

# THE ETERNAL FATE OF THE WICKED.

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**NOTE:** - All Bible texts are taken from the King James Version; and all emphasis has been supplied by the compilers.

It is the purpose of this Study Document to examine this vital subject in two parts.

- PART 1 will consist in simply presenting the overwhelming Biblical evidence, that the Second Death is the eternal fate of the wicked; that Destruction and being Consumed and Devoured by the Lake of Fire, is to be the wicked's portion; and that they will be reduced to Ashes, and ultimately, they will be as though they had never existed. There will be put before the reader, over 55 plain and unambiguous Bible passages, from both the Old and New Testament Scriptures, which will establish these truths.
- PART 2 will consist of a thorough Biblical examination of the 8 New Testament texts, which are used as "proof", of the popular tradition, that the wicked are **supposedly** to suffer in the fires of Hell for all eternity. When Scripture is **carefully** compared with Scripture, and when we divest our minds of tradition, these 8 Bible texts harmonize perfectly, with the numerous passages that will be used in PART 1 of this Study Document.

## PART 1: -

### IS THE SOUL OF MANKIND NATURALLY IMMORTAL?

The belief that the wicked will be punished in the fires of Hell, for all eternity, is founded upon the premise, that the soul of all mankind is inherently immortal. If this premise **cannot** be established from the Scriptures, then the whole foundation for this popular, traditional teaching is **false** and this doctrine is founded upon an **erroneous** foundation.

Firstly, what does the word "IMMORTAL mean?

"im·mor·tal \(")i-'môr-təl\ *adj* [ME, fr. L *immortalis*, fr. *in-* + *mortalis* mortal] (14c)  
1 : exempt from death." – Merriam Webster's Dictionary.

It will surprise most readers that **NOT ONCE** in the entire Bible, from Genesis through to Revelation, is there any verse which uses the phrases "immortal soul", or "never dying soul", or "everlasting soul", or "eternal soul." In fact, the Psalmist has made it plain, that no person can keep alive their own soul.

Psalm 22:29: - "All [they that be] fat upon earth shall eat and worship: all they that go down to the dust shall bow before him: **and none can keep alive his own soul.**"

The Biblical truth on this vital question is, that the Scriptures teach that the soul can die and be destroyed, which automatically means that the soul is **NOT** inherently immortal. The following Bible texts are plain and unambiguous, and can be easily understood by the candid reader.

Leviticus 23:30: - "And whatsoever soul [it be] that doeth any work in that same day, **the same soul will I destroy from among his people.**"

Joshua 10:28: - "And that day Joshua took Makkedah, and smote it with the edge of the sword, and the king thereof **he utterly destroyed, them, and all the souls that [were] therein;** he let none remain: and he did to the king of Makkedah as he did unto the king of Jericho."

Joshua 10:34 - 39: - "And from Lachish Joshua passed unto Eglon, and all Israel with him; and they encamped against it, and fought against it: And they took it on that day, and smote it with the edge of the sword, **and all the souls that [were] therein he utterly destroyed that day,** according to all that he had done to Lachish. And Joshua went up from Eglon, and all Israel with him, unto Hebron; and they fought against it: **And they took it, and smote it with the edge of the sword,** and the king thereof, and all the cities thereof, **and all the souls that [were] therein; he left none remaining,** according to all that he had done to Eglon; but destroyed it utterly, and all the souls that [were] therein. And Joshua returned, and all Israel with him, to Debir; and fought against it. And he took it, and the king thereof, and all the cities thereof; **and they smote them with the edge of the sword, and utterly destroyed all the souls that [were] therein; he left none remaining:** as he had done to Hebron, so he did to Debir, and to the king thereof; as he had done also to Libnah, and to her king."

Joshua 11:10 & 11: - "And Joshua at that time turned back, and took Hazor, and smote the king thereof with the sword: for Hazor beforetime was the head of all those kingdoms. **And they smote all the souls that [were] therein with the edge of the sword, utterly destroying [them]: there was not any left to breathe:** and he burnt Hazor with fire."

Psalm 78:50: - "He made a way to his anger; **he spared not their soul from death,** but gave their life over to the pestilence."

Proverbs 6:32: - “[But] whoso committeth adultery with a woman lacketh understanding: **he [that] doeth it destroyeth his own soul.**”

Ezekiel 13:19: - “And will ye pollute me among my people for handfuls of barley and for pieces of bread, to slay the souls that should not die, **and to save the souls alive that should not live**, by your lying to my people that hear [your] lies?”

Ezekiel 18: 4 & 20: - “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. ... The soul that sinneth, it shall die.** The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him.”

Ezekiel 22:27: - “Her princes in the midst thereof [are] like wolves ravening the prey, **to shed blood, [and] to destroy souls**, to get dishonest gain.”

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.**”

Acts 3:23: - “And it shall come to pass, **[that] every soul**, which will not hear that prophet, **shall be destroyed from among the people.**”

James 5:20: - “Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way **shall save a soul from death**, and shall hide a multitude of sins.”

