

**IS THE DEVIL  
REALLY IN  
CHARGE OF HELL?**

Does God really keep the devil in charge of hell, measuring out the punishment of the lost?

Nearly the entire world holds to a very unbiblical view about hell, and we owe it to ourselves to know what the Bible really says about it.

What we think about hell affects what we think about God!

Could a  
"LOVING"  
God burn  
people for  
all eternity?



#1

How many lost souls are being punished in hell today?

“The Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and **to reserve** the unjust under punishment for the **day of judgment**” (2 Peter 2:9).

How many lost souls are being punished in hell today?

**#1 Answer:**

There is **not one single soul in hellfire today**. The Bible says that God **reserves**, or holds back, the wicked until the day of judgment to be punished.

## # 2. When will the lost be cast into hellfire?

“So it will be at the **end of this age**. The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness, and will cast them into the furnace of fire” (Matthew 13:40–42).

“The word that I have spoken will judge him **in the last day**” (John 12:48).

# When will the lost be cast into hellfire?

## #2 Answer:

The lost will be cast into hellfire at **the great judgment** at the **end of the world**—not when they die. God would not punish a person in fire until his or her case was tried and decided in court at the end of the world. Does it make sense that God would burn a murderer who died 5,000 years ago 5,000 years longer than a murderer who dies today and deserves the same punishment for the same sin? (See Genesis 18:25.)

### # 3. **Where** are the **unsaved** who have already died?

“The hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth—those who have **done good, to the resurrection of life( #1)**, and those who have done **evil, to the resurrection of condemnation ( #2)**” (John 5:28, 29).

“That the **wicked is reserved** to the **day of destruction**? ... Yet shall he be brought to the grave, and shall remain in the tomb” (Job 21:30, 32 KJV).



## 2 Resurrections –

1st Resurrection of the righteous when Christ returns

2<sup>nd</sup> Resurrection of the wicked after the Millennium

### 1<sup>st</sup> Resurrection

1 Thess 4:16 For the **Lord Himself** will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the **dead in Christ will rise first.**

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Resurrection

Rev 20:

5 But the **rest of the dead** did not live again until **the thousand years were finished.**

13 The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and **Hades delivered up the dead** who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works.

Behold, my **Christ Returns** **3** **1 Thess 4:17**  
**Righteous Up In Heaven**

