

Notes, Questions & Prayer Requests

[illegible]

RS-020

LESSON TWENTY

REVELATION'S LAKE OF FIRE

Teaching code - in “teacher notes”.

- 1. Underlining - designed to get class participation.**
- 2. Bold items - messages to instructor.**
- 3. All other copy - information designed to go directly to class.**

Place Lesson #21, No Exhibits, at each student location before session begins.

WARM WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER

REVELATION'S LAKE OF FIRE

C. (“Tartaros” Greek) darkness
II Peter 2:4 (only one in N.T.)

[illegible]

20-1

QUIZ QUESTIONS

(True or False)

1. There will be no punishment of the wicked until the day of judgment at the end of the world. True
2. When the wicked die, they go into graves to remain until called forth by the power of God unto the resurrection of damnation. True
3. The soul that sinneth, shall be eternally tormented, beginning at death. False
4. The fire that destroys the wicked comes from God out of heaven at the end of the 1000 years. True
5. At the end, the wicked are no more, the earth is made new, God dwells with us on the earth, and sin will never rise again! O glorious truth! True

OFFERING APPEAL

Discussion Questions

Place "X's" in answer to the following statements.

1. I have learned something new in this lesson.
2. For the second "X": I appreciate the new thoughts presented; it helps me to love God all the more.
3. For the third "X": I am happy to learn there is not a place where people are being tortured by God now, and I am looking forward to living eternally with a completely just and merciful heavenly Father. Pray for me that I will be faithful in hearing, reading and keeping these things which are written in these prophecies.

**Stop early and present "In His Steps" material.
8-10 minutes**

Talk up next lesson.

Closing Prayer

A BIBLE PROPHECY ADVENTURE REVELATION SEMINARS



REVELATION'S LAKE OF FIRE

Revelation, in most graphic language, repeatedly refers to the lake of fire, hell and the punishment of the unsaved. Fifteen times Jesus pointedly mentions the lake of fire so John will know that the fire is not a fable but rather a very necessary part of God's plan to abolish sin and make the righteous safe for eternity.

However, grave problems confront many when they study the subject of hell in Revelation. Thinking people have been shocked to read that the unsaved will be "tormented day and night forever and ever" — Revelation 20:10 (1823), because such words fill the mind with serious questions about God's mercy and justice.

Are all the wicked punished forever regardless of the degree and number of their sins? Does a sinner who died three thousand years ago receive three thousand years more punishment than one who dies today and is lost for the same sin? How can God get rid of sin if sinners are kept alive forever in a fire? In light of these questions, this subject becomes one of exceeding great importance.

Millions have turned their back on Jesus because of such teachings and others have said, "If God is like that, I hate Him!" At stake here is the character and reputation of the great God of heaven. Let us examine carefully the Bible evidence.

GOD'S FINAL JUDGMENT

1. When will the wicked be punished in the fire? II Peter 2:9 (1787)

Ans: "The Lord knoweth how to . . . ~~RESERVE~~ the ~~UNJUST~~ unto the DAY of JUDGMENT to be PUNISHED".

2. Judgment of the last days is
no judgment at all –
if punishment already meted out.

3. Souls do die – (Ezekiel 18:4,20, see question #7).
All wicked dead
are in graves now,
awaiting the resurrection
of damnation.(John 5:28,29)

4. Whether you are wicked or righteous
when you're dead, you are really dead
until in God's power
you are resurrected!

5. The reward of the wicked is not
eternal torment –
but eternal death!
The "wages of sin" is not eternal torment
according to God's Word.

6. The "second death" is final,
notice from where the fire comes
to devour the wicked. (Revelation 20:9)
From heaven – (not somewhere in the earth).

7. We don't "have a soul";
we are "souls!"
and we are subject to death!

24. Will sin ever rise up again after it is destroyed in hell fire? Nahum 1:9 (1361)

Ans: "Affliction shall not rise up again the SECOND time".

NOTE: Praise God! Never again will sin rear its ugly head.

