

THE WAGES OF SIN IS THE SECOND DEATH: -

The question of what the Bible truly teaches concerning what will be the eternal fate of the wicked is a subject which has a direct bearing upon our perception of the character of the God of the Bible. This issue has been generally settled in the minds of most professed Christians throughout the centuries, to be an acceptance of the belief in **Eternal Torment** [it shall be referred to as “**ET**” from henceforth] of the lost, in the unending fires of hell.

There have arisen within the ranks of Christendom throughout time, a school of thought that believes in what will be termed the **Second Death**. That term describes the belief that while God will indeed punish the lost who will suffer torment in the fires of Hell - Gehenna for a period of time; ultimately their suffering will finish, when they experience the **Second Death**, - a death from which there will be no resurrection for all eternity. They will have finally ceased to exist in God’s Universe, having been reduced to ashes by the fires of Hell – Gehenna.

This small booklet will cover the subject in sufficient depth, to be able to establish that the doctrine of the **Second Death** is the true teaching of the Bible.

JESUS CHRIST PAID THE FULL PENALTY FOR OUR SINS, SUFFERING THE JUDICIAL WRATH OF GOD WHEN HE DIED UPON THE CROSS: -

Jesus Christ was the Divine Sin-Bearer, suffering being afflicted by God the Father, when He was accounted with the transgressors. He endured being separated from His Father upon the cross; He endured intense burning, physical suffering and agonizing pain, when He was scourged and crucified by the Roman soldiers; and He ultimately suffered the death penalty for our sins, the just for the unjust. He was made to be sin for us. He was treated as we all deserve to be treated as guilty sinners.

Isaiah 53:4 – 6, 8 & 12: - “Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, **smitten of God, and afflicted**. But **he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities**: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and **the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all**. ... for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken. ... **because he hath poured out his soul**

unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.”

Matthew 27:46: - “And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, **My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?**”

2nd Corinthians 5:21: - “For **he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin;** that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”

1st Peter 3:18: - “For **Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust,** that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit.”



The fact that Jesus did pay **the full and complete penalty for our sins**, when He died upon the cross, establishes beyond any doubt, that **ET** is **NOT** the penalty for sin. For if it was, Jesus should still be suffering eternal torment in Hell Fire today, and for all the ages of eternity to come. The fact that He is not, establishes the truth that the wages of sin is death – the **Second Death** to be precise.

The Cross of Christ clearly reveals the wondrous love of the Godhead for undeserving sinners. But it also reveals God’s ultimate justice, that He indeed will punish unrepentant sinners for the wages of their sins, which is the second death in the Lake of Fire and Brimstone – “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.**” – Revelation 21:8.

THERE ARE DEGREES OF PUNISHMENT FOR THE WICKED: -

Matthew 11:21 - 24: - “Woe unto thee, Chorazin! woe unto thee, Bethsaida! for if the mighty works, which were done in you, had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. But I say unto you, **It shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the day of judgment, than for you.** And thou, Capernaum, which art exalted unto heaven, shalt be brought down to hell: for if the mighty works, which have been done in thee, had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. But I say unto you, **That it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for thee.**”

Luke 12:47 & 48: - “And that servant, which knew his lord's will, and prepared not *himself*, neither did according to his will, **shall be beaten with many stripes**. But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, **shall be beaten with few stripes**. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more.”

NOTE: - These statements from Jesus do not harmonize with the traditional **ET** teaching. How so? The traditional **ET** doctrine teaches that there are no degrees of punishment for all unrepentant sinners; that they will all suffer exactly the same fate, which is *supposedly* to suffer in fire and brimstone for all of eternity. Yet Jesus clearly stated, that there are going to be degrees of punishment for the wicked, with some suffering more than others, according to the spiritual light that came across a person's pathway during their lifetime. The length of the punishment is determined by how wicked a person is, because the wickedness is the **fuel** of the fire [See Isaiah 9:18 & 19]. When the fuel is burned up, the fire goes out having done its job.

GOD WILL NOT RETAIN HIS ANGER FOR EVER: -

Psalms 30:5: - “For **his*anger endureth but a moment**; in his favour *is* life: weeping may endure for a night, but joy *cometh* in the morning.”

NOTE: - *For “his anger *endureth but a moment*”, the margin has “**Heb. there is but a moment in his anger**”.