✎ Clearly, the soul of mankind is **NOT** immortal, as far as the Bible is concerned. Therefore, the premise upon which the traditional eternally burning Hell doctrine is based upon is **false!**

### **THE ETERNAL PORTION OF THE WICKED IS TO DIE AND PERISH: -**

The word “PERISH” means: - “per·ish \ˈper-ish, ˈpe-rish\ *vb* [ME *perisshen*, fr. AF *periss-*, stem of *perir*, fr. L *perire*, fr. *per-* detrimentally + *ire* to go ...1 : to become destroyed or ruined : cease to exist.” – Merriam Webster’s Dictionary.

Job 4:8 & 9: - “Even as I have seen, they that plow iniquity, and sow wickedness, reap the same. **By the blast of God they perish, and by the breath of his nostrils are they consumed.**”

Psalms 1:6: - “For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous: **but the way of the ungodly shall perish.**”

Psalms 37:20: - “**But the wicked shall perish**, and the enemies of the LORD [shall be] as the fat of lambs: **they shall consume; into smoke shall they consume away.**”

Psalms 92:9: - “**For, lo, thine enemies, O LORD, for, lo, thine enemies shall perish**; all the workers of iniquity shall be scattered.”

Psalms 139:19: - “**Surely thou wilt slay the wicked, O God**: depart from me therefore, ye bloody men.”

Isaiah 11:4: - “But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, **and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked.**”

Ezekiel 18: 4 & 20: - “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.** ... **The soul that sinneth, it shall die.** The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him.”

Ezekiel 18:23 & 26: - “Have I any pleasure at all that **the wicked should die? saith the Lord GOD:** [and] not that he should return from his ways, and live? ... When a righteous [man] turneth away from his righteousness, and committeth iniquity, and dieth in them; **for his iniquity that he hath done shall he die.**”

Ezekiel 33:8 & 9: - “**When I say unto the wicked, O wicked [man], thou shalt surely die;** if thou dost not speak to warn the wicked from his way, **that wicked [man] shall die in his iniquity;** but his blood will I require at thine hand. Nevertheless, if thou warn the wicked of his way to turn from it; if he do not turn from his way, **he shall die in his iniquity;** but thou hast delivered thy soul.”

Ezekiel 33:11 & 18: - “Say unto them, [As] I live, saith the Lord GOD, **I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked;** but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; **for why will ye die, O house of Israel?** ... When the righteous turneth from his righteousness, and committeth iniquity, **he shall even die thereby.**”

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.**”

**NOTE:** - This verse is contrasting everlasting life as being the reward of the righteous, with death being the portion for the wicked.

John 8:21 & 24: - “Then said Jesus again unto them, I go my way, and ye shall seek me, **and shall die in your sins:** whither I go, ye cannot come. ... I said therefore unto you, **that ye shall die in your sins:** for if ye believe not that I am [he], **ye shall die in your sins.**”

Romans 2:12: - “For as many as have sinned without law **shall also perish without law:** and as many as have sinned in the law shall be judged by the law.”

Romans 6:16, 20, 21 & 23: - “Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; **whether of sin unto death,** or of obedience unto righteousness? ... For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness. What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? **for the end of those things [is] death.** ... **For the wages of sin [is] death;** but the gift of God [is] eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

Romans 8:6 & 13: - “For to be carnally minded **[is] death;** but to be spiritually minded **[is] life and peace.** ... For if ye live after the flesh, **ye shall die:** but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, **ye shall live.**”

**NOTE:** - These verses contrast eternal life as being the reward of the righteous, and death being the portion of the wicked.

1st Corinthians 1:18: - “For the preaching of the cross is **to them that perish** foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.”

2nd Corinthians 2:15 & 16: - “For we are unto God a sweet savour of Christ, in them that are saved, **and in them that perish: To the one [we are] the savour of death unto death; and to the other the savour of life unto life.** And who [is] sufficient for these things?”

**NOTE:** - In these passages from 1st & 2nd Corinthians, the apostle Paul is contrasting the righteous being saved and having eternal life, while the wicked will perish and suffer death.

2nd Thessalonians 2:10: - “And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness **in them that perish;** because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.”

James 1:15: - “Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: **and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.**”

2nd Peter 2:12: - “But these, as natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed, speak evil of the things that they understand not; **and shall utterly perish in their own corruption.**”

2nd Peter 3:9: - “The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, **not willing that any should perish,** but that all should come to repentance.”

1st John 3:14 & 15: - “**We know that we have passed from death unto life,** because we love the brethren. He that loveth not [his] brother **abideth in death.** Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: **and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.**”

**NOTE:** - This passage again contrasts eternal life being the reward of the righteous, and death being the portion of the wicked.

Revelation 20:14 & 15: - “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.**”

Revelation 21:8: - “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.**”

☞ The Lake of Fire and Brimstone = the Second Death, which the wicked are cast into. God has promised to rain fire and brimstone upon the wicked.

Psalms 11:6: - “**Upon the wicked he shall rain snares, fire and brimstone, and an horrible tempest:** [this shall be] the portion of their cup.”

