



8. How long is the “lake of fire”? Mal. 4:1-3; Ps. 37:9-11, 20; Ezek. 28:18-19; Rom. 6:23; Jn. 3:16; Phil. 3:18-19; Mt. 7:13; Ob. 1:16

The Bible repeatedly and consistently teaches annihilation – utter destruction – of the wicked. Though no time frame is given, yet it is clear that the lake of fire does not continue burning throughout eternity. It will “burn up” the wicked into “ashes.” This includes the devil himself. Revelation 12:12 tells us that Satan knows he has “a short time.” This does not indicate that he will be alive for eternity in hellfire.

9. What does the Bible say Sodom and Gomorrah suffered? Jude 7

10. How does Peter describe it? 2 Pet. 2:6

Jude and Peter describe the same event, with Jude saying that Sodom and Gomorrah suffered the vengeance of “eternal fire,” while Peter makes it clear that these cities were turned “into ashes.” We know for a fact that Sodom and Gomorrah are not still burning today.

11. What kind of fire did Jesus say would destroy the wicked? Mk. 9:43-44

12. In Isaiah, where Jesus was quoting from, what did Isaiah say that the “unquenchable fire” was burning? Isa. 66:24

Jesus spoke of “unquenchable fire” destroying the wicked. In the book of Isaiah, where Jesus was quoting from, Isaiah tells us that the fire was consuming “corpses.” In other words, the fire is NOT torturing living people, but burning up dead people. The fire is unquenchable – it can’t be put out until the job is done, and there’s nothing left to burn.

13. What kind of fire did Jeremiah say consumed Jerusalem? Jer. 17:27. Is Jerusalem still burning today?

14. What did Isaiah say could not be found after the final destruction? Isa. 47:14

Just like the example of Sodom and Gomorrah, we know that Jerusalem is not still burning today. The “unquenchable fire” was exactly as described in the previous questions – a fire that does not go out until the job is done. When the lake of fire has done its job, there will not be a coal left “to warm at.”

15. What is the purpose of the “lake of fire”? 2 Pet. 3:13; Rev. 21:1-4

16. Who was it prepared for? Mt. 25:41

17. Does God enjoy destroying the wicked? 2 Pet. 3:9; Ezek. 18:32; Isa. 28:21

The purpose of the lake of fire is to destroy sin, with the devil and his angels. God has no pleasure in destruction, especially of His own creatures which He has formed with His own hands. God loves the sinner, but cannot sanction or allow the sin. For both the good of the sinner and the good of the universe, God must destroy those who have chosen to follow their own ways, independent of the Source of life.