made After The 1,000 Years In Heaven

According to Revelation 20:4, 5, we will spend 1,000 years there alongside Jesus Christ—a millennium. God is going to give the redeemed 1,000 years in heaven to learn about what's behind His judgement of humanity.

As you can imagine, we will have many questions! Why did this happen? Why did this person choose this path? Why is this person in heaven and not that person?

This millennium is a privilege from God. He invites us to ask our questions and invites us to share in His knowledge of everything that happened on earth.

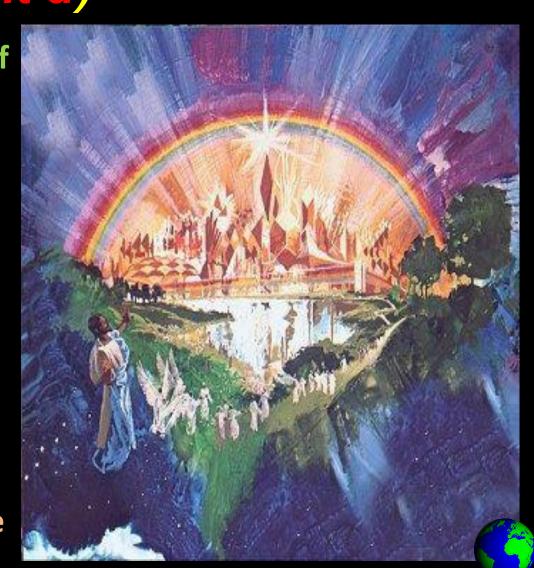


The New Earth Is Made After The 1,000 Years In Heaven (cont'd)

Before the earth was created, sin had its origins in the angel Lucifer's heart. He became jealous of God's sovereignty and he questioned God's judgement. He even started a war in heaven (Revelation 12) when he indulged the thought that he could be better than God. Lucifer, now called Satan, started the Great Controversy—a spiritual war of good versus evil.

This makes the millennium particularly meaningful for those in heaven with Jesus, as they will be shown how God's judgment was fair and just. Satan's accusations will be ultimately disproved.

While this is happening in heaven, Satan is alone and bound to the broken earth for those 1,000 years (Revelation 20:2, 5). Satan gets a cosmic time-out from God, allowing him one last chance to acknowledge God's power and goodness.



The New Earth Is Made After The 1,000 Years In Heaven (cont'd)

In Revelation 20 we also learn that the wicked who had died throughout history and those who were killed at the Second Coming of Christ are resurrected at the end of the 1,000 years.

At that time, Satan tries to mobilize them to war against God.

However, over the past millennium the saints have already seen that God's judgement is right, so the attempt at war will be fruitless. God will then cleanse the earth with fire from heaven (Revelation 20:7-10).

Now the earth is free from sin. The Great Controversy has ended (Revelation 21:1-8). God is free to recreate the earth, recreate a better world. The earth will be restored to the beautiful paradise that we find in Genesis.

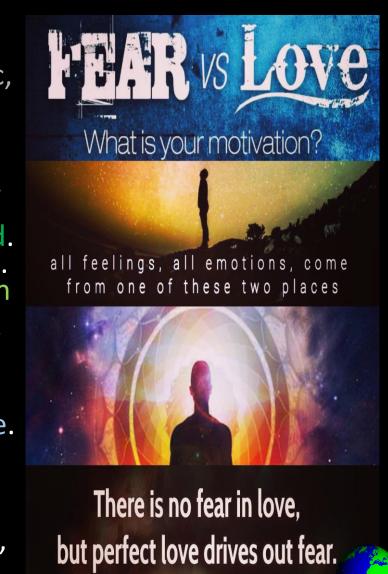


Conclusion - As stated, it boils down to:

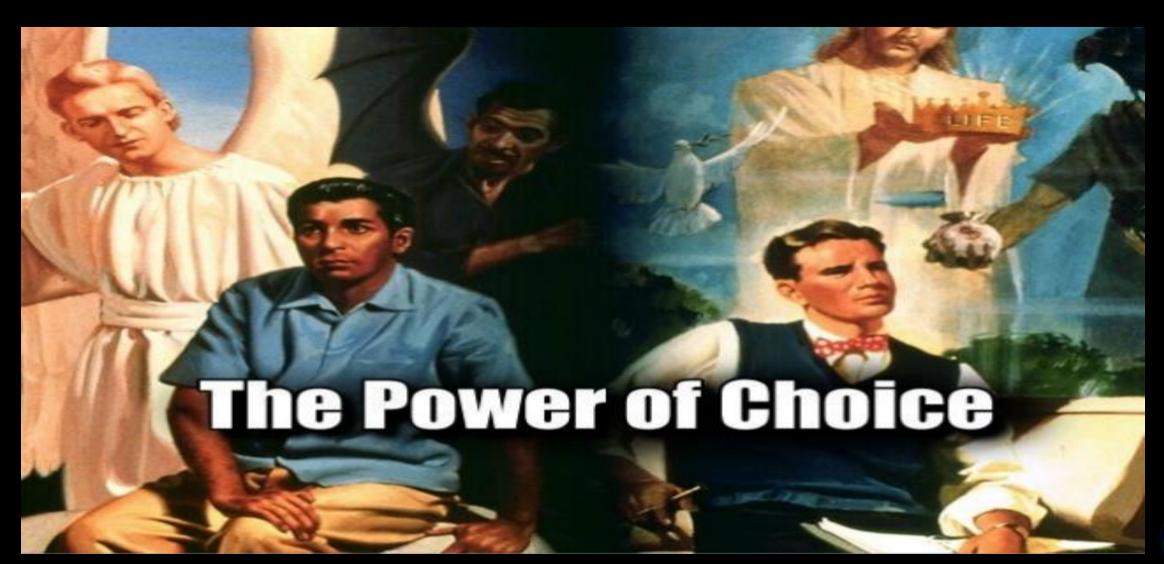
What motivates people more? Love or Fear?