God rained fire and brimstone upon the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha, which destroyed them, and reduced the cities to ashes. These evil cities are an example to the ungodly, of suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.

Luke 17:29: - “But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom **it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed [them] all.**”

2nd Peter 2:6: - “And **turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes** condemned [them] with an overthrow, **making [them] an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly.**”

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.**”

**THE WICKED SHALL BE CUT OFF: -**

Psalm 37:9 & 34: - “**For evildoers shall be cut off:** but those that wait upon the LORD, they shall inherit the earth. ... Wait on the LORD, and keep his way, and he shall exalt thee to inherit the land: **when the wicked are cut off,** thou shalt see [it].”

Psalm 94:23: - “And he shall bring upon them their own iniquity, **and shall cut them off in their own wickedness; [yea], the LORD our God shall cut them off.**”

Proverbs 2:22: - “**But the wicked shall be cut off from the earth,** and the transgressors shall be rooted out of it.”

👉 We have 1 plain Bible passage which teaches that in the New Earth, the righteous shall look upon the carcasses [or corpses] of the wicked.

Isaiah 66:22 – 24: - “For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before me, saith the LORD, so shall your seed and your name remain. And it shall come to pass, [that] from one new moon to another, and from one sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me, saith the LORD. **And they shall go forth, and look upon the carcasses of the men that have transgressed against me: for their worm shall not die, neither shall their fire be quenched; and they shall be an abhorring unto all flesh.**”

### THE WICKED WILL BE DESTROYED: -

The word “PERDITION” means: - “per-di-tion \pər-'di-shən\ *n* [ME *perdicion*, fr. AF *perdiciun*, LL *perdition*-, *perditio*, fr. L *perdere* to destroy, fr. *per-* through + *dare* to give ...**1 a archaic:** utter destruction.” – Merriam Webster’s Dictionary.

Job 21:30: - “That **the wicked is reserved to the day of destruction?** they shall be brought forth to the day of wrath.”

Job 31:2 & 3: - “For what portion of God [is there] from above? and [what] inheritance of the Almighty from on high? **[Is] not destruction to the wicked?** and a strange [punishment] to the workers of iniquity?”

Psalm 37:38: - “**But the transgressors shall be destroyed together:** the end of the wicked shall be cut off.”

Psalm 92:7: - “When the wicked spring as the grass, and when all the workers of iniquity do flourish; **[it is] that they shall be destroyed for ever.**”

Psalm 145:20: - “The LORD preserveth all them that love him: **but all the wicked will he destroy.**”

Proverbs 10:29: - “The way of the LORD [is] strength to the upright: **but destruction [shall be] to the workers of iniquity.**”

Proverbs 21:15: - “[It is] joy to the just to do judgment: **but destruction [shall be] to the workers of iniquity.**”

Isaiah 13:9: - “Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: **and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it.**”

Matthew 7:13 & 14: - "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide [is] the gate, and broad [is] **the way, that leadeth to destruction**, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait [is] the gate, and narrow [is] the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it."

**NOTE:** - Jesus contrasts the broad way which leads to destruction and the narrow way, which leads to eternal life.

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.**"

Romans 9:22: - "[What] if God, willing to show [his] wrath, and to make his power known, endured with much longsuffering **the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction.**"

1st Corinthians 3:17: - "If any man defile the temple of God, **him shall God destroy**; for the temple of God is holy, which [temple] ye are."

Philippians 3:18 & 19: - "(For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, [that **they are**] **the enemies of the cross of Christ: whose end [is] destruction**, whose God [is their] belly, and [whose] glory [is] in their shame, who mind earthly things.)"

2nd Thessalonians 1:7 – 9: - "And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: **who shall be punished with everlasting destruction** from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power."

1st 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.**"

Hebrews 2:14: - "Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; **that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil.**"  
**NOTE:** - Christ's death has guaranteed that the Devil will be destroyed.

Hebrews 10:39: - "But we are not of them **who draw back unto perdition**; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul."

2nd Peter 2:1: - "But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, **and bring upon themselves swift destruction.**"

2nd Peter 3:7 & 16: - "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.** ... As also in all [his] epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, **which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as [they do] also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.**"

### **THE WICKED WILL BE CONSUMED AND DEVOURED BY FIRE: -**

Psalms 21:7 – 9: - "For the king trusteth in the LORD, and through the mercy of the most High he shall not be moved. Thine hand shall find out **all thine enemies**: thy right hand shall find out those that hate thee. **Thou shalt make them as a fiery oven in the time of thine anger: the LORD shall swallow them up in his wrath, and the fire shall devour them.**"

Psalm 37:20: - “But **the wicked** shall perish, and **the enemies of the LORD [shall be] as the fat of lambs: they shall consume; into smoke shall they consume away.**”

Psalm 104:35: - “**Let the sinners be consumed out of the earth, and let the wicked be no more.** Bless thou the LORD, O my soul. Praise ye the LORD.”

