

The Final Curtain: The Lord's Last Judgments

Revelation 20:7–15

Introduction

The Judgment of the Millennial Nations and Satan (20:7–10)

- Satan and his demon hordes remain imprisoned in the Abyss for the duration of the Millennium, as the Lord Jesus Christ rules with unopposed sovereignty.

- The reference to “Gog and Magog” (v. 8) reminds us of a similar reference in Ezekiel 38–39.

- As they did during his first coming, many will refuse Christ’s grace and reject his lordship in their lives ...

The Great White Throne Judgment of the Wicked Dead (20:11–15)

- “Then I saw a great white throne ...” (v. 11) =

In the new heaven and the new earth, John sees “the throne of God and of the Lamb” (Rev 22:13).

- “From his presence heaven and earth fled away...” (v. 11) =

- “I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne ...” (v. 12) = The wicked dead will be resurrected (Daniel 12:2; John 5:29; Acts 24:15).

- “The books were opened” (v. 12; cf. Daniel 7:10) =

- “Another book was opened, the book of life ...” (v. 12) = See Revelation 3:5, 13:8, 17:8, 20:15, 21:27; cf. Exodus 32:32; Psalm 69:28; Daniel 12:1; Luke 10:20; Phil 4:3.

- “The dead were judged ... according to what they had done” (v. 12) = This principle of judgment is mentioned through Scripture and is applied even to believers: Job 34:11; Ps 28:4, 62:12; Prov 24:12; Isa 4:3; Jer 17:10; 32:19; Lam 3:64; Matt 16:27; Rom 2:6; 2 Cor 5:10, 11:15; 2 Tim 4:14; Heb 12:23.

There will be degree of punishment in hell: Matthew 10:14–15, 11:21–22; Mark 12:38–40.

- “The sea ... Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them ...” (v. 13) =

- “Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire ...” (vv. 14, 15) =

“The clearest and most vivid of New Testament terms used to describe the final hell is Gehenna. Gehenna is the valley of Ben Hannon (2 Kings 23:10; Isaiah 30:33; Jeremiah 7:31–32, 19:6), located southwest of Jerusalem. In Old Testament times, idolatrous Israelites burned their children in the fire there as sacrifices to the false gods (Jeremiah 19:2–6). In Jesus's day, it was the site of Jerusalem's garbage dump. The fires that kept constantly burning there gave off foul smelling smoke, and the dump was infested with maggots. Sometimes the bodies of criminals were dumped there. The Valley of Ben Hinnom was a fitting picture of eternal hell, one used repeatedly by Jesus (Matthew 5:22, 29–30, 10:28, 18:9, 23:15, 33; Mark 9:43-45, 47; Luke 12:5).” (MacArthur, 310).

- “This is the second death” (v. 14) =

All who participate in the first resurrection will not experience the second death (Rev 20:6).

- “If anyone’s name was not found written ...” (v. 15; cf. John 3:18) =