**1<sup>st</sup> Righteous  
Dead  
Resurrected**

1 **1 Cor 15:  
50-54**

# Millenium

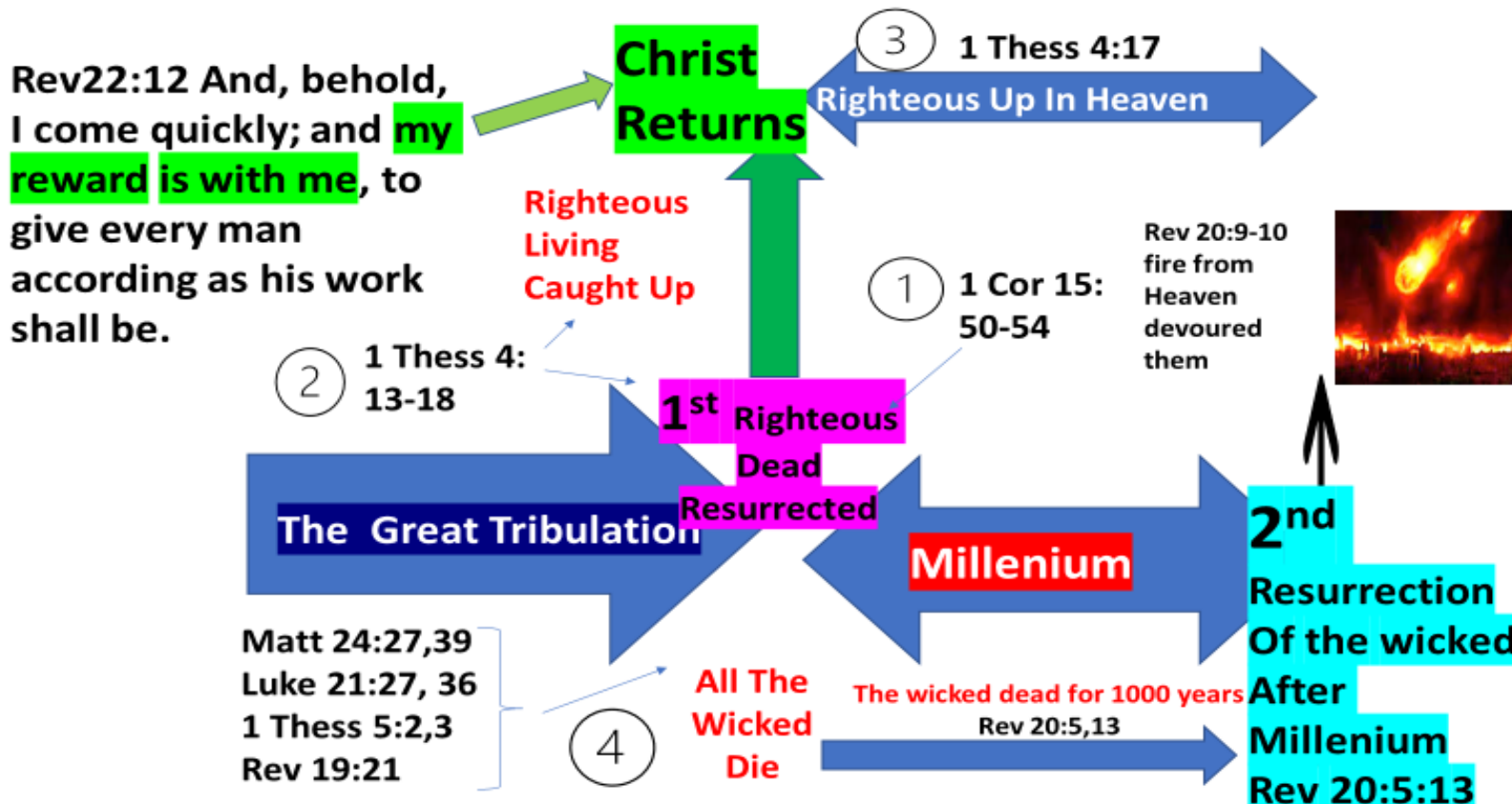
## The wicked dead for 1000 years

4

**Rev 20:5,13**

## # 4. What will happen to the wicked in hellfire?

“The cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which **is the second death**” (Revelation 21:8).



“That the wicked is reserved to the day of destruction? ... Yet shall he be brought to the grave, and shall remain in the tomb” (Job 21:30, 32 KJV).



Oscar Cullmann

Theologian

Oscar Cullmann was a Lutheran theologian. He is best known for his work in the ecumenical movement and was partly responsible for the establishment of dialogue between the Lutheran and Roman Catholic traditions. [Wikipedia](#)

**Born:** 25 February 1902, Strasbourg, France

**Died:** 16 January 1999, Chamonix, France

**Influenced:** John Howard Yoder

**Education:** Institut, Strasbourg University

## Destruction Of Sin & Death Second Death

### Oscar Cullmann ...

Using different words, ... the author of the **Johannine Apocalypse** also regards death as the last enemy, when he describes how **at the end death will be cast into the lake of fire (20:14)**. Because it is God's enemy, it separates us from God, who is Life and the Creator of all life.

Rev 20: 14-15

And **death and hell** were cast into the lake of fire. This is the **second death**.

And whosoever was not found written in the **book of life** was cast into the lake of fire.