Isaiah 1:28: - “And the destruction of the transgressors and of the sinners [shall be] together, **and they that forsake the LORD shall be consumed.**”

Isaiah 5:22 – 24: - “Woe unto [them that are] mighty to drink wine, and men of strength to mingle strong drink: Which justify the wicked for reward, and take away the righteousness of the righteous from him! **Therefore as the fire devoureth the stubble, and the flame consumeth the chaff, [so] their root shall be as rottenness, and their blossom shall go up as dust:** because they have cast away the law of the LORD of hosts, and despised the word of the Holy One of Israel.”

Nahum 1:9 & 10: - “What do ye imagine against the LORD? he will make an utter end: affliction shall not rise up the second time. For while [they be] folden together [as] thorns, and while they are drunken [as] drunkards, **they shall be devoured as stubble fully dry.**”

Zephaniah 1:18: - “Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them **in the day of the LORD'S wrath; but the whole land shall be devoured by the fire of his jealousy:** for he shall make even a speedy riddance of all them that dwell in the land.”

Hebrews 10:26 & 27: - “For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, **but a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.**”

Revelation 20:7 – 9: - “And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, and shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom [is] as the sand of the sea. And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: **and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.**”

The following plain text, leaves no doubt, that the wicked will be reduced to ashes.

Malachi 4:1 & 3: - “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. ... **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.**”

#### **THE WICKED SHALL BE AS THOUGH THEY HAD NOT BEEN: -**

Psalm 37:10: - “For yet a little while, **and the wicked [shall] not [be]:** yea, thou shalt diligently consider his place, and it [shall] not [be].”

Psalm 104:35: - “Let the sinners be consumed out of the earth, **and let the wicked be no more.** Bless thou the LORD, O my soul. Praise ye the LORD.”

Obadiah 15 & 16: - “**For the day of the LORD [is] near upon all the heathen:** as thou hast done, it shall be done unto thee: thy reward shall return upon thine own head. For as ye have drunk upon my holy mountain, [so]



shall all the heathen drink continually, yea, they shall drink, and they shall swallow down, **and they shall be as though they had not been.**”

☞ This gives us over 55 plain Bible passages which teach that the wicked will die and perish; they shall be cut off; they shall be reduced to corpses; they will be destroyed; they will be consumed and devoured by fire; they will be reduced to ashes; and, they will be as though they had not been.

## PART 2: -

After the more than 55 plain Bible passages put before the reader in PART 1 of this Study Document, the 8 popular New Testament passages, which are used to “prove” that the wicked will suffer in the fires of Hell, throughout the ceaseless ages of eternity, **cannot** truly teach, what is popularly asserted that they do teach. Otherwise, this would make the inspired Scriptures contradict themselves. As we carefully examine each of these misunderstood passages, we will plainly show the reader, that these texts **rightly** understood, when compared with other Bible texts, are in perfect harmony with the more than 55 plain Bible passages, that were used in PART 1 of this Study Document.

**1 & 2.] Matthew 3:12:** - “Whose fan [is] in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but **he will burn up the chaff** with unquenchable fire.”

Luke 3:17: - “Whose fan [is] in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and will gather the wheat into his garner; but the chaff he will burn with fire unquenchable.”

**NOTE:** - These two verses are understood by most Christians to “prove” that the wicked will suffer eternal torment in the fires of Hell, because the chaff [that is, the wicked] will be burned up with “unquenchable fire” – fire that they believe will not be quenched or extinguished for all eternity.

But there are several Biblical reasons, why the above popular understanding of these verses is a distortion of what John the Baptist was teaching.

a) John the Baptist stated plainly in Matthew 3:12, that the chaff [that is the wicked] will be **burned up** by this unquenchable fire. In other words, they will be devoured or consumed.

b) The truth contained in POINT A above, is plainly established by the following Old Testament passages, which teach that the wicked shall be “**devoured**” fully.

Isaiah 5:24: - “Therefore **as the fire devoureth the stubble, and the flame consumeth the chaff**, [so] their root shall be as rottenness, and their blossom **shall go up as dust**: because they have cast away the law of the LORD of hosts, and despised the word of the Holy One of Israel.”

Nahum 1:9 & 10: - “What do ye imagine against the LORD? **he will make an utter end**: affliction shall not rise up the second time. For while [they be] folden together [as] thorns, and while they are drunken [as] drunkards, **they shall be devoured as stubble fully dry.**”

c) Does the phrase “unquenchable fire” indicate that the fires of Hell will torment the wicked for all eternity? NO! John the Baptist was borrowing this expression from the Old Testament Scriptures. The following prophecy concerning the old city of Jerusalem, describes is as being burned by fire, that shall not be quenched.

Jeremiah 17:27: - “But if ye will not hearken unto me to hallow the sabbath day, and not to bear a burden, even entering in at the gates of Jerusalem on the sabbath day; **then will I kindle a fire in the gates thereof, and it shall devour the palaces of Jerusalem, and it shall not be quenched.**”

**NOTE:** - The Lord is the One who is promising to set fire to Jerusalem, with the fire that shall not be quenched.

This prophecy concerning the city of Jerusalem, was fulfilled by the conquering Babylonians.

