

The Destiny of Satan!

If any being in the history of creation ever deserved death, it would have to be Satan the devil. Yet most professing Christians, including the majority of those in the churches of God, have been taught that Satan cannot die, that his destiny and that of the demons who serve him is to inhabit some unknown, inconceivable outer realm of darkness, possibly writhing in agony and torment for all eternity. Does the Word of God really support such a notion? Can Satan die, and, if so, what is his destiny?

by Jim Rector

Who and/or what is Satan? It may not be an issue which everyone is comfortable discussing, but it is a crucial question. Perhaps the primary point to remember is that Satan is a **CREATED BEING!** He has not existed forever, and thus does not possess the same kind of life as does God the Father or Yahshua (Jesus). This is essential to know, because it has everything to do with whether or not Satan can actually die.

It is apparent from the account in Ezekiel 28 that this great

angelic being was a magnificent creature. He is referred to as being:

“Perfect in your ways from the day that you were CREATED until iniquity was found in you” (Ezek. 28:15).

The cherub who became Satan, the Adversary, therefore, had a beginning, and Yahweh (the Lord) gave it to him. The entire creation, whether spiritual or physical in nature, is under the supreme control of the Creator, including Satan the devil. He, nor

anyone else, does not possess the kind of status that is above the knowledge, wisdom, or power of Almighty God.

DID GOD KNOW?

The question invariably arises as to whether or not God knew that Lucifer would eventually sin and fall away. Part of the answer may lie in his name. You see, he was not originally called Lucifer. This is a Latin name, and

is a later interpretation. In the beginning, God called this great spirit being *Heylel*; and while the root of this Hebrew word can mean *to shine* (undoubtedly applicable to Lucifer), both *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance* and the *Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew Lexicon* confirm that there are other very pertinent meanings and implications to this name. For instance, the word can also mean *to boast, to rave, to be clamorously foolish, to make a show, to celebrate, to rage against, and to stultify*—all undeniable attributes of Satan Himself!

In other words, it seems very likely that God indeed did foresee the ultimate demise of Lucifer, and actually gave him a name that accurately described him as a shining star; but which also encompassed the potentially dark side of his nature. When God names someone or something, there is always great significance involved. Such is certainly true in this case.

One other point that needs to be briefly addressed in the beginning of this discussion is the issue of whether or not Lucifer was an *archangel*. Strictly speaking, there is no Scriptural record of him having been so. This is an assumption, perhaps innocently made, at some time centuries ago. It could, in fact, have originated with the Roman Catholic Church.

The Bible names only one being as an *archangel*, and that is Michael, the Prince of Israel (Jude 9, Dan. 12:1). Though prominently

mentioned, not even Gabriel is called by this title. This does not categorically refute the notion that there could be more than one such high-ranking creature, only that the Word does not confirm the fact.

The nature of the word itself may lend a suggestion that it should rightly apply to a single being. Jude does, after all, refer to Michael as *the archangel*, and Paul states that the Savior will descend from heaven at His return with the voice of *the archangel* (I Thess. 4:16).

So we can conclude that Lucifer or Heylel was indeed a mighty angelic being, designated as a *covering cherub* (Ezek. 28:14), an obvious reference to his being one of the two angels who were stationed at the throne of God in heaven, and charged with covering the actual mercy seat with their wings. His status and authority, therefore, were at one time great in the spirit realm. We know, however, that a major change occurred, wherein Lucifer sinned grievously in rebellion against God Himself. Because of this action, he was stripped of his office, cast out of heaven, and, along with a host of other rebellious angels, will come under the judgment of God.

We can safely establish that Satan is most assuredly not on the same plane as God, nor is he currently on the same plane as the righteous angels. He cannot be viewed any longer in the same light as he formerly was. His status has dramatically changed, and we cannot assume that the rights

applicable to other angels are relevant to him any longer.

THE TRADITIONAL VIEW

One of the greatest of all Satan's lies is that nothing ever really dies—not human beings, not angels, and certainly not himself! This false teaching started in the Garden of Eden and has continued ever since. The deceptive web that Satan has spun has literally enveloped the whole world, ensnaring all humanity in his trap of lies and half-truths.

The traditional view is that Satan, the demons, and all evil human beings will burn forever in hell, being tormented, but never dying. Many believers have correctly come to understand the false concept of the *immortality of the soul*, but they hold fast to the notion that Satan cannot die.

Perhaps the most oft-quoted passage of Scripture in defense of this long held belief is found in Luke 20. Here we find the Messiah adroitly answering an attempt by the Sadducees to trick Him into error by saying:

“The children of this world marry, and are given in marriage: but they which shall be accounted worthy to obtain that world (the Kingdom of God), and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry, nor are given in marriage: NEITHER can they DIE anymore; for they are EQUAL UNTO THE

ANGELS, and are the children of God, being children of the resurrection” (Luke 20:34-36).

On the face of it, these verses seem to be saying that angels, all angels, like the resurrected saints, cannot die. There is further testimony, this time in the book of Jude, that confirms for many the destiny of Satan the devil. Notice the following:

“These are spots in your feasts of charity, when they feast with you, feeding themselves without fear; clouds they are without water, carried about of winds; trees whose fruit withers, without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots: raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; WANDERING STARS, TO WHOM RESERVED THE BLACKNESS OF DARKNESS FOREVER” (Jude 12-13).

Ask virtually anyone in the Church of God what Satan’s fate will be, and they will, as if with one voice, tell you that he will be cast into outer darkness or the *blackness of darkness forever*, meaning some inexplicable outer realm where he will be tortured. But is this an accurate interpretation of Jude’s statements?

