
What Does the Bible Say About Hell? (Part 2): The Lake of Fire

Cross → Resurrection → Ascension → “Church Age” → Rapture → Tribulation → Jesus Comes to Earth (Armageddon) → Judgment of the Living → Millennium → Satan’s Brief Final Rebellion → Great White Throne Judgment (Lake of Fire) → New Heaven & New Earth

Hades (ᾍδης): The Temporary “Holding Cell” for Those Who Have Rejected God. People in Hades (“hell”) are there immediately after death. They are conscious, in great pain, in some type of temporary body, can remember, and are without future hope or chance of rescue.

Lake of Fire: The Final Place of Eternal Punishment for Those Who Have Rejected God.

Preceding Events:

- The Return of Jesus to Earth (Revelation 19:11-16)
- The Battle of Armageddon (Revelation 19:17-21)
- Satan Is Bound in the Bottomless Pit for 1,000 Years (Revelation 20:1-3)
- Jesus Reigns on Earth for 1,000 Years (Revelation 20:4-6)
- Satan Is Released and Leads a Rebellion (Revelation 20:7-9)
- Satan Is Cast into the Lake of Fire (20:10)

The Great White Throne Judgment

¹¹ Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. ¹² And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is *the Book of Life*. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. ¹³ The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. ¹⁴ Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. ¹⁵ And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire. (Rev 20:11-15)

1. **Everything Will Be Cleared Away but the Judge and His Throne**

¹¹ Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them.

(2 Pet 3:10) But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.

(Rev 21:1) Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea.

2. **All of the Dead of All Time Will Stand Before God**

^{12a} And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God,

Who Are “the Dead?” – Those Separated from God

(Eph 2:1) And you who were dead in trespasses and sins,

Which of the Dead? The Great and the Small

All people from every level of greatness

- *The celebrity and the unknown*
- *The rich and the poor*
- *The educated and the uneducated*
- *The accomplished and the lazy*

Standing before God: Ready to receive sentencing

3. **The Dead Will Be Judged from Two Sets of Books**

^{12b} and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is *the Book of Life*. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.

- **Book** – *One book that records a person’s spiritual life (Are they saved?)*
- **Books** – *Records of all the works of each person done throughout his/her life.*

4. **All the Dead Will Be Judged, Each by His / Her Own Works**

¹³ The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works.

- **Sea / Death** – *Likely the sea and the ground (grave) – bodies brought back*
- **Hades** – *The temporary holding place of the spirits of those who rejected God*
- **Each One** – *Each person will be judged by what he or she did*
- **According to His Works** – *All actions will be judged*
- **Degrees of Punishment** – *(Matt 11:24) “But I say to you that it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment than for you.”*

5. **The Dead from Death & Hades Will Be Cast into the Lake of Fire**

¹⁴ Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

Death and Hades: *This includes everyone standing at the Great White Throne. All those from Death (including the Sea) and Hades will be cast into the Lake of Fire. They are already guilty of rejecting God. The issue is simply determining how horrible their punishment will be in the Lake of Fire.*

Second Death: *Death is separation. Our first death is our physical death, when our spirit separates from our body. This “second death” will be a final, permanent separation from God.*

6. **The Final “Double-Check” Will Be Made of the Book of Life**

¹⁵ And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

Are you in the Book of Life? Have you believed on Jesus as your Savior?

(John 3:16-18) “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. ¹⁷ “For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. ¹⁸ “He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.