2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles 36:17 & 19: - “Therefore he brought upon them the king of the Chaldees, who slew their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary, and had no compassion upon young man or maiden, old man, or him that stooped for age: he gave [them] all into his hand. ... **And they burnt the house of God, and brake down the wall of Jerusalem, and burnt all the palaces thereof with fire, and destroyed all the goodly vessels thereof.**”

**NOTE:** - Needless to say, the old city of Jerusalem is **NOT** burning today. The city was burned by fire that consumed all the buildings and materials within the city! Thus establishing the truth that the phrase “unquenchable fire” does **NOT** indicate that the fire burns for all eternity.

**3 & 4.] Matthew 18:8**: - “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.”

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.”

**NOTE:** - The phrase “everlasting fire” is understood by most Christians to “prove” beyond any doubt in their minds, that the wicked will be tormented in the fires of Hell for all eternity, because they claim that the fire is everlasting.

The Greek word translated as “EVERLASTING” in both verses, is the word “**aionios**” – See Strong's Concordance; Greek, No. 166. This is the same word which is used throughout the New Testament for “Everlasting” or “Eternal” Life. It is thus argued, that because this Greek word applies to everlasting or eternal life, which has no end, then the fire which the wicked are cast into, must have no end as well.

This argument has one simple flaw in its reasoning. The same Greek word “**aionios**”, is translated in the following verse, which describes the evil cities of Sodom and Gomorrha, which suffered the vengeance of “eternal – **aionios**” fire.

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 [aionios] fire.**”

The cities of Sodom and Gomorrha were destroyed by fire and brimstone, and were reduced to ashes. These cities are an example of the fate of the wicked.

Luke 17:29: - “But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom **it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed [them] all.**”

2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 2:6: - “And **turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes** condemned [them] with an overthrow, **making [them] an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly.**”

**NOTE:** - Needless to say, the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha are **NOT** burning today, as they have been reduced to ashes. This is an example of everlasting or eternal fire. The result of being cast into the Lake of Fire, will be eternal in its **consequences**, finally ending in the Second Death.

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

**NOTE:** - Because the phrase “everlasting punishment” is used in this text, which is applied to the fate of the wicked, most Christians understand this text as “proving” that the wicked will be tormented in the fires of Hell for all eternity. And the fact that the Greek word “**aionios**” is translated as “everlasting” in relation to the punishment of the wicked; and this same Greek word is translated as “eternal” as applied to the word “life”, which is the reward of the saints, it is asserted that as eternal life indicates life without end, so eternal punishment must indicate punishment without end.

This argument has several flaws in it. Firstly, the verse does **NOT** state “everlasting punishing”, which is the way most Christians misread this verse. This text states that the wicked will go into “everlasting punishment”. Secondly, the same Greek word “**aionios**”, is used in the following passage, which is describing the punishment of the wicked.

2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians 1:8 & 9: - “In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: **who shall be punished with everlasting [aionios] destruction** from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power.”

**NOTE:** - The wicked will be punished with “**everlasting [aionios] destruction**”. The results of the punishment will be everlasting, that is **DESTRUCTION**, and **NOT** the verbal action of continually punishing the wicked, as is asserted by most Christians.

**6.] Mark 9:43 – 48**: - “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 [geenna]**, into the fire that never shall be quenched: Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched. 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 [geenna]**, into the fire that never shall be quenched: Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched. 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 [geenna] fire**: Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.”

**NOTE:** - This passage concerning “HELL” which is translated from the Greek word “**geenna**” [See Strong's Concordance, Greek, No. 1067], is asserted as “proof” that the wicked will be tormented in the fires of Hell for all eternity, in the fire that cannot be quenched.

There are several Biblical reasons which establish that this traditional understanding of this passage is incorrect. Firstly, Jesus taught concerning “**hell – geenna**”, that God is able to **destroy both body and soul** in it.

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 [geenna].**”

**NOTE**: - One plain statement of Jesus must harmonize with another statement from Jesus, concerning the same subject. Otherwise, we make Jesus contradict himself, and this would indicate that we have not studied the subject correctly. Therefore, the popular understanding of Mark 9:43 - 48, needs to be re-examined to harmonize with all what the Bible teaches concerning “**hell – geenna**”.

Secondly, the phrase which is repeated five times in VS. 43, 44, 45, 46 & 48, concerning the fire that cannot be quenched, when we examine this same expression in the Old Testament Scriptures, we arrive at a vastly different understanding of this much misunderstood phrase. The Lord predicted that he would send fire on the old city of Jerusalem, that would not be quenched.

Jeremiah 7:17 & 20: - “Seest thou not what they do in the cities of Judah and **in the streets of Jerusalem?** ... Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, mine anger and my fury shall be poured out upon this place, upon man, and upon beast, and upon the trees of the field, and upon the fruit of the ground; **and it shall burn, and shall not be quenched.**”

This prophecy concerning the city of Jerusalem, was fulfilled by the conquering Babylonians.