There are a few additional verses in the Bible that seem to indicate that eternal torture awaits the demonic world. In one instance, several demons who possess two men cry out to Christ:

“What have we to do with you, Jesus (Yahshua), you Son of

God? Are You come to TORMENT us before the time?” (Matt. 8:29).

Many professing Christians use this passage to suggest that Satan and the demons will be sentenced to an eternity of suffering beyond description. The same is true of Revelation 20:10. Here we read:

“The devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet were cast, and shall be TORMENTED DAY AND NIGHT FOREVER AND EVER.”

This would certainly seem to be the clincher! Tormented day and night forever and ever appears to have a rather permanent ring to it.

TESTING THE THEORY

Basing a conclusion on the first passage quoted in the previous section, the one in Luke 20:34-36, is simply an example of not gathering all the facts on the issue. If one consults the parallel account in the gospel of Mark, the full understanding emerges. There we read Christ’s response to the Pharisees as follows:

“Do you not therefore err, not knowing the Scriptures, neither the power of God? For when they shall rise from the dead (the saints), they neither marry, nor are given in marriage; but are as the ANGELS WHICH ARE IN HEAVEN” (Mark 12:24-25).

You will immediately notice that there is a difference in the way these two accounts read. Mark was inspired to include a specific phrase which unfolds the meaning of Luke’s more general statement. It is the **RIGHTEOUS ANGELS IN HEAVEN** to whom the saints are compared, not fallen demons held in prison until judgment! The contrast could not possibly be greater! Matthew’s gospel confirms this explanation, by saying:

“In the resurrection they (the saints) neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the ANGELS OF GOD IN HEAVEN” (Matt. 22:30).

Therefore, Luke 20:34-36 now becomes not a passage which supports the notion that **ALL ANGELS** cannot die, but is in fact the first of three Scriptures which, one by one, explain that it is the righteous angels of God in heaven who live forever.

In like manner, the statements we read in the book of Jude, upon careful examination, reveal that this passage is not referring to Satan or his demons, but to evil human beings. The context of this short letter makes it clear that Jude is speaking primarily of false teachers, not demonic powers. And, whether the reference is understood either way, it really makes no difference, because he is predicting death for those guilty of such sin!

Jude was a first-century witness to this very alarming

condition arising within the early Church. And he was by no means alone. Paul, Peter, and John each discerned the same trend and issued powerful warnings to the brethren against it (II Thess. 2:3-10; Acts 20:29-31; II Pet. 2:1-3, 3:3-4; III Jn. 9-10, I Jn. 4:1, etc.).

What is this so-called *blackness of darkness*? Is it really some mysterious spiritual realm to which evil spirits are banished forever? Hardly! There are two parables that bear directly on this question. The first is in Matthew 22.

In this story, the marriage of a king's son (type of Christ) occurs. In verse 11, we read:

“And when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment: and he said unto him, Friend, how came you in hither not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless. Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into OUTER DARKNESS; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth” (Matt. 22:11-13).

The second episode involves the famous parable of the talents recorded in Matthew 25. Here a certain master (Christ) had given his servants a particular number of talents each, expecting them through dint of hard work, wisdom, and diligence, to put these goods to profitable use. Upon his return, he discovers that two of the men had performed admirably, but one had merely hidden his talent

in the earth. The master called this man a **“wicked and slothful servant” (Matt. 25:26)**, and condemns him, saying, **“Cast you the unprofitable servant into OUTER DARKNESS; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”**

These two passages are clearly and easily understood by most believers. Few who know the truth would assume that the *outer darkness* refers to a remote place of banishment, some other spiritual realm. Therefore, being cast into outer darkness forever, whether it be man or demon, means the blackness of eternal death!

The third passage under discussion is found in Matthew 8:29. You will recall that it speaks of the demons asking the Savior if He has come to torment them before the appointed time. To fully understand what is meant by this question, one must consult an almost identical situation recorded in Mark 1:23-24.

Christ has entered a synagogue and is suddenly accosted by a man possessed of an evil spirit. When this demon recognized the Messiah, he cries out:

“Let us alone; what have we to do with You, you Jesus of Nazareth? Are You come to DESTROY US?”

The word rendered *destroy* is translated from the Greek *appollumi*, and means *to destroy fully, to perish, to lose, to die*

(*Strong's Exhaustive Concordance*). The demon in this case clearly perceived that he was slated for destruction. The word *appollumi* is a very strong verb in Greek. James uses it when he writes:

“Speak not evil one of another, brethren. He that speaks evil of his brother, and judges his brother, speaks evil of the Law and judges the Law...there is one Lawgiver (God), who is able to SAVE (Gk. *sozo* - refers to spiritual salvation), and to DESTROY (Gk. *appollumi* - spiritual death) both body and soul in hell” (Js. 4:11-12).

Yahshua (Jesus) Himself spoke this same word in a very similar statement recorded in Matthew 10:28:

“And fear not them which kill the body (physical death), but are not able to kill the soul; but rather fear Him which is able to DESTROY (Gk. *appollumi*) both body and soul (spiritual death) in hell.”

It is interesting that the active participle of *appollumi* is, of all things, the word *apollyon*! In Revelation 9:11, this very term is applied to the angel of the bottomless pit. In other words, it is simply another name for Satan the devil. We may safely assume that when the demons reacted in stark fear and asked Christ *are You come to destroy us?*, they knew full well what they were saying!