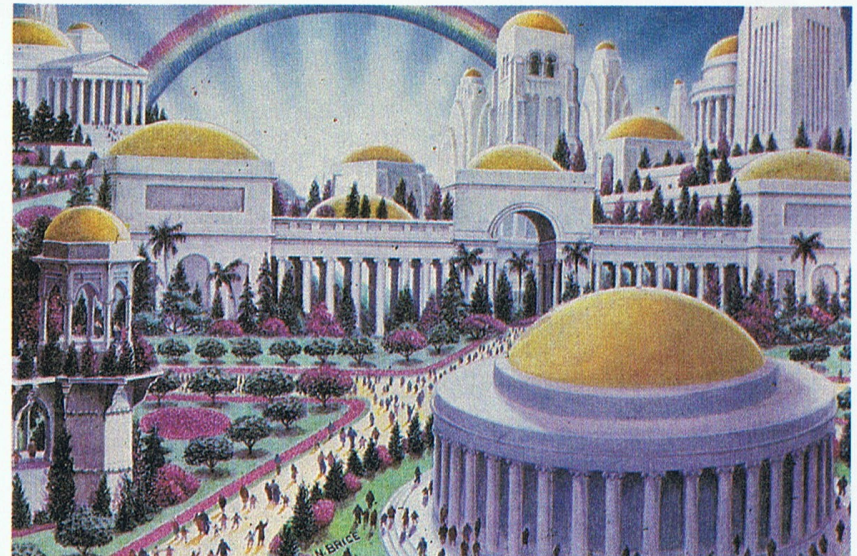
25. What will God do after sin and sinners are destroyed? Isaiah 65:17 (1102); II Peter 3:13 (1789); Revelation 21:3 (1823)

Ans: a. Isaiah 65:17 (1102); II Peter 3:13 (1789) — "Behold I create new HEAVENS and a new EARTH . . . wherein dwelleth righteousness. b. Revelation 21:3 (1823) — "God . . . will DWELL with THEM".

NOTE: Utterly fantastic! God moves in with His people on the new earth to be their loving Father and neighbor. Everything that Adam and Eve lost will be restored, Acts 3:19-21 (1595). God's people will, at long last, have found joy unspeakable without end.

26. Jesus invites you to live in His fabulous new kingdom. Will you accept His invitation now and let Him work the miracles which will take you into His kingdom?

Ans: _____



24. What a promise!

The universe secure eternally.
Never again will there be
a need to demonstrate
God's loving character
to a wondering universe.

25. New — New — New —

friends
bodies
space voyages
knowledge
challenges
responsibilities
joys
love
and an ever new and growing
appreciation of God's love.

CLASS APPEAL

Read question #26 slowly.

Have class raise hands.

PRAYER APPEAL

2. When is the judgment day? John 12:48 (1573); Matthew 13:40-42 (1419)

Ans: a. John 12:48 (1573) — "The same shall judge him in the LAST day". b. Matthew 13:40-42 (1419) — "In the END of the WORLD".

NOTE: Clearly the judgment day is the end of the world. We would not think of sending a person to prison until he was tried or judged. Neither will God punish people till they face Him in the final judgment before His throne at the end of the world.

3. Thought Question: Since the wicked are not to be punished in hell until the judgment day at the end of the world, how many lost souls are in hell now?

Ans: _____

4. Since the wicked do not go into hell fire at death where do they go? Job 21:30,32 (837)

Ans: "He shall be brought to the GRAVE and shall remain in the TOMB".

NOTE: Jesus also plainly stated in John 5:28,29 (1555) that all who have died are in their graves until called forth by Jesus on the resurrection day. This is why we can be positive that not one single lost soul is in hell now. Jesus says they are all in their graves.

5. What rewards do the righteous and wicked receive? Romans 6:23 (1655)

Ans: "The wages of sin is DEATH . . . the gift of God is eternal LIFE".

NOTE: The righteous receive eternal LIFE and the wicked receive DEATH.

