

A Bible Prophecy Series

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The Hottest Story Ever Told

Lesson #12

Introduction:

What is this mysterious time all about? When does it take place? Where does it take place? Have you ever wondered what the earth will be like after Jesus returns?

1. **Who will see Jesus return?** – Matthew 24:30
The Whole world will see the return of Christ.
2. **What will it be like when Jesus returns?**
Psalm 50:3 – A fire will devour before Him
Matthew 25:31 – This fire is God’s glory and all the holy angels come with Him.
Hebrews 12:22 – The number of angels can’t be counted
3. **How bright and glorious will this be?** - Matthew 28:2-4
One angel was so bright and majestic that it caused 100 soldiers to faint. Imagine how magnificent it will be when all the angels *and* Jesus return.
4. **What will this fire do to the unsaved?** - 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9
The presence and Jesus’ glory will destroy the disobedient.
5. **What will the wicked do when they see Jesus?** - Revelation 6:14-17
How sad it is, just like when Adam disobeyed God he ran and hid from Him. The wicked do the same thing at the return of Jesus. They run because they have not surrendered their lives to Jesus, this is why it is now so important repent and let Christ rule our lives NOW.
6. **What will happen to Christians at Jesus’ return?** - 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17
The dead Christians are resurrected and caught up in the air with the living Christians where they meet the Lord. Jesus does not step foot on earth. Then Jesus takes His people back to Heaven with Him (John 14:1-3).
7. **What is the condition of the earth after Jesus returns?**
Revelation 16:17-21 – The greatest earthquake of all time sweeps the earth. Mountains and islands disappear and giant hailstones (about 50-75 lbs.) rain down.
2 Peter 3:10 – The elements of the earth melt from the heat of God’s glory.
Jeremiah 4:23-27 – The whole earth is desolate and destroyed.
Jeremiah 25:30-33 – Everybody on earth is dead, there is nobody to bury them because nobody is left alive. All the wicked are dead on earth and the righteous have been taken to Heaven with Jesus.

8. **Where is Satan at this time?** – Revelation 20:1-3
For 1,000 years Satan will be bound by a chain of circumstances on this planet with no one to tempt, lie to, or cheat because everyone on earth is dead. The Greek word for bottomless pit is word used in the Greek Old Testament in Genesis 1:2 for “darkness was upon the face of the deep”. At creation the earth was without form and void and we read in Jeremiah 4 that after Jesus returns it will be this way again. So, the bottomless pit is this desolate earth.
9. **What will burn in hellfire?** – Matthew 10:28
There is a real place called hell. Sinners will burn in its fires. Is, however, not some disembodied soul. They will go into hell with their bodies, their whole body (Matthew 5:30).
10. **Is anyone in hell today?** – 2 Peter 2:9 (KJV)
No, nobody is in hell today, the wicked are “reserved” unto the Day of Judgment.
11. **Where are the unsaved dead now if they are not in hell?** – Job 21:30-32
All the unsaved dead are reserved IN THE GRAVE. One day they will be brought forth to be punished.
12. **When will the unsaved be brought forth from the grave to be punished?**
Matthew 13:40-42
The unsaved will be gathered and burned at the end of this world.
13. **How are they brought forth?** – John 5:28, 29
When Jesus returns the righteous will be resurrected and taken back to Heaven (1 Thess. 4:16, 17), and the unsaved will be resurrected in the second resurrection called the resurrection of damnation.
14. **When will the second resurrection take place?** - Revelation 20:6-8
Those who come up in the first resurrection are the blessed and holy ones who go back to Heaven for 1,000 years with Jesus when He returns. After the 1,000 years Satan is loosed when the wicked are resurrected for him to deceive them for the last time (vs. 3). This second resurrection that leads to the destruction of sinners is 1,000 years after Jesus returns.
15. **Here will hell fire be located?** – Revelation 20:9, 10
Hellfire will be on the earth. As the Holy city is surrounded by the wicked in a last attempt in defiance against the Lord, fire is issued forth from God Himself and comes down on the earth.

Review: God is in charge of hell fire not Satan (Rev. 20:9). Satan is also cast into hell (Rev. 20:10). People enter hell with their bodies. Hell fire takes place 1,000 years after Jesus returns. It takes place on earth not in it. No one is in hell today. The unsaved are in the graves waiting for the resurrection of damnation.