Finally, we have the

passage in Revelation 20:10. It speaks of the devil being cast into the lake of fire, where he is tormented day and night forever. First of all, there are all kinds of torment, so the statement is not necessarily limited to just the inflicting of a specific kind of torture. It is quite possible to torment or torture someone to death.

Furthermore, the definition of the Greek word for *ever* is *aion*, and does not always apply to eternity. It, in fact, actually means *age*, and can refer to a specific, limited time period.

The verse in question reads as follows in the KJV:

“And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night forever and ever.”

The word *are* in this passage has been inserted by the translators. You will notice that it is in italics, indicating that the word is not in the ancient texts. It should properly be rendered *were*, since the beast and false prophet were clearly cast into the lake of fire fully a 1000 years earlier.

There is another problem, however, with the KJV of this verse. See how the NIV translates this statement:

“And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of burning sulphur, where the beast

and false prophet HAD BEEN THROWN. THEY (ALL THREE) will be tormented day and night forever and ever.”

Virtually every other translation or version, including the RSV, NAS, New Jerusalem, TEV, Amplified, Living, NEB, etc., renders Revelation 20:10 in this manner. The commentaries support this point as well (See *Adam Clarke, Jamieson, Fausset & Brown, Matthew Henry, New International, Expositors*, etc).

When we come to see that Satan, the beast, and the false prophet are all being referred to in this verse as being tormented, we must begin to reconsider our understanding. We cannot have it both ways. Either all three beings are burned up in the lake of fire, or they all three are to remain alive in some sort of ever-burning torture.

Revelation 20:10 really does not substantiate the premise that Satan alone will receive some type of everlasting *punishing*. Rather it confirms that he will indeed receive the same *punishment* which the beast and false prophet are destined to receive—eternal death!

Clearly the traditional view of Satan’s fate does not have a great deal of Scriptural support or authority. The choice verses that are so often quoted in defense of such a position are either mistranslated, misunderstood, or incomplete in their ability to prove this thesis. But there is more—much more—from God’s Word to

abundantly demonstrate exactly what is in store for Satan the devil!

DOES SATAN DESERVE DEATH?

The Scriptures are plain when it comes to the penalty for sin. Paul writes: **“The wages of sin is DEATH” (Rom. 6:23)**. Death means the cessation of life, not the continuation of life in some other state or some other realm. The Old Testament confirms that this has been God’s position all along, saying: **“The soul that SINS, it shall DIE” (Ezek. 18:4, 20)!**

Is Satan a sinner? Yes, and much more, for he introduced sin into the world. The apostle John writes:

“He who commits SIN is of the devil; for the devil has SINNED FROM THE BEGINNING” (I Jn. 3:8).

In a particularly fiery exchange with the Pharisees, Jesus (Yahshua) speaks caustically of these religious leaders by saying:

“You are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father you will do. He was a MURDERER FROM THE BEGINNING, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks of his own; for he is a LIAR, AND THE FATHER OF IT” (Jn 8:44)!

Note carefully that Christ calls Satan a **MURDERER**. This

is very important, because it speaks to the critical issue of whether or not Satan has eternal life. Once again, John informs us:

“Whosoever hates his brother is a murderer; and you know that NO MURDERER HAS ETERNAL LIFE IN HIM” (I John 3:15).

No murderer has eternal life in him. How plain. This passage cannot be interpreted in such a way as to omit the most sinful being in the universe—the one who was a murderer from the beginning!

The Messiah also called Satan the *father of lies*. What do the Scriptures tell us about all liars? Revelation 21:8 states:

“The fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and MURDERERS, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and ALL LIARS, shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone; which is the SECOND DEATH.”

Notice that God connects being thrown into the lake of fire with the Second **DEATH**. This is critically significant with respect to a discussion of Satan’s ultimate fate.

What do we believe the Second Death is? Is it merely separation from God in some other realm, or is it death—the cessation of life forever? The Scriptures strongly support the latter definition.

We know that human beings themselves deserve death. The Savior came and died for us while we were yet in our sins. By the grace of God, we can be granted repentance, and upon that occurring in our lives, with the gift of faith in Yahshua (Jesus), we have atonement for, forgiveness and complete removal of, all our sins. The penalty of the Second Death is revoked, and if we remain faithful to our profession of faith, eternal life is guaranteed.

There is, however, absolutely no evidence whatsoever that Satan and the demons will ever be granted repentance, or that they would ever repent even if they could. They have never shown any remorse, never amended their ways, never asked for mercy, and consequently they are always in their sins, and there remains but one penalty, and that is death.

If it is possible for man to commit the *unpardonable sin*, then surely it is so for Satan. Indeed, he is the ultimate blasphemer, the adversary of truth and righteousness, the deceiver of all mankind, the black prince of darkness, the introducer of sin into the world, the murderer of the Son of God, the source of misery, pain, corruption, tyranny, and torment throughout the history of the human race. If anyone ever deserved death, it is the arch-demon of the universe!

WHAT IS SATAN’S DESTINY?

This is the heart of the issue—what does the Bible teach as to the fate of Satan? God has given us two separate accounts, Isaiah 14 and Ezekiel 28, which reveal precisely his background, his sin and fall, and his ultimate demise and eternal destiny. We must, however, approach these well known passages with our spiritual eyes open. Otherwise we may well overlook or refuse to believe the truth.

The first passage we will discuss is found in Isaiah 14. The time setting is given in verses 1-3, and it is clearly at the end of this age. Beginning in verse 4, God tells the people to take up a proverb against the *king of Babylon*.

