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## What is Satan's Fate?

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BICOG Publication

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*The Bible warns of a very real devil and many Satanic cohorts. What is their ultimate fate? Here is the truth about Satan, and the startling proof about his final judgment!*



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The Bible reveals the truth about the fate of wicked evil people who refuse to repent after the truth was revealed to them, and have chosen to reject it. The Bible says that the wicked shall be “burnt up” and become “ashes.” (see Malachi 4:1,3). The place called “Hell” where evil people go and are tormented forever is a pagan myth that this world’s Christianity adopted and have taught throughout the centuries. The mainstream Protestant churches continue also with this belief, but the Bible reveals something totally different (Read out booklet *Is there Really a Hell Fire* for more details). What about Satan the Devil and his demons, what is their fate?

### **What about the Everlasting Fire?**

At the beginning of Christ’s millennial rule over the nations, Satan is to be BOUND, and cast into an abyss (Rev. 20:1-3). This condition of restraint will last during the thousand years, and then the devil will be momentarily allowed freedom to deceive the nations again (verse 3)! “loosed a little season.”

When Satan is “loosed” this occurs *after* the 1000 year reign of Jesus, and the second resurrection, “But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished.” (Rev 20:5). This resurrection will involve those people that will receive their first chance for salvation.

Isaiah 65:20 says that these people in the second resurrection will live for 100 years, and be judged by God, “There shall be no more thence an infant of days, nor an old man that hath not filled his days: for the child shall die an hundred years old; but the sinner *being* an hundred years old shall be accursed.” It is during these 100 years that Satan, “...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.*” (Rev 20:8-9).

The Lake of fire is rekindled by God out of heaven into the place, “prepared for the devil and his angels.” (Matthew 25:41). That place is Gahenna outside the city of Jerusalem, “For without [the city v.14] *are* dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.” (Rev 22:15). These dead people during the 1000 year reign of Christ are there *displayed* to the multitudes as an example of the results of sin, Isaiah says, “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.” (Isaiah 66:23-24). (Read our booklet *Is there really a Hell Fire* for a full explanation about this passage).

This is the same place, “where the beast and the false prophet *are*,” (Rev 20:10). The word “are” is in italics and was added by the translators. Bullingers Companion Bible says, “No verb. Read ‘were’, or ‘were cast’” (emphasis added). The actual rendering is “were cast.”

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So wicked HUMAN BEINGS are cast into an everlasting FIRE prepared for the devil and his angels.

Fire is a physical, chemical thing! Fire is the combustion of physical objects with oxygen which CHANGES the physical objects into ashes and gaseous vapor!

Notice that the wicked (the SAME ones Christ referred to) are to be ASHES under the feet of the righteous! (Mal. 4:3).

Therefore, this fire Christ spoke of in Matthew 25 is a fire that CONSUMES human beings! But Satan is a SPIRIT being! AND SPIRIT BEINGS ARE NOT AFFECTED BY FIRE! They are *not* material. Notice, "And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone...and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever." (Rev 20:10). Satan and his demons are still alive "tormented forever." What is this everlasting fire?

The word "everlasting" in Matthew 25:41 is "aionion" in the Greek language. "Aionion" comes from the root "aion" which often means "age"! In this case, the correct translation into the English language should be "AGE-LASTING fire."

This "age-lasting" fire means it burns continually to everything is consumed, and its results are permanent. "Eternal" often refers to the *permanence of the result* rather than the *continuation of a process*. For example, Jude 7 says that Sodom and Gomorrah underwent "a punishment of eternal [*aionios*] fire." It is evident that the fire that destroyed the two cities is eternal, not because of its *duration* but because of its *permanent results*. If it was eternal in duration, then it would still be burning which of course it is not!

To our modern critical minds, such a statement is contradictory, but not to people of Biblical times. To interpret a text correctly, it is vital to establish how it was understood by its original readers. In his commentary on *The Gospel according to St. Matthew*, R. V. G. Tasker expresses the same view: "There is no indication as to how long that punishment will last. The metaphor of 'eternal fire' wrongly rendered *everlasting fire* [KJV] in verse 41 is meant, we may reasonably presume, to indicate final destruction." (p.240).