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16. **What will the fire and brimstone be like?** - Malachi 4:1, 3
This fire will burn up the unsaved and will turn them into ashes.
17. **What will happen to Satan?** – Ezekiel 28:18, 19
Satan will also be turned to ashes. He will have an end, he will die, never to tempt anybody ever again. He will no longer exist.
18. **How long will this fire burn?** – Isaiah 47:14
Until there is nothing left to burn. In other words, it will not burn forever, it will go out when its job of eradicating sin is complete.
19. **What happens to the wicked if they don't burn forever?** – Psalm 37:20, 10
They will perish, they will cease to exist. They do not burn forever and ever, thank God for His mercy and justice (Romans 6:23).
20. **But I thought they burn forever and ever?** - Revelation 14:9-11, 20:10
Of the 182 texts that say hell brings annihilation there are two that may seem to contradict. Let's do some Bible study to see if God can help us make sense of these verses.
The key issue in these texts revolves around the use of the word forever. The Bible uses the word forever over 57 times to refer to something that has already ended, let's look at some examples.
Exodus 21:6 – A slave forever. This person was actually only a slave until he died, forever means until they die.
1 Samuel 1:22, 28 – Samuel was to remain in the temple forever, thankfully his mother defined forever as “as long as he liveth”.
Jonah 1:17, 2:6 – Jonah was in the belly of the great fish for three days which felt like forever.
Unconverted sinners will burn until they are ashes then they simply cease to exist. They effect of the fire will last forever.
21. **What about eternal fire?**
Jude 6, 7 – Sodom and Gomorrah suffered eternal fire but are they still burning today? No.
2 Peter 2:4-6 – Same thing as the previous verse. The effects of the fire are eternal. Sodom and Gomorrah have never been rebuilt and never will be. Sinners will be burned up in the same manner.
22. **Is there another verse in the Bible that makes this clear?** – John 3:16
The most famous verse in the Bible explains it. What happens to the unsaved? They perish. What happens to the saved? They have life.
23. **Who will have eternal life?** – 1 John 5:12
The Bible makes it clear. There are not two places to spend eternity. Only those who have accepted Jesus as Lord and Savior have eternal life.

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24. **What really is the result of sin?** – Romans 6:23
The wages/result of sin is death. Only those who have accepted the gift of God inherit eternal life.
25. **But if you take away never-ending hellfire, why would people follow Jesus?**
1 John 5:2, Jude 21
If you take away fear what are you left with? How about love? We follow Jesus and give our lives to Him not out of fear but out of love.
26. **What will Satan do after the 1,000 years?** - Revelation 20:3, 7
After the 1,000 years Satan is loosed from his prison, he will be able to once again tempt people.
27. **Who will he be tempting if everybody is dead?** - Revelation 20:6, John 5:28, 29
The Bible tells us of two resurrections. The first is the resurrection of the saved and takes place at the beginning of the 1,000 years. The wicked are raised in the second resurrection at the end of the 1,000 years. They are brought back to life for final judgment.
28. **What else happens at the end of the 1,000 years?** - Revelation 21:10
New Jerusalem comes down from Heaven. God, with all of His people, come down in this city. It is at this point that the wicked are resurrected.
29. **What does Satan do to the city?** – Revelation 20:7-9
Satan deceives the wicked into thinking they can take the city by force. It is during this final act of rebellion that the wicked are destroyed.
30. **Why does God resurrect the lost only to destroy them again?**
1 – The lost need to see what their sins have caused them to miss out on. They will see this beautiful city, New Jerusalem, and know that by not making Jesus Lord of their lives they are lost.
2 – God wants the universe to see just how far Satan and sinners will go in rebellion if given the opportunity. It will be seen that the character and minds of the wicked will not be changed. With full knowledge that God sits on the throne, the wicked plan to literally

tear God from His throne and destroy Him and all the righteous. This is what Satan would like, but, of course, God stops them before they can do it.

With this final demonstration by Satan it will be seen by the unfallen universe that God is merciful and just to destroy the lost. Everyone will know that any government outside of God's is destined to cause chaos. Satan has demonstrated his reign here on earth. All of the redeemed will be secure against instigating rebellion again because they have witnessed how dangerous sin is.

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This is what it will mean to truly be lost. To be found outside the city, looking in through the transparent walls knowing it will never be yours, seeing those who through the years have prayed and done everything possible to get you to be inside with God, with loved ones. Imagine the despair in the hearts of those with their still sin ridden bodies will never again know happiness.

I want to be inside that city, don't you?

31. **How can I make it into this city?** – Revelation 22:14

If we love God enough to obey Him and have our lives washed by His blood and allow Him to transform our hearts, by His grace we will be able to enter the Holy city and eat from the tree of life.

Conclusion:

Do you see how God wants us to worship Him in truth? Do you see how God has blessed us with the Sabbath Day? Do you see how God's law is for *our* benefit? Do you see how we are now in a time of judgment? Do you see how we can communicate to God through prayer? Do you see that God allows us the peace of sleep in death until His return? Do you see how Satan has been working very hard to confuse the Bible? Do you see how God loves us so much that He sent His only Son to die that we may live?

Why not give your heart and life to Jesus now?