

“DOCTRINE THAT DANCES”

Studies in the Basic Teachings of the Christian Faith

Revelation 20:11-21:8

“Eternal Destination”

Introduction: The purpose of this sermon is to provide a survey of what the Bible teaches about the destiny of fallen humanity and the destiny of redeemed humanity.

I. The Destiny of Fallen Humanity (Revelation 20:11-15)

- A. **Sin:** Fallen humanity is condemned to a destiny of eternal death because it is the penalty for sin committed against the Holy Lord God Almighty (Ezekiel 18:4; Revelation 20:15). The existence of sin is the primary reason we need salvation (Genesis 4:7; John 8:34; Romans 3:9, 5:12, 6:6, 6:14, 7:13-20). Sin is lawlessness (1 John 3:4; Romans 3:20, 7:7; Matthew 22:34-40). All unrighteousness is sin (1 John 5:17). Everything that does not come from faith is sin (Romans 14:23; Hebrews 11:6). What is the connection between temptation and sin (1 John 2:16; James 1:14-15)? **Sin has thoroughly corrupted humanity.** (Genesis 6:5; Jeremiah 17:9; Matthew 15:19; Romans 3:10-18; Ephesians 2:1-3). **Sin affects our relationship with God.** (Isaiah 59:2; John 9:31; Ephesians 5:8; 1 Timothy 5:6; 1 John 1:6; 2 Thessalonians 2:7; Matthew 24:12).
- B. **Death:** Death is the opposite of life (Deuteronomy 30:15). Death entered the world through sin and spread to all, resulting in spiritual death (Romans 5:12; Ephesians 2:1-2; 1 Timothy 5:6). Physical death is the separation of the body from the spirit (James 2:26; Genesis 3:19). Death is the wages or end result of sin (Romans 6:16, 21, 23, 7:5). It is an enemy (1 Corinthians 15:26,56).
- C. **Hell (Sheol/Hades)** is the place where the unsaved dead reside until the final judgement. It is directionally down, beneath, and deep. It consumes sinners. It swallows some people alive. It is never full or satisfied (Job 11:8, 17:16, 24:19; Psalm 9:17; Proverbs 1:12, 7:27, 15:24, 27:20; Isaiah 14:9-15; Luke 16:19-31).
- D. **Lake of Fire (Gehenna)** is a place of torment where sinners suffer eternal punishment. An illustration is seen in Jerusalem’s valley of the son of Hinnom where garbage was burned and where human sacrifice was practiced (2 Chronicles 28:3, 33:6; 2 Kings 23:10; Jeremiah 7:31, 32:35). The Lake of fire is described as burning with fire and brimstone/sulphur (Revelation 19:20). The fire is not quenched, the worms don’t die, there is darkness, weeping and gnashing of teeth, torment, and no rest (Mark 9:42-48; Isaiah 66:24; Matthew 8:12, 13:42; Revelation 14:9-11, 20:14; Matthew 25:41).

II. The Destiny of Redeemed Humanity (Revelation 21:1-8)



- A. Eternal life** is given to those who believe in Jesus Christ. Eternal life describes the quantity and quality of life (Matthew 25:46; John 12:25; John 17:3; 1 John 5:13). Believers will receive an immortal and incorruptible resurrection body (1 Corinthians 15:42-56).
- B. Paradise** is the place where believers go before the end of the world. The Lord Jesus went to Paradise after He died on the cross (Luke 23:43; Revelation 2:7). Paul used the term “third heaven” interchangeably with Paradise (2 Corinthians 12:2-4). The physical body of Jesus Christ is in Paradise (Acts 7:54-56).
- C. The New Heaven and New Earth** is the regenerated universe where believers will live forever with God (Revelation 21:1-5). This will be a physical place with mountains but no sea (Revelation 21:1, 10). **The New Jerusalem** will be a city designed as a perfect square, 1,500 miles in each direction, with walls that are 216 feet thick. The walls will be made of transparent or translucent jasper stone, and the streets will be made of pure gold. Each gate will be made of pearl. God is the temple of the city, and the glory of God illuminates the city. The gates will be open at all times. There will be no night in the city (Revelation 21:9-27). The throne of God will be in the city, and the river of life proceeding from the throne. The tree of life is in the middle of the street. Believers will be in the city serving God and reigning forever (Revelation 22:1-5).

**“And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”
(Matthew 25:46)**

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