

Hellfire And God's Strange Act

As the great panoramic movie is played before the entire world, the righteous stand in awe of the majesty of Christ. The wicked stand in utter despair as they acknowledge that the judgments of God are just. In anger, they will turn upon each other, all love being completely absent from their hearts. It is here that fire comes from Heaven to destroy the wicked.

- **Isaiah 28:21** – the destruction of the wicked is called God's _____
 - Parazim (II Sam. 5) – God destroys those who attack God's Israelite people
 - Gibeon (Josh. 9-10) – God destroys those who attack God's Gentile people
- **Revelation 20:13-14** – the destruction of the wicked is the _____

Here we come to a very misunderstood topic: hellfire and the destruction of the wicked. Let's look at 7 points from the Bible to see what it says about the topic.

1. *What is everlasting fire?* (Matt. 25:41) – God IS the everlasting _____
2. *Do the wicked burn forever?* (Mal. 4:1-3) – the wicked are turned to _____
3. *What does "forever" mean?* (Ex. 21:6) – forever means until it's _____
4. *Is there a Sanctuary pattern?* (Ps. 37:20) – the wicked will be _____
5. *Any biblical example?* (Da. 7) – _____ suffered eternal fire
6. *Are the wicked immortal?* (I Th. 3:15) – lawbreakers don't have _____
7. *What is the full penalty for sin?* (Matt. 25:41)
 - Did Jesus pay the full penalty for sin? **YES -or- NO**
 - Is Jesus being tortured forever and ever? **YES -or- NO**
 - What must be the penalty for sin? **ETERNAL BURNING -or- DEATH**

God does not take pleasure in seeing the wicked die. His nature is all-consuming fire, as is His love. With an unveiled face and unbridled glory, God opens His arms and give every sinner one final hug of love and each are consumed by the presence of His consuming love. The righteous see this final outcome of sin and praise God that we have been redeemed, that we have escaped the fate that was supposed to be ours. We know that it is not by any work we have done, nor any prayer we have prayed, good work we have wrought, or message we have preached. None of this has subtracted even the smallest iota from the cost of salvation. **It is only in Christ.** He paid 100% of the penalty and our good works are but the outworking of the effect that His payment has had upon our hearts.

The New Jerusalem

The New Jerusalem comes down to this planet and God creates a new world before our eyes. With gladness we will live as we were originally supposed to.

- **Nahum 1:9-10** – sin and rebellion will not rise up the _____
- **Revelation 22:3** – there will be no more _____

We will be with God forever, which as we have seen means for as long as we are alive. Unlike the burning of the wicked, this will not have an end for we will be just like the burning bush that Moses saw: we will burn and not be consumed.

In the Sanctuary pattern, Jesus will help us walk through the steps: Surrender – Change – Study – Pray – Share – Love

- **Romans 13:11-14** – it is time to wake up and put on the armor of _____

Big Picture Bible Study

No. 12: The Story Ends

We will validate God's justice and He will forever destroy all remnants of sin.

The Second Coming

In the hour of utmost extremity, God interposes for the deliverance of His chosen people. In the middle of the night, the sun appears in the sky as the clouds clash against each other. The atmosphere is parted and rolls back and we will look up through the open space to see a small black cloud coming in the east. The wicked who were about to kill the 144,000 stand in awe as the scene unfolds. All who once said that it would not happen now see it with their own eyes.

- **II Peter 3:3-4** – people will scoff in the end saying, “*when is Jesus coming back?*”
- **Matthew 24:30-31** – everyone will see Jesus come in power and _____
- **Revelation 1:7** – every eye will see Him when he comes in the _____

In the pattern of the earthly Sanctuary, at the end of the Day of Atonement, the high priest would take the remaining goat—the scapegoat—and lay his hands on the head of the animal to lay the guilt of all the forgiven sins for the year.

- **Leviticus 16:21** – confess all the _____ of Israel on the scapegoat
- **Revelation 20:1-2** – Jesus will _____ on Satan as the scapegoat

At the end of the literal Day of Atonement, Jesus the High Priest will place His hands on Satan and bind him by a chain of circumstances to the barren earth as the scapegoat for the world. Jesus paid the penalty for the confessed sins but Satan bears the guilt of those sins just like in the pattern of the Sanctuary.

The City Of Fire

When some says, “*the place where you go to burn forever and ever,*” most people will immediately think of: **HEAVEN -or- HELL**. It is just like Satan to twist God's character and the character of His glory and love. Let's study what God is like.

- **Hebrews 12:28-29** – our God is a consuming _____ with wheels of _____
- **Daniel 7:9-10** – the throne is like _____ flows out from the throne.
- **Ezekiel 1:27-28** – in Ezekiel's vision, Jesus is clothed in _____
- **Isaiah 66:15** – Jesus will come with _____
- **Matthew 17:1-3** – in the transfiguration, Jesus' face shown like the _____
- **Revelation 1:14-16** – in John's vision, Jesus has eyes like _____
- **Psalms 50:3-4** – in the Second Coming, a _____ devours before Him

Clearly, fire is an integral part of the character of both God and of His heavenly realm. But is this the same torturous fire we are accustomed to here on earth?

