



**WELCOME
TO
BIBLE HOUSE
OF
GRACE**

If you think items presented on this site to be in error, please let me know and I will gladly reconsider the content.

**Lake of Fire
and the
Second Death
and
Hades**

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Learn the Bible at Home

Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

Lake of Fire, the Second Death, and Hades.

The focus of this study is upon the second death, and the lake of fire, spoken of in the following verses.

- **Revelation 20:5–6:** The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended. This is the first resurrection. ⁶ Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection! Over such the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and they will reign with him for a thousand years.

At the end of the thousand years John sees:

- **Revelation 20:11–14:** Then I (John) saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them. ¹² And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done. ¹³ And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done. ¹⁴ Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. ¹⁵ And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

Death and Hades are thrown into the lake of fire, signifying total annihilation and extinction, this is the Second Death, after this judgment, death will be abolished for ever. For the last enemy to be destroyed is death. (1 Cor. 15:26).

In the following verse the Pale horse is pictured as Death's escort:

0

- **Revelation 6:8:** I looked, and behold, a pale horse! And its rider's name was Death, and Hades followed him. And they were given authority over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword and with famine and with pestilence and by wild beasts of the earth.

The picture here is of a vast number of the world's population being killed by wars, famines, and all kinds of epidemic plagues, virus, and deadly disease. Wild beasts in this context, may also embrace birds of prey and wild animals eating the dead bodies, and the beast nations spoken of in the book of Revelation. After all this horror, sorrow and suffering we read in the next chapter.

- **Revelation 21:4:** He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

Death will be no more, for it will be thrown into the lake of fire, a symbol of utter destruction (i.e., total extinction).

- **Revelation 20:14:** Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire.

The following verses show that a certain group of people will not be hurt by the second death.

- **Revelation 2:11:** He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The one who conquers will not be hurt by the second death.'

In contrast to the first physical and mortal death, which takes us all to the grave, this death is utter and complete eternal death (i.e., utter, and total extinction). Those who attain to the first resurrection need have no fear of the second death.

- **Revelation 20:6:** Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection! Over such the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and they will reign with him for a thousand years.

In contrast to the first physical and mortal death, which we all naturally die of this death is utter and complete eternal death (i.e., utter, and total extinction). Death, with all its woes (i.e., sickness, mental ailments, disease, fatigue, depression, despair, and all forms of grief, that death and its ailments bring), will exist no more. The righteous will live forever free of all sin, sorrow, sickness, and death, while those counted unworthy exist no longer. When the reign of Death and Hades come to an end, a new order of things will commence where death and Hades would be unknown, and only eternal glory and everlasting happiness remain. Though the lake of fire is referred to by different names (i.e., the lake that burns with fire), the title, "the lake of fire," is only mentioned four times in Scripture, the following verse is the first mention of the lake of fire:

- **Revelation 19:20:** And the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who in its presence had done the signs by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped its image. These two were thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur.

Following are the other three verses that speak of the lake of fire:

1. **Revelation 20:10:** The devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.
2. **Revelation 20:14–15:** Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. ¹⁵ And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

Many believe the words, "he was thrown into the lake of fire and, "they will be tormented day and night forever," means that all who are cast into the lake of fire will be doomed to a lingering eternal life of torture of the worst kind in a vast mass of fire in a place called hell, but this is a gross error. The teaching that those who are judged unworthy of eternal life go to a place of fiery flames called hell where they are not only cruelly and brutally tortured by evil eternal creatures called demons, but their bodies are also burned by fiery flames so that they suffer the worst of all agonies and pain for all eternity is not only a gross misunderstanding of Scripture, but is also a gross misrepresentation of God's character.

This teaching portrays God as being extremely sadistic in character, especially when it is considered that even those in the secular world would not inflict such brutal and cruel torture on a criminal for their entire life, let alone for all eternity. The lake of fire and, the words, "they will be tormented day and night forever," are used symbolically to highlight and magnify God's utter disdain of the beast, the false prophet, deceivers and the wicked. Added to the devil, the beast and the false prophet being thrown into the lake of fire (called the lake that burns with fire), all the wicked are also thrown into it with them:

3. **Revelation 21:8:** The cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death."

