

Fulfilled Prophecies

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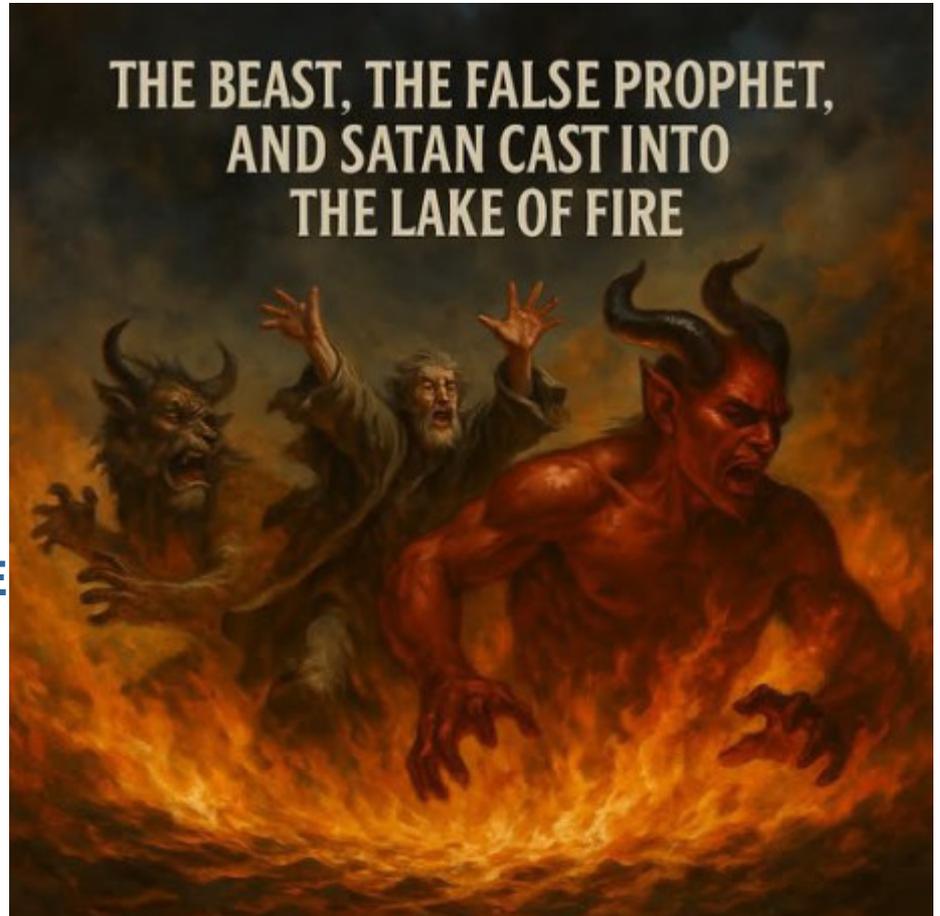
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Hell - THE BEAST,
THE FALSE
PROPHET, AND
SATAN CAST INTO
THE LAKE OF FIRE



By Dan Maines

THE BEAST, THE FALSE PROPHET, AND SATAN CAST INTO THE LAKE OF FIRE

Introduction: The Final Judgment in Revelation The judgment of the Beast, the false prophet, and Satan in the lake of fire is presented in Revelation as the complete and irreversible end of God's covenant enemies. This is not a prophecy for our future but describes the conclusion of the covenantal conflict in the first century. The language comes from Old Testament judgment texts and was fulfilled in the fiery

destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70.

The Text Revelation 19:20 - And the beast was seized, and with him the false prophet who performed the signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were thrown alive into the lake of fire, which burns with brimstone.

Revelation 20:10 - And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

Revelation 20:14-15 - Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

Preterist Fulfillment

The Beast represents the persecuting Roman power, centered on the Caesars involved in the Jewish War, particularly Nero, Vespasian, and Titus, who enforced emperor worship and warred against the saints (Revelation 13:5-7).

The false prophet represents the apostate leadership of Israel who rejected Christ and misled the people (Revelation 13:11-14).

Satan, the adversary, worked through these powers to oppose the church and the kingdom (Revelation 12:9, Revelation 20:2-3).