- **Song of Solomon 8:6-7** – true love burns like a vehement _____

The fire of Heaven is simply the burning, all-consuming, fiery and passionate love of God. This is the law of Heaven: self-sacrificing love. Real love—the kind of love that only God gives—is a burning passionate love encounter with God.

- Deuteronomy 33:2 – the law of God is called the _____ law of love
- I John 4:8 – God is _____

God = Self-Sacrificing Love = Fiery Passion = God's Character = Foundation of Government = Law of Love = Consuming Fire

Heaven is a city that is filled with God's fiery love. Heaven is the true city of fire. But let's look through the Bible and see if this concept is biblical.

- Ezekiel 1:4, 13 – the beings in Heaven appear like coals of _____
- Ezekiel 28:14 – Lucifer used to walk amidst the stones of _____
 - [v.18] God will use this same fire to bring Satan to ash before all the universe
- Genesis 3:22-24 – Adam & Eve could not pass the sword of _____
- Exodus 3:2 – God appeared to Moses as a flame of _____
 - The bush was burning and was not consumed – foreshadow for us in Heaven!
- II Kings 2:11-12 – Elijah was taken to Heaven in a chariot of _____
 - Moses and Elijah (two witnesses) both came into contact with the fire of Heaven
- Daniel 3:17-18 – they were not consumed in the _____ because of faith
- Revelation 15:2 – the 144,000 stand on a sea of glass and _____

Imagine if Adam and Eve had been permitted to eat from the Tree of Life after they had sinned: they would have been immortal sinners and eventually the presence of God would become an unending, torturous fire. It was to prevent there being immortal sinners that God kicked them out of the Garden of Eden. The goal of the gospel is to be able to dwell in the presence of the devouring fire without being consumed.

- Isaiah 33:14 – the wicked call out, "Who can live in everlasting burning?"
- Isaiah 33:15-16 – Isaiah responds, "It is they who walk _____"

That is how the world has been deceived to twist the character of God. God does not want anyone to sin because He does not want to put anyone to death. However, because He is love—true and perfect love—He must offer the freedom of choice, even the freedom to choose not believe in His true loving character.

Revelation 20: The Millennium, The Jury, And The New Jerusalem

When Jesus returns in the climactic event of the age, there will be only four categories of people. Something specific will happen to each group.

- Righteous Living (I Cor. 15:51) _____ by Jesus' unveiled face
- Righteous Dead (I Thess. 4:16) _____ by Jesus' trumpet voice
- Wicked Living (II Thess. 2:8) _____ by Jesus' glory/brightness
- Wicked Dead (Rev. 20:5) _____ asleep (dead) in their graves

The Bible is very clear that there are two distinct resurrections (read John 5:24-30). Jesus says that the righteous will be resurrected to _____ but the wicked will be resurrected to receive condemnation _____. But this does not describe what is happening between these two events. Revelation 20, however, gives a fantastic description.

- Revelation 20:1-3 – at the Second Coming, Satan is bound to the earth by a chain of circumstances: everyone is either _____ or in _____

- Revelation 6:14 – the entire atmosphere will be rolled back like a scroll
- II Peter 3:10 – the elements melt and all human works will be _____

This is why Revelation 20 describes the earth with the same language as Genesis: it is an "abysos" or formless void. The world is emptied of humanity and every Heaven is once more divided into two categories: 1. God and His angels: the _____; 2. Lucifer and his angels: the _____. God has judged every human based on their freewill choices and it is now, during the 1,000 years, that all questions are answered and every judgment is verified.

- Daniel 7:22 – the saints possess the kingdom and are given _____
 - Revelation 20:4-5 – we sit upon thrones and verify God's _____
 - I Corinthians 6:2-3 – we vindicate God's judgment of both angels and man
- All the righteous men and women throughout history are raised up at the Second Coming and, along with the righteous living, are taken to Heaven to be priests and judges in the Heavenly Temple. For the duration of the millennium, we will live and reign with Christ. This is the _____

- Revelation 20:4-5 – the righteous are raised during the first resurrection; the wicked are raised in the second resurrection after the _____
- Just as Jesus prophesied in John 5, there are two resurrections. For 1,000 years we will have the privilege to live in Heaven with complete access to both the throne of God and to the holy records of Heaven with three main surprises:

- _____ are there!
- Some people you thought for sure would be there are _____
- Some people you thought for sure would not be there are _____

Every question will be answered; no doubts will remain. Follow the logical chronology: Investigative Judgment → Judicial Review → Executive Judgment. The II began in 1844. The IR begins at the SC. The EJ is after the Millennium.

After the Millennium, Jesus returns to the formless earth where Satan and the fallen angels have been bound. The wicked are resurrected for the purpose of the review of each individual case and to then receive execution of the judgment. However, each person has been asleep in death; their thoughts continue the same course in which they died. Many were in battle, others died naturally. A vast majority of the wicked believed in the "afterlife" and here Satan uses this false teaching to once more deceive the world.

- Revelation 20:7-8 – the wicked are gathered together by Satan and are once more deceived. Satan pretends to be their redeemer and marshals an army.

At this one moment, every single human being who has ever lived will be alive at the same time. It is here, before every created eye, that God executes justice.

- Revelation 20:9-10 – fire comes from Heaven and _____ them
- Revelation 20:11-12 – the books of record contain every action of the wicked and they are punished, each person _____ to their sins

The cookie thief will not burn as long as the mass murderer.