The severe punishment of antichristian beast nations, the false prophet and the wicked, is expressed as being "cast into a lake of fire," this is not a literal fire, but signifies the wrath of God, which will be poured out like fire, in that it consumes all things. Burning brimstone gives off a nauseous stench, that aggravates the nose, it is used here to highlight the extreme

distain God has toward the antichristian beast nations, the false prophet and the wicked. Sacrifices that are offered up to God are spoken of as being a sweet-smelling fragrance to the LORD, in total contrast to this, the antichristian beast nations, the false prophet and the wicked are seen as a disgusting smell before the LORD. The allusion is most likely to be to the place where Sodom and Gomorrah stood, which after God's wrath fell upon the cities, became a sulphurous lake, and has from that time been an emblem of the vengeance of eternal fire (i.e., utter destruction, for Sodom and Gomorrah were totally-destroyed) which is why they are used to serve as an example of punishment and of eternal fire.

- **Jude 1:7:** Just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities, which likewise indulged in sexual immorality and pursued unnatural desire, serve as an example by undergoing a punishment of eternal fire.

The antichristian beast nations, the false prophet and the wicked are said to be, "cast alive into the lake of fire," the word "alive," indicates that prior to their death, they will be fully aware that God's judgment has fallen upon them. Much like Korah and his company were fully aware, when the earth swallowed them up, that it was an act of God's wrath being poured out upon them for their blatant rebellion.

- **Numbers 16:31–33:** And as soon as he had finished speaking all these words, the ground under them split apart. ³² And the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up, with their households and all the people who belonged to Korah and all their goods. ³³ So they and all that belonged to them went down alive into Sheol, and the earth closed over them, and they perished from the midst of the assembly.

In one of Daniel's visions, he saw:

- **Daniel 7:9–10:** Thrones and the Ancient of days whose clothing was white as snow, and hair like pure wool taking His throne of judgment of fiery flames, with wheels burning with fire and ten thousand times ten thousand angels standing in His court before Him with books that were opened.

Daniel then says:

- **Daniel 7:11–12:** I looked then because of the sound of the great words that the horn was speaking. And as I looked, the beast was killed, and its body destroyed and given over to be burned with fire. ¹² As for the rest of the beasts, their dominion was taken away, but their lives were prolonged for a season and a time.

Here the destruction of the body of the beast is spoken of as being destroyed by fire, the imagery is based upon the language of the following verses:

- **Isaiah 5:14:** And the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up, with their households and all the people who belonged to Korah and all their goods. ³³ So they and all that belonged to them went down alive into Sheol, and the earth closed over them, and they perished from the midst of the assembly. ³⁴ And all Israel who were around them fled at their cry, for they said, "Lest the earth swallow us up!" (Num. 16:32–34).
- Sheol has enlarged its appetite and opened its mouth beyond measure, and the nobility of Jerusalem and her multitude will go down, her revelers and he who exults in her.

The lake of fire is mentioned for the first time in the following verse:

- **Revelation 20:10:** The devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

Then we read of it in the following verses:

- **Revelation 20:14–15:** Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. ¹⁵ And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

- **Revelation 21:8:** The cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death."

The language of flames and brimstone, smoke, and other volcanic forces indicate the existence of subterranean fire, which might well lead the ancients to place the location of Tartarus and Gehenna in some place within the surface or centre of the earth, which imagery has become crystallised in the language of following generations. But it must be remembered that the language is extremely symbolic, since Sheol (the grave) does not have a literal appetite or a literal mouth and there is no lake that literally burns with fire, these writers are using lofty biblical language to highlight the utter disdain God has toward the beast nations, the false prophet, and their company, and to magnify their complete and utter destruction (i.e., total annihilation and extinction). It is not necessary to suppose that this is to be literally inflicted upon them, since the whole scene is symbolical, the idea is that the destruction of these powers will be as complete as if they were thrown into a lake burning with fire.

- **Revelation 14:10–11:** he also will drink the wine of God's wrath, poured full strength into the cup of his anger, and he will be tormented with fire and sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. ¹¹ And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever, and they have no rest, day or night, these worshipers of the beast and its image, and whoever receives the mark of its name."

There is no literal wine of God's wrath, nor is there a literal cup full of His wrath, nor will there be smoke going up throughout all eternity, this is symbolical language to highlight that the anger of God against sin has become so great that it is time to act in judgment. Likewise, it cannot be thought that the holy angels of God while standing in the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ, will throughout all eternity literally be looking upon thousands of humans in some, kind of spirit form, who are being forever burned with flames, and from extreme pain, forever yelling with ear-piercing screams of agony. Such a scene would be no joy to angels of Christ, and make heaven more of a place of horror than a place of love, joy, and peace. the writer is using biblical lofty language to highlight God's extreme disdain, contempt and scorn toward the false prophet, the beast, and their company, and that their destruction will be a spectacle and sign to all who witness it.

As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.