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**Judgment - When
God Gives Up on a
Soul**



By Dan Maines

When God Gives Up on a Soul

† These passages show that when a person physically dies unrighteous, their opportunity to repent is finished and judgment follows. But what is judgment for the unrighteous? They never wake up. Their punishment is "Death" and that's exactly what the Bible calls it, "Death". The judgment for the unrighteous is therefore eternal separation from God, irreversible punishment described as the second death, the lake of fire, and the loss of all hope or future. So when the Bible speaks of the lake of fire, it pictures the decisive covenantal judgment already completed in

the first century. The wicked of that age experienced the full removal of the Old Covenant's standing, and anyone today who rejects Christ shares the same separation from God's life. The judgment has happened; its eternal reality remains.

From the fulfilled perspective the "lake of fire" pictures the **final end of covenant life**, which Scripture repeatedly calls **death**.

† Romans 6:23 – "The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

† Revelation 20:14 – "This is the second death, the lake of fire."

† Psalm 37:20 – "The wicked will perish... they vanish like smoke."

† Proverbs 11:7 – "When a wicked man dies, his expectation will perish."

This isn't mere physical death, which all people experience. It is **complete separation from God's life**, the second death. When the Old Covenant system ended in AD 70, that judgment became permanent: those outside Christ remain cut off from His eternal life.

So the punishment of the unrighteous is indeed **death**, not annihilation of existence but the eternal loss of fellowship with God, the absence of His life forever.

Death and Judgment Are Certain

Hebrews 9:27 – It is appointed for men to die once, and after this comes judgment.

† Death is a one-time appointment. After death there is no second chance, only God's final judgment.

John 8:24 – Unless you believe that I am He, you will die in your sins.

† Salvation depends on believing Jesus is the Christ. Without

faith, sin remains and death seals the verdict.

2 Corinthians 6:2 – Behold, now is the acceptable time, behold, now is the day of salvation.

† The invitation is urgent. God's grace is for today, not tomorrow.

Luke 16:26 – Between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who wish to come over from here to you will not be able, and none may cross over from there to us.

† Jesus pictures an unbridgeable gulf after death. Destiny is set and cannot be reversed.

Matthew 25:46 – These will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.

† The final separation is eternal: everlasting life or everlasting punishment.

God's Patience but Sure Judgment

2 Peter 3:9 – The Lord is not slow about His promise, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

† God delays judgment to give space for repentance, yet His promise of judgment stands.

Hebrews 3:15 – Today if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts.

† The Spirit's call is for the present moment. Refusing today risks eternal loss.

Proverbs 29:1 – A man who hardens his neck after much reproof will suddenly be broken beyond remedy.

† Continued rebellion leads to sudden ruin with no repair.

Romans 2:5 – Because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath

and revelation of the righteous judgment of God.

† Persistent sin stores up certain wrath for the final day.

John 12:48 – He who rejects Me and does not receive My sayings has one who judges him; the word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day.

† Christ's own words will stand as the standard of judgment.

Old Testament Warnings

Deuteronomy 30:19 – I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. So choose life in order that you may live.

† God offers life, but the choice must be made now.

Job 21:30 – For the wicked is reserved for the day of calamity; they will be led forth at the day of fury.

† Judgment day is certain for the wicked.

Psalms 1:6 – For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

† God distinguishes the righteous; the wicked path ends in destruction.

Psalms 9:5 – You have rebuked the nations, You have destroyed the wicked; You have blotted out their name forever and ever.

† The wicked face permanent removal.

Psalms 34:16 – The face of the Lord is against evildoers, to cut off the memory of them from the earth.

† God Himself opposes and erases the legacy of the wicked.

Psalms 37:9 – For evildoers will be cut off, but those who wait for the Lord, they will inherit the land.

† Only those who trust the Lord endure.

Psalm 37:20 – The wicked will perish; the enemies of the Lord will be like the glory of the pastures, they vanish like smoke.

† Their end is swift and final.

Psalm 37:38 – Transgressors will be altogether destroyed; the posterity of the wicked will be cut off.

† Sin's line is severed completely.

Psalm 49:19 – He will go to the generation of his fathers; they will never see the light.

† No hope remains for the unrepentant dead.

Psalm 73:18-19 – Surely You set them in slippery places; You cast them down to destruction. How they are destroyed in a moment.