So the fire lasts until all is consumed. Is there evidence of this in the Bible that in the final destruction of the wicked everything will be consumed by fire that God has rejected?

### **The Lake of Fire**

Just before the establishment of the new heavens and new earth, all that is corrupt, all that is physically combustible, will be consumed in a vast, WORLDWIDE lake of fire!

This tremendous conflagration will be so intense, so white-hot, that the surface of the whole earth will literally melt with the fervor of the flames! Peter describes this awesome time as a melting of the very elements, a time when all the works on the earth are burned up — dissolved! (2 Peter 3:10-11.)

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Christ shows this time occurs AFTER the final Great White Throne Judgment when God's plan is complete — and all who have been added to His family are already born of Him. After this final judgment, even death and the grave are destroyed (Rev 20:13-15).

The surface of the earth will become for a time just as if it were the blazing surface of the sun! This is the great Gehenna fire that Christ talked of, that will destroy the wicked.

It is into this vast, seething lake of fire that Satan and his angels will have been cast. But remember! This fire is PHYSICAL! It CONSUMES the bodies of the wicked, and is so intense it even melts the rocks and elements of the earth until they are liquefied.

BUT SATAN AND HIS ANGELS ARE SPIRIT BEINGS! Fire is PHYSICAL, and cannot BURN spiritual beings! Spirit IS NOT COMBUSTIBLE! George Eldon Ladd points out on page 270 of his Commentary on the Revelation of John, "How a lake of literal fire can bring everlasting torture to non-physical beings is impossible to imagine..."

### **Noah's Flood a type of the Lake of Fire**

A commonly misunderstood explanation of this is found in 1 Peter 3:19-20. People have assumed, because they base their religious philosophies on the doctrine of the immortality of the soul, that Christ was busy PREACHING to some supposed "souls" of MEN in hell! What folly! Let's understand what really happened!

Your Bible plainly states the TIME element in these verses. Christ did the preaching, NOT during the three days and nights when He was DEAD in the tomb (1 Cor. 15:3 and 20) but "WHEN once the long-suffering of God waited in *the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing ...*" (1 Peter 3:20).

But notice to WHOM Christ witnessed about the flood. "By which also he went and preached unto the SPIRITS IN PRISON"! (Verse 19.)

Who were these "spirits"? Certainly not MEN — nor the "souls" of men, since MEN DO NOT HAVE immortal souls!

2 Peter 2:4 give the answer! "For if God spared not the angels (spirits) that SINNED, but cast them down to hell (PRISON — "hell" is a mistranslation from the Greek "tartaroo" which means a "condition or position of RESTRAINT," as an "imprisonment"), and delivered them into CHAINS of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment."

The "spirits in prison" are the sinning angels, or the DEMONS that have perverted their ways and followed Satan, and are BOUND to the earth — imprisoned here by the power of God until their day of JUDGMENT.

Christ preached to the spirits on this earth DURING THE TIME OF THE FLOOD as a WITNESS to them! The flood was a type of the yet future destruction of the earth — this time by

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FIRE! Christ was warning them of the impending destruction of all their works — and their everlasting banishment from this earth!

Just before the establishment of the new heavens and new earth, all that is corrupt, all that is physically combustible, will be consumed in a vast, WORLDWIDE lake of fire just like the *worldwide* flood!

Now notice an important verse!

### **New Heaven and Earth**

In the glorious picture of the new heavens and new earth, John wrote a description of the temple, and the beauty of God's new creation. God expressly shows Satan and his angels will not BE in the new heavens and the new earth the fire Will BURN UP the wicked, and the works of the earth (Rev. 20:14; 21:8).

Peter tells us we can look forward to the new heavens and new earth wherein dwells RIGHTEOUSNESS! (2 Peter 3:13.) It is evident from God's Word that Satan and his angels will not be anywhere in the new heaven and new earth!