The Lake of Fire and the Second Death Revelation defines the lake of fire as the second death (Revelation 20:14). The second death is covenantal death, final separation from God's presence and blessings. This is not physical death, but

irreversible removal from the covenant community.

Obadiah 1:16 - They will drink and swallow and become as if they had never existed. Malachi 4:1 - For behold, the day is coming, burning like a furnace, and all the arrogant and every evildoer will be chaff, and the day that is coming will set them ablaze, says the Lord of armies, so that it will leave them neither root nor branches.

This judgment was permanent. Once the old covenant order ended, these enemies had no place in God's kingdom.

The Fire Was Real in Jerusalem The lake of fire is vision language, but it corresponds to real events in AD 70. Josephus records that Titus ordered the temple and much of Jerusalem burned. The flames were so intense that gold melted from the temple and ran between the stones (Wars 6.4.5).

The Old Testament links "brimstone" (burning sulfur) to complete destruction in God's judgment (Genesis 19:24, Isaiah 34:9-10). Revelation's "burns with brimstone" language comes directly from these passages, showing that the imagery describes total and final ruin, not ongoing literal burning.

The Elements That Were Destroyed The "elements" in 2 Peter 3:10-12 are not physical atoms but the ordinances and principles of the old covenant system (Galatians 4:3, 4:9, Colossians 2:20). These existed only in the earthly covenant order, not in the spiritual realm. In AD 70 they were removed forever, making way for the new heavens and new earth, the fully established new covenant (Hebrews 8:13).

The Eternal Fire and Burning Sulfur The Bible uses "eternal fire" and "burning sulfur" to describe irreversible judgment:

Genesis 19:24 - The Lord rained on Sodom and Gomorrah brimstone and fire.

Jude 1:7 - Sodom and Gomorrah are "exhibited as an example in undergoing the punishment of eternal fire." The cities are not still burning, but their destruction was permanent.

Isaiah 34:8-10 - Edom's judgment turns its land into burning pitch, "It will not be extinguished night or day, its smoke will go up forever." Edom is not burning now, but its destruction was total.

Isaiah 66:24 - "Their worm will not die and their fire will not be extinguished."

Jeremiah 7:20 - God's wrath would be poured out "on this place" — Jerusalem — burning the trees and crops, and "it will not be extinguished."

This same type of fire consumed Jerusalem in AD 70. The flames no longer burn, but the result is eternal.

Gehenna, the Worm, and the Lake of Fire Gehenna is the Greek form of Ge-Hinnom, the Valley of Hinnom, south of Jerusalem, where children were sacrificed to Molech (2 Kings 23:10, Jeremiah 7:31). In later times it became known as a cursed place where refuse and the bodies of criminals were burned.

By Jesus' day, Gehenna symbolized God's coming judgment on the wicked. Jesus said in Matthew 23:33, "How will you escape the sentence of Gehenna?" speaking to the same corrupt leadership that Revelation calls the false prophet.

Gehenna was a place where fires burned continually and worms fed on dead bodies. Jesus drew this directly from Isaiah 66:24: "And they shall go forth and look at the corpses of the people who have rebelled against Me. For their worm will not die and their fire will not be extinguished, and they will be an

abhorrence to all mankind."

This referred to national judgment. The "fire not quenched" means a fire that cannot be put out until it has done its work. The "worm" represents decay and disgrace, corpses left unburied to be consumed. This was fulfilled in AD 70 when Jerusalem was destroyed, and the dead were left in the streets (Jeremiah 19:7, Lamentations 2:21).

Jesus' warnings about Gehenna and John's vision of the lake of fire describe the same irreversible covenant judgment.

Application for Today

This judgment assures believers that no power will ever rise again to oppose Christ's kingdom in the same covenantal way.

The second death warns that those outside of Christ have no hope beyond this life.

The kingdom is eternal, and its enemies are gone forever.

Conclusion The casting of the Beast, the false prophet, and Satan into the lake of fire was fulfilled in the events of AD 70. It was rooted in Old Testament judgment imagery, carried out in the fiery destruction of Jerusalem, defined by scripture as the second death, and warned of by Jesus in His teaching on Gehenna. The judgment was total, permanent, and irreversible, exactly as the scriptures declared.

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