



Lake of Fire

Psalm 11 Revelation 20:7-15 Matthew 25:31-46

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In the Book of Revelation, the Lord Jesus Christ is the **Conquering King** who utterly and thoroughly destroys His enemies.

† He is the **victorious Lamb** who *looks as if He were slain (= death), but stands (= resurrection)* in the middle of Heaven; because of His death and resurrection, everything in Creation worships and praises Him. Revelation 5

† Jesus is the **King of Kings and Lord of Lords** who rides a white horse, and uses His mighty Word to destroy His enemies. Revelation 19

† Today we heard that Jesus is the **Judge who sits on the Great White Throne**; and He throws the Devil, the Beast, the False Prophet, and even death itself into the *Lake of Fire*.

This *Lake of Fire* image is harsh Law meant to frighten you and turn you away from sin and to repentance and faith in Christ.

The last book of the Bible **collects** all the strong and powerful images of *Wrath and Judgement throughout Scripture* in this last, final warning to the world --- and to us -- to repent of our sin!

This *Lake of Fire* image is similar to the “*fire and brimstone*” of the Old Testament. *Fire and brimstone* is an Old Testament way to speak of **God’s wrath, condemnation, and judgment** on the ungodly and unrepentant. “*Brimstone*” is an archaic name for sulfur; it’s that harsh odor of volcanic activity.

In the Old Testament, the most memorable use of *fire and brimstone* is when God rained down *fire and brimstone* on **Sodom and Gomorrah**. It was Judgment Day for their *depraved homosexuality* and their *wicked lifestyles* ---

‡ Remember this is the story where not even 10 righteous people could be found in the entire city!

‡ This is the story where God sent 2 angels to rescue Lot and his family. Remember that the men of the city were so depraved and evil that the angels had to blind them in order to escape the city.

‡ This is also the story that as they were escaping the city, Lot’s wife looked back and she turned into a pillar of salt.

Fire and brimstone totally and thoroughly destroyed **Sodom and Gomorrah** and has forever since been a powerful image of **God's wrath, condemnation, and judgment** on sin, unbelief, and wickedness.

The *Lake of Fire* image is harsh **Law** meant to frighten you and turn you away from sin and to the **Gospel** of the Lord Jesus Christ

In our **Gospel lesson** for today, Jesus picks up on this dreadful image and says that evil, wicked unbelievers will be cast into the “**ETERNAL fire** prepared for the devil and his demons.”

Be sure not to *dismiss and minimize* this idea of *fire and brimstone*.

These are some of the **HARSHEST WORDS** that God uses to wake you up and warn you of the danger of sin! *Fire and brimstone* is meant to **frighten** you; its meant to lead you to **repentance**. It is meant to lead you to **confession** and the **forgiveness** of sins!

Many of you -- like me, grew up in the Midwest, or at least you have connections to the Midwest. Do you remember how you felt when the tornado sirens would blast throughout the town? A tornado siren meant that a tornado was sighted; you are in danger and you are to take cover immediately. Listen to this:

TORNADO SIREN 38 SECONDS

Its been over 25 years since I have heard one in real life, but the sound of a tornado siren still sets me on edge. Maybe it does you too.

The image of *Fire and brimstone* is like **God's tornado siren: it is a WARNING SIREN telling you of approaching danger! Judgment Day is coming and now is the time to repent while you still can!!**

Fire and brimstone teach us that Judgment Day is real, it is final, and for those who are **unrepentant and unbelieving**, the fully fury of God's *wrath, His fire and brimstone*, will fall upon you.

The Bible uses these harsh and severe images to call you to repentance. They are perhaps the most severe words in any language to warn you of the seriousness of sin! The sirens are blasting! The warning is serious! There is an urgency! God is calling out to you! Repent of your sins and trust in Christ while you still can!

Fire and Brimstone is a picturesque way to talk about *Hell* itself. The single most severe word the Bible uses to warn us of sin and call us to repent is the word **Hell**.