Then where are they to be? It says, "And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone...and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever." (Rev 20:10). The devil is cast into this worldwide lake of fire, but then he is tormented. Where is this place of torment?

And, since fire *cannot* consume spirits — then how can they be punished?

### **Satan Will Not Be Destroyed!**

Obviously from the above scripture Satan is not destroyed but continues to live forever. Notice that the devil is cast into the lake of fire where the Beast and False Prophet WERE CAST, AND Satan and his demons shall be tormented day and night forever and ever!

This expressly states Satan will be tormented for the AGES OF THE AGES! (See International Critical Commentary, an interlinear or other such Bible helps) This expression in the Greek means for all eternity — for time everlasting!

BUT!

Notice carefully the verse states Satan will be thrown into the lake of fire AND tormented forever! It does not say that he will REMAIN IN THE FIRE FOREVER! The fire is on this earth! The fire is an AGE-LASTING fire, which will NOT be burning after God's new heaven and new earth are established! It will burn and consume until there is nothing to consume and burn out, with its results being permanent. Since Satan is to be tormented FOREVER, and the fire is to finally CONSUME the *physical objects* it is burning until it burns OUT, Satan does NOT *remain in this lake of fire forever!*

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Satan is a spirit! Fire cannot consume spirit — and A SPIRIT CANNOT DIE! Jesus Christ said so! Obviously it is NOT the fire that torments him!

For a clinching proof, turn to Luke the twentieth chapter. In verse 34, Christ begins to explain to the hypocritical Sadducees about the resurrection.

“... The children of this world marry, and are given in marriage: But they which shall be accounted worthy to obtain that world (age), and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry, nor are given in marriage: NEITHER CAN THEY DIE ANY MORE, for they are equal unto the angels ...” (verses 34-36). Jesus tells us the angels CANNOT DIE! Satan is a fallen angel! Therefore Satan CANNOT DIE! So what torments the Devil and his demons?

### **How do Spirits suffer?**

God created our bodies with a type of “safety device” against too much pain! When the physical human body is subjected to extreme pain, it will reach a certain point and then lapse into unconsciousness! The mind does not continue to register the pain — even though the body continues to suffer! Mothers recognize the truth of this immediately. The thought of seeing their children suffer — having to stand the MENTAL agonies of seeing their own children being tortured — would be far worse than having to suffer physical pain themselves.

A DISEMBODIED spirit — one that cannot any longer physically manifest itself — is an UNCOMFORTABLE, MISERABLE spirit! Jesus described this condition of mental torment when He said, “When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking REST; and finding none, he saith, I will return unto my house whence I came out” (Luke 11:24).

This is further illustrated by the account of Christ's experience with the many demons who had entered the man in the country of the Gadarenes. Jesus commanded the spirits to come out of the man, and they “besought him MUCH that he would not send them away out of the country” (Mark 5:10). “And all the devils (demons) besought him, saying, Send us into the swine, that we may ENTER INTO them” (verse 12). They “besought” Jesus to send them into the swine; their torment was they could not bear the idea of not manifesting themselves through a living fleshly creature. The demons did not want to be taken out as they said to Jesus, “I beseech thee, torment me not.” (Luke 8:28). They were tormented by Jesus depriving them of contact with the living.

This is why they said to Jesus, “What have we to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God? art thou come hither to torment us before the time?” (Matthew 8:29). So Jesus sent them into the swine. In the future however God was going to separate the devil and his demons away from human contact, in the “outer darkness” with no contact whatsoever with the living, and for them this was torment.

When Philip was performing miracles at Samaria, he cast out many demons, who came out of people “crying with LOUD VOICE” (Acts 8:7) showing their frustration and anger at being deprived of their dwelling place! (Luke 8:28.)

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God says the demons KNOW of His power — they are aware of the great AUTHORITY of God! We are told that willful sinners are going to be left with a certain FEARFUL looking for of JUDGMENT (Heb. 10:26-27) and that it is a FEARFUL thing to fall into the hands of the living God! (Verse 31.)