Jeremiah 52:12 – 14: - “Now in the fifth month, in the tenth [day] of the month, which [was] the nineteenth year of Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon, **came Nebuzaradan, captain of the guard, [which] served the king of Babylon, into Jerusalem, and burned the house of the LORD, and the king's house; and all the houses of Jerusalem, and all the houses of the great [men], burned he with fire:** And all the army of the Chaldeans, that [were] with the captain of the guard, brake down all the walls of Jerusalem round about.”

**NOTE**: - Needless to say, the old city of Jerusalem is **NOT** burning today. The city was burned up by fire, until the fire had consumed all the buildings and materials within the city. Thus showing that the expression fire that shall not be quenched, does **NOT** indicate fire that burns for all eternity.

And thirdly, Jesus’ statement in Mark 9:43 – 48, did **NOT** originate in the Book of Mark. Jesus was quoting from the Old Testament Scriptures. We shall go to the original source, in the prophet Isaiah’s writings, and see what conclusions we can come to from this passage.

Isaiah 66:22 – 24: - “For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before me, saith the LORD, so shall your seed and your name remain. And it shall come to pass, [that] from one new moon to another, and from one sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me, saith the LORD. **And they shall go forth, and look upon the carcasses of the men that have transgressed against me: for their worm shall not die, neither shall their fire be quenched;** and they shall be an abhorring unto all flesh.”

**NOTE**: - In the New Earth, the righteous shall look upon the **CARCASES** or corpses of the wicked. The expression “**for their worm shall not die, neither shall their fire be quenched**”, is used which also appears in Mark 9:43 – 48. This expression is applied to the dead bodies of the wicked, and **NOT** to living people.

No doubt, the following text explains what the remains of the wicked will be.

Malachi 4:3: - **“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.”**

**7 & 8.]** 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.”

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.”

**NOTE:** - In both of these passages, most Christians take these texts as “proof” that the wicked are going to be tormented in the fires of Hell, for all eternity, as the expression “for ever and ever” is used in both passages. But when we shortly examine the Greek word **“aion”** [See Strong’s Concordance, Greek, No. 165] which is used in each passage, we find that it is **NOT** supporting the popular understanding of these texts.

The expression in Revelation 14:10 & 11, concerning the smoke ascending up for ever and ever, is quoting from a passage in the Book of Isaiah.

Isaiah 34:8 – 10: - “For [it is] the day of the LORD’s vengeance, [and] the year of recompenses for the controversy of Zion. And the streams thereof shall be turned into pitch, and the dust thereof into brimstone, and the land thereof shall become burning pitch. **It shall not be quenched night nor day; the smoke thereof shall go up for ever:** from generation to generation it shall lie waste; none shall pass through it for ever and ever.”

**NOTE:** - If we state concerning this passage, that Isaiah is only referring to the judgment upon the ancient land of Idumea, and the city of Bozrah [see VS. 6], then we have to admit that the period of time has finally come to an end. But, if we believe that the time period does not come to an end, but it to last for all eternity, then how could thorns, nettles and brambles grow there? Or how could wild animals take possession of Bozrah as outlined in VS. 13 & 14, when it is supposed to be burning for ever? The obvious answer is that the fire which makes the smoke ascend “for ever”, does **NOT** go on burning for all eternity.<sup>1</sup>

Perhaps this point can be further demonstrated, by briefly examining the Hebrew word which is translated “FOR EVER” in Isaiah 34:10. The Hebrew word is **“olam”** – See Strong’s Concordance; Hebrew, No. 5769. This word is often translated as “everlasting” or “for ever” **when applying to God**, and in this application, it certainly means eternity.

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<sup>1</sup> The following verse is sometimes used to “prove” that the wicked will be tormented in the fires of Hell for all eternity.

Revelation 19:3: - “And again they said, Alleluia. And her smoke rose up for ever and ever.”

**NOTE:** - A simple reading of this verse, makes **NO** mention of the wicked being tormented at all, and so it has **NO** bearing whatsoever in “proving” that the wicked will be tormented in the fires of Hell for all eternity.

Exodus 15:18: - “The LORD shall reign **for ever [olam]** and ever.”

Psalms 10:16: - “The LORD [is] King **for ever [olam]** and ever: the heathen are perished out of his land.”

Sometimes “**olam**” is applied to ceremonial ordinances of the Hebrew people, and even though it is translated “everlasting” or “for ever”, it does **NOT** indicate for all eternity. But rather, it indicates a period of time which eventually comes to an end. Otherwise, the following ceremonial ordinances will still be observed for all eternity.

Exodus 12:17: - “And ye shall observe [the feast of] unleavened bread; for in this selfsame day have I brought your armies out of the land of Egypt: therefore shall ye observe this day in your generations by an ordinance **for ever [olam]**.”

Exodus 40:15: - “And thou shalt anoint them, as thou didst anoint their father, that they may minister unto me in the priest's office: for their anointing shall surely be an **everlasting [olam]** priesthood throughout their generations.

Numbers 10:8: - “And the sons of Aaron, the priests, shall blow with the trumpets; and they shall be to you for an ordinance for **ever [olam]** throughout your generations.”

