

Edit for Passover Apr. 8, 2026
The Lake of Fire

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Is This the Lake of Fire?



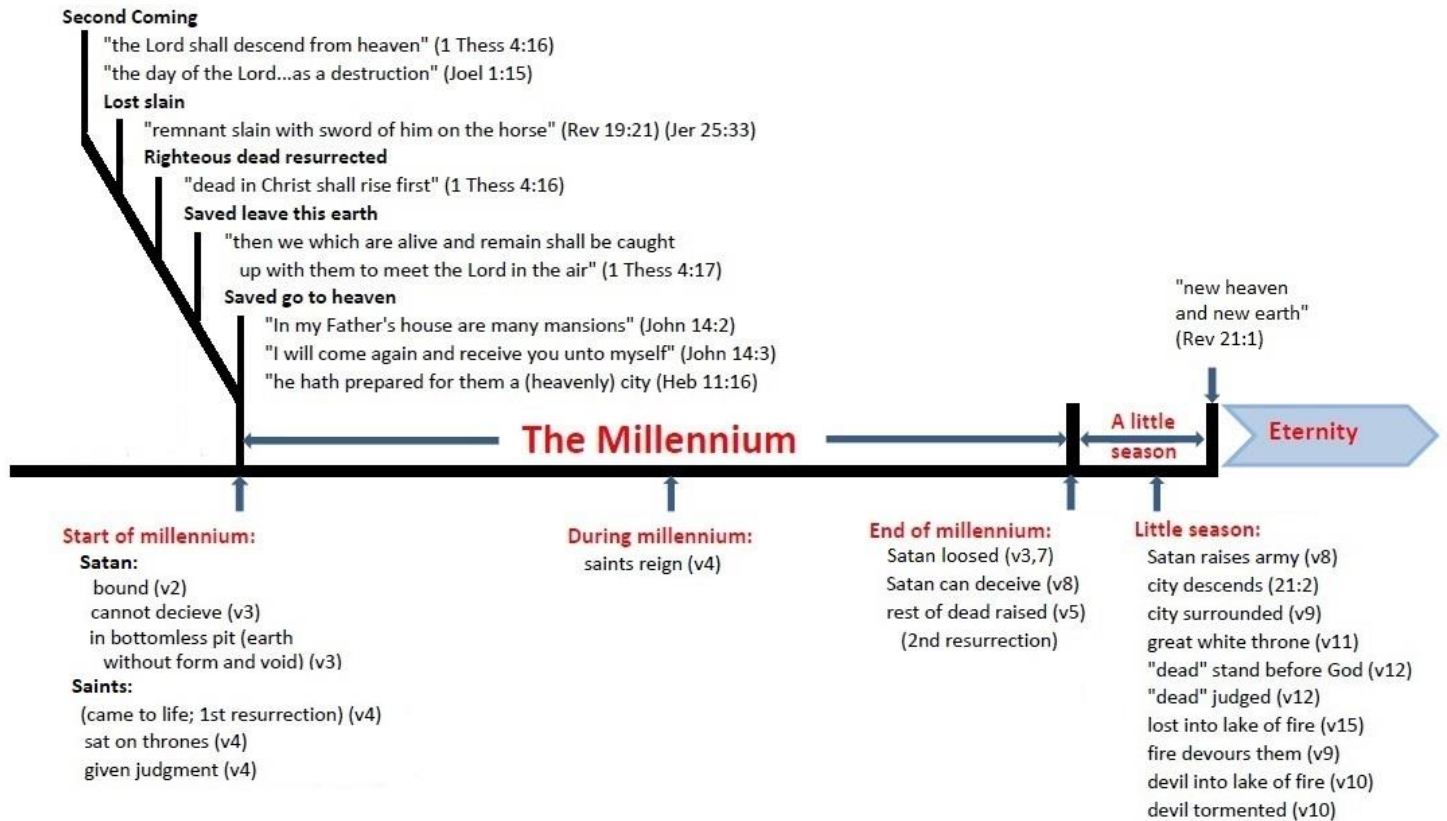
- **When** will the Lake of Fire Happen?
- **Where** will the Lake of Fire be?
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- **What** Happens in the Lake of Fire?
- **Why** have a Lake of Fire?
- **Which** Side Comes out of the Lake of Fire as Victor
- **Whose** Side will You be on in the Lake of Fire Experience?

Took the Big Red W's out since last time but replaced them >



When Will the Lake of Fire Happen?

The Millennium - Order of Events



Verse references below center line are from Revelation Chapter 20

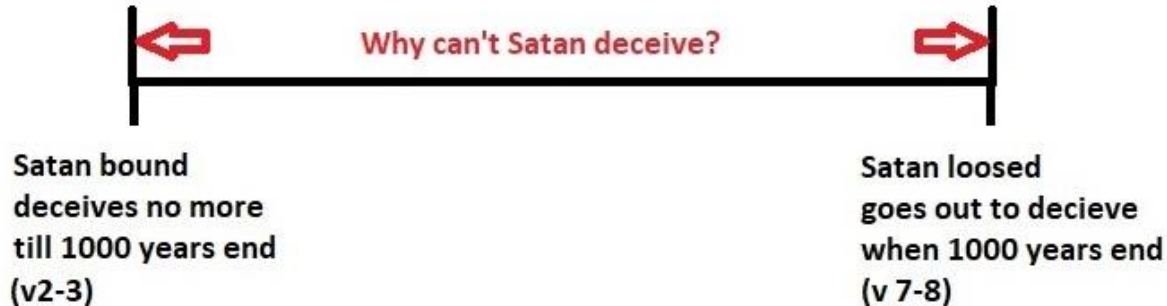
Quick review - at end of millennium:

“And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and **bound him a thousand years**, 3 And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, **till the thousand years should be fulfilled**: and after that he must be loosed **a little season.**” (Revelation 20:2-3)

“And **when the thousand years are expired**, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,” (Revelation 20:7)

Second Coming
Wicked slain
Start of
millennium

Third Coming
Wicked raised
End of
millennium



“Little season” – length unspecified

Events to happen in the little season

- Satan released
- City descends
- City is surrounded
- Great white throne appears
- “Dead” stand before God
- “Dead” are judged
- Lost into the **Lake of Fire**
- Lost devoured by fire
- Devil into Lake of Fire
- Devil tormented

So, the Lake of Fire is after the end of the Millennium

Where Will the Lake of Fire Be?

"And I John saw the holy city, **new Jerusalem**, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God *is* with men, and **he will dwell with them**, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, *and be their God.*" (**Revelation 21:2-3**)

This is at the end of the Millennium and God's people are in the city.

"Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, *which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven* from my God: and *I will write upon him* my new name." (Revelation 3:12)

“And his feet shall stand in that day upon **the mount of Olives**, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south.” (Zechariah 14:4)

“Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall **so come in like manner** as ye have seen him go into heaven. Then returned they unto Jerusalem from **the mount called Olivet**, which is from Jerusalem a sabbath day’s journey.” (Acts 1:11-12)

He will go and return in the **same manner** and leave from and return to the **same place**.

“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.” (Revelation 20:9)

But that is before 21:2 - order of verses?

“**Compassed**” = surrounded

The Lake of Fire will be around the city

Who is Sending Fire Down from Heaven?

“... and **fire came down** from God out of heaven, and devoured them.” (Rev 20:9)

“And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was **cast into** the lake of **fire.**” (Rev 20:15)



This suggests we should take a closer look at what is happening.

Most ancient manuscripts and modern Bible translations don't have the words "from God" in Revelation 20:9.

“There came down fire out of the heaven (the words ‘from God’ are of doubtful authority) and devoured them.” (Ellicott's Commentary for English Readers)

Here is an example from one of many modern Bibles which omits the words "from God":

“And they came up on the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, and fire came down from heaven and devoured them.” (Revelation 20:9, New American Standard Bible)

Only 8 of the 32 versions at biblehub.com include "from God."

God is not sending literal fire down to torture and kill people.

HoW Can There be a Lake of Fire?



This verse identifies the Lake of Fire with the Second Death:

"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](#))

The Lake of Fire (a location) = the Second Death (an experience)?

the Lake of Fire = the Second Death
(a location) = (an experience)
?

Another example like that:

Bottomless pit = imprisonment of Satan
(a location) = (an experience)

Can there
be a literal
second
death?

Can a
person die
twice?

Is death a
place or an
experience?



Can there be a literal lake of fire?

Not naturally possible

Therefore, it must be ____? ____

>> **symbolic**

The Second Death is primarily referring to an event but an event has to happen somewhere.

We are going to see that it is not a lake at all as we normally understand a lake and it is not normal fire.

“have their part” (Rev. 21:8 “meros” G3313) indicates that those people will **have a part in** or experience that event. It’s “have their **part** in” not “have their **place** in.”

So, there can be a lake of fire if it is symbolic.

What is the Lake of Fire and Brimstone?

What is the Lake?

Water, in prophetic scripture, can be a symbol of people, specifically large groups of people as used in the book of Revelation. In this verse, waters are likened to people, lots of them:

“And he saith unto me, **The waters** which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, **are peoples**, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.”

(Revelation 17:15)

Waters are equated with people.

“And I heard as it were **the voice of a great multitude**, and as **the voice of many waters**, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.” (Revelation 19:6)

In that verse, “the voice of a great multitude” is used in parallel with “the voice of many waters” indicating a correspondence between them.

So, the “Lake of Fire” could just be a way of describing a large number of people gathered together and going through (taking part in) an experience which involves fire in some form.

What is the Fire?

Fire is not necessarily just literal. The Bible, especially the book of Revelation, uses many words in symbolic ways. Here are some verses that use the word “fire” symbolically:

"For I, saith the LORD, will be unto her [Jerusalem] a wall of fire round about, and will be the glory in the midst of her." (Zechariah 2:5)

“Wherefore thus saith the LORD God of hosts, Because ye speak this word, behold, I will make **my words in thy mouth fire**, and this people wood, and it [the words] shall devour them.” (Jeremiah 5:14)

"Is not **my word like as a fire**? saith the LORD; and like a hammer *that* breaketh the rock in pieces?" (Jeremiah 23:29)

"From above hath He sent **fire into my bones ...**" (Lamentations 1:13)

"But who may abide the day of His coming? and who shall stand when He appeareth? for **he is like a refiner's fire**, and like fullers' soap:" (Malachi 3:2)



"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:**" (Matthew 3:11)

This was spoken by John the Baptist to the faithful. He is not talking about people being immersed (the meaning of "baptize") in literal fire.