6. Which death do the wicked receive in the fire? Revelation 21:8 (1824)

Ans: "Which is the SECOND death".

NOTE: The difference in the first and second death is that there is no resurrection from the second death. It is final.

7. Many people say that souls never die, but what does God say? Ezekiel 18:4,20 (1234)

Ans: "The SOUL that SINNEETH, it shall DIE".

8. This is a key to understanding
the truth about hell.

Hell = grave

When wicked graves opened, (Revelation 20:5,6)

the fire that comes down (v. 9)

from God out of heaven

makes the earth's surface

a lake of fire and completely

destroys the wicked.

Then the meek shall inherit a

purified, beautiful new earth.

Praise the Lord!

**GOD IS NOT UNMERCIFULLY PUNISHING WICKED PEOPLE IN
THE FIRE RIGHT NOW! ABSOLUTELY – NO WAY!**

9. The big fire from God
does its work and goes out!

NOTE: ALL former things are passed away. No exception is made to keep hell burning somewhere in God's universe. God's plan is to completely rid the universe of evil. An eternal hell would perpetuate sin and evil and make it impossible to ever forget it.

22. What should be my reason for serving Jesus? John 14:23,24 (1576)

Ans: LOVE

NOTE: No one will be in heaven because they were afraid of hell. People will be in heaven because they loved Jesus first, last and always. And those who love Jesus will have no need to fear hell, I John 4:18 (1794).

23. Earthly governments cannot remain stable without the meting out of justice. But some say God is too loving to ever punish or destroy the wicked. What does the Bible say? Exodus 34:6,7 (145)

Ans: "The Lord. . . will by NO means CLEAR the GUILTY."

NOTE: It is because God IS loving that justice is a must. God's justice is based upon the choices people make after being fully informed. It would be unfair to impose a life-style upon a person contrary to the one he has chosen. Divine justice is just as essential as divine love. In fact, divine justice IS divine love. God loves us enough to permit us freedom to choose the life-style we prefer. God's justice simply insists that we receive what we have chosen with all of its consequences. Those who choose sin choose death, Romans 6:23 (1655); Proverbs 8:36 (976).

SOME WONDER about Bible passages which speak of being tormented FOREVER and EVER; ETERNAL fire, EVERLASTING punishment, UNQUENCHABLE fire, and THE RICH MAN AND LAZARUS. For a discussion of these points see EXHIBITS # 1 and # 2.



Love, not fear,
prepares us
for Heaven.

22. God IS NOT the author of fear of:

Satan
hell

wicked people
the future!

But He IS the author of:

power
and love
and a sound mind.
(II Tim. 1:7)

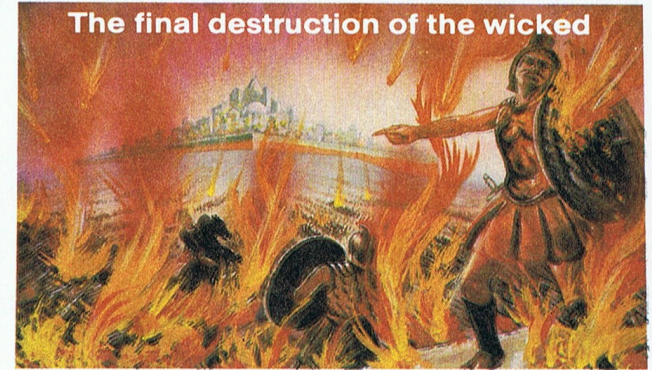
23. Justice and mercy

have met and kissed each other
in the person of Jesus Christ
through His plan of redeeming
fallen man.

(add Bible text)

NOTE: So on God's own authority souls that sin will receive death, and not everlasting torment, in the fire.

The final destruction of the wicked



GOD'S FIRE DESTROYS

At the end of the 1000 years (Rev. 20), the Holy City with all the saints comes down from heaven, and settles on the Mount of Olives. The wicked of all ages are resurrected and Satan leads them in a dramatic attempt to capture the City. At this time fire comes down from God out of heaven. This is the "hell fire" spoken of in the Bible.

