

Th122 Foundation Doctrines

Lesson Th122 – 28 Eternal Judgment – Judgment of Satan

Let me tell you about a man who was liked by everyone. He had only one real flaw; he loved to get drunk. It didn't matter whether it was beer, wine, or liquor, he would drink it all. When he was drunk, he would forget about all of his troubles. He was one of those people who became very happy when they were drunk. He would laugh, tell stories, sing songs, and even dance when he was drunk. His drinking friends called him the "life of the party." Now he only lived a few kilometers from his favorite bar. Each week when he received his paycheck, he would drive to the bar to meet his friends. They would drink and party late into the evening. Then, stumbling from the bar, he would get into his small truck and drive home.

This had been his weekly routine for many years, but it all changed one tragic night. While driving home drunk, he lost control of his truck and collided head-on with a small car. The man did not remember anything from the accident. He awoke to find himself in the local jail. He was accused of manslaughter. The driver of the car he had collided with had died. The man hated being in jail. His jail cell was small and the food was not very good. He remained in the local jail for many weeks, until he finally went to court and faced the judge. There was no defense for his actions. The judge found him guilty and sentenced him to life in prison. The man had hated the local jail, but it was nothing compared to the harsh conditions of prison. He would live out the rest of his life in agony and suffering.

The Bible says that God "will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil" (Eccl 12:14). Every living being which has ever been created, including the angels, will one day be judged. Some people think that hell is the eternal place of punishment. But this is not correct. Hell is the unpleasant place where the wicked dead await their final judgment. In some ways, it is like being in jail awaiting your day before the judge. There are also people who believe that Satan lives in hell. But this also is incorrect. No one, neither Satan, demons, nor the wicked, enjoys hell.

The Bible teaches us that Satan is our adversary. The name 'Satan,' in Hebrew, actually means 'the accuser.' In the Book of Revelation, John says that Satan is the accuser of the saints. He stands before God day and night trying to accuse believers of sins. Satan much prefers being in heaven to being in hell. Beginning in the Book of Job, we see Satan in heaven, lying and accusing a righteous man of God (Job 1:9-11). Again in Zechariah, Satan accuses the high priest and Jehovah rebukes him (Zech 3:1-2).

But the day will come when Satan will be judged and punished. It is prophesied that one day there will be a great Tribulation that will last for seven years. Halfway through the Tribulation, there will be a great war in heaven. Michael, the archangel, and the angels of God will war with Satan and his fallen angels. Satan will lose and he will be cast down to the earth. For three and one-half years he will rule over the entire earth through a man who is called the beast. Satan will also give power to another man, who will be called the false prophet. Together these three will rule the earth and persecute the Jewish nation for three and one-half years. In a previous lesson we learned that Christ will return to the earth at the end of the seven years of the

Great Tribulation. The beast and the false prophet will be cast alive into an eternal place of punishment called the lake of fire. If hell is the local jail, then the lake of fire is the horrific prison from which no one can escape. It is a place of great suffering and torment that is beyond imagination. It was created specifically as an eternal place of punishment for Satan and his fallen angels. Who can comprehend a place where one is constantly being burned alive and yet never dies? Yet this is their destiny.

We have learned that at Christ's return, Satan will be bound in chains. He will be locked in hell, which is a bottomless pit, for a period of one thousand years. All of the wicked in hell will be shocked at his arrival. Isaiah the prophet wrote this about Satan being cast into hell:

How you have fallen from heaven,
Morning star, son of the dawn!
You have been cast down to the earth,
You who once laid low the nations!
You said in your heart,
"I will ascend to the heavens;
I will raise my throne above the stars of God;
I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly,
On the utmost heights of the sacred mountain.
I will ascend above the tops of the clouds;
I will make myself like the Most High."
But you are brought down to the realm of the dead,
To the depths of the pit (Isa 14:12-15).

At the end of the thousand years, Satan will be released from hell for a short season. He will stir up all of the wicked who are alive on the earth to rebel against Christ. There will be one last war where all of the wicked are destroyed. Human history upon the earth will come to an end. Then this is what the Bible says will happen to Satan: "And the devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever" (Rev 20:10, NKJV).

Do not be deceived. Satan has already been condemned and his power stripped from him through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Satan knows that he and his angels cannot defeat God. He is, though, a great deceiver and would try to cause all of mankind to fear him. The truth is that he is the one who lives in fear of the day that he will receive judgment and be sentenced to eternity in the lake of fire.

This lesson is **important** because it teaches us the difference between hell and the lake of fire. It also makes clear that we do not need to fear Satan's power, for the Holy Spirit in us is greater than he is. Just as every person will be judged in the end, Satan will be judged too.

The **main truth** of this lesson is that Satan has already been defeated through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God's Son. He knows what his judgment will be and he wants to take as many people to the lake of fire with him as possible.

Let's **review** what you have learned, by answering these questions:

1. Does Satan still retain his power and authority? [Pause 5 seconds]
 - A. If you said, "No, Satan's power and authority was stripped from him through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ," then you are correct.
2. What will be the eternal punishment for Satan and his fallen angels? [Pause 5 seconds]
 - A. If you said that Satan and his fallen angels will be cast into the lake of fire, you are correct.
3. What is the difference between hell and the lake of fire? [Pause 5 seconds]
 - A. If you said hell is a temporary place and that the lake of fire is the eternal place of judgment, then you are correct.

Your **assignment** for this lesson is to listen to it at least three times, until you fully understand the difference between hell and the lake of fire. You should also be able to explain that Satan was judged and condemned through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and that his power and authority were stripped from him. Finally, you should be able to explain that Satan himself will receive eternal judgment and be cast alive into the lake of fire where he will be tormented for eternity.

Then share this teaching with fellow believers encouraging them not to fear Satan, but rather to become a witness to the lost, that they might be saved.