"I am come to send **fire** on the earth; and what will I, if it be already kindled?" (Luke 12:49)

<https://characterofgod.org/biblical-meaning-of-fire/>

Read a verse from Cleansing – Zechariah 13:9

"Set me as a seal over your heart, as a seal upon your arm. For **love** is as strong as death, **its** jealousy as unrelenting as Sheol. Its [love's] sparks are fiery flames, the fiercest blaze of all. Mighty waters cannot quench **love ...**" (Song of Solomon 8:6-7; Majority Standard Bible)



The Lake of Fire is many people experiencing fire in a symbolic sense.

It is not a symbolic lake and a literal fire.

The Lake of Fire is not ½ symbolic and ½ literal.

What is the Brimstone?

That word “brimstone” (“theion” Strong’s G2303) seems to have a dual meaning. It can be related to the presence of God. It comes from the Greek “theios” (Strong’s G2304; divine or godhead) which comes from “theos” (G2316) translated as “God” 1320 times.

theos	→	theios	→	theion
G2316		G2304		G2303
God		divine/godhead		brimstone
Revelation 22:19		Acts 17:29		Revelation 21:8

Was/is the Lake of Fire Meant for Judgment?

"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:**"
(Matthew 25:41)

At the point of creation week, the Lake of Fire was already planned for. It was not intended to be for mankind; they had not yet sinned.

"And I saw **a great white throne**, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them." (Revelation 20:11)

“a throne” – could be judgment

"And I saw the dead, small and great, **stand before God**; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is *the book* of life: and **the dead were judged** out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works." (Revelation 20:12)

Really sounds like judgment.

Is this the judgment at which a person is declared saved or lost?
Why or why not?

- >> had to have been determined before resurrections
- >> separation of sheep and goats (recognition)

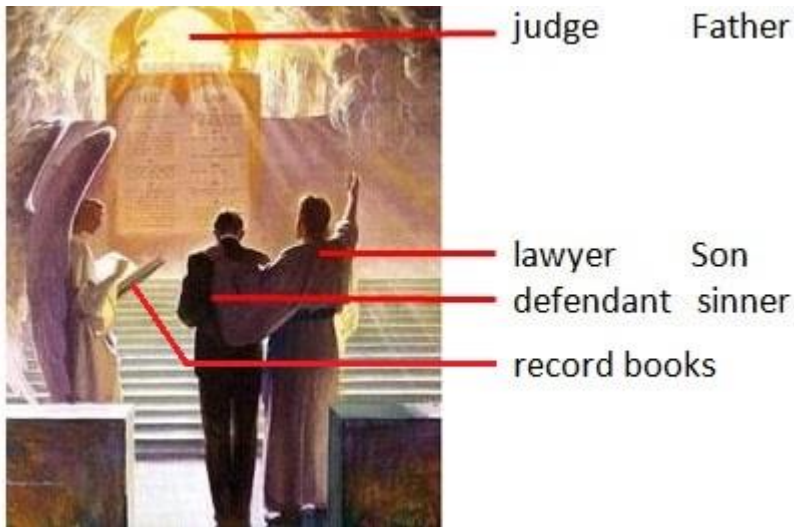
"And, behold, **I come quickly**; and **my reward is with me**, to give every man according as his work shall be." (Revelation 22:12)

Does it make sense that people would be rewarded before they are judged?

"Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great **is your reward in heaven**: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you." (Matthew 5:12)

The saved do not wait for a thousand years in heaven to be judged and find out if they will be rewarded or not.

If saved, you will never experience this scene:



Do we stand before the judgment seat before death?

When would it happen like this?

Already judged before resurrection

X – well we would have to figure out when it happens – I don't see it

Doesn't the fact that anyone is raised in either the first or the second resurrection show that they have already been judged?

What about this verse:

“For **we must all appear** before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may **receive the things done** in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.” (2 Corinthians 5:10)

Not appearing in person.

How many seconds does each one stand before God to be judged? >
say there are 20 billion people to be judged?

Give each one an hour before God to answer for themselves. Going 24 hours a day, that would take more than 2 million years.

What Happens in the Lake of Fire?

Evidence Revealed – Evidence of Man

“But I say unto you, That **every idle word** that men shall speak, they **shall give account thereof** in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and **by thy words thou shalt be condemned.**” (Matthew 12:36-37)

If found guilty they would be condemned by who?

>> Condemned “by thy words” NOT by God

"For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things." (1 John 3:20)

See definition of “account” (Greek “logos” G3056)

the phrase “**give account thereof**” can include the sense of consequences returning to the speaker.

“**give account thereof**” is much like “**you will have to answer for that**” which functions as an idiom

It is the great principle of you reap what you sow - natural consequences

Remember: "God does not actively punish, He allows consequences." (Thank you Don Straub)

We will understand that more later.

Condemn vs judge – John 8 Did Jesus judge the woman?

"For God shall **bring every work into judgment**, with every secret thing, whether *it be* good, or whether *it be* evil." (Ecclesiastes 12:14)

"bring every work into judgment" = put all the evidence on the table

"Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be **revealed by fire**; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is." (1 Corinthians 3:13)

"revealed by fire" – there is the connection to the Lake of Fire

Literal fire does not reveal evidence; it destroys it.
("The evidence was destroyed in a fire.")

"made manifest" to who?

Revealed in contrast to the love (fire) of God's love

"Shall not God search this out? for **he knoweth the secrets of the heart.**"
(Psalms 44:21)

"The sin of Judah is written with a pen of iron, and with the point of a diamond: it is graven upon **the table of their heart**, and upon the horns of your altars;" (Jeremiah 17:1)

"My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep **my commandments**: Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; **write them upon the table of thine heart:**" (Proverbs 3:1,3)

We talk about having the law in our hearts; it turns out that a record of our sins is there too.

