



SERIES: October “Back to the Future”

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Wednesday, 10/20/2021

Scripture: Revelation 20:11-15; Matthew 25

TITLE: Is Hell Real?

Injustice is all around us. Just turn on the news today. Politicians admitting crimes with little or no penalty paid. Murderers get off with slick lawyers. People looting stores and defenders being punished. It is infuriating. It is wrong.

But, their sins will be judged and met with the right punishment. Guaranteed.

How do I know? When will this justice occur?

Let’s turn back to Revelation 20:11-15 (CSB) for the answer.

“Then I saw a great white throne and one seated on it. Earth and heaven fled from his presence, and no place was found for them. I also saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life, and the dead were judged according to their works by what was written in the books. Then the sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them; each one was judged according to their works. Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.”

Finally, justice. In the book of Revelation and in Matthew 25, we see a first judgment where the saved and the unsaved are separated before the millennial kingdom. It’s called the judgment of the sheep and the goats. But there is another judgment that is far more significant and final. It’s before the judgment seat of Christ.

It is here that two books are opened. The first is the book of judgment. This is the book with the names, and thoughts, and words, and actions. And the unsaved will be judged according to it. And they know this judgment is coming. That’s why it says they fled from His presence, but there was nowhere to go like a child hiding in the closet to avoid a spanking. But there is nowhere to hide.

Many people ask, “are there levels of hell like in Dante’s inferno?” I don’t see that in the Bible, but there are degrees or unique punishments in hell. It will be perfect justice. Regardless of the crimes against God, the punishment will be intolerable and indescribable misery.

Those whose name is found in the Book of Life are God’s chosen children. All who are saved are not judged for their sins but saved for eternity with God and their just rewards.

According to John, after the judgment of the damned, they are thrown into the lake of fire. No purgatory, no second chances. It's hell for all eternity. This future judgment is sweet on one hand and tragic on the other.

So here's my challenge for you: share the Good News with just one person. Share this teaching with one person who needs to hear of the Good Judge. Tomorrow is not promised to anyone. There are no do-overs once dead. It's heaven or hell forever. So share the Gospel and this video with one person who needs it.

When one soul is saved, heaven erupts with celebration. So let's go and let heaven win the day.