

UNLOCKING PROPHECY #11

Revelation's Millennium and Lake of Fire

The Good News About Hell:

- † The word Gospel means 'good news' or 'good tidings'. The whole Bible is filled with good news, with Gospel. Even the subject of hell, rightly understood, is good news. There have been, down through the ages, significant misunderstandings about the subject of hell. In this lesson we will seek to cut through those misunderstandings and pre-programmed pictures in order to arrive at Bible truth. If we let the Bible speak we will surely succeed.

The Millennium (1,000 Years):

- † The clear teaching of Scripture is that there are **two** resurrections. Jesus Himself affirmed and taught this in John 5:28, 29. There is a resurrection of life (1st) and a resurrection of condemnation (2nd).
- † See also: Acts 24:15; Daniel 12:1, 2; Hebrews 11:33-35; Revelation 20:1-6.

Five Events That Begin The Millennium:

1. The Second coming of Christ (1 Thessalonians 4:15-17)
2. The Resurrection of the righteous dead (1 Thessalonians 4:15-17)
3. The translation of the living righteous (1 Corinthians 15:52-53)
4. The Wicked Living are destroyed by the brightness of His coming (2 Thess 1:7-9, Heb 12:9, 2 Thess 2:8)
5. Satan is bound by a chain of circumstances and there is no one to tempt. (Rev 20:2, Isaiah 24:19-22)

The Earth a Desolate Wilderness:

- † The Bible describes the earth as being "a bottomless pit". This phrase comes from the Greek word *abusos*. What English word does that sound like? Abyss, not coincidentally, the word *abusos* is used to translate the condition of the earth in Genesis 1:2 in the Septuagint translation (the Greek translation of the Hebrew Old Testament). Consider the following passages:
 - † Revelation 6:15-17; Isaiah 24:19-22; Jeremiah 4:23-27, 33
 - † The earth is desolate following the 2nd Coming. Satan and the fallen angels are left alone for 1,000 years to contemplate the woeful result of their rebellious experiment! The righteous are in heaven. But what are they doing there?
 - † Rev 20:4- Tells us that judgment was committed to the righteous who are saved and are now in heaven.
 - † 1 Corinthians 6:1-3 tells us that the saints will judge the world and angels.

† 3 Phases of the Judgment

- **Pre-Advent Investigative Judgment-** This judgment shows the universe that those who God saves will be safe to bring to heaven. God knows who will be saved, but the rest of the universe doesn't. This judgment is taking place right now, starting first with those who have died.
- **Post-Advent Millennial Judgment:** This will be like a judicial review. We will find out why some people are saved and why others are lost. All of our questions will be answered at this time. This will ensure that sin will not rise up a second time.
- **The Postmillennial Executive Judgment:** This happens after the millennium and culminates in the total and final destruction of the wicked, including the devil and his angels. This is hellfire.

5 Events That Close the Millennium:

1. The wicked raised from the dead (Revelation 20:5)
2. The new Jerusalem descends (Revelation 21:1-2)
3. Satan is released from his prison to go out and deceive the wicked (Revelation 20:7-10)
4. The wicked and Satan are destroyed by fire. This is the second death. (Revelation 20:7-9; 14-15)
5. The earth is made new (Rev 21:1; Matthew 5:5)

Bible Words & Hell

- † At the close of the millennium, following the resurrection of the wicked, *everyone who has ever lived* will be alive all at the same time. What a sight that will be!
- † All of the righteous will be inside of the city, the New Jerusalem; all of the wicked will be outside of the New Jerusalem. The Bible says that the walls of the New Jerusalem are *clear* (Rev 21:18). The righteous and the wicked will be able to see one another. The wicked make an effort to overtake the city by force. It is at this time that the fires of the vengeance and judgment of God descend upon them and “devour” them. **Hell Happens at a Certain Time For a Certain Purpose.**
- † The word “hell” occurs 54 times in the Bible (KJV). 31 times it occurs in the OT where it is translated from the Hebrew word Sheol. This word means *grave* or *place of the departed*. In the NT the word “hell” is translated from the Greek words Hades and Gehenna. The word Gehenna means *a place of burning or destruction*. The word *Hades* simply means *grave*, like the OT word Sheol.

When, Where, How Long?