James said, “Thou believest that there is one God? Thou doest well: the devils (demons) also believe, and TREMBLE”! (James 2:19.) They FEAR the awesome judgment awaiting them, and are therefore in TORMENT! “There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because FEAR HATH TORMENT” (1 John 4:18).

When Satan comes down to the earth in great wrath, it is because he knows he has but a SHORT TIME left! (Rev. 12:12.)

His punishment will plainly be MENTAL, SPIRITUAL, NOT PHYSICAL!

Many have misunderstood verse 16 of Ezekiel 28. Notice that God is speaking of the beginning of the creation in this account of Satan's original rebellion. But, just as the Bible so often uses DUAL meanings, so THIS is history and prophecy at the same time! God refers to the “stones of fire” in verse 13. Notice how these same stones are used in the description of the Holy City! Compare with Revelation 21:18-21.

Remember, the “mountain” (nation, or government) of God is ultimately going to be ON THIS EARTH! God CAST LUCIFER OUT of that mountain, throwing him DOWN from his attempt to be above God's throne! God's throne is then to be ON THIS EARTH! God will AGAIN cast Satan out of His presence!

“... Therefore I WILL (both past and FUTURE) 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” (Ezek. 28:16). The word “destroy” is explained by the word FROM! God does NOT say Satan is to be DESTROYED! He DOES say Satan is to be DESTROYED FROM a certain place — the midst of the stones of fire, or the location of God's seat of authority.

The Bible plainly reveals Satan will be cast into the lake of fire, but the lake of fire will END when the new heavens and new earth are established, and Satan is to be tormented unto the AGES OF THE AGES! It also shows his torment WHILE in that fire is going to be MENTAL, at seeing *all he has strived toward, worked for, plotted for*, BURNED UP!

Jude gave a slight indication of the NATURE of that torment when he used the demons as a TYPE in warning Christians about false teachers who had crept in unawares. In reading through the book of Jude, you come to verse 6, where the demons are mentioned, to the next few verses, where these “filthy dreamers” are described. Notice how their error is EXACTLY that of the sinning angels in that they too tried to USURP authority! “They ... ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core ...” (verse 11). See Numbers 16, where Korah tried to USURP the position of God's chosen servants.

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Jude continues to describe, “Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; WANDERING STARS (see Rev. 1:20, where stars are symbols of ANGELS) TO WHOM IS RESERVED THE BLACKNESS OF DARKNESS FOR EVER”! (Verse 13.)

Could this be an indication of their final fate? They are MISERABLE when disembodied — wandering through “dry places, seeking rest”! Could this statement in Jude give us a picture of their place of torment? “...wandering stars, to whom is reserved the *blackness of darkness for ever*”! (Jude 13).

Jesus spoke of the wicked being “cast out into outer darkness” (Matthew 8:12; 22:13; 25:30). This is the same place prepared for the devil and his angels. For wicked human beings it is outside the Kingdom of God (Rev 21:8; 22:15), in Gehenna where they are burnt up and ash, with no consciousness, so they do not exist any longer, darkness, void, no life.

Then when the devil is cast into the same place and the whole world is consumed by fire and burnt up, this “outer darkness” will be outside of eternal life where God and his family dwell. The word outer is “exoteros” (Strong’s #1857), meaning “exterior, outer.” The devil and his angels will be in the outer reaches of the universe away from where God and his family dwell, a place of blackness, a void, a place of nothing.

### **The Second Death**

Revelation 20:14 says, “And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.” There are two deaths. The “first death” “St. John has not used the phrase, ‘the first death,’ but he has alluded to the fact.” (Pulpit Commentary), is the death all human beings experience in this life, “The first death is the actual death of the body, and which is the natural result of that spiritually dead state into which, since the Fall, man is born, and which is therefore, as it were, his normal state” (ibid). This death shall be destroyed by God. “The last enemy that shall be abolished is death” (1Corinth 15:26, Revised Version).