When “**olam**” is applied to individual people, it indicates as long as that person shall live, even though it is translated as “for ever”.

Exodus 21:5 & 6: - “And if the servant shall plainly say, I love my master, my wife, and my children; I will not go out free: Then his master shall bring him unto the judges; he shall also bring him to the door, or unto the door post; and his master shall bore his ear through with an awl; and he shall serve him **for ever [olam]**.”

**NOTE**: - The servant would serve his master as long as he lived.

1st Samuel 1:22: - “But Hannah went not up; for she said unto her husband, [I will not go up] until the child be weaned, and [then] I will bring him, that he may appear before the LORD, and there abide for **ever [olam]**.”

**NOTE**: - The child referred to is Samuel, who would abide in the Lord's house, as long as he lived.

1st Samuel 27:12: - “And Achish believed David, saying, He hath made his people Israel utterly to abhor him; therefore he shall be my servant for **ever [olam]**.”

👉 So clearly, the Hebrew word “**olam**” which is translated as “for ever” in Isaiah 34:10, has different shades of meaning, which are determined by the object or person it is applying to. It certainly does **NOT** always indicate eternity. Hence, in Isaiah 34:10, the smoke ascending up “for ever” does **NOT** mean for all eternity; and if it is referring to the punishment of the wicked, which seems likely in VS. 8, where “the day of the Lord's vengeance” is mentioned, it would indicate that the smoke from the burning of the wicked, would ascend up, as long as the wicked had life in them, which will eventually come to an end.

The Greek word “**aion**” appears over 100 times in the New Testament. Turning to the New Testament, we find that “**aion**” has several shades of meaning, just as the Hebrew word “**olam**” does. And this Greek word does **NOT** always indicate eternity, even when it is translated as “for ever and ever.” Its meaning is determined by the object or person it is applying to.

- 1) “**aion**” is often translated as “world”, which is referring to this present world of sin, which is of limited duration as far as time is concerned.

Galatians 1:4: - “Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil **world [aion]**, according to the will of God and our Father.”

2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 4:10: - “For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present **world [aion]**, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia.”

- 2) “**aion**” also refers to the beginning of this present world.

Luke 1:70: - “As he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, which have been since the **world began [aion]**.”

John 9:32: - “Since the **world began [aion]** was it not heard that any man opened the eyes of one that was born blind.”

- 3) “**aion**” also refers to the end of this present world of sin.

Matthew 13:39: - “The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the **world [aion]**; and the reapers are the angels.”

Matthew 24:3: - “And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what [shall be] the sign of thy coming, and of the end of **the world [aion]**?”

- 4) “**aion**” also refers to the future immortal world, the reward of the righteous, eternal life. The use of “**aion**” in this context, would certainly be indicating eternity.

Mark 10:30: - “But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the **world [aion]** to come eternal life.”

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 [aion]**: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.”

- 5) “**aion**” is often translated for “ever” or “ever and ever”, when applied to God the Father, and to Jesus Christ. Its use in this connection, would indeed be indicating eternity.

Luke 1:33: - “And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for **ever [aion]**; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.”

1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 1:17: - “Now unto the King **eternal [aion]**, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, [be] honour and glory for **ever and ever [ \*aion]**. Amen.”

**NOTE:** - \* “**aion**” is used twice in the phrase “ever and ever”.

- 6) In the Book of Hebrews, “**aion**” is applied to Jesus as our High Priest, when it is translated as “ever”. Hebrews 5:6: - “As he saith also in another [place], Thou [art] a priest for **ever [aion]** after the order of Melchisedec.”

**NOTE:** - Even though “**aion**” is applied to Jesus Christ as our great High Priest, it does **NOT** indicate eternity, because he will **NOT** be our High Priest interceding with God the Father, throughout the ceaseless ages of eternity. We know this to be the case, because of the following Biblical truth: -

The prophet Isaiah wrote of a time when there will be **NO** intercessor, when God will be executing his vengeance upon his enemies.

Isaiah 59:16 – 18: - “**And he saw that [there was] no man, and wondered that [there was] no intercessor:** therefore his arm brought salvation unto him; and his righteousness, it sustained him.

For he put on righteousness as a breastplate, and an helmet of salvation upon his head; **and he put on the garments of vengeance [for] clothing**, and was clad with zeal as a cloak. **According to [their] deeds, accordingly he will repay, fury to his adversaries, recompense to his enemies;** to the islands he will repay recompense.”

**NOTE:** - We know that Jesus as our heavenly High Priest makes intercession for us, at God's right hand [see Romans 8:34 & Hebrews 7:24 & 25]; therefore, based on this passage in the Book of Isaiah, Jesus will **NOT** always continue as the sinner's interceding High Priest. Thus “**aion**” does **NOT** always indicate eternity, even when it is translated as “for ever”.

☞ We shall now re-examine the two passages in the Book of Revelation.

In Revelation 14:10 & 11, we find that it is “the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever [**aion** in each occurrence of “ever”].” This text states, that it is the **SMOKE** that ascends for ever and ever, and **NOT** the torment that ascends for ever and ever. And as this passage is quoting from Isaiah 34:10, it would be indicating that the smoke will ascend up as long as the wicked are alive in the Lake of Fire.