# Oscar Cullmann ... God destroys by Not Resurrecting The Wicked Dead

**Matt10:28**

**And fear not  
them which kill  
the body, but  
are not able to  
kill the soul: but  
rather fear him  
which is able to  
destroy both  
soul and body in  
hell.**

‘Fear not them that kill the body, but cannot kill the soul.’ It might seem to presuppose the view that the soul has no need of the body, but the context of the passage shows that this is not the case. Jesus does not continue: ‘Be afraid of him (God) who kills the soul (only)’ ; rather: ‘Fear him who can slay both soul and body in Gehenna.’ That is, fear God, who is able to give completely to death; to wit, **when He does not resurrect you to life.**



# Where are the unsaved who have already died?

#3 & 4 Answer:

The Bible is specific. Both the saved and the unsaved who have died are in their graves “sleeping” until their respective resurrections, the 1<sup>st</sup> resurrection of the righteous when Christ returns and the 2<sup>nd</sup> resurrection of the wicked after the Millennium.

## # 5. What is the end result of sin?

“The wages of sin is death, but **the gift of God** is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 6:23).

“Sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death” (James 1:15).

“God ... gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life” (John 3:16).

CHRIST GIVES US OUR **SHARE** IN  
HIS **DEATH & RESURRECTION**

Rom 6:5

For if we have been **planted together** in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the **likeness of his resurrection:**

Phil 3:10

**That I may know him,** and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made **conformable unto his death;**



Rev 22:12 And, behold,  
I come quickly; and my  
reward is with me, to  
give every man  
according as his work  
shall be.

?

How can the  
righteous dead be  
already in Heaven? or  
the wicked be already  
in Hell?

Rev 19:21

② 1 Thess 4:  
13-18

Righteous  
Living  
Caught Up

Christ  
Returns

③ 1 Thess 4:17  
Righteous Up In Heaven

① 1 Cor 15:  
50-54

1<sup>st</sup> Righteous  
Dead  
Resurrected

The Great Tribulation

Millenium

Rev 20:9-10  
fire from  
Heaven  
devoured  
them



2<sup>nd</sup>  
Resurrection  
Of the wicked  
After  
Millenium  
Rev 20:5:13

④

All The  
Wicked  
Die

The wicked dead for 1000 years  
Rev 20:5,13



“The living know that they will die; but the dead know nothing, and they have no more reward, for the memory of them is forgotten. Also their love, their hatred, and their envy have now perished; nevermore will they have a share in anything done under the sun. ... There is no work or device or knowledge or wisdom in the grave where you are going” (Ecclesiastes 9:5, 6, 10).

“The dead do not praise the Lord” (Psalm 115:17).

**In writing on Ecclesiastes, Martin Luther said .....**

Salomon judgeth that the dead are a **sleepe**, and feelee nothing at all. For the dead lye there accompting neyther dayes nor yeares, but when they are awoken, they shall seeme to have **slept** scarce one minute.[99]

# Do The Dead Have Consciousness?

“**Man lies down and does not rise.** Till the heavens are no more, they will not awake **nor be roused** from their sleep. ... His sons come to honor, and he **does not know it**; they are brought low, and he **does not perceive it**” (Job 14:12, 21).

“The living know that they will die; but **the dead know nothing.** ... Nevermore will they have a **share in anything** done under the sun” (Ecclesiastes 9:5, 6).

# What is the end result of sin?

# 5 Answer:

The wages for (or the result of) sin is death, not everlasting life in hellfire. The wicked “perish,” or receive “death.” **The righteous receive “everlasting life.”**

**Oscar Cullmann .... After death, BEFORE THE RESURRECTION, no glorified body!**

“The hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, .....(John 5:28, 29).