† Sudden and irreversible ruin awaits.

Psalm 92:7 – When the wicked sprouted up like grass and all who did iniquity flourished, it was only that they might be destroyed forevermore.

† Temporary prosperity ends in eternal loss.

Proverbs 2:22 – The wicked will be cut off from the land and the treacherous will be uprooted from it.

† God uproots those who rebel.

Proverbs 10:25 – When the whirlwind passes, the wicked is no more, but the righteous has an everlasting foundation.

† The storm of judgment leaves only the righteous standing.

Proverbs 11:7 – When a wicked man dies, his expectation will perish, and the hope of strong men perishes.

† Death ends every earthly hope.

Proverbs 24:20 – There will be no future for the evil man; the lamp of the wicked will be put out.

† Darkness is the final portion of the wicked.

Isaiah 1:28 – Rebels and sinners will be crushed together, and those who forsake the Lord will come to an end.

† The fate of rebels is utter ruin.

Isaiah 13:9 – Behold, the day of the Lord is coming, cruel, with fury and burning anger, to make the land a desolation; and He will exterminate its sinners from it.

† God's day sweeps away all sin.

Isaiah 26:14 – The dead will not live, the departed spirits will not rise; therefore You have punished and destroyed them, and You have wiped out all remembrance of them.

† No resurrection to life for the wicked.

Isaiah 55:6 – Seek the Lord while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near.

† The time to seek the Lord is while He is available, not after death.

Isaiah 66:24 – They will go forth and look on the corpses of the men who have transgressed against Me.

† Their end is a perpetual sign of judgment.

Malachi 4:1 – The day is coming, burning like a furnace; all the arrogant and every evildoer will be chaff.

† The fire of God's judgment consumes completely.

Obadiah 1:16 – All the nations will drink continually. They will drink and swallow and become as if they had never existed.

† Total removal awaits the unrepentant.

Nahum 1:8 – With an overflowing flood He will make a complete end of its site, and will pursue His enemies into darkness.

† No refuge remains when God acts.

Zephaniah 1:18 – Neither their silver nor their gold will deliver them on the day of the Lord's wrath.

† Wealth cannot buy escape from divine wrath.

Ezekiel 18:4 – The soul who sins will die.

† Each person bears personal responsibility for sin.

Ezekiel 18:24 – When a righteous man turns away from his righteousness and commits iniquity, none of his righteous deeds will be remembered; for his treachery and the sin he has committed he will die.

† Past obedience cannot cover present rebellion.

Ezekiel 33:11 – I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that the wicked turn from his way and live.

† God calls sinners to life, yet many refuse.

Genesis 6:3 – Then the Lord said, My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, because he also is flesh; nevertheless his days shall be one hundred and twenty years.

† God limits the time of His striving with mankind. Patience is not endless.

Psalms 50:22 – Now consider this, you who forget God, or I will tear you in pieces, and there will be none to deliver.

† Forgetting God brings sudden, unstoppable judgment.

Proverbs 15:24 – The path of life leads upward for the wise that he may keep away from Sheol below.

† Only those who follow wisdom escape the realm of death.

Gospels

Matthew 3:12 – He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.

† Christ separates and destroys the worthless.

Matthew 7:13-14 – Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it.

† Jesus contrasts the crowded road to destruction with the narrow path to life.

Matthew 7:19 – Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

† Fruitless lives face fire.

Matthew 7:23 – I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.

† Relationship with Christ is essential.

Matthew 10:28 – Do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; fear Him who can destroy both soul and body in Gehenna.

† Only God holds eternal power over soul and body.

Matthew 13:40-42 – Just as the weeds are gathered up and burned with fire, so shall it be at the end of the age.

† The final harvest brings fiery judgment.

Matthew 13:49-50 – The angels will take out the wicked from among the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire.

v Separation and fire await the unrepentant.

Matthew 25:41 – Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.

† Eternal fire is the destiny of the ungodly.

Matthew 25:46 – These will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.

† Two eternal outcomes, no middle ground.

Mark 9:48 – Where their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched.

† Ongoing torment for those outside Christ.

Luke 12:5 – Fear the One who after He has killed has authority to cast into Gehenna.

† God's authority extends beyond death.

Luke 13:3 – Unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.

† Repentance is non-negotiable.

Luke 13:5 – Unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.

† Jesus repeats the warning for emphasis.

