

LESSON ELEVEN

THE DESTINY OF THE WICKED

A. THE INTERMEDIATE STATE.

Scriptural Reference:

"And death and hell (Hades) were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death" (Revelation 20:14).

When the wicked die their souls go to Hades which is a prison house where they remain in conscious torment until the final resurrection and the White Throne Judgment. A vivid picture of Hades is given in the story of Lazarus and the rich man (Luke 16:19-31).

B. THE SECOND DEATH.

Scriptural Reference:

"This is the second death" (Revelation 20:14).

The destiny of the wicked is eternal separation from God, and the eternal sufferings of His wrath, known as the second death. Because of its terrible nature it is a subject from which one naturally shrinks; yet it is one that must be faced because it is positive truth of Divine revelation. The Christ of gentleness and love warned men against the sufferings of hell.

"For the wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23).

The "death" spoken of here does not mean cessation of existence any more than eternal life means the beginning of existence. Eternal life does not mean only to live forever, but to live in a state of blessedness