Now anciently, this prophecy would have found its fulfillment in Nebuchadnezzar II, the captor of the Jews and the destroyer of Jerusalem and the Temple. But he was only a distant type of another great ruler to come.

This other king of Babylon will be an end-time ruler of renown and infamy. He is described in numerous places in the Bible, being called the *king of fierce countenance* in Daniel 8:23, and the *vile person* of Daniel 11:21.

There is, however, a third level of meaning with respect to the king of Babylon, and that is revealed in verse 12, where the character named *Lucifer* is introduced. As we read the verses that follow, it quickly and quite obviously becomes clear that Isaiah 14 is decidedly not speaking

primarily of a human world leader, but of a spiritual one. Lucifer is really the power behind the human king of Babylon. Isaiah 14, therefore, tells us precisely what is going to happen to the fallen angel Lucifer, who is later termed the *Adversary* or Satan the devil.

God plainly describes Satan when He states:

“How has the oppressor ceased...He who smote the people in wrath with a continual stroke, he that ruled the nations in anger is persecuted and none hinders...The whole earth is at rest, and is quiet; they break forth into singing” (Isa. 14:4, 6-7).

Clearly the death of no single human being could produce such results upon the earth and among its inhabitants. It is, in fact, Satan who is responsible for the condition of the world, and especially for the atrocities that are predicted to fall upon the people of Israel. It is when he is finally put away that the whole world will truly have peace.

Notice how graphically *The Living Bible* characterizes what will befall Lucifer. Please note that there is no break in the story-flow of this chapter. Some people have tried to force such a separation, in order to rule out the possibility that this passage is actually referring to Satan, but that won't wash. In fact, a break would make no sense whatsoever. We read:

“The denizens of hell (Heb. *sheol*

- *the grave*) crowd to meet you as you enter their domain. World leaders and earth's mightiest kings, long dead, are there to see you (descriptive language denoting that Satan will join the dead!). With one voice they cry out, ‘Now you are as weak as we are! Your might and your power are gone; they are BURIED WITH YOU. All the pleasant music in your palace has ceased; now MAGGOTS are your sheet, WORMS are your blanket! How are you fallen from HEAVEN, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down cut down to the ground—mighty though you were against the nations of the world” (Isa. 14:9-12).

At least the first 20 verses of Isaiah 14 are pertinent to the ultimate demise of Satan. This passage should not be viewed in terms of primarily the physical king of Babylon, with only a short blurb inserted with reference to Lucifer or Satan.

Verses 12-14 are quite familiar to most Bible students. They give us invaluable background material regarding Satan's former life. In this passage, Lucifer declares:

“I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the Most High.”

At this point in the

prophecy, some tend to draw a line, but again, there is no logical break stated or implied. The story-flow is continuous. Verse 15 begins with the word *yet*, plainly indicating that the reference is still to Lucifer, the subject of the previous verses. It reads:

“Yet you (Lucifer) shalt be brought down to hell (Heb. *sheol* - *THE GRAVE*), to the sides of the pit. They that see you shall narrowly look upon you, and consider you, saying, ‘Is this the MAN (will Satan be reduced to mere flesh and blood and suffer death?) that made the earth to tremble, that did shake the kingdoms...but you are cast out of your grave like an abominable branch, and as the raiment of those that are SLAIN, thrust through with a sword, that go down to the stones of the pit, as a CARCASE trodden underfoot” (Isa. 14:13-19).

Remember that God makes a promise to the righteous people of this world. He says:

“For behold, the day comes, which shall burn as an oven; and all the PROUD (Isa. 14:12-14 - Describes Satan perfectly), yea and all that do WICKEDLY (Satan is a sinner from the beginning), shall be STUBBLE; and the day that comes shall BURN THEM UP (lake of fire or Second Death), says the Lord of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch (they will cease to exist)...and you (the righteous) shall TREAD them down; for they shall be ASHES

under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this” (Mal. 4:1, 3).

The fate of Satan is clearly tied together to that of the incorrigibly wicked—eternal death, being burned up and becoming ashes. They will all be destroyed forever, trodden underfoot by the righteous of the earth!

In Ezekiel 28 we find the most graphic description of Satan’s fall and ultimate destiny in all the Bible. Here again some tend to artificially divide the chapter into specific sections, applying one part to a human being, and, when it suits their purposes, they designate another portion as pertaining to Satan. We really ought to approach this passage with more care.

The chapter begins with Yahweh ordering the prophet Ezekiel to speak unto the *prince of Tyre* (v. 2). Even if we assume that the first part of this chapter refers to a mere human leader, certainly by verse 12 this is no longer the proper interpretation, because here we begin a discussion of the *king of Tyre*. At this point it becomes crystal clear that it is Satan to whom the passage is referring, and the description runs unbroken down to verse 19.

We know that verses 12-15 are descriptive of the great covering cherub Lucifer. The terminology employed is so graphic in its detail that it could only apply to Lucifer before and during his stunning fall from grace. It parallels Isaiah 14 in this regard.

But the crucial issue now arises as to the application of the remaining verses. Is there really a logical break in the story at this point? Let’s just read the passage with an open mind and the truth will become evident.

Verse 16 is unquestionably part of the same narrative. It speaks of Lucifer’s sins and the fact that he will be cast as profane out of the mountain of God. Now notice carefully the last portion of this verse. These are powerful and convincing words. God says:

“I will DESTROY YOU, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire.”

The Hebrew word for *destroy* in this instance is *abad*, and it means *to perish, destroy, fail, lose, cause to perish, spend, be undone, become void, have no way to flee*. This is strong language.