Highly Superior Autobiographical Memory HSAM

People who remember virtually every detail of their lives

Can tell you what they had for breakfast some random date long ago

<100 people worldwide

Evidence Revealed – Evidence of God

“For I *know* their works and their thoughts: it shall come, that **I will gather all nations and tongues**; and they shall come, and **see my glory.**”
(Isaiah 66:18)

"And he [Moses] said, I beseech thee, **shew me thy glory**. And he said, **I will make all my goodness pass before thee**, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before thee; and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will shew mercy on whom I will shew mercy." (Exodus 33:18-19)

Glory = goodness

“And the LORD descended in the cloud, and stood with him there, and **proclaimed the name of the LORD**. And the LORD passed by before him, and **proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children’s children, unto the third and to the fourth generation.**” (Exodus 34:5-7)

Name = characteristics

Note: including to allow the reaping of what is sown, natural consequences to happen (visiting the iniquity)

“see my glory” ≠ see bright lights

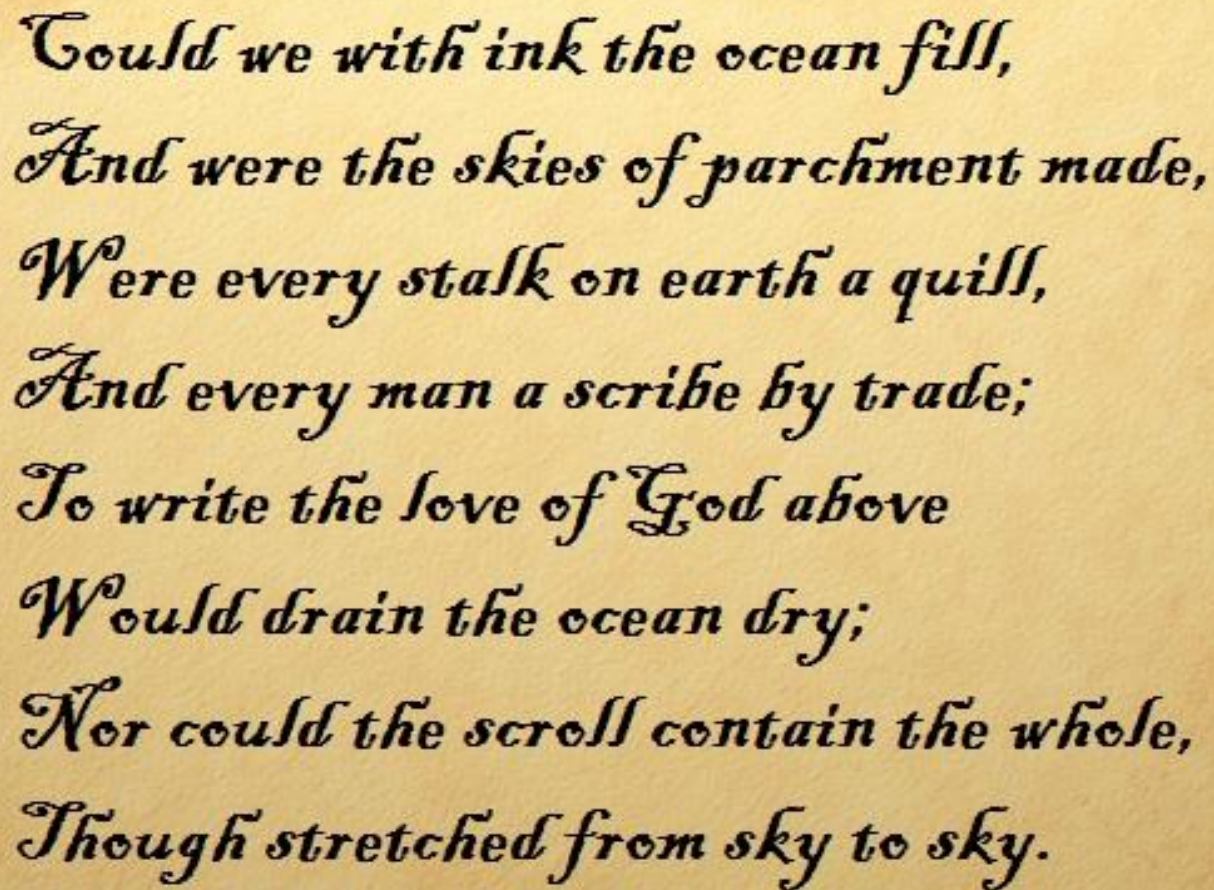
Gather tongues (Isa 66:18)? – could that mean?

.Question everything

“God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written,

That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome **when thou art judged.**" (Romans 3:4)

→ Love of God



*Could we with ink the ocean fill,
And were the skies of parchment made,
Were every stalk on earth a quill,
And every man a scribe by trade;
To write the love of God above
Would drain the ocean dry;
Nor could the scroll contain the whole,
Though stretched from sky to sky.*

Every man will see his own actions in contrast with the love of God and all that God has done (in love) to try to save him.

Could that cause an effect something like this:

"Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap **coals of fire on his head.**" (Romans 12:20)

Torment

What will that revelation by fire result in?

