

Daniel



Lesson 27-The Millennium and Hellfire

Focus: Daniel 12:2/Rev.20

- ❖ **When Jesus returns, we see that the dead “in Christ” will rise to life (Dan.12:1,2)**
 - The **dead Christians will be brought to life** at this time, and they will be **caught up (along with the Christians who’re still alive** at Jesus’ coming) to *“...meet the Lord in the air” (1 Thessalonians 4:16,17). Jesus will take us to be with Him in Heaven (John 14:1-3). This is the time when all of Jesus’ followers get to be “present with the Lord.”*
 - **We also saw that the wicked living on the earth at this time are destroyed. The die by the brightness of Christ’s second coming (ref. 2 Thessalonians 1:7-10).** *Only a few of the wicked ones will rise to life at this time to see Jesus come (Revelation 1:7), then, they will die again (those who “pierced Jesus” are especially brought back to life to see Jesus’ appearance).*
 - **The earth is “laid bare” at this time, when Jesus comes** (because of the great fires, the plagues, the giant hailstones, and the enormous earthquake that shakes down all of the cities, mountains, and islands) (See **2 Peter 3:10**; ref. Rev. 16:17-21; 6:12-17; Jeremiah 4:23-28). *The earth becomes like a darkened “Abyss” “without form and void.” Revelation 20:1 describes it like that (also as a “bottomless pit”). This description of the Abyss is very much like that idea you get of the world just before the Creation, as seen in Genesis 1:2: It was “without form and void” “darkness was upon the face of the deep...” (the Abyss; Abussos, in the Greek).*
- ❖ **What does the Bible tell us will take place, and begin, right at this time when Jesus Returns? (Revelation 20:1-3)**
 - **Satan will be bound on this darkened and broken down old earth, for 1000 years!** *There are no longer any “nations” or peoples for him to deceive! All of his wicked followers are dead. All of Jesus’ followers are in heaven. He and his evil angels must sit here on the earth and think about what they’ve done, and about their final punishment that is coming. He is “bound” by a “chain” of circumstances. There is no one for him to tempt, and he cannot go anywhere else. This is like sitting on death row. He’s knows that his punishment/execution is coming.*
 - **After the 1000 years he must be “loosed” or set free for a short time!**
- ❖ **The Bible tells us also the activities of the righteous who are in heaven during the 1000 years (Rev. 20:4-6)**
 - *They sit and reign with Christ for the 1000 years. A work of “Judgment” will be given to them.*
 - **The Bible describes two resurrections, separated by the 1000 years.** *(one at the beginning for the righteous—those who are “blessed and holy”—and one at the end for the “rest of the dead”—the wicked! How many general resurrections does Jesus tell us about? (John 5:28,29)*
 - **How does the Bible further describe this work of Judgment during the 1000 years? (See 1 Corinthians 6:2,3; 1 Cor. 4:5; Luke 12:3)** *This is a work of evaluating the record books and of getting all of our questions answered. You and I will certainly have many questions for God when we get to heaven (and we’ll want to know about how he judged everyone). Imagine if you get to heaven, and someone you thought to see there, wasn’t there! You’d want to know why! And then God will show us all the things that we didn’t know, but which He did know about. Obviously, we don’t know enough about angels or the people to judge these matters rightly now. Paul tells us in Corinthians to wait “until the Lord comes!” Then God reveals all.*
- ❖ **After the 1000 years are finished, Satan will be loosed from his prison (Rev. 20:7-9, 10)**
 - All of the devil’s followers on earth will be brought to life at this time (v.5,8,9). They are in number “...like the sand of the sea.” Their hearts are still unchanged as we can clearly see from the Bible text. They all surround the city of

