

## Man's Eternal Destiny

### I. The Kingdom of God verse the Eternal Lake of Fire

#### A. How long is eternity?

1. Everything in human life has an end
  - a. Pregnancy – 9 months
  - b. Student – 17 years
  - c. Career – 40 years
  - d. Life – 87 years
2. Eternity means, “having infinite duration without interruption.”

#### B. The Bible states man has two eternal destinies

1. To become kings and priests

Rev. 1:5-6, “and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Rev. 5:9-10, “And they sang a new song, saying: “You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth.”

Rev. 20:4, “And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

Rev. 20:6, “Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.”

2. To be tormented the lake of fire forever

Rev. 20:10, 15, “The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever... And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.”

3. Spending 1 hour of your time to consider which eternal destiny you would

#### C. God's goal for man from the beginning

1. To express Him and to exercise His authority to rule over the earth  
Gen. 1:26, “Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”
2. God had only one command for man to follow  
Gen. 2:16-17, “And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, ‘Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.’
3. Man sinned against God
  - a. Man was deceived by the serpent  
Gen. 3:4, “Then the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die.  
Gen. 3:13, “And the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”  
Rom. 5:12, “Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned—
4. The problem of sin  
Rom 3:23, “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”  
Rom. 6:23a, “For the wages of sin is death,”
5. God’s eternal solution - Jesus Christ
  - a. We were reconciled to God  
Rom. 5:8-11, “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.
  - b. Through one Man’s obedience to God  
Rom. 5:18-19, “Therefore, as through one man’s offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man’s righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life. For as by one man’s disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man’s obedience many will be made righteous.
  - c. We are also born of Him to become His children  
John 3:5-8, “Jesus answered, “Most assuredly, I say to you,

unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit."

John 1:12-13, "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God."

- d. God made it simple to receive a change in destiny
  - i. Believe and be baptized  
Mark 16:16, "He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned."
  - ii. Confess with your mouth  
Rom. 10:9-10, "that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."
  - iii. Be baptized  
Rom. 6:4, "Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."
- e. It's your choice to receive the free gift  
Rom. 6:23b, "but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."  
1 Thess. 5:9, "For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,
  - i. God did not intend for man to be appointed to His wrath
  - ii. The choice is yours

## **II. God's Judgment of His People – Reward or Punishment**

- A. God's plan for man
  - 1. To make man His kings and priests  
Rev. 1:5-6, "and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen."

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Rev. 20:6, “Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.”

2. We must be born again to be in God's kingdom

a. Man must be born again - believe and be baptized

John 3:5-8, “Jesus answered, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

Mark 16:16, “He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.”

3. As a child of God, we then must grow up in Him

B. God's reward or punishment for His children, His people

Rom. 14:7-10, “For none of us lives to himself, and no one dies to himself. For if we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. Therefore, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and rose and lived again, that He might be Lord of both the dead and the living. But why do you judge your brother? Or why do you show contempt for your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.”

2 Cor. 5:9-11, “Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are well known to God, and I also trust are well known in your consciences.

1 Pet. 4:17, "For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God?"

1. Reward,

- a. Receive the crown of righteousness

2 Tim. 4:8, "Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing."

- b. As the prepared bride of Christ, enter into the marriage supper of the Lamb

Rev. 19:7-9, "Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready." And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. Then he said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!'" And he said to me, "These are the true sayings of God."

- c. Be part of the Lord's army to defeat the beast and his army on earth

Rev. 19:13-14, "He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. 14 And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses.

- d. Reigning with Christ for 1000 years (Rev. 20:4, 6)

- e. To really emphasize the reward, it was also foretold in the Old Testament, prior to the 1st coming of Christ in Daniel

Dan. 7:18, "But the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom, and possess the kingdom forever, even forever and ever."

Dan. 7:22, "until the Ancient of Days came, and a judgment was made in favor of the saints of the Most High, and the time came for the saints to possess the kingdom."

Dan. 7:27, "Then the kingdom and dominion, And the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven, Shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High. His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, And all dominions shall serve and obey Him.

2. Punishment

- a. Left behind during the Great Tribulation to face the beast (Antichrist)

Matt. 24:40-41, "Then two men will be in the field: one will be taken and the other left. Two women will be grinding at the

mill: one will be taken and the other left.

Rev. 13:7, "It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation."

Dan. 7:25, "He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, Shall persecute the saints of the Most High, And shall intend to change times and law. Then the saints shall be given into his hand For a time and times and half a time."

- b. Miss the wedding feast

Matt. 25:10-12, "And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut. Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open to us!' But he answered and said, 'Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.'"

- c. Cast into outer darkness

Matt. 25:26-30, "But his lord answered and said to him, 'You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed. So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest. Therefore take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents. 'For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

- d. Cut in two and beaten with stripes

Matt. 24:48-51, "But if that evil servant says in his heart, 'My master is delaying his coming,' and begins to beat his fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunkards, the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for him and at an hour that he is not aware of, and will cut him in two and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Luke 12:45-48, "But if that servant says in his heart, 'My master is delaying his coming,' and begins to beat the male and female servants, and to eat and drink and be drunk, the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for him, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him in two and appoint him his portion with the unbelievers. And that servant who knew his master's will, and did not prepare himself or do according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes. But he who did not know, yet

committed things deserving of stripes, shall be beaten with few. For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more.”

e. Burned with fire

1 Cor. 3:13-15, “each one’s work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one’s work, of what sort it is. If anyone’s work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. If anyone’s work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

C. Only one Man has made it the goal and received the reward – Christ

1. Captain of our salvation will perfect us, if we cooperate with Him Heb. 2:9-11, “But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone. For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For both He who sanctifies and ***those who are being sanctified*** are all of one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren,
2. Great High Priest who is able to save us to the uttermost, if we come to Him Heb. 7:25-28, “Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost ***those who come to God through Him***, since He always lives to make intercession for them. For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens; who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the people’s, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself. For the law appoints as high priests men who have weakness, but the word of the oath, which came after the law, appoints the Son who has been perfected forever.
3. The Author and Finisher of our faith, if we look unto Jesus Heb. 12:1-2, “Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, ***let us lay aside*** every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and ***let us run*** with endurance the race that is set before us, ***looking unto Jesus***, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.
4. His grace is training us to reach the goal Titus 2:11-15, “For the grace of God that brings salvation has

appeared to all men, ***teaching us*** that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works. Speak these things, exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no one despise you.

- D. The choice is ours to work out our own salvation

Phil. 2:12-13, “Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.

Phil. 3:11-14, “if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.