But here it is a question **only of a retreat**, not of a final transformation of the body of death into a resurrection body. **Even those who Jesus raised up in His lifetime will die again, for they did not receive a resurrection body, the transformation of the fleshly body into a spiritual body does not take place until the End.**

We do not die into  
immortality, not as  
Cullmann saw it.  
**We die into God.**

**Russell E. Saltzman** is a dean in the North American Lutheran Church, assistant pastor of St. Matthew's Church in Riverside, Missouri

<https://www.firstthings.com/web-exclusives/2014/01/resurrection-vs-immortality>



[More images](#)

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No One Has Ascended Into Heaven  
But He Who Descended From Heaven



**Acts 2:34**

**For David is not  
ascended into the  
heavens: but he  
saith himself, The  
LORD said unto my  
Lord, Sit thou on  
my right hand,**





Gen 3:

22 And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, **lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever:**

23 Therefore the LORD God **sent him forth from the garden of Eden,** to till the ground from whence he was taken.

24 So **he drove out the man;** and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden **Cherubims,** and a **flaming sword** which turned every way, to **keep the way of the tree of life.**

# Immortality Of The Soul

The common belief is that the human soul **CANNOT DIE.**

It's whether it goes to purgatory, heaven or hell

# Resurrection Of The Dead

**Vs**

# Immortality Of The Soul

Bible

Tyndale

Martin Luther (Lutheran)

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**After The Break**



# PAUSE FOR QUESTIONS

1. Lazarus & man? Luke 16:14 – 31  
*(Judg 9:8-15; John 12:10)*
2. Christ ministered to disobedient of Noah's time? 1 Peter 3:18-20
3. Souls under the altar? Rev 6:9-10  
*(Vision of martyrs under altar! not in heaven?)*
4. Saints? Mary? David?
5. Burning forever, forever, eternally?

# What will happen to the wicked in hellfire?

## # 6 Answer:

The wicked die the second death in hellfire. If the wicked lived forever being tortured in hell, they would be immortal. But this is impossible because the Bible says God “alone has immortality” (1 Timothy 6:16). When Adam and Eve were driven from the Garden of Eden, an angel was posted to guard the tree of life so that sinners would not eat of the tree and “live forever” (Genesis 3:22–24). The teaching that sinners are immortal in hell originated with Satan and is completely untrue. God prevented this when sin entered this earth by guarding the tree of life.

## **# 7. When and how will hellfire be kindled?**

“So it will be at the end of this age. The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will ... cast them into the furnace of fire” (Matthew 13:40–42).

“They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them” (Revelation 20:9).

# When and how will hellfire be kindled?

#7 Answer:

The Bible says that God will kindle hellfire. After the holy city comes down out of heaven (Revelation 21:2), the wicked will attempt to capture it. At that time, God will rain down fire from heaven upon the earth, and it will devour the wicked. This fire is Bible hellfire.

## **# 8. How big and how hot will hellfire be?**

“The day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up” (2 Peter 3:10).



# How big and how hot will hellfire be?

#8 Answer:

Hellfire will be just as big as this earth because it will be the earth on fire. This fire will be so hot as to melt the earth and burn up all “the works that are in it.” The atmospheric heavens will explode and “pass away with a great noise.”

## **# 9. How long will the wicked suffer in the fire?**

“Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work” (Revelation 22:12).

“He will reward each according to his works” (Matthew 16:27).

“That servant who knew his master’s will, and did not ... do according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes. But he who did not know, yet committed things deserving of stripes, shall be beaten with few” (Luke 12:47, 48).

# How long will the wicked suffer in the fire?

# 9 Answer:

The Bible does not tell us how long the wicked will be punished before receiving death in the fire. God does specifically state, however, that all will be punished according to their deeds. This means some will receive longer punishment than others, based upon their works.



## # 10. How big and how hot will hellfire be?



“Behold, they shall be as stubble, the fire shall burn them; they shall not deliver themselves from the power of the flame; it shall not be a coal to be warmed by, nor a fire to sit before!” (Isaiah 47:14).

“I saw a new heaven and a new earth. ... And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away” (Revelation 21:1, 4).

# How big and how hot will hellfire be?

# 10 Answer:

Yes. The Bible specifically teaches that **hellfire will go out**—that there will not be left “**a coal to be warmed by, nor a fire to sit before.**” The Bible also says that in God’s new kingdom all “former things” will have passed away. Hell, being one of the former things, is included, so we have God’s promise that it will be abolished.