- † In answering these three questions from the Bible we will arrive at a correct, and perhaps shockingly new, picture of what hell is.
 1. When is hell? – Not right now, It’s at the end of the millennium (Revelation 20:7-10)
 2. Where is hell? – Here on the surface of the earth. (Revelation 20:9)
 3. How Long is hell? (see next section)

The Question of How Long is an Easily Answered Question:

- † As we have already learned human beings are not naturally immortal. Immortality is a gift from God that comes as a result of accepting Jesus Christ as one’s personal Savior. See, for example, 1 John 3:15; John 3:16; Romans 2:7; 6:23; 1Timothy 6:16; Ezekiel 18:4, 20. It is absolutely critical to understand this simple point: *if man is not immortal then there is no need for hell to burn throughout the ceaseless eternal ages. To put it another way: the foundational reason that hell has been assumed to be eternal is that man has been assumed to be immortal, and thus indestructible.* It is essential that this be understood. If man is not immortal, then there is no need to insist that hell be eternal.
- † Remember that it is the Greeks, Babylonians, Egyptians and others who believed this idea of the immortality of the human soul. It is not a Biblical concept. It is called anthropological dualism.
- † According to the Bible, the fate of the wicked is as follows:
 - They will die. (Romans 6:23; Matthew 10:28)
 - They will perish. (Luke 13:3; John 3:16)
 - They will be burnt up and be ashes. (Malachi 4:1,3)
 - They will be devoured by the flames. (Revelation 20:9)
 - They will be utterly consumed. They will perish and vanish like smoke (Ps 37:10, 20; Isa 47:14)
 - They will be turned to ashes. (Malachi 4:3)

- They die the second death. (Revelation 20:6, 14; 21:8; Matt. 15:4)
- They will suffer destruction. (2 Thessalonians 1:9; Philippians 3:19)
- They will be as though they had not been. (Obadiah 16)
- Satan will be totally destroyed. He will be turned to ashes. (Ezekiel 28:17, 18; Hebrews 2:14)

What About Everlasting Fire?

- † The Bible does speak of “eternal fire” in Jude 7, but this is fire that has *eternal consequences*. It does not burn for eternity. In fact in the context it speaks of Sodom and Gomorrah as “examples” of this “eternal fire”. We might rightly ask the question: Is Sodom or Gomorrah burning right now? The answer obviously is no. It was turned to ashes, making them an example to those who would live ungodly (2 Peter 2:6).

Eternal Punishment:

- † This simply means punishment that has *eternal consequences*. Notice that the phrase is “eternal punishment”, not “eternal punishing”. The difference is enormous.
- † The only reason that someone would insist that this phrase means eternal conscious torment is if they already believed the non-biblical teaching that man is naturally immortal. This teaching, however, as we have seen, is not

The Bible also speaks of “eternal punishment” in Matthew 25:46.

So How Long is Forever?

- † This might seem like an usual question. The Bible does use the word “forever” in the context of the final punishment. (See, for example, Revelation 14:11; 20:9,10) But several things must be considered before arriving at an unwarranted conclusion.
 1. The word “forever” means as long as a thing shall last.
 2. “Forever” in the NT can be translated “an age” or “until the end of the age.”
 3. The word “forever” is used in the Bible to refer to things that lasted for a finite period of time. See Exodus 21:6; 1 Samuel 1:22, 28; Jonah 1:17; 2:6
 4. The word “forever” has to be interpreted and translated in a way that is consistent with the original languages and with everything the Bible has to say about the subject of hell.
- † Ezekiel 18:23,32 states that God has no pleasure in the death of the wicked and that He wants all to turn to Him and live.
- † 2 Peter 3:9 says, “The Lord is not slack concerning His promise [the promise of His Second Coming], as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.”
- † 2 Peter 3:10-13- We can look forward to a new heaven and a new earth.
- † Nahum 1:9- “...Affliction will not rise up a second time.” Sin will be no more, and the universe will be free from sin, heartache, and pain.
- † Would a God of love (1 John 4:8) leave a little corner of the universe that tortures people for all eternity? No, God is not a tyrant! He is loving, just, and merciful.
- † 1 John 5:12- “He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.”
- † Watch this presentation again, or share with a friend by searching for: Centralia SDA Church on Youtube or <https://tinyurl.com/unlockingprophecy>. Search also for his sermon “God Knows Your Heart.”