Let us also notice, that Revelation 14:11 is **ONLY** referring to those wicked who receive the Mark of the Beast, at the end of time. Thus this passage does **NOT** give any support to the popular belief, that **ALL** the wicked who have ever lived, will be tormented for all eternity in the fires of Hell.

The wicked shall perish and consume away into smoke.

Psalm 37:20: - “But **the wicked shall perish**, and the enemies of the LORD [shall be] as the fat of lambs: **they shall consume; into smoke shall they consume away.**”

We also note, that those who will receive the Mark of the Beast, are to be tormented with fire and brimstone – see Revelation 14:10. This will be in the Lake of Fire, wherein is the Second Death.

Revelation 21:8: - “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.**”

We have previously found on PAGES 10 & 11, concerning our comments on Matthew 18:8 & 25:41, regarding the phrase “everlasting fire”, that according to Jude 7, Luke 17:29 & 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 2:6, the evil cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, are examples to the ungodly, having suffered the vengeance of “eternal fire”. This occurred when fire and brimstone rained down upon them from heaven, and destroyed them all, reducing the cities to ashes. Thus the wicked who will receive the Mark of the Beast, shall be tormented in the Lake of Fire, for as long as they have life; but finally they will perish, suffering the Second Death.

Turning to Revelation 20:10, which is referring to the Devil being cast in the Lake of Fire and Brimstone, and his being tormented for ever and ever; again we state that from what we have already found when considering the Hebrew word “**olam**” and the Greek word “**aion**”, the Devil will be tormented in the Lake of Fire, as long as he has life. But as we have just read from Revelation 21:8, the Lake of Fire ends in the Second Death. Therefore, the Devil will eventually suffer the Second Death, and be reduced to ashes. We shall now establish this truth beyond any shadow of doubt, in the following Bible passages.

Jesus' death guaranteed that the Devil will finally be destroyed.

Hebrews 2:14: - “Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; **that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil.**”

The Devil is a murderer and a liar from the very beginning.



John 8:44: - "Ye are of [your] father **the devil**, and the lusts of your father ye will do. **He was a murderer from the beginning**, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: **for he is a liar, and the father of it.**"

**NOTE**: - As we have just read Revelation 21:8, **ALL** murderers and liars shall suffer the Second Death in the Lake of Fire. Therefore, this is the Devil's eternal fate.

According to Matthew 25:41, the wicked, the Devil and his evil angels, are to be cast **TOGETHER** into "everlasting fire". We have previously found on PAGES 10 & 11, concerning our comments on Matthew 18:8 & 25:41, regarding the phrase "everlasting fire", that according to Jude 7, Luke 17:29 & 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 2:6, the evil cities of Sodom and Gomorrha, are examples to the ungodly, having suffered the vengeance of "eternal fire". This occurred when fire and brimstone rained down upon them from heaven, and destroyed them all, reducing the cities to ashes. As the wicked, the Devil and his evil angels shall suffer the **SAME** "eternal fire", they will **ALL** be reduced to ashes.

Ezekiel 28:13 – 19: - "**Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God**; every precious stone [was] thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created. **Thou [art] the anointed cherub that covereth**; and I have set thee [so]: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. Thou [wast] perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee. By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: **and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub**, from the midst of the stones of fire. Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee. Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffic; **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.**"

☞ One other point needs to be made concerning the eternal fate of the wicked. The righteous and the wicked are to be recompensed or rewarded **IN** this earth.

Proverbs 11:31: - "Behold, the righteous shall be **recompensed in the earth: much more the wicked and the sinner.**"

When Jesus gathers all nations, both the righteous and the wicked before him, on the Day of Final Judgment, to give all people their eternal reward, this takes place **ON** this earth.

Matthew 25:31 – 33 & 46: - "**When the Son of man shall come in his glory**, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: **And before him shall be gathered all nations**: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth [his] sheep from the goats: And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. ... And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal."

Thus, when the wicked are summoned on the Day of Final Judgment, to receive their eternal reward, they are on this earth, when fire comes down from God out of heaven, and **DEVOURS** them.

Revelation 20:7 – 9: - "And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, and shall go out to deceive **the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth**, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom [is] as the sand of the sea. **And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.**"

**NOTE**: - These last three passages, prove that the wicked receive their fiery punishment on this earth. And as we saw in the last passage from Revelation 20, God's fire come out of heaven, and rains down upon this earth,

and devours the wicked. Please note, this old world where the wicked receive their fiery punishment, does **NOT** burn for all eternity, but will be recreated by the Lord, as the New Earth, which will be the eternal home of the righteous.

2nd Peter 3:13: - “Nevertheless we, according to his promise, **look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.**”

Revelation 21:1: - “**And I saw a new heaven and a new earth:** for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.”

Perhaps the apostle Paul has best summed up the eternal rewards for the righteous and the wicked in the following verse.

Romans 6:23: - “For the wages of sin [is] death; but the gift of God [is] eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”