This word is used a number of times in the Old Testament. For instance, in Leviticus 23:30 we read in God’s instructions concerning the Day of Atonement:

“And whatsoever soul it be that does any work in that same day, the same soul will I DESTROY (Heb. *abad*) from among his people!”

A little later in Deuteronomy 12, God gives Israel direct commands against idolatry, saying:

“You shall utterly DESTROY

(Heb. *abad*) all the places, wherein the nations which you shall possess served their gods...And you shall overthrow their altars, and break their pillars, and burn their groves with fire; and you shall hew down the graven images of their gods, and DESTROY (Heb. *abad*) the names out of that place” (Deut. 12:2-3).

In other words, utter destruction was commanded. It was to be complete eradication. Not a trace of the offending items was to remain. The very same punishment is decreed against Satan the devil.

Picking up the story once again in Ezekiel 28, we come to verse 17. This passage is undeniably connected to the preceding verses with no break indicated whatsoever. It simply reads:

“Your (Lucifer) heart was lifted up because of your beauty (remember that Lucifer was *perfect in beauty* - v. 12-13), you have corrupted your wisdom (remember too that Lucifer *sealed up the sum, full of wisdom*-v. 12) by reason of your brightness (remember that Lucifer’s original name meant *to shine or the bright morning star*).”

This portion of verse 17 obviously refers directly to Lucifer, and not to any human being. If this be so, then the remainder of the verse must also apply, for, once again, there is no break in the flow. God decrees:

“I will cast you to the ground, I will lay you before kings, that they may behold you.”

Ezekiel 28:12-17 clearly comprises a single reference to Lucifer. Of this there can be no doubt. The same being that God states was perfect in beauty and wisdom, who walked in the midst of the stones of fire, who was in the garden of Eden, who was perfect in all his ways until iniquity was found in him, is the very same individual whom the Creator promises to destroy in v. 16, and cast to the ground in v. 17.

Verses 18-19, therefore, logically complete the story of Lucifer’s great fall and his ultimate fate. The flow is smooth and unbroken in word, thought, and intent. We read:

“You (same subject) have defiled your sanctuaries by the multitude of your iniquities, by the iniquity of your traffic; therefore I will bring forth a FIRE FROM THE MIDST OF YOU. IT SHALL DEVOUR YOU, AND I WILL BRING YOU TO ASHES UPON THE EARTH IN THE SIGHT OF ALL THAT BEHOLD YOU.”

These are powerful, unvarnished words spoken by God against Satan. They speak of his fiery destruction. Now notice the finality of verse 19:

“All they that know you among the people shall be astonished at you; you shall be a terror, and NEVER SHALL YOU BE

ANYMORE!”

The accounts of Isaiah 14 and Ezekiel 28 are quite remarkable, and two of the more revealing passages in all the Bible. They give us an insight into not only Satan’s past, but also his future! His fate would seem to be certain, but if more proof is needed, there is plenty more for us to review.

THE LAKE OF FIRE

The very mention of the *lake of fire* is enough to send chills down one’s spine. It is the place of death—not just any kind of death, but what the Scriptures call the *Second Death*, which is permanent cessation of life.

In the 25th chapter of Matthew, we read of Christ’s judgment upon the righteous and the unrighteous, the sheep and the goats. The sheep, of course, inherit the Kingdom of God (v. 34), but the goats, the incorrigibly wicked, are assigned quite a different reward. They will receive the most dreaded of all punishments—eternal death in the lake of fire and brimstone (v. 41).

In light of what we have already covered, this is an extraordinary fact, because the passage concludes with the following statement:

“Then shall He (Messiah) say also unto them on his left hand,

Depart from Me, you cursed, into everlasting fire, PREPARED FOR THE DEVIL AND HIS ANGELS” (Matt. 25:41).

The lake of fire, the place of ultimate, final, and utter punishment, is expressly prepared, not primarily for human beings (although some may end up there), but for Satan and his demonic cohorts! This is the place of destruction, an inferno into which Satan will be cast, leaving him, as the Scriptures testify, neither root nor branch!

This is precisely what the prophet Isaiah means when he says:

“For Tophet (Gehenna or the valley of Hinnom) is ordained of old (God had it in mind anciently, even as Ezekiel predicted); yea, for the KING IT IS PREPARED (What king – the king of Tyre, the king of Babylon – Lucifer? Remember for whom the lake of fire is prepared). He has made it deep and large; the pile thereof is fire and much wood. The breath of the Lord, like a stream of BRIMSTONE does kindle it” (Isa. 30:33).

Remember that the Hinnom Valley outside of Jerusalem was anciently known as Tophet, and is the area known in the Greek as *Gehenna*. The implications of the previous verse are inescapable. In light of what we have already covered, this can only be a reference to Satan and his ultimate demise.

The passage we quoted from Revelation 20:10 in the initial portion of this discussion requires some additional attention at this time. This is particularly true with regard to the statement of the beast, false prophet, and Satan being *tormented day and night forever and ever*.

First of all, we ought to be strongly persuaded by the facts that have already been established from the Scriptures with respect to Satan's destiny. We can know for a fact that, contrary to popular opinion, he absolutely does not have eternal life abiding in him. We also know that it is perfectly possible for an angelic being to be reduced to the form of a man. What we are about to cover in Revelation 20:10 cannot contradict or counter any of the evidence that we have accumulated thus far.