Luke 14:24 – For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste of my dinner.

† Refusing God's invitation closes the door permanently.

Luke 16:26 – Between us and you a great chasm has been fixed.

† No crossing after death.

New Testament Letters

John 3:36 – He who believes in the Son has eternal life; he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.

† Faith brings life, rejection leaves wrath.

John 5:29 – Those who did the good deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment.

† Two destinies at resurrection.

Romans 2:5 – Because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath.

† Hardness of heart piles up judgment.

Romans 2:8-9 – For those who are selfishly ambitious and do not obey the truth, wrath and indignation.

† Disobedience brings tribulation.

Romans 6:23 – The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

† Sin pays death, grace gives life.

1 Corinthians 6:9-10 – The unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God.

† Persistent sin excludes from God's reign.

Galatians 6:8 – The one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption.

† What we sow determines our harvest.

Philippians 3:19 – Their end is destruction, whose god is their appetite.

† Earthly desires lead to ruin.

Colossians 3:6 – Because of these things the wrath of God will come upon the sons of disobedience.

† Sin invites divine wrath.

1 Thessalonians 5:2-3 – The day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night. While they are saying, Peace and safety, then destruction will come upon them suddenly like labor pains upon a woman with child, and they will not escape.

† Judgment arrives without warning and without escape.

2 Thessalonians 1:9 – These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction away from the presence of the Lord.

† Separation from God is eternal.

2 Thessalonians 2:10 – They perish because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved.

† Refusing the truth brings perishing.

Hebrews 2:3 – How will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation.

† Neglect of salvation leaves no refuge.

Hebrews 9:27 – It is appointed for men to die once, and after this comes judgment.

† Death fixes destiny.

Hebrews 10:27 – A terrifying expectation of judgment and the fury of a fire which will consume the adversaries.

† God's fire consumes His enemies.

Hebrews 12:25 – Do not refuse Him who is speaking.

† Rejecting God's voice brings inescapable consequences.

1 Peter 4:17-18 – Judgment begins with the household of God.

† Even believers face refining judgment.

2 Peter 2:6 – He condemned Sodom and Gomorrah to destruction by reducing them to ashes, an example to those who would live ungodly lives thereafter.

† Past judgments warn of future certainty.

Jude 7 – Sodom and Gomorrah are exhibited as an example in undergoing the punishment of eternal fire.

† Eternal fire remains the warning.

Acts 17:30-31 – God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent, because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed.

† The day of judgment is already set and cannot be changed.

Revelation

Revelation 2:11 – He who overcomes will not be hurt by the second death.

† Victory in Christ alone spares from final death.

Revelation 14:11 – The smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever; they have no rest day and night.

† The final punishment is unending.

Revelation 20:14-15 – Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

† All outside the book of life face the lake of fire.

Revelation 21:8 – The cowardly, unbelieving, and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone.

† Final judgment is certain.

Revelation 22:15 – Outside are the dogs and sorcerers and the immoral persons and the murderers and the idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices lying.

† Only the redeemed enter the city.

† God's patience is real, but His judgment is sure. Once death comes, the time for repentance is gone. Today is the day of salvation.

Conclusion:

† Many passages we already gathered describe the wicked as perishing, being cut off, and having no future (Psalm 37:9, 20, 38; Proverbs 11:7; Obadiah 1:16; Isaiah 26:14). Those verses can certainly be read to mean that the unrighteous have no ongoing conscious existence after death.

† Other texts, though, speak of "eternal punishment," "eternal destruction," and the "second death" (Matthew 25:46; 2

Thessalonians 1:9; Revelation 20:14-15; Revelation 21:8). In a fulfilled perspective these phrases point to a permanent, irreversible state rather than to endless awareness.

† So the Bible's language allows for what you're noticing:

† Physical and covenantal death are total and final. The wicked are destroyed, their memory cut off, their lamp put out.

† Eternal punishment describes the permanence of that loss. It doesn't have to mean ongoing conscious torment; it can mean that the result, complete separation from God's life, never ends.

† In other words, the judgment is eternal because it cannot be reversed, not necessarily because the wicked experience an eternal awareness of it. This fits the many verses that say they "will be no more" while also honoring the texts that stress the lasting consequence of rejecting God.

† **This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †**

Source Index

† All verses above are drawn from the NASB as listed in the sermon.

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