8. What does this fire do to the wicked? Rev. 20:9 (1823)

Ans: "Fire came down from God out of heaven

and DEVoured them".

NOTE: When a child devours a bar of candy, how much is left? Likewise, when sinners are devoured in the fire they are put out of existence. Please note also that Revelation 20:9 (1823) teaches that the fire will be set here on the earth. Proverbs 11:31 (979) also says that the wicked will receive their reward on the earth.

9. How big will the fire be and what will it do to the earth and the elements? II Peter 3:10 (1789)

Ans: "The elements shall MELT with fervent heat, the EARTH also and the works that are therein shall be BURNED UP".

NOTE: The fire will be the exact size of the earth because it will be the earth on fire. The elements and the earth will melt from the heat and everything on the face of the earth will be burned up.

10. All of these thoughts concerning
the final judgment and
execution of punishment
on the wicked show completion.

The fire from God
does its work,
destroys the wicked,
and they are no more.

11. Nobody can escape God's fire.
Even Satan can't put it out.
After it does its work
of destroying the wicked
it burns out.
It has accomplished its purpose.

12. A few ashes,
and a wisp of smoke –
it's all over!

13. Psalm 37:10 wicked gone
37:11 meek inherit the earth

14. I can visualize Satan as the last
to be destroyed
because of His former great strength
and his hatred of God –
he just won't give in –
until the very last!
He sinned more and
suffers longer.

NOTE: It is slander on the holy name of God to accuse Him of far crueler and more heartless treatment of people than has occurred in the very worst of war atrocities. Eternal torment is not a part of God's great plan. Such a teaching has made God-haters and infidels of many people through the centuries. An eternal hell of torment would be hell for God who loves even His worst enemies with a love that is indescribably deep and heartfelt.

19. For whom did God plan the fires of hell? Matthew 25:41 (1443)

Ans: "Prepared for the DEVIL and his ANGELS".

NOTE: God prepared hell to destroy sin, the devil and his angels. His plan is to isolate sin and then eradicate it from the universe with fire. Like a cancer, sin would jeopardize the universe unless eradicated. The ugly cancer of sin must be destroyed in the fire. If I hang on to sin I will have to be destroyed with it. God cannot permit that ugly thing which deals such misery and woe and which killed His Son to enter His new kingdom. He pleads with me daily to let Him remove sin from my life and bury it under the sea, but He will not force it. The choice is mine. If I choose to go my own way here I would do the same in heaven. Besides, those who refuse to follow Jesus here would be in abject misery in a place where only holiness exists. It would be cruel to force them to live under such conditions.

GOD'S LOVE VINDICATED

20. What is God's act of destroying people in the fire called? Isaiah 28:21 (1055)

Ans: "His strange WORK . . . His STRANGE act".

NOTE: Jesus came to save people. Destroying even those who hate Him is so contrary to His nature that it is called His strange act. God's great heart will be torn asunder when He is forced to destroy those whom He dearly loves, Ezekiel 33:11 (1263). He is not willing that any should perish, II Peter 3:9 (1789). He will cry out as He did with Ephraim, "How can I give you up?" Hosea 11:8 [Phillips Translation (1330)]. And He will with anguish ask, "What more could I have done than I did do to save them?" Isaiah 5:4 (1029). It will be the most horrible moment heaven has ever spent when God's disobedient children must be destroyed because they refused His love.

21. When the new kingdom is set up what happens to all former things, including hell? Revelation 21:4 (1823)

Ans: "The FORMER things are PASSED AWAY".

19. Satan and the fallen angels
are already condemned.
God's desire for you and me
is that we be eternally saved.
God has predestined
that all who choose salvation through Jesus
will be saved. (Romans 8:29)

20. God is never comfortable in destroying
His precious creation.
Just think how it must hurt God
to destroy His fallen children.
But it must be done, in fairness
to the universe.