Let's begin with the phrase *day and night*. Should we merely assume that day and night will continue on in a never-ending cycle? The Bible states otherwise. Day and night, as we know it, will not last forever, especially in the era during which Satan and his demons are cast into the lake of fire. Notice that Revelation 21:23 states:

“And the city (new Jerusalem which will come down to the earth just after the destruction of Satan) had no need of the sun, neither of the moon to shine in it; for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.”

Once again, this time in

Revelation 22:3-5, we read:

“And there shall be no more curse; but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and His servants shall serve Him; and they shall see His face; and His name shall be in their foreheads. And there shall be NO NIGHT there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun.”

The concept of day and night, at least as we have experienced it, is not an eternal condition. And, as for the last portion of Revelation 20:10, the phrase *forever and ever* also needs examination.

Our idea of *forever* is eternity, but this is not so in the Greek or Hebrew language. The word is *aion*, and means an *age*, and specifically the Messianic Age to come. It is the context of any passage that determines the correct understanding of how this phrase is to be used.

For instance, in his short letter to Philemon, the apostle Paul pleads on behalf of one Onesimus, saying:

“I beseech you for my son Onesimus...which in time past was to you unprofitable, but now profitable to you and to me; whom I have sent again. You therefore receive him...whom I would have retained with me, that he might have ministered unto me...but without your mind would I do nothing...For perhaps he therefore departed for a season, that you should receive

him FOREVER (Gk. *aion*)” (Philemon 10-15).

The use of the word *aion* in this passage, although translated *forever*, quite obviously is not a reference to eternity. The same principle obtains for the following statement in the book of Jude:

“Even as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of ETERNAL FIRE” (Jude 7).

Is the fire that consumed the ancient cities of Sodom and Gomorrah still burning? No, it played out ages ago, yet it is still referred to as *eternal*. The fire lasted as long as it took to complete the destruction. So the torment of Satan and the demons will last just as long as it takes to consume them in the lake of fire. The real torture that they will experience will be when they stare into the flames of hell and finally grasp that they are going to perish forever! For so long they will have deluded themselves into believing that they would get away with their sins, but that world is going to come crashing down all around them—and there will be real torment.

Next we will investigate several passages of Scripture that contain hints and clues as to Satan's final destiny. One of them is found in the earliest prophecy in the Bible.

WILL CHRIST DESTROY SATAN?

One of the strongest pieces of Biblical evidence with regard to Satan's fate is found in a statement made thousands of years ago in the garden of Eden. In Genesis 3, we read:

“And the Lord God said unto the serpent (Satan), Because you have done this, you are cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon your belly you shall go, and dust shall you eat ALL THE DAYS OF YOUR LIFE (are they numbered?); and I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed (the Messiah); it (Christ) shall BRUISE YOUR HEAD, and you shall BRUISE HIS HEEL” (Gen. 3:14-15).

This is really a remarkable passage. God declares that Satan will be responsible for bruising the heel of Yahshua (Jesus). This is a way of referring to the physical death of the Savior on the cross. We know that Satan Himself entered into Judas Iscariot at the time of the arrest and crucifixion of Christ. So, the seemingly minor injury of bruising the heel relates to the first death.

It is said of Christ, however, that He would bruise the HEAD of Satan—thus denoting the ultimate mortal blow—the Second Death, from which there can be no resurrection. This is so obviously a fatal wound.

The bruising of the Messiah is eloquently described in Isaiah 53, where it is stated:

“He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief...He was wounded for our transgressions, He was BRUISED for our iniquities...it pleased the Lord to BRUISE Him” (Isa. 53:3-10).

That was the bruising of the heel, terrible as it was, but the bruising of the head is described in Romans 16, and reads as follows:

“The God of peace shall BRUISE SATAN UNDER YOUR FEET shortly!” (Rom. 16:20).

The word *bruise* is the Greek *suntribo*, and it means *to crush completely, to shatter, to break to shivers*. So Satan's destiny is to be crushed totally under the feet of the righteous, just like Malachi 4:3 states will happen to all the unrepentant sinners of this world! In this respect, Paul writes the Corinthians:

“For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at His coming. Then comes the end, when He shall have delivered up the kingdom of God, even the Father; when He shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. For He must reign, till He has put ALL ENEMIES UNDER HIS FEET. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death” (I Cor. 15:22-26).

Notice the subject under discussion here. It is the destruction by Christ of all His enemies. Would that include Satan? In expounding the parable of the tares in Matthew 13, Jesus says:

“The field is the world; and the good seed are the children of the kingdom. But the tares are the children of the WICKED ONE; and the ENEMY that sowed them is the DEVIL” (Matt. 13:38-39).

Satan is clearly identified as the enemy of Christ. He is, in fact, the quintessential enemy, the arch-enemy. Peter calls him the *Adversary*—the one who is forever set against God and His people.

Referring back to the passage we just read in I Corinthians 15, it is interesting that it parallels a section of Revelation 20. In the letter to Corinth, Paul specifies the order of how things will transpire in the end. He begins by saying that Christ is the first to receive eternal life, then those who belong to Him at His Second Coming. He then will reign until He has put down all rule and authority in the world, and until all His enemies are destroyed, the last such enemy being death itself.

In Revelation 20, beginning with verse 7, we read:

And when the thousand years were expired (the time of Christ's reign), Satan shall be loosed out of his prison (same time setting as I Cor. 15:22-26).

And he shall go out to deceive the nations...to gather them to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city; and fire came down from God out of heaven, and DEVOURED THEM (here some of the last of His human enemies are destroyed). And the Devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown (destruction of His greatest enemy Satan the devil)...and death and hell (the grave) were cast into the lake of fire. This is the Second Death (the final enemy of death being destroyed)” (Rev. 20:7-10, 14).