Isaiah 57:16: - “For I will not contend for ever, **neither will I be always wroth**: for the spirit should fail before me, and the souls *which* I have made.”

Micah 7:18: - “Who *is* a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? **he retaineth not his anger for ever**, because he delighteth *in* mercy.”

THE CITIES OF SODOM & GOMORRAH ARE EXAMPLES OF HOW GOD WILL PUNISH THE UNGODLY: -

God's angels informed Lot that they had been sent by the Lord to destroy those wicked cities.

Genesis 19:13 – 15, 24 & 25, 27 – 29: - “**For we will destroy this place**, because the cry of them is waxen great before the face of the LORD; and **the LORD hath sent us to destroy it**. And Lot went out, and spake unto his sons in law, which married his

daughters, and said, Up, get you out of this place; **for the LORD will destroy this city.** But he seemed as one that mocked unto his sons in law. And when the morning arose, then the angels hastened Lot, saying, Arise, take thy wife, and thy two daughters, which are here; lest thou be consumed in the iniquity of the city. ... **Then the LORD rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the LORD out of heaven; and he overthrew those cities, and all the plain, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and that which grew upon the ground.** ... And Abraham gat up early in the morning to the place where he stood before the LORD: And he looked toward Sodom and Gomorrah, and toward all the land of the plain, and beheld, and, lo, **the smoke of the country went up as the smoke of a furnace.** And it came to pass, when **God destroyed the cities of the plain,** that God remembered Abraham, and sent Lot out of the midst of the overthrow, when he overthrew the cities in the which Lot dwelt.”

God overthrew those wicked cities in His anger and wrath.

Deuteronomy 29:23: - “*And that the whole land thereof is brimstone, and salt, and burning, that it is not sown, nor beareth, nor any grass groweth therein, like the overthrow of Sodom, and Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboim, which the LORD overthrew in his anger, and in his wrath.*”

Jesus taught that all who were in Sodom, were destroyed by the pouring out of God’s fiery wrath from heaven.

Luke 17:28 & 29: - “Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; But the same day that Lot went out of **Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all.**”

The apostles Peter and Jude, teach that God’s intervention in destroying the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah by His raining fire and brimstone out of heaven upon them, has been set forth as an example of how God will punish the ungodly. Peter records the truth that those cities were turned into ashes. Jude informs us that they suffered the vengeance of **eternal or everlasting fire.**

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 VS. 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 cities of Sodom and Gomorrah are not still burning today, thousands of years after the Lord overthrew those wicked cities. Yet the apostle Jude teaches that they suffered the vengeance of **eternal fire**. They were eventually reduced to ashes, with the eternal fire consuming everything within those cities. The fire is eternal in its **consequences**, not in its continual burning.

AN OLD TESTAMENT OVERVIEW OF THE FATE OF THE WICKED: -

The “law and the prophets” [that is, what we refer to as the Old Testament Scriptures] unambiguously testify that the eternal fate of the wicked is: -

To be cut off; to die; to perish; to be consumed; to be destroyed; to be slain by the Lord; to be as though they had not been; to be reduced to ashes.

[NOTE: - The following passages are by no means an exhaustive list of Old Testament texts which teach the **SECOND DEATH** doctrine.]

1. Psalm 1:6: - “For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous: but **the way of the ungodly shall perish.**”
2. Psalm 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.**”
3. 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.**”
4. Psalm 37:38: - “**But the transgressors shall be destroyed together: the end of the wicked shall be cut off.**”

5. Psalm 92:7 - 9: - “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:** But thou, LORD, *art most* high for evermore. For, lo, **thine enemies, O LORD, for, lo, thine enemies shall perish;** all the workers of iniquity shall be scattered.”
6. Psalm 145:20: - “**The LORD** preserveth all them that love him: but **all the wicked will he destroy.**”
7. Isaiah 11:1 & 4: - “And there shall come forth **a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch** shall grow out of his roots: ... 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.**”
8. 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.**”
9. Obadiah VS. 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.**”
10. 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.”

A NEW TESTAMENT OVERVIEW OF THE FATE OF THE WICKED: -

[NOTE: - The following passages are by no means an exhaustive list of New Testament texts which teach the **SECOND DEATH** doctrine.]