21. Praise the Lord –
a new beginning!

10. How did Malachi describe the fire and what it will accomplish?
Malachi 4:1 (1394)

Ans: a. The day will burn as an OVEN; b. all that do
wickedly shall be STUBBLE; c. It will burn them UP;
d. leave them neither ROOT nor branch.

NOTE: The wicked will burn like stubble or dry tinder, not
asbestos as many believe. The fire will burn them "up". The little
word "up" denotes completion.

11. Will the fire finally go out? Isaiah 47:14 (1082)

Ans: "There shall NOT be a COAL to WARM at,
nor FIRE to SIT before it".

NOTE: The fire burns them as stubble. There is no escaping
the flames. But when the stubble is burned up the fire goes out
and not even a coal is left glowing. Isaiah 47 (1081) uses
symbols and language very similar to that of Revelation,
chapters 16 to 19, and for very good reason: both refer to the
punishment and destruction of Babylon, or the unfaithful.
Lesson 21 takes up a full study of spiritual Babylon.

12. What is left when the fire goes out? Malachi 4:3 (1394)

Ans: ASHES

13. David, in the Psalms, says that in a little while the wicked will not be
found no matter how diligently one may search for them. What did he
say was the reason? Psalm 37:10,20 (884)

Ans: "Into SMOKE they shall CONSUME AWAY".

NOTE: The wicked will not be found, because in hell they went
up in smoke. It would be easy to find the wicked if they were
screaming for mercy somewhere in hell, but David says that is
not so.

GOD'S JUSTICE COMPLETE

14. How long will the wicked suffer in the fire? Revelation 22:12
(1825)

Ans: "To give every man according as his WORK shall BE".

NOTE: Jesus says He will reward or punish all according to
their works or conduct. Some will suffer longer than others, but
soon the fire goes out, and all are turned to ashes. Jesus will
handle the destruction of hell fire quickly. Being destroyed in
hell is not the great tragedy of sin. The great tragedy of sin is
missing heaven and an eternity with Jesus.

15. Even Satan will finally die.

Yes, the wages of sin is DEATH

(not eternal torment

as Satan would have us to believe).

He wants to discredit the character of God
and cause us to be afraid of Him.

16. The lost are "souls" – they don't "have souls".

They are real human beings ("souls")

burning bodily in real fire from heaven.

17. The Bible says that Satan

will be responsible for

many people losing their lives (souls).

If lost, God will destroy you –

not just a part of you.

Remember, only God hath immortality!

(I Tim. 6:16)

There is no such thing as

an Immortal Human "Soul"

separated from the body.

18. Eternal torment is not a Biblical doctrine.

15. When the devil is placed in the fire, Revelation 20:10 (1823), what happens to him? Ezekiel 28:17-19 (1255)

Ans: "I will bring thee to ASHES upon the EARTH".

NOTE: He is turned to ashes and his existence ends. Ezekiel 28:19 (1255) says of the devil, "never shalt thou be any more".

16. Will people enter the fire in bodily form or as spirits? Matthew 5:30 (1403)

Ans: "Thy WHOLE BODY should be
CAST into HELL".

NOTE: People enter hell "alive" — Revelation 19:20 (1822), and in bodily form with eyes, hands and feet. The picture is of real, live human beings being destroyed by fire.

17. Some say that the soul burns forever and only the body is destroyed in hell but what does Jesus say? Matthew 10:28 (1412)

Ans: "Fear him which is able to destroy both SOUL
and BODY in hell".

NOTE: The scripture makes it easy to understand. Both soul and body are destroyed in hell. Everything that comprises a person: his intelligence, personality, life and all else that makes him an individual will be destroyed in the fire.



The Father
longs to save
each of us.

SATAN MISREPRESENTS GOD

What a tragedy that God is credited with teaching ETERNAL TORMENT when He taught something ENTIRELY DIFFERENT. Could you stand to see your child burn for even one hour for a terrible crime? Yet men accuse God of burning His disobedient children for eternity.

18. What is Job's fitting question regarding God's justice? Job 4:17 (820)

Ans: "Shall mortal MAN be more JUST than GOD?"