If God tortured His enemies in a fiery horror chamber throughout eternity, He would be more vicious and heartless than men have ever been in the worst of war atrocities. An eternal hell of torment would be hell for God also, who loves even the vilest sinner.

## # 11 What will be left when the fire goes out?

“ ‘Behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, and all the proud, yes, **all who do wickedly will be stubble**. And the day which is coming **shall burn them up** ... that will leave them **neither root nor branch**. ... You shall trample the wicked, for **they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet on the day that I do this**,’ says the Lord of hosts” (Malachi 4:1, 3).

# What will be left when the fire goes out?

# 11 Answer:

Notice the verse does not say the wicked will burn like asbestos, as many today believe, but rather like stubble, which will be burned up. The little word “**up**” denotes completion. Nothing but ashes will be left when the fire goes out. In Psalm 37:10, 20, the Bible says the wicked will go up in smoke and be completely destroyed.

## # 12. Will the wicked enter hell in bodily form and be destroyed both soul and body?

“It is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell” (Matthew 5:30).

“Rather fear Him who is **able to destroy both soul and body** in hell” (Matthew 10:28).

“The soul who sins shall die” (Ezekiel 18:20).<sup>2</sup>

**Oscar Cullmann ....**

**Man = LIVING SOUL**

It is important to see how different the New Testament anthropology is from that of the Greeks.

Body and soul are **both** originally good in so far as they are created by God;

they are **both** bad in so far as the deadly power of the flesh has hold of them.

**Both** can and must be set free by the quickening power of the Holy Spirit.

Will the wicked enter hell in bodily form and be destroyed both soul and body?

#12 Answer:

Yes. Real, living people enter hell in bodily form and are destroyed both soul and body. The fire from God out of heaven will fall upon real people and blot them out of existence.

## **# 13. Will the devil be in charge of hellfire?**

“The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire”  
(Revelation 20:10).

“I turned you to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all who saw you. ...  
You ... shall be no more forever” (Ezekiel 28:18, 19).



# Will the devil be in charge of hellfire?

#13 Answer:

Absolutely not! The devil will be cast into the fire, and it will turn him into ashes.

**# 14. Does the word “hell” as used in the Bible always refer to a place of burning or punishment?**

Answer: No. The word “hell” is used 54 times in the Bible (KJV), and in only 12 cases does it refer to “a place of burning.”

# Does the word “hell” as used in the Bible always refer to a place of burning or punishment?

The word "hell" is translated from several different words with various meanings, as indicated below:

- IN THE OLD TESTAMENT
  - 31 times from "Sheol," which means the grave."
- IN THE NEW TESTAMENT
  - 10 times from "Hades," which means "the grave."
  - 12 times from "Gehenna," which means "the place of burning."
  - 1 time from "Tartarus," which means "a place of darkness."
- 54 TIMES TOTAL

## **# 14. What is God's real purpose in hellfire?**

“Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels” (Matthew 25:41).

“Anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire” (Revelation 20:15).

“For yet a little while and the wicked shall be no more. ... The enemies of the Lord ... shall vanish. Into smoke they shall vanish away” (Psalm 37:10, 20).

# What is God's real purpose in hellfire?

#14 Answer:

God's purpose is that hell will destroy the devil, all sin, and the unsaved to make the world safe for eternity. Any vestige of sin left on this planet would be a deadly virus forever threatening the universe. It is God's plan to blot out sin from existence for all time!

## **# 15. Isn't the act of destroying the unsaved foreign to God's nature?**

“ ‘As I live,’ says the Lord God, ‘I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn, turn from your evil ways! For why should you die?’ ” (Ezekiel 33:11).

“The Son of Man did not come to destroy men's lives but to save them” (Luke 9:56).

“The Lord will rise up ... that He may do His work, His awesome work, and bring to pass His act, His unusual act” (Isaiah 28:21).

Isn't the act of destroying the unsaved foreign to God's nature?