“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:**” (Revelation 14:10)

→ show wrath video <https://youtu.be/QjEPYayR9Z4>

“To understand the message, you need to know the meaning of the words.”
(As basic as grammar)

<https://characterofgod.org/gods-wrath-in-the-bible/>
<https://characterofgod.org/wrath-of-god/> (70 examples)

“Then my anger shall be kindled against them in that day, and I will forsake them, and I will hide my face from them, and they shall be devoured, and many evils and troubles shall befall them; so that they will say in that day, Are not these evils come upon us, because our God *is* not among us? And I will surely hide my face in that day for all the evils which they shall have wrought, in that they are turned unto other gods.”

(Deuteronomy 31:17-18)

“God, if your enemy hates you and despitefully uses you, keep revealing your love to him, show him that you have always loved him and done the best for him, for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head.”

(Romans 12:20, adapted)

“coals of fire” are not literal; it is the Bible’s way of describing the awakening of a guilty conscience.

“**Tormented**” in (Rev 14:10) is the word “*basanizo*” (G928) - a means of testing or **revealing** quality.

Examples of its use:

“And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets **tormented** (Strong’s G928) them that dwelt on the earth.”

(Revelation 11:10)

It seems likely that the torment from the two prophets is more a torment of the conscience because of truth presented than any kind of physical torment.

“(For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, **vexed** [Strong’s G928] his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds;)” (2 Peter 2:8)

“That righteous man” was Lot, and the verse describes (using the same word “basanizo”) his reaction to the wickedness of the Sodomites.

The first definition of basanizo [G928] is: “To test (metals) by the touchstone, which is a black siliceous stone used to test the purity of gold or silver by the colour of the streak produced on it by rubbing it with either metal.” (Online Bible Greek Lexicon)



Think of “gold purified in the fire.” This “torment” can be thought of as the application of the touchstone. It is the test, the evaluation of the character or fitness for heaven. It is especially the revelation to the lost themselves (God already knows their condition and destiny) of their condemnation as a result of their sins.

Can you imagine being in that situation and coming to understand that you have thrown away eternal life because of choices you have made? The regret and mental anguish would be **totally** overwhelming.

“in the [physical] presence of” the Lamb Who died for you



“the wrath of God ... poured out **without mixture**”
<https://characterofgod.org/wrath-anger-definition/>

“without mixture” = undiluted = full strength
= letting man **fully** receive the consequences of what he has chosen

This added later resulting from a question during the presentation.
I asked the audience to think of the one painful event in their lives that they would most like to have skipped and decide if that was:

mainly a physical event (an injury or illness) they suffered

Or

a mental/emotional event (something they did/said to another or that was said to them)

Of the few that responded. 0 said a physical event and I saw at least 5 hands indicating it was more of a mental/emotional event.

Shows that mental trauma (often involving guilt) has a greater effect on our lives.

Zechariah 14

“And this shall be the plague wherewith the LORD will **smite** all the people **that have fought against Jerusalem**; Their flesh shall consume away while they stand upon their feet, and their eyes shall consume away in their holes, and their tongue shall consume away in their mouth.”

(Zechariah 14:12)

“**fought against Jerusalem**” – does that help to place this in the right setting?

Three major categories of sin:

	Sensualism	Materialism	Humanism
Zechariah 14:12	flesh shall consume away	eyes shall consume away	tongue shall consume away
Eve (Genesis 3:6)	the tree was good for food	it was pleasant to the eyes	desired to make one wise
Sodom (Ezekiel 16:49)	fullness of bread	abundance of idleness	pride
Temptations of Jesus (Matthew 4:3-10)	command that these stones be made bread	All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me	cast thyself down
1 John 2:16	lust of the flesh	lust of the eyes	pride of life

A person who is critical of others will tend to think/imagine that others are critical of them including God. A person who is unforgiving of others will tend to believe that God is unforgiving. The more convinced you are that God freely and completely forgives, the more forgiving you will be towards others and the more you will be able to accept God's freely-offered forgiveness.

“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.” (Revelation 20:9)

Devoured

G2719 κατεσθίω *katesthio* kat-es-thee'-o or καταφάγω *kataphago* kat-aph-ag'-o

from G2596 and G2068 (including its alternate); v;

AV-devour 10, eat up 3, devour up 2; 15

1) to consume by eating, to eat up, devour

1a) of birds

1b) of a dragon

1c) of a man eating up the little book

2) metaph.

2a) to devour i.e. squander, waste: substance

2b) to devour i.e. forcibly appropriate: widows' property

2c) to strip one of his goods

1c1) to ruin (by the infliction of injuries)

2d) by fire, to devour i.e. to utterly consume, destroy
2e) **of the consumption of the strength of body and mind by strong emotions**

Reaction

What will be the reaction of people to this experience?

→ Handout Three Categories of Sin Table

“And this shall be the plague wherewith the LORD will **smite** all the people that have fought against Jerusalem; Their **flesh** shall consume away while they stand upon their feet, and their **eyes** shall consume away in their holes, and their **tongue** shall consume away in their mouth.” (Zechariah 14:12)

Is that speaking of a physical consuming? (“Smite” is also used in scripture in the sense of **to get one’s attention**.)

