

# The Lake of Fire

## The Place of Everlasting Ruin

- Definition
  - The Lake of Fire is the place of everlasting ruin for the enemies of God...
    - The Antichrist and The False Prophet [Rev 19:20]
    - Satan [Rev 20:10]
    - The fallen angels [Matt 25:41]
    - Death and Hades [Rev 20:14]
    - All unbelievers [Rev 20:15]
- Description
  - The Lake of Fire burns with everlasting fire and brimstone [Rev 19:20; 21:8 cp. Jude 7].
  - The Lake of Fire is the Second Death [Rev 20:14; 21:8].
  - The Lake of Fire will be a place of everlasting torment [Rev 20:10].
  - The Lake of Fire will involve everlasting separation from God and His glorious power [2 Thess 1:9].
- Other Terms
  - Gehenna
    - Found in Matt 10:28; Mark 9:43; Luke 12:5 and other verses.
    - Not the same as Hades (hell) which is part of Sheol.
  - Outer Darkness
    - Found in Matt 8:12; 22:13; 25:30.
    - This weeping and gnashing of teeth is found in the furnace of fire [Matt 13:42, 50].
- False Teaching
  - Annihilation
    - Claim: At physical death, humans cease to exist.
    - As we have seen in Matt 10:28, when the body dies the soul continues to live on.
    - Other passages in the Bible confirm this fact [Rev 6:9-11; 20:4], so the idea of complete annihilation is simply one of the vain inventions of men [Ecc 7:29].
  - Universal Salvation
    - Claim: All humans (eventually) get saved.
    - Jesus Himself said that many will go away to eternal destruction [Matt 7:13-14; 25:46].
    - The 2<sup>nd</sup> Resurrection of Dan 12:2 will be for the wicked (see Acts 24:15) unto disgrace and everlasting contempt.
    - According to Rev 20:5, those whose names are not written in the Book of Life will be cast into the Lake of Fire.

- God's character does not allow eternal condemnation
  - Claim: God is love and would not condemn His creatures to everlasting misery.
    - God's love is a holy love which must be in accordance with His righteousness and justice.
    - God's love is not incompatible with His hatred for wickedness [Psalm 5:5; 11:5-7; Prov 6:16-19].
    - God is Light [1 John 1:5] and there is no fellowship between light and darkness [2 Cor 6:14].
  - Claim: God is merciful and would intervene by revoking and/or lightening the punishment for sin.
    - God wiped out all of the wickedness on the face of the earth in the Great Flood [Gen 6:5-7, 11-12].
    - God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah because of the wickedness found in them [Gen 18:20; 19:24-25].
    - God also punished Israel for her abominations, so His mercy does not limit His hand of justice.
  - Claim: God is just, and it would be unfair for Him to sentence His erring creatures to eternal suffering.
    - There is nothing unfair about God, being infinitely righteous, dispensing judgment upon the utter sinfulness of sin [Rom 7:13].
    - Denying the justice of eternal punishment is to reject the grace of God because all sinners deserve eternal death in the Lake of Fire and it is only by the grace of God that any are rescued from it [Rom 6:23].
  - Claim: God is holy and must eradicate all evidence of sin from the universe in order to preserve His moral character.
    - God's holiness did not prevent Him from allowing sin to enter into the universe and remain for thousands of years.
    - Therefore, God can and does coexist with a world of sin without compromising His righteousness.
    - God will triumph over sin and evil and the Lake of Fire demonstrates His holy hatred of sin and evil for all eternity.