

The Final Judgment!

Eternal Torment OR Eternal Life

Sunday, 11/13 at 8:00 & 10:45

22nd Sunday after Pentecost / 21st Sunday after Trinity – 2011

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ, *after having spent most of 2011 working through the book of Revelation*, we now come to the final Biblical account of Satan's defeat and the final judgment – *both will take place when Jesus returns!*

1. **Satan's Final Attack; then His Eternal Punishment:**

- a. **7** ~~When~~ [literally, And **whenever**] the thousand years are completed [the time is **uncertain** because the thousand years are *symbolical*], Satan will be released from his prison, **8** and will come out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together for the war; the number of them is like the sand of the sea ~~shore~~. //
 - i. "Satan will be released" – See Dr. Becker, 315-316
 - ii. "the four corners of the earth" – (NEWS) To shove something into a corner of a room is to ignore it. But here let us understand that *whenever Satan is released* his deception will go to *every corner*, thus *everywhere on the entire planet!*
 - iii. "Gog and Magog" – Some see a reference to two cities in Russia, but Dr. Becker called that conclusion "pure fantasy and guesswork." (316) However, he did add that "the forces of atheistic communism are a part of this Satanic army that

the devil marshals to bring about the destruction of the church.” (316) On the topic of communism, WATCH the You Tube called: “Grinding America Down.”¹ Though communism may seem dead its agenda, *which was put in place over 50 years ago*, is rapidly moving forward! It includes →the destruction of families – *through the promotion of cohabitation and the feminist movement*, →the destruction of businesses – *through the promotion of the environmental movement*, and →the destruction of Christianity – *through the promotion of the homosexual movement!* As the Bible says: “...our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against...the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.” (Eph. 6:11 NAS)

- b. **9** And they came up on the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints [*literally, the holy ones*] and the beloved city [*literally, the city having been loved – loved by God, an ongoing action*], and fire came down from heaven and devoured them. // Countless enemies are working together, *even today*, to destroy ♦the saving truth and ♦those who trust in Jesus as Savior! However, God – *almighty in power and great in love* – will protect His holy children and finally destroy all who oppose them!
- c. **10** And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also [19:20]; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. // Even though we cannot comprehend eternity, *God wants us to know that His Word is true* – because an endless

¹ <http://www.therightscoop.com/open-thread-grinding-america-down/>

punishment is coming for all the evil angels AND all humans who reject Jesus Christ as Savior!

2. **The Great White Throne Judgment:** ¹¹ ~~Then~~ [And] I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence [the] earth and [the] heaven [or sky] fled away, and no place was found for them. // Jesus said: ^{NAU} **Matthew 25:31** "...when the Son of Man comes in His glory... then He will sit on His glorious throne." Now we find out what will happen on *that day*:
- a. ¹² And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and **books were opened**; and another book was opened, which is *the book of life*; and the dead were judged from [or out of] the things which were **written in the books**, according to their deeds.
 - i. "the great and the small" – ALL will be there; *no one will escape or be left out!*
 - ii. "books" – There are books which record *all deeds* and another book which records *the names of those whom God has chosen to be His holy children through Jesus* (Eph. 1:3-8a).
 - iii. "the dead were judged...according to their deeds" – ALL will be judged, *thus evaluated!* Those who know Jesus will have the evidence – *the fruit/the deeds/the works* – which comes from repentance (*sorrow for sin and trust in Jesus for forgiveness*)! So, to be judged is NOT to be condemned, *but to determine whether or not you will be condemned!*
 - b. ¹³ And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, *every one of them* according to their deeds. // *ALL will be present* –

those who ♦died, ♦went to Hades, ♦were buried at sea, and ♦were cremated; *all will be rightly and properly evaluated!*

- i. False hope – The unrepentant falsely imagine: “...God has forgotten ‘my sins’; He has hidden His face; He will never see it” (Psalm 10:11 NAU).
- ii. True peace – The repentant – all who by grace are sorry for their sins and trust in Jesus – also trust God’s promise: “I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more” (Jer. 31:34 NAU).
- c. **14** ~~Then~~ [And] death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. // Notice that death and Hades will no longer be needed when Jesus returns:
 - i. “death” – The soul is separated from the body.
 - ii. “Hades” – Place of torment for unbelieving souls.
 - iii. “lake of fire” – Place of *eternal* torment for ♦the devil, ♦all evil angels, and ♦the *bodies and souls* of all who rejected Jesus Christ as Savior!
- d. **15** And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire. // Is your name in the book of life? **To have Christ is to have God’s gift of life** (see [Romans 8:16](#); [1 John 5:11-13](#))!

Conclusion: And all God’s people said: *Amen!*

The Revelation Series: I hope the series has been interesting, understandable, and beneficial. For further clarification, read or listen again at www.blc7500.com
Since we are now coming to the last Sunday in the church year (11/20), the first Sunday of Advent (11/27), the season of Christmas (12/25), the Baptism of our Lord (1/8), and the Sanctity of Human Life (1/15), we will resume the Revelation Series on January 22 with chapter 21; then conclude the series before Ash Wednesday.

This and other sermons are available on Bethlehem’s website: www.blc7500.com
Please share them with your family, friends, neighbors, and coworkers!
Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 7500 State Rd., Parma, Ohio 44134, 440-845-2230