These are two amazing companion passages. Here we have the exact same order of events predicted to occur at the end of the Millennium preserved in two separate New Testament accounts. And the destructions of Christ's enemies include not only unregenerate human beings, but also Satan the devil, and death itself. At that point, He will be ready to hand over the Kingdom to God the Father, who will institute the New Jerusalem being brought down to the earth.

Will Jesus Christ then destroy Satan the devil? The evidence from the Bible is overwhelmingly in favor of such a conclusion. The Scriptures, in yet another instance, state:

“Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, He (Christ) also Himself likewise took part of the same; that through death He might DESTROY HIM THAT HAD THE POWER OF DEATH, THAT IS, THE DEVIL” (Heb. 2:14).

Can there really be any doubt about the destiny of Satan? Hasn't God made it abundantly clear? The truth is literally scattered throughout the Bible from Genesis to Revelation.

The Greek word for *destroy* in Hebrews 2:14 is *katargeo*, and it means *to abolish, cease, destroy, do away with, make of no effect, bring to naught, vanish away, make void*. This very same word is used in II Thessalonians 2:8, where Paul expressly refers to the utter destruction in the lake of fire of that *Wicked One, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of His mouth, and shall DESTROY with the brightness of His coming*.

Just as the beast power is to be completely annihilated in the lake of fire, so also is Satan to be destroyed by the Messiah. The words and the effect are identically the same in both passages.

God has also provided even additional clues interspersed throughout His Word. Like pieces of a vast jigsaw puzzle, they must be analyzed and turned and made to properly fit in order to reveal the full truth of the matter.

THE SERPENT AND THE DRAGON!

One of the most dramatic portions of the Old Testament is found in Job 38-41. An entire chapter in this particular passage is devoted to a very strange, perhaps little understood, creature from the dim past called the *leviathan*.

Of what consequence is this enormous, seemingly invincible beast? Is it simply some sort of extinct sea monster, of only marginal interest to modern day Christians, or is the detailed, descriptive passage in Job 41 indeed of importance for us today? Does the ancient leviathan actually symbolize something far more significant than a mere antiquated kind of dinosaur?

Apparently the leviathan was at one time extant upon the earth, or perhaps more accurately, the sea. He was undoubtedly the greatest aquatic animal of all time. In fact, Yahweh Himself taunts Job with regard to this beast by asking:

“Can you fill his skin with barbed irons? Or his head with fish spears?...Shall not one be cast down even at the sight of him? None is so fierce that dare stir him up...the word of him that slays cannot hold; the spear, the dart, nor the habergeon. He esteems iron as straw and brass as rotten wood. The arrow cannot make him flee...darts are counted as stubble: he laughs at the shaking of a spear...he makes

the deep to boil like a pot...upon the earth there is not his like, who behaves himself without fear” (Job 41:7, 9-10, 26-33).

This is a most impressive description. The obvious intent of God’s questions to Job is to use the leviathan as an example of what man cannot handle. Job could do none of these tasks requested by God. The leviathan was too fearsome. The implication is that only God Himself could contain this monster. He further states:

“His snorting throws out flashes of light; his eyes are like the rays of dawn. Firebrands stream from his mouth; sparks of fire shoot out. Smoke pours from his nostrils as from a boiling pot over a fire of reeds. His breath sets coals ablaze, and flames dart from his mouth...dismay goes before him” (Job 41: 18-22).

What are we to make of this incredible creature? What kind of ancient monster was traditionally the most feared of all? Who was covered with great scales like shields of armor, who was capable of breathing out fire and smoke from his mouth and nose, the one about whom great legends were fashioned? Was it not the **DRAGON**? And isn’t it interesting that Revelation 12:9 describes Satan in the following terms:

“And the great DRAGON, was cast out, that old SERPENT, called the DEVIL and SATAN, who deceives the whole world.”

The dragon is one of the symbols of Satan the devil. The expressive language of Job 41 describes an actual living beast whom God uses to get across a major point to Job. But remember that it was Satan, in the very beginning of the story, who was the accuser of Job, and the instigator of his suffering. Does it seem conceivable that he should simply disappear from the scene? Not at all. Indeed, he reappears at the end of the book under the guise of the mysterious leviathan, who no man can tame. Only Almighty God can conquer this fierce animal. The leviathan undoubtedly was the infamous fire-breathing dragon of ancient mythology, but he was also a type of a far greater creature as well.

The concluding verse of Job 41 makes it crystal clear that the leviathan is meant here primarily as a symbol. It is said of him that:

“He beholds all HIGH THINGS; he is KING over all the children of PRIDE” (Job 41:34).

Such a statement could never be applicable to a mere animal. It is, however, quite characteristic of Satan. In fact, it is convincingly and exclusively relevant to the devil.

After all, it was Lucifer who beheld all the high things of God. It was he who summed up wisdom and beauty, who was covered with every precious jewel, who walked amid the stones of fire in the mountain of God! And so

the Eternal condemned him, saying:

“Your heart was LIFTED UP (because of PRIDE), because of your beauty, you have corrupted your wisdom by reason of your brightness...for you have said in your heart, I will ascend to heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will also sit upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north; I will ascend above the clouds; I will be like the Most High” (Ezek. 28:17, Isa. 14:13-14).