“And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; *and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.*” (Rev 21:4). These are all former things that we experience today, pain misery and death. These are all works of the devil that God will destroy in this lake of fire, “He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, *that he might destroy the works of the devil.*” (1 John 3:8).

Now Revelation 20:14 says that death, hades-meaning the grave, and all those who are not found in the book are cast into this lake of fire (v.15), these are all the former things, works and evil people who refuse to repent are thrown into this lake of fire, and this is called the “second death.” All former things and works are put to death and destroyed. It is in this death that Satan the devil is cast into.

Barnes says, “There would be ‘death’ still, but a ‘second death differs from the first...’” It differs however, “not in *nature* but in *results*.” (SB, Immorality or Resurrection, p.216, emphasis his). The results for man and Satan are different.

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For Wicked unrepentant sinning *mankind*, “The meaning of the second death derives from and is dependent upon the meaning of the first death experienced by every human being at the cessation of life... The first death is a temporary sleep because it is followed by the resurrection. The second death is permanent and irreversible extinction because there is no awakening.” (ibid, p.216; Read our booklet Life after Death for more details).

For the Devil and his demons, [at this time as Edward Fudge notes, “to this point no human beings are involved in the Lake of Fire, nor does this passages say any of Adam’s race are tormented for ever and ever” (The Fire that consumes, p.193)]. The results for the Devil are different. This place will be a torment for the devil and his angels but it is *not* inflicted on them by God but themselves. God deprives them of all contact with the living, *and this torments them*, it is self inflicting.

God created them to live forever, self sustaining life. But they turned on God, and really is this life? The devil and his minions live in “darkness” (Eph 6:12; Col 1:13) which is the “shadow of death.” (see Job 3:5; 10:21, 22; 34:22; Psalm 107:10). *God will deal with them in the same way as he will deal with wicked men*, but as noted with *different* results. Man is temporal, angels live forever. Death is darkness (see Job 3:5; 10:21, 22; 34:22; Psalm 107:10), a void, and this shadow of death, this void falls upon them.

Hebrews 2:14 says, “...that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;” Many take this to mean that the Devil will be destroyed. But the Greek word here is not “apollumi” but “katargeo” (Strong’s #2673). Its Hebrew equivalent is “betale” (Greek to Hebrew Dictionary of Septuagint Words (Strong’s #989). This also means to “cease” to “stop” to make “void” as in the case of Romans 3:31.

Strong’s says, “to *be (render) entirely idle (useless)*, literally or figuratively:”

Thayers writes, “1) to *render idle, unemployed, inactivate, inoperative*

1a) to cause a person or thing to have no further efficiency

1b) to *deprive of force, influence, power*

2) to cause to cease, put an end to, do away with, annul, abolish” (emphasis added).

This is exactly what the devil and his demon fear as we have read in the Gospels, to be rendered powerless, to be deprived of power. This is precisely the fate that awaits Satan the devil. Since he is composed of spirit, he himself cannot be destroyed. But he is to be made useless by being restrained. The Devil today influences governments, religions, leader and people; this is what he thrives off of. To take that away from him torments him. So his punishment is to be rendered useless, void, empty, inactive, the very thought of that torments him so really it is *self* inflicted. To be rendered inactive, void, useless, is the same as death, and for Satan the devil it is, and it torments him! This very thought is the reason why the devil and his demons “tremble,” knowing what is to come.

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In this void it is *this mental torment* of not being able to manifest itself, nowhere but to wander forever in blackness-which is the place of their torment, is how the devil and his demons will be tormented by being banished and not having any contact with anyone ever again and dwell in blackness forever, as Peter said “chains of darkness.” This is forever because the devil cannot change; his heart, his character is molded, and is hard, hard hearted as the Bible says, Daniel Knauff on p.116 writes, “[Satan] is demonic and ultimately *hardened* in sin. At some stage he passed *the point of no return* in his rebellion against God. He knows what fate awaits him...” (Search for the Immortal Soul, emphasis added). Since his character *cannot* and *will not* change, this *self inflicted torment* will last for eternity.