

HELL

The Final Sentencing

John clearly viewed what happens when a person's name is not found in the Book of Life: "And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire" (Revelation 20:15).

The first death is experienced by humans (except those who were taken before the tribulation) when we die and our soul is separated from the body. In the second death, the physical body and spiritual soul—having been reunited—are both cast into the lake of fire forever. The unsaved person, raised from the dead, is judged at the Great White Throne Judgment, found wanting, and consigned to eternal separation from God. At the first death, the soul and body are separated from each other for a time. At the second death, both body and soul are separated from God's presence for eternity.

Scripture offers a grim picture of hell. It is a place of "torment" (Luke 16:28); a place of "wailing and gnashing of teeth" (Matthew 13:42); a place where "their worm does not die and the fire is not quenched" (Mark 9:48); a place of "fire and brimstone" (Revelation 14:10; 21:8). It is also the final abode of the Antichrist and the False Prophet (Revelation 19:20; 20:10). At the end of the Millennium, Satan is cast into the lake of fire to join the Antichrist and False Prophet, to be "tormented day and night forever and ever" (Revelation 20:10). Finally, after the Great White Throne Judgment, the unsaved are also cast into the lake of fire (Revelation 20:15).

One does not have to be the worst sinner in the world to land in the lake of fire; one just has to be an unbelieving sinner. There are only two choices: accept Him

now as Lord and Savior, or face Him as Judge, Jury, and Executioner at the end of the Millennium.

The book of Revelation is like all other biblical prophecy: It is an accurate foretelling of future events that provides an opportunity to prepare for and respond to that which will unfold. Those who hear and believe God's Word will not "come into judgment, but [will pass] from death into life" (John 5:24).