<https://characterofgod.org/smite-smote-definition/>)

“smite” - Peter vs Herod (Acts 12)

<https://characterofgod.org/smite-smote-definition/>

Some have seen it as people being exposed to the explosion of a neutron bomb. Here is such a description:

“When this bomb blows the release of the neutrons are lethal to humans and any other animal life around it. ... If you are within the blast radius what will happen to you is eerily similar to what Zechariah describes in chapter 14 of his prophecy. Any kind of flesh is destroyed by a kind of melting process as all the atoms are destroyed within it. Thus Zechariah’s description of something that rots flesh, eyes, and the tongue are often compared to what happens at the detonation of a neutron bomb.”

www.calvarychapeljonesboro.org/prophecynews/zechariah-14-neutron-bombs-and-gods-ultimate-purpose-for-israel

However, as always, we need to consider whether the Bible has its own definition.

To “**consume away**” is from the Hebrew word “*maqaq*” (Strong’s H4743) which means “to pine away.”

The website www.dictionary.com gives these meanings for pine:

to yearn deeply; suffer with longing; long painfully
to fail gradually in health or vitality from grief, regret, or longing

Here are Bible verses that use the original Hebrew word “*maqaq*”:

“And they that are left of you shall **pine away** in their iniquity in your enemies’ lands; and also in the iniquities of their fathers shall they **pine away** with them.” (Leviticus 26:39)

“Therefore, O thou son of man, speak unto the house of Israel; Thus ye speak, saying, If our transgressions and our sins be upon us, and we **pine away** in them, **how should we then live?**” (Ezekiel 33:10)

In that verse, “**how should we then live**” suggests that the pining away **could cause death** ultimately from the guilt of sin.

This verse, with its use of terms similar to Zechariah 14:12, seems to relate:

“For all that is in the world, **the lust of the flesh**, and **the lust of the eyes**, and **the pride of life**, is not of the Father, but is of the world.”

(1 John 2:16)

It is interesting that John mentions three categories of sins that seem to line up with what is described as being consumed in Zechariah 14:12 (“Pride of life” is mainly expressed via the tongue as in bragging). Now notice the account of Satan’s three-fold temptation of Jesus:

“And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that **these stones be made bread**.” (Matthew 4:3)

This temptation was of **the lust of the flesh** or **Sensualism**, to gratify the senses, in this case, the appetite:

“Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple, And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, **cast thyself down**: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone **[the pride of life; Humanism]**.” (Matthew 4:5-6)

This was a temptation of the pride of life, or humanism and its presumptuousness. Imagine Jesus being on the pinnacle of the temple and the people below watching Him as He jumps off and lands without a scratch. “Hey look at me!”

“Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him **all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them [the lust of the eyes; Materialism]**; And saith unto him, ‘All these **things** will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.’” (Matthew 4:8-9)

Materialism = things (MS sign)

These were also the three areas in which the people of Sodom fell:

“Behold, this was the iniquity of thy sister Sodom, **pride [the pride of life]**, **fulness of bread [the lust of the flesh]**, and **abundance of idleness [the lust of the eyes, materialism]** was in her and in her daughters, neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy.” (Ezekiel 16:49)

These temptations can be traced right back to the beginning - notice that Eve experienced these same three categories of temptation:

“And when the woman saw that **the tree was good for food [the lust of the flesh]**, and that **it was pleasant to the eyes [the lust of the eyes]**, and a tree **to be desired to make one wise [the pride of life]**, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.” (Genesis 3:6)

There are three major categories of sin that can be summarized as follows:

	Sensualism	Materialism	Humanism
Eve (Genesis 3:6)	the tree was good for food	it was pleasant to the eyes	to be desired to make one wise
Sodom (Ezekiel 16:49)	fulness of bread	abundance of idleness	pride
Temptations of Jesus (Matthew 4:3-10)	command that these stones be made bread	All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me	cast thyself down
1 John 2:16	lust of the flesh	lust of the eyes	pride of life
Zech 14:12	flesh	eyes	tongue

This helps to make sense of what Hebrews says:

“For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was **in all points tempted** like as we are, yet without sin.” (Hebrews 4:15)

How could Jesus have been tempted in every way we have been tempted? Was He ever tempted to drive over the speed limit? “All points” is a reference to **these three broad categories**, not to every little variation of temptation that might come our way. Thankfully, we do have an high priest who was also tempted in each of these categories of sin - and overcame.

And so the flesh, eyes and tongue being consumed is not literal, physical consumption. Rather, what is being described is people pining away, being overwhelmed by their guilt for all the sins that they have committed during their lifetime and did not turn from. The consumption is in more of a mental than a physical sense.

So, having considered the terms “fire,” “devour” and “consume away,” we can see, that the Lake of Fire is not what has been commonly believed.

In this situation, the conviction of sin does not bring repentance but something else:

And it shall come to pass in that day, *that* a great tumult from the LORD shall be among them; and they shall lay hold every one on the hand of his neighbour, and his hand shall rise up **against the hand of his neighbour.**" (Zechariah 14:13)

"And I will call for a sword against him throughout all my mountains, saith the Lord GOD: every man's sword shall be **against his brother.**" (Ezekiel 38:21)

Why would neighbours or brothers be fighting among themselves?

>> blaming each other

How can they be fighting one another if their flesh has consumed away etc?

How are they dying?

>> “every man's sword”

Doesn't that indicate they are dying by the sword? (Matthew 26:52)

The end result will be ...

"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." (Isaiah 66:22-23)

That "all flesh" would have to be after the flesh of the lost is no more. The context is the end of the millennium, the recreation of the earth.