1. 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.**”
2. Matthew 7:13: - “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.”

3. 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 [“gehenna”].**”
4. John 3:15 & 16: - “That whosoever believeth in him should not **perish**, but have **eternal life**. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not **perish**, but have **everlasting life**.”
5. 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**.”
6. Romans 6:23: - “For **the wages of sin is death**; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”
7. 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**.”
8. 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?
9. 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.)”
10. 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.”
11. 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**.”
12. Hebrews 10:27: - “But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and **fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries**.”
13. 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.**”

14. 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.**”
15. Revelation 20:8 & 9: - “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.**”

AN EXAMINATION OF THE FOUR NEW TESTAMENT PASSAGES THAT SEEM TO TEACH ETERNAL TORMENT: -

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

NOTE: - It is generally put forward by those who advocate the traditional belief of ET, that “as the reward of the righteous is stated to be life eternal” [αἰώνιος – “aiōnios” – see Strong’s Greek Number, 166 is the Greek adjective used in connection with the noun “life”], and as the same Greek adjective [αἰώνιος – “aiōnios”] is used to describe the punishment of the wicked; this adjective describes unending life for the righteous, it must also be describing unending punishment for the wicked.”

The issue is **not** what is the meaning of this Greek adjective in both nouns; it does indeed mean eternal or everlasting. The real issue is, What is the **punishment** of the wicked? It is recorded in the Scriptures to be death, **the Second Death** to be precise in the Lake that burns with fire and brimstone.

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

Revelation 20:15: - “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 apostle Paul has used the same Greek adjective to describe the eternal fate of the wicked. It is for them to be punished with **everlasting destruction.**

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 [αἰώνιος – “aiōnios”] destruction** from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power.”

2. 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 [“gehenna”]**, 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 [“gehenna”]**, 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 [“gehenna”] fire**: Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.”

In VS. 43, 45 & 47, we find repeated three times, the teaching of Jesus that warns us, that various body parts if not controlled, can cause a person to be cast into “hell” - “**gehenna**”.

The traditional teaching concerning **ET**, is that the wicked at the moment of their death, their *supposedly* immortal soul [according to the apostle Paul, God “only hath immortality” – see 1st Timothy 6:16] will be cast into hell - “**gehenna**” to be punished, while their bodies will decay away in the grave.

But this casting into hell - “**gehenna**” can only occur at the second resurrection at the Day of Judgment. That is the time when the wicked are to be bodily raised up from their graves to receive their eternal fate, and not before that time.

John 5:28 & 29: - “Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto **the resurrection of life**; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.”

2nd Peter 2:9: - “**The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished.**”

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

In VS. 43 & 45, the expression that is used twice in these verses “*into the fire that never shall be quenched*”, is not the best translation. The Greek expression reads thus: - εἰς τὸ πῦρ τὸ ἄσβεστον – “eis to pur to asbeston”. A literal translation is “*into the unquenchable fire*”.

Examining briefly the expression “unquenchable fire”, it is describing fire that humanity is not able to quench or extinguish. This fire is unquenchable because it has been kindled by God Himself, and will continue to burn until it has consumed all that has been cast into it. Just like the Biblical example of Sodom and Gomorrah, which were turned into ashes.

John the Baptist prophesied that Christ would **burn up** the chaff [that is, the wicked] with unquenchable fire.

Matthew 3:11 & 12: - “I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and *with* fire: 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.**”

Jeremiah prophesied that the city of Jerusalem was to be burned with unquenchable fire. This city is **not** burning today, approximately 2,600 years after Jeremiah recorded this prophecy.

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.**”

In VS. 44, 46 & 48, the expression is used three times, “*Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.*” This expression is understood by those who hold to the traditional concept of **ET**, as “proof” that the wicked will be tormented for all eternity in the fires of “**gehenna**”.

The problem with the traditional interpretation of this passage, is the fact that Jesus is actually quoting from the following Old Testament text from the pen of the gospel prophet Isaiah. Isaiah is actually describing the righteous in the New Earth looking upon the dead bodies of the wicked, “*for their worm shall not die, neither shall their fire be quenched.*” The worms are not feeding on the living wicked, but rather upon their dead bodies, or as the KJV renders it, “the carcasses” of those who have

transgressed against the Lord. And where is this unquenchable fire? On the earth! [We will prove this fact clearly at the end of this Booklet.]