- God and try to attack it, to take God from the throne if they can. BUT, they must all “bow before the king of Heaven” (ref. Romans 14:11).
- “Gog and Magog” is a reference to all the godless nations and peoples of the earth who will be destroyed. Revelation uses the symbols from the Ancient prophet Ezekiel’s writings which describe a scene very similar to the final destruction of the wicked (ref. Ezekiel 38 and 39).
 - **At this time, the city of God, the New Jerusalem has just descended from heaven down to this earth** (ref. Rev. 21:2). We can see it has come down to the earth and the wicked surrounded it to attack (20:9). The devil convinced his evil followers that they could “battle” against the Lord’s city and defeat it (v.8). But, that is not possible for them.
- ❖ **This day was a reckoning day, and the final punishment day for all the wicked angels and people who followed sin (Rev. 20:9,10).** *Everyone had to stand before God, the great Judge of all the earth. Every soul who has ever lived (from every time in history since the Creation) will be alive at this one time upon the earth). ALL will stand before God—and the wicked will receive their final punishment, the fire which was promised at the first for “the devil and his angels” (ref. Matthew 25:41). Sometimes it’s called “everlasting fire” or “eternal fire” or “eternal punishment”.*
- ❖ **According to the Bible, will this fire really continue to burn for all eternity** (as many have suggested)? **(Please see Malachi 4:1,3; Jude 1:6,7; 2 Peter 2:6).** *The effects of the fire are ETERNAL! It is final! There is no coming back from it! However, the Bible tells us in these verses that the fires of hell will not continually burn forever and ever with endless sufferings eternally. The cities of Sodom and Gomorrah are an “example” of “eternal fire,” which the wicked will suffer, the Bible says. And, they are not still burning today. They were turned into ashes! The righteous will “trample down” those ashes the Bible says (Mal. 4:3). What about the verse in Rev. 20:10 that says, “night and day forever and ever”? Many times the Bible uses the word “forever” to describe the intensity of something or the endurance of something until it reaches its final end. Many times the Bible uses that word to describe things that have already ended (for example: see Jonah 1:17, 2:6; It felt like “forever” that Jonah was in the great fish, but literally it only lasted three days and three nights).*
- ❖ **What about the parable of Luke 16:19-31** with the story of the rich man and Lazarus. It is a parable. Not a real story. A “drop of water” would never cool the tongue of some man burning in hellfire. Nor could someone suffering in hellfire ever be able to just have a logical conversation, much less with someone who’s saved “in Abraham’s bosom.” Jesus told a parable to illustrate that the rich are not just saved or favored by God because of their riches. And the poor are not just despised by God, and doomed to eternal loss. We must believe God’s word, and not just look for some kind of signs all the time (when the word tells us plainly!) **What about Mark 9:47,48** “where their worm does not die and the fire is not quenched”? Jesus is quoting from Isaiah 66:24. He is describing “Gehennah” (the Greek word translated as hell in this passage is Gehennah. There are three Greek words we often translate as “hell” in the English. There are Gehenna, Tartarus, and Hades. Hades means the grave, as it is translated in many places. Tartarus is a place of burning. Gehennah was a city dumping ground outside of the city of old Jerusalem. The valley of Gehennom. They always had fires burning there to destroy the waste piled there. And they always had some kind of dead and rotting animals there. Jesus uses this situation with old Jerusalem to describe the situation outside the New Jerusalem when the wicked all die in the fires outside the city).
- ❖ **Consider about the character of God:** God is one who “...delights in mercy” and “does not retain his anger forever” (Micah 7:18). He is one who IS and who teaches us to be loving, kind, and merciful to even “our enemies” (Matthew 5:43-48). **Consider also:** These fires of hell burn “...on the surface of the earth” (around God’s holy city), which He promises to “make new” (Rev. 21:1). The saved/the meek “shall inherit the earth” (Matthew 5:5). So, it cannot be possible for the fires of suffering to continue burning forever. All life/Creation is sustained by God, so if it suffers continually, then He experiences that suffering continually (Acts 17:28; Matthew 10:29-31). The “wages of sin” are “death” (Romans 6:23), not eternal suffering in hell fire. If it were eternal suffering in hell fire then Jesus did not pay the full price for sin (certainly that isn’t true!). **John 3:16** tells us there are only two possible outcomes for people! “Eternal life” through Jesus Christ, or to “perish” (which means coming to an end). You cannot have eternal life in hellfire! No, eternal death must come. The consequences of the fire are eternal. They last forever. But, the fire itself does not continue to burn forever. Does that seem clear to you from the Bible? “God is love,” not a merciless tyrant! If God tortures living people in the fires of hell for an eternally endless period of time then you and I must admit that Adolf Hitler was more merciful to the Jews during WWII than God the Father or Jesus Christ. Impossible!!! Let us never put the character of Satan upon our blessed, holy, just, kind, merciful, and true God.

Question (s) for the Heart:

Will you choose to lovingly serve and obey Jesus Christ today, so that we can all be on the inside of that heavenly city after the 1000 years are finished? _____ (instead of being on the outside looking in).