"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." (Isaiah 66:24)

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

Connect the "look upon the carcasses" with the "they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet."

When is that happening?

What are carcasses?

>> **dead bodies at the end of the millennium, right?**

"go forth" (Isaiah 66:24) from where?

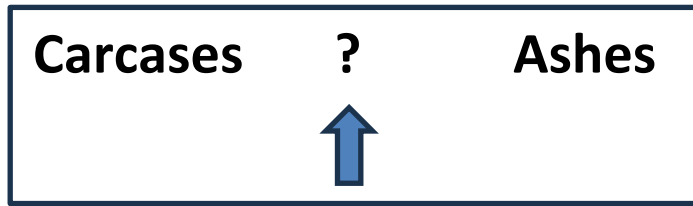
>> **the city**

Illustration

“... they shall go forth, and **look upon the carcasses ...**” (Isa 66:24)

“... they shall **be ashes under the soles of your feet ...**” (Mal 4:3)

What has to happen between those two verses, between the carcasses, (the dead bodies) and the ashes?



Will we be walking on ashes before or after the earth is recreated?

What Happens to Satan?

→ Handout - same pattern:

		LAKE OF FIRE		EVIDENCE	CLEANSING	END RESULT
Lost	all that do wickedly	SEE ILLUSTRATION		looked upon	fire	ashes under feet
Satan	multitude of thine iniquities	fire from the midst	devour thee	them that behold thee	fire	bring thee to ashes

"Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the **multitude of thine iniquities**, by the iniquity of thy traffick; therefore will I bring forth a **fire from the midst** of thee, it shall devour thee, and I will **bring thee to ashes** upon the earth in the sight of all **them that behold thee**." (Ezekiel 28:18)

"Ye shall **conceive chaff**, ye shall bring forth stubble: **your breath, as fire, shall devour you**." (Isaiah 33:11)

Breath – ruach (H7307) wind, breath, mind, spirit

Remember, the Lake of Fire is an experience, an event. When it is over and they are all dead and this “lake of fire” experience has ended, only then does the physical fire come.

“**all that do wickedly, shall be stubble**” (chaff)

“**grow up as calves of the stall**” a metaphor/idiom? for prosperity like:

- “ye are grown fat as the heifer at grass” (Jeremiah 50:11)
- “the righteous shall flourish like the palm tree:” (Psalm 92:12)
- “they shall be fat and flourishing” (Psalm 92:14)

"Behold, **they shall be as stubble**; the fire shall burn them; they shall not deliver themselves from the power of the flame: *there shall not be* a coal to warm at, *nor* fire to sit before it." (Isaiah 47:14)

STUBBLE, *noun* [Latin] The stumps of wheat, rye, barley, oats or buckwheat, left in the ground; the part of the stalk left by the sythe or sickle. (Webster)

CHAFF, *noun*

1. The husk, or dry calyx of corn, and grasses. In common language, the word is applied to the husks when separated from the corn by thrashing, riddling or winnowing. The word is sometimes used rather improperly to denote straw cut small for the food of cattle.

2. Refuse; worthless matter; especially that which is light, and apt to be driven by the wind. In scripture, false doctrines, fruitless designs, hypocrites and ungodly men are compared to *chaff* [Psalms 1:4](#); [Jeremiah 23:28](#); [Isaiah 33:11](#); [Matthew 3:12](#).

"**The ungodly** *are* not so [not prospering]: but **are like the chaff** [H4671] which the wind [ruach] driveth away." ([Psalms 1:4](#))

"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**." ([Matthew 3:12](#))

> Are there uses of the Hebrew word "awkal" H398 ("devour" in Ezekiel 28:18) that could mean "to devour" in a figurative sense?

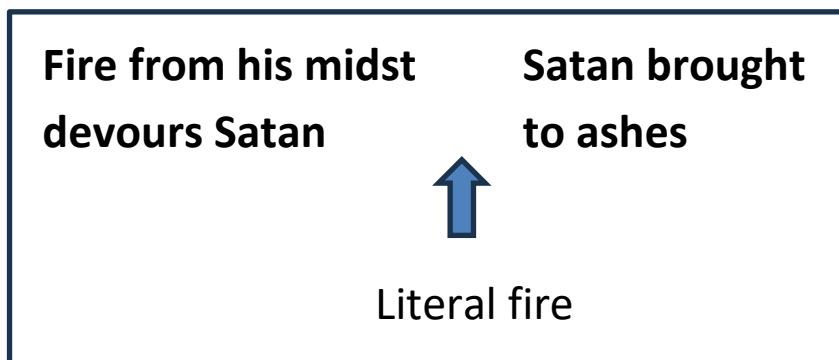
"And they brought up an evil report ... The land, ... *is* a land that **eateth up** the inhabitants thereof; ..." ([Numbers 13:32](#))

"... their rejoicing *was* as to **devour** the poor secretly." ([Habakkuk 3:14](#))

Two events:

"**I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee**"

"**I will bring thee to ashes**"



The “fire” that devours Satan will come from **inside him** not down from God out of heaven. Why should it be any different than the “fire” that devours anyone else?

Some theories suggest the word “pyramid” came from Greek words for fire (“pyr” as in pyrotechnics) and middle (*mési*), indicating "fire from within." ???

Some Clues from Hebrew

We can learn something about this by looking at some Hebrew characters. The word for “man” - as distinct from woman - in Hebrew is “ish” and looks like this:

אִישׁ

It is spelled with the Hebrew letters - reading from right to left - aleph, yod, shin.