Indeed Lucifer did behold *high things*. He did become the *king over all the children of pride*. It was, in fact, the very cause of his notorious demise. Just as God used the king of Babylon in Isaiah 14, and the king of Tyre in Ezekiel 28, as types or symbols of Satan, so also in Job 41 the graphic expressions concerning the leviathan are actually most applicable to that **GREAT DRAGON–SATAN THE DEVIL!**

And what is predicted to happen to the dragon? Once again, Isaiah prophecies:

“In that day the Lord with His sore and great and strong sword shall PUNISH LEVIATHAN, the piercing SERPENT, even leviathan that crooked serpent, and He shall SLAY THE DRAGON that is in the sea” (Isa. 27:1).

God predicts that the dragon will eventually be slain, and

that He will do the slaying. Ezekiel also writes about God killing the dragon. He says:

“Speak and say, Thus says the Lord God, Behold, I am against you, Pharaoh, king of Egypt, the GREAT DRAGON that lies in the midst of his rivers, which has said, My river is my own, and I have made it for myself” (Ezek. 29:3).

Although this passage makes a reference to the Egyptian king, the Pharaoh was but a type or pattern of Satan himself, just as Egypt was a type of sin and Pharaoh’s army a type of the demons. Not only that, but the Pharaoh is expressly called *the great dragon*, the very appellation of Satan. God goes on in the succeeding verses to pronounce a mighty curse of death and destruction upon this dragon. And He strongly confirms the certainty of this prophecy by saying in Psalms 74:

“You brake the heads of the DRAGON in the waters (Remember that the multi-headed beast of Revelation 13 rises up out of the sea). You break the heads of LEVIATHAN in pieces” (Psa. 74:13-14).

Isaiah, speaking on the same subject, further states:
“Awake, awake, put on strength, O arm of the Lord: awake as in the ancient days, in the generations of old. Are You He that has cut Rahab, and WOUNDED THE DRAGON?” (Isa. 51:9).

Remember that the Pharaoh of the Exodus was actually a type of Satan. When Yahweh delivered Israel from the bondage of Egyptian slavery, it was merely a physical representation of His deliverance of spiritual Israel from the bondage of sin. When Israel had departed on their trek toward the Promised Land, Pharaoh realized that he had made a mistake, and he and his entire army raced off in hot pursuit. As you know, the Egyptians caught the Israelites at the Red Sea, but God intervened and caused the divided waters to come crashing down upon the soldiers while they were attempting to cross, utterly destroying them all.

In the famous song which Moses sang after the deliverance of Israel, he makes the following admission:

“I will sing unto the Lord, for He has triumphed gloriously: THE HORSE AND HIS RIDER has He thrown into the sea...For the HORSE OF PHARAOH WENT IN WITH HIS CHARIOTS AND HORSEMEN INTO THE SEA, and the Lord brought again the waters of the sea upon them” (Ex. 15:1, 19).

This entire episode is a pattern of things to come. It predicts the victory of good over evil, of God over Satan. It prophecies not only the defeat of the devil, but his destruction.

When Lucifer was blinded by his own greatness, he rebelled against the Creator of the universe. He attempted to forcefully usurp

power from Yahweh Himself, thus making his own demise absolute and final. His rebellion and that of the fallen angels who followed him was a deliberate act of unspeakable dimensions. They are guilty of persisting in crime, sin, and lawlessness, even after repeated warnings. They fulfil the Scripture which states:

“If we DELIBERATELY keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, NO SACRIFICE for sins is left, but only a fearful expectation of JUDGMENT AND RAGING FIRE that will CONSUME THE ENEMIES OF GOD” (Heb. 10:26-27).

The demons have known the truth and indeed understood it more clearly and more evidently than any of us ever have, yet they have unconditionally rejected it and repudiated Almighty God. They have trampled underfoot all the good and precious things and murdered the very Son of God, laughing all the way! And they will pay the full price for their damnable actions. Satan has set his mind to do evil continually. He has completely deceived himself that he will eventually be victorious over God. Contrary to what the devil has taught and we have merely assumed, demons can die! They are no longer immortal beings. They have relinquished their right to eternal life. They have abdicated their position, they have renounced all claims to immortality.

If we believe that our Savior pre-existed, then we must

admit that it is surely possible for a spirit being to become flesh and blood. If it happened to someone as great as the Messiah, then how can we doubt that God could accomplish such a thing in the life of Satan or a demonic spirit! If the Son of God could suffer pain and death, then it is unquestionable that Satan has the same potential!

In the universe that God will ultimately inhabit and rule, there will be no place for sin, no realm for sinners! How revolting to think that after all that Satan and his demons have perpetrated through eons of time, that when all is said and done, they would still be allowed to exist in some other part of the universe, continually foaming out their venomous, sinful ragings against God and His children! The Father cannot and will not tolerate sin. In the world to come, He will permit it to defile neither Himself nor any part of His creation.

In the great scheme of things, God has taken the one who was high and mighty, bright and shining, magnificent and perfect in all his ways, and cast him down into prison, reserved him in chains unto the day of judgment. And yet He has called and begotten children from the mere dust of the earth! What a great God we serve, whose ways are truly unsearchable! What a grandiose plan He is working out here below. Soon, those little children, created lower than the angels, will rise in splendor to life everlasting as full born sons of God. But the ones who were **FIRST**, as the Scriptures so testify,

shall surely be **LAST**—losing out on eternal life, reduced to ashes under the feet of the righteous. The Scriptures cannot be broken. The purposes of God must stand!

Let us therefore humbly believe and accept the revealed truth of the Word, and put on the full armor of God **NOW**, that we might stand firm in the day of battle against the wiles and fiery darts of Satan the devil—resisting him always in the Spirit! {}