When the AIDS epidemic took over Africa in the early and mid 90s, alarmed health authorities/professionals distributed graphic, extremely-horrific pictures the patients, victims of the disease. They went to schools and passed around flyers specifically designed to instil fear. And, it worked. But only for about two weeks or so. The reason, I believe, is because fear is an emotion. In fact, Wikipedia defines fear as "an emotion induced to a perceived threat." And emotions fade away after a certain period. Love, on the contrary, is more than just emotions. It's a principle. It's a relationship. It's selflessness. The Devil holds PHD in human psychology (he's been studying it for 6000 yrs.) He knows what mótives us permanently (love) and what gives us the illusion of "relationship" (the fear factor.) A lot of people lose their faith and leave God as soon as they discover the house they built "on sand" gets destroyed as a result of the rain, flood and wind of life. So, Love is the only force that can keep a Christian grounded in his faith in spite of the tsunamis of life. As the hymn goes: We have an anchor that keeps the soul, Steadfast and sure

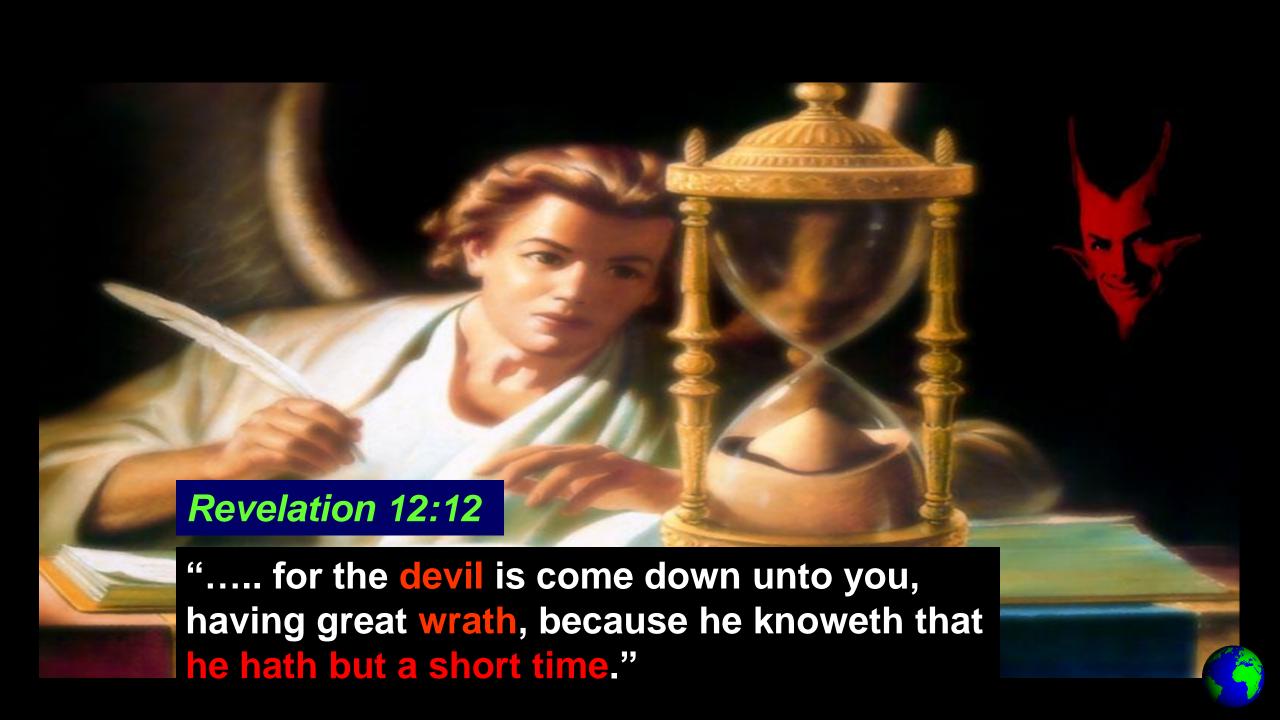
We have an anchor that keeps the soul, Steadfast and sure while the billows roll, Fastened to the Rock which cannot move, Grounded firm and deep in the Saviour's love.



God has given all:







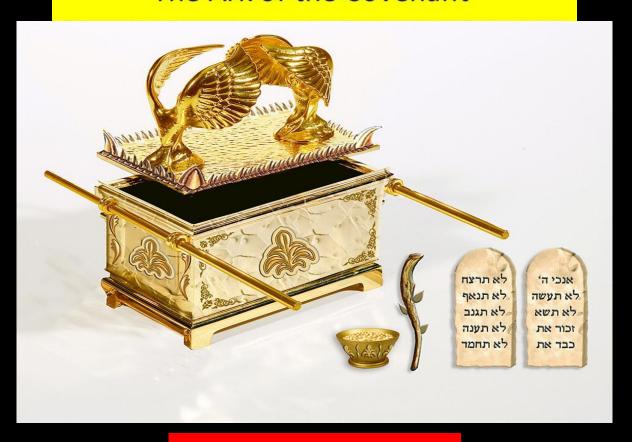
Enter The Ark of Hope

And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.

- John 10:16



The Ark of the Covenant



Psalms 77:13

Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. -Revelation 3:20