#15 Answer:

Yes—the work of God has always been to save rather than to destroy. The work of destroying the wicked in hellfire is so foreign to God's nature that the Bible calls it His “unusual act.” God's great heart will ache at the destruction of the wicked. Oh, how diligently He works to save every soul! But if one spurns His love and clings to sin, God will have no choice but to destroy the unrepentant sinner when He rids the universe of the horrible, malignant growth called “sin” in the fires of the last day.

## **#16. What are God's post-hell plans for the earth and His people?**

“He will make an utter end of it. Affliction will not rise up a second time” (Nahum 1:9).

“I create new heavens and a new earth; and the former shall not be remembered or come to mind” (Isaiah 65:17).

“Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain” (Revelation 21:3, 4).



# What are God's post-hell plans for the earth and His people?

#16 Answer:

After hellfire goes out, God will create a new earth and restore it to His people—with all the beauties and glories of Eden before sin entered. Pain, death, tragedy, woe, tears, sickness, disappointment, sorrow, and all sin will be banished forever.

## Sin Will Not Rise Again

God promises that sin will never rise again. His people will be filled with perfect peace, love, joy, and contentment. Their lives of complete happiness will be far more glorious and thrilling than mere words could ever describe. The real tragedy of hell is in missing heaven. A person who chooses not to enter this magnificent kingdom has made the saddest choice of a lifetime.

# Immortality Of The Soul

The common belief is that the human soul **CANNOT DIE.**

It's whether it goes to purgatory, heaven or hell



# Resurrection Of The Dead

**Vs**

# Immortality Of The Soul

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Tyndale

Martin Luther (Lutheran)

John Milton (Calvinism)

Karl Barth (Lutheran)

Oscar Cullmann (Lutheran)

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**After The Break**

**END**

# Resurrection Of The Dead

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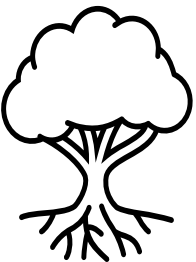
John Stott (Anglican)

12 1 Tim 6:16

# LIFE & DEATH OVER THE AGES

11

Gen 3:17,22,24



Rev 22:11

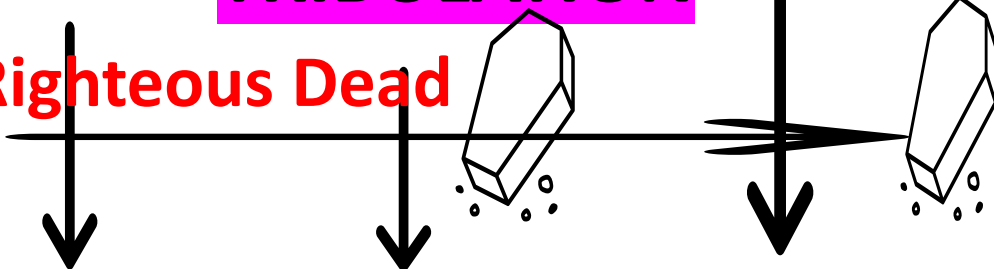
Matt 24:37,38,39

1 Thess 5:2,3; Rev 19:21

NOW

THE GREAT  
TRIBULATION

Righteous Dead



Wicked

Dead



Rev 20:1,2,3,7



1000 Years  
MILLENNIUM...

1

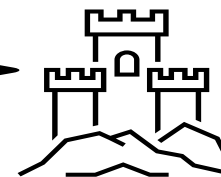


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1 Cor 15:52

1 Thess 4:16,17

Rev 21:1,2,3

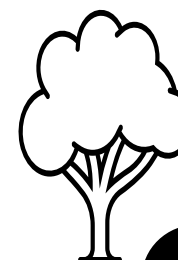


5

Rev 20:9



6



8

NEW EARTH.....

Rev 20:10

7



SECOND  
DEATH

Matt 10:28

10

Rev 20:12,13

4

13 2 Pet 2:4; Jude 6