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."

3. Revelation 14:9 - 11: - "And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive *his* mark in his forehead, or in his hand, 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."

NOTE: - This passage is offered as a "proof" text for the traditional concept of **ET**. Based on a **surface reading** of this passage, one can understand how a person could draw such a conclusion. But upon a closer examination of this passage, it in fact, does **NOT** support the traditional **ET** teaching at all.

The patriarch Abraham saw from afar off, when the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed by the Lord's fire and brimstone, the smoke went up like a great furnace, as the cities were reduced to ashes [see 2nd Peter 2:6].

Genesis 19:27 & 28: - "And Abraham gat up early in the morning to the place where he stood before the LORD: And he looked toward Sodom and Gomorrah, and toward all the land of the plain, and beheld, and, lo, **the smoke of the country went up as the smoke of a furnace.**"

We should state from the very beginning of an examination of this passage [Revelation 14:9 -11], if [and we say if] it did actually support **ET**, it would only be teaching **ET** for one distinct group of wicked persons, who lived at one specific period of earth's history. It would only teach that the generation of the wicked at the end of this earth's history, who will receive the end time Mark of the Beast, would be liable to receive **ET**. It would give **NO** support whatsoever for the traditional **ET** teaching that

all the wicked throughout the history of planet Earth will be punished with Eternal Torment!

It should also be observed that upon a careful reading of this passage, that the apostle John is quoting from the pen of the gospel prophet Isaiah.

Isaiah 34:8 - 11: - **“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. But the cormorant and the bittern shall possess it; the owl also and the raven shall dwell in it: and he shall stretch out upon it the line of confusion, and the stones of emptiness.”**

NOTE: - These streams and the dust will become the Lake of Fire here on Earth. The location of the place of final punishment is vital truth to understand. Hell – Gehenna is **NOT** somewhere in some far off corner of the Universe; or in the so called “world of departed spirits”, as is commonly believed. It takes place on this Earth.

Needless to say, that 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 this period of time has well and truly come to an end. But, if we believe that the time period does not come to an end, but it is to last for all eternity, then how are the cormorant, bittern, owl and raven able to dwell in this area that has suffered God's burning pitch and brimstone, and the smoke goes up for ever and ever? This fact indicates that the fire eventually will come to an end. Otherwise, these birds would not be able to dwell there, - a land made waste!

Revelation 14:10 & 11 states, that it is the **SMOKE** that ascends up for ever and ever, and **NOT** the torment that ascends for ever and ever. As this passage is quoting from Isaiah 34:10, it would be indicating that the smoke will ascend up as long as the wicked [that is, those who have received the Mark of the Beast], are being punished in the Lake of Fire, here on this Earth.

We also find later on in the Book of Revelation, concerning the Lord's judgments that are to be executed upon Babylon the Great, that this wicked spiritual city shall be **utterly burned with fire**, and its smoke is to go up forever and ever.

Revelation 18:8, 9 & 18: - “Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and **she shall be utterly burned with fire**: for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her. And the kings of the earth, who have committed fornication

and lived deliciously with her, shall bewail her, and lament for her, **when they shall see the smoke of her burning**, ... And cried when **they saw the smoke of her burning**, saying, *What city is like unto this great city!*"

Revelation 19:2 & 3: - "For true and righteous *are* his judgments: for he hath judged **the great whore**, which did corrupt the earth with her fornication, and hath avenged the blood of his servants at her hand. And again they said, Alleluia. And **her smoke rose up for ever and ever.**"

Yet we find that this great spiritual city of apostasy, shall be found no more. This is a description of utter destruction, and **not** of continual, unending burning!

Revelation 18:21: - "And a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone, and cast *it* into the sea, saying, **Thus with violence shall that great city Babylon be thrown down, and shall be found no more at all.**"

Those who hold to the traditional belief of **ET**, believe that the expression that is found in Revelation 14:11, concerning those who will receive the Mark of the Beast, that "*they have no rest day nor night*", is descriptive of the eternal torment of hell. It should be pointed out however, that this expression "*day and night*" actually represents **the continuity of the action** described and **not** its eternal duration. The following verses from the Book of Revelation, use this expression, which is describing the action continuing while it lasts. [In each one of these four verses, I have highlighted the verbal actions that these groups are actually engaged in "day and night".]