Hell is the *everlasting torment* of the wicked and unrepentant. Jesus describes Hell as being cast out in the “**outer darkness**” and the place of “**weeping and gnashing of teeth.**” It is **eternal prison**. It was meant for the devil and his demons; and now also for those who reject Christ.

Here is an example of how Jesus warns us of *Hell*:

Jesus said, “ But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear him who, after your body has been killed, has authority to throw you into **hell**. Yes, I tell you, fear him. Luke 12:5

In the **final** book of the Bible, the word picture of the “*Lake of Fire*” is God's **final** warning to repent and escape *Hell*. To show you how intense and serious God is, there are **FOUR WARNINGS** associated with *Lake of Fire* in the **final** two chapters of Holy Scripture:

And if anyone's name was **NOT** found written in the Book of Life, he was thrown into **the Lake of Fire**. **Revelation 21:15**

But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars—they will be consigned to **the lake burning with fire and brimstone**. **Revelation 21:8**

Nothing impure will ever enter [Heaven], nor will anyone who does what is **shameful or deceitful**, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life. **Revelation 21:27**

Outside are the dogs, those who practice magic arts, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters and everyone who loves and practices falsehood. **Revelation 22:15**

These words are harsh; God is warning you in **the most strenuous manner possible** --- *like a tornado siren* --- about sin and calling you to repent!

These words from Scripture are warnings to you to repent!

- † Do not let sin lead you astray!
- † Do not harden your heart!
- † Do not get entangled sin or distracted with the things of this world!
- † Do not mock God and ignore His warnings!
- † Don't get involved with rebellion or tangled up in immorality
- † Do not minimize the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ!

REPENT! Keep your heart soft to God's warnings & quickly turn away from your sin!

There is **ONLY ONE** way of escape; that is through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ! God sent His Son to rescue from *fire, brimstone, wrath, judgment and hell*.

The work of Jesus Christ for you was that He took your place under all these things.

Everything Jesus did, He did to rescue you from
fire, brimstone, wrath, judgment and hell.

- † On the cross, Jesus faced the *Wrath* of God for you. It is as if *fire and brimstone* was falling on Jesus as He suffered terribly and died miserably on the cross, in your place, and on your behalf. On the cross, Jesus faced the *Wrath* of God for you so you never will.
- † The 3 hours of darkness on Good Friday – remember when the sun stopped shining in the middle of the day --- indicated *God's Judgment* was on Jesus. God the Father declared His Son “**guilty!**” of your sin! Jesus was condemned and died in your place in that darkness. He faced the *Judgment of God* so that you are declared righteous: God the Father pronounces the verdict of “**not guilty!**” over you because He pronounced the verdict of “**Guilty!**” over His only begotten Son on the cross!
- † When Jesus hung on the cross, He cried out “My God My God, why have you forsaken Me?” God the Father cast Jesus aside as if in *Hell* itself. **There was no mercy and no grace for the Son of God on the cross.** Jesus was forsaken so that you never will be! Now your future does not include being cast into the lake of *fire and brimstone* nor will you be cast into the *eternal prison of hell*, but you have the Mercy and Grace of God; and the sure and certain hope of the resurrection of the dead and the life everlasting --- all because of Christ’s life, death, and resurrection!

Everything Jesus did,
He did to rescue you from
fire, brimstone, wrath, judgment and hell.

One day, every one of us will stand before the **Great White Throne** of the Lord Jesus Christ. He will Judge the Living and the Dead; every single person ever conceived will stand before Him... including you.

On that day, the only thing that is going to matter is if you believe in Jesus as your Savior from sin. The only thing that Jesus will look for is faith in His Death and Resurrection that took your sins away. Your life, your words, your actions, and your attitude will all reflect if you have faith or not.

Today listen to God's strenuous warnings in the last chapters of the Bible; and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ – the Savior God sent for you!

Everything Jesus did, He did to rescue you from
fire, brimstone, wrath, judgment and hell.

AMEN!