The “yod” means or has reference to the hand of God, specifically, His right hand - the Messiah. When the hand of God is removed from man - when the letter yod is removed from the word for man - the result is the Hebrew word for fire:

אֵשׁ - י = אִישׁ

And, interestingly, a similar thing happens with the word for woman, which is:

אִשָּׁה

Reading from right to left, it is spelled: aleph, shin, hey. When the letter “hey” is removed, once again, what remains is the word for fire:

אֵשׁ - ה = אִשָּׁה

The letters “yod” and “hey” that have been removed from the words for man and woman respectively, when combined as yod-hey, make the word “Yah,” (spelled “Jah” in KJV; Psalm 68:4) which is the poetic form of God’s name:

ש י א - י = ש א **Man - yod = Fire**
 ה ש א - ה = ש א **Woman - hey = Fire**
 י + ה = יה **yod + hey = Yah (God)**

“yod” refers to the Messiah.
 “hey” can mean “behold,”
 thus, “Yah” = “behold the Messiah.”

It takes both man and woman together to properly represent God. When God’s presence is removed from them what remains is fire. What we find, with a correct understanding of the role of God in the destruction of the wicked, is that men or women “burn” (in a figurative sense) when God is totally removed from them. So, it is not a direct act of God that destroys man but **the removal** of His life-sustaining presence when rejected.

“Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you, and **judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life**, lo, we turn to the Gentiles.” (Acts 13:46)

"He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath **one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him** in the last day." (John 12:48)

John 8 ?

Why Have a Lake of Fire?

It certainly involves Judgment but the fate of both saved and lost has already been determined.

Could it be for the purpose of confirmation of the justice of verdicts already rendered?



For What Purpose?

“I have sworn by myself, the word is gone out of my mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, That unto me **every knee shall bow**, every tongue shall swear.” (Isaiah 45:23)

“The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.” (Psalm 19:9)

There is a very real sense in which God Himself is, on trial:

“God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome **when thou art judged.**” (Romans 3:4)

Could it be that, in the final judgment, the lost will be exposed to all the truth about God and what He has done. And all that in His very presence while, at the same time, becoming fully aware of their own sins? The sense of guilt from their lives of sin, in contrast with their realization of God’s holiness and how good He has been to them while they have despised His entreaties, would be overwhelming; they literally will not be able to bear it.

The Lake of Fire at **the end of the millennium** will be primarily a revelation of the love (fire?) of God in showing all that He has done (He could have done no more) in attempts to save each person. That will allow each of the lost to see that God has been completely just in all His actions. Also, that they have unfitted themselves for heaven and, in fact, would not be happy there.

“And I will set a sign among them, and I will send those that escape of them unto the nations, *to* Tarshish, Pul, and Lud, that draw the bow, *to* Tubal, and Javan, *to* the isles afar off, that have not heard my fame, neither have seen my glory; and **they shall declare my glory among the Gentiles.** (Isaiah 66:19)

"What do ye imagine against the LORD? he will make an utter end: affliction shall not rise up the second time." (Nahum 1:9)

Which Side Wins this Battle Between Truth and Error?

"For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, **every knee shall bow to me**, and every tongue shall confess to God." (Romans 14:11)

Could this be a way of saying "I will not stop until everyone is convinced and acknowledges that there is no reason or justification for sin, that Satan's charges have been unjust etc.

"That **at the name of Jesus every knee should bow**, of *things* in heaven, and *things* in earth, and *things* under the earth;" (Philippians 2:10)

The saints need to see that every knee - even of all the lost - is bowed.

"What do ye imagine against the LORD? he will make an utter end: **affliction shall not rise up the second time.**" (Nahum 1:9)

God is working to remove **every doubt** of His goodness and love, His glory.

All will experience the Lake of Fire, in a sense.

Even the far-off universe will "see" somehow and come to understand that God has been vindicated, that Satan is no more and all can breathe a big, universal sigh of relief.

Whose Side Will You Be on in that Experience?

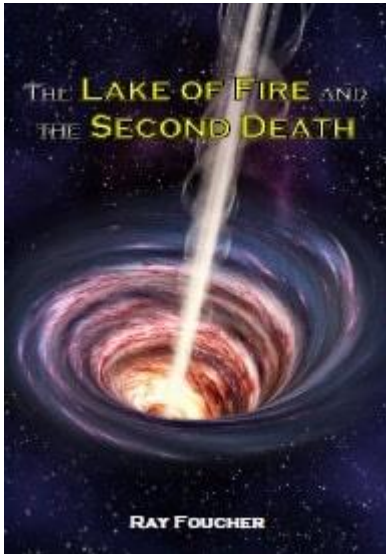
The big question for each of us is ...

- **All will experience it**
- **When thou art judged**
- **If it is like the scroll in the sky, all will see it**
-

If all this is wrong, what is the alternative? > What is God doing to people?

>> torturing

“The sinners in Zion are afraid; fearfulness hath surprised the hypocrites. **Who among us shall dwell with the devouring fire? who among us shall dwell with everlasting burnings? He that walketh righteously, and speaketh uprightly; he that despiseth the gain of oppressions, that shaketh his hands from holding of bribes, that stoppeth his ears from hearing of blood, and shutteth his eyes from seeing evil;"** (Isaiah 33:14-15)



<https://characterofgod.org/resources#lake-of-fire>