Revelation 4:8: - "And the four beasts had each of them six wings about *him*; and *they were* full of eyes within: and **they rest not day and night, saying**, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come."

Revelation 7:15: - "Therefore are they before the throne of God, and **serve him day and night in his temple**: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them."

Revelation 12:10: - "And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for **the accuser of our brethren** is cast down, **which accused them** before our God **day and night.**"

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."

4. 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: - This text is used by those who hold to the traditional **ET** belief. It is asserted that as the devil is to be tormented in the Lake of Fire and Brimstone for ever and ever, therefore, **ET** is Biblical.

But upon a closer examination of this text, and comparing it with other Scriptures that have a direct bearing on the final Judgment that is to be executed upon the devil and his angels, what we actually find is evidence that the Bible teaches the **Second Death** in the Lake of Fire and Brimstone, **NOT Eternal Torment**.

The Lake of fire and brimstone into which the devil will be cast, is in reality called, **the Second Death**. A death from which there will be no possibility of any resurrection. All who will be cast into this Lake of fire and brimstone, will cease to exist. Revelation 20:14: - “And **death** and **hell** were cast into **the lake of fire**. **This is the second death.**”

NOTE: - With the traditional concept of eternal torment in hell, in this passage, how can hell be cast into the Lake of Fire, which 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.**”

NOTE: - We have highlighted two of the particular types of sinners who are listed as suffering the Second Death in the Lake of Fire and Brimstone. Murderers and all Liars are among those sinners specifically listed by the apostle John.

Our Lord Jesus Christ identified the devil as being a murderer and a liar, and his eternal fate will be to suffer the **Second Death** in the Lake of Fire and Brimstone. 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.**”

During Jesus' public ministry, the devils knew exactly what fate awaited them at the hands of Christ. They knew that Jesus would eventually destroy them.

Mark 1:23 & 24: - “And there was in their synagogue a man with **an unclean spirit**; and he cried out, saying, Let *us* alone; **what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us?** I know thee who thou art, the Holy One of God.”

See also: - Luke 4:33 & 34.

Jesus' death has guaranteed that the Devil will be destroyed by Christ.

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 prophet Ezekiel has described the final end of the anointed covering Cherub who rebelled against His Maker in heaven, because he took pride in his exceeding beauty and wisdom. We understand that this covering Cherub who was called Lucifer before his fall [See Isaiah 14:12], became Satan [that is, the Adversary], who is also called the Devil in the New Testament. This Cherub was in the Garden of Eden; he was created with musical instruments and precious stones within him. He was perfect in his ways when he was created, until iniquity was found within him.

☞ This passage is a detailed prophecy of the ultimate end of Satan, and of all who follow his example of sin. God has promised that He will **destroy** this former covering Cherub, and he will be reduced to ashes, after experiencing the fires of God's Judgment. He shall never be any more; that is, he shall **never** exist again.

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.**"**

This brings us to clearly identify where the place of the Eternal Destruction of the wicked is going to be. Let us be aware that **this Earth** is the place where the wicked will receive the just reward for their life of sin.

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


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


Isaiah 24:20 & 21: - “The earth shall reel to and fro like a drunkard, and shall be removed like a cottage; and the transgression thereof shall be heavy upon it; and it shall fall, and not rise again. And it shall come to pass in that day, **that the LORD shall punish the host of the high ones that are on high, and the kings of the earth upon the earth.**”

Ezekiel 28:18: - “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.”

NOTE: - This verse is referring to the eternal fate of the devil.

Revelation 20:9: - “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 popular belief in unending ET does not represent a God of love or of justice. A God who would punish sinners for the sins committed in one brief life time [brief in terms of God's time scale], for all eternity in horrible physical agony, is not a God of love or a God of justice. A God who would *supposedly* give the same eternal punishment to a lost youth of say 12 years of age, and the ancient devil himself, is **not** a just God!

 **The unrepentant sinner will receive the Second Death in the Lake of Fire and Brimstone here on this Earth, finally being reduced to ashes. The wages of sin IS death – Romans 6:23.**

For further information contact: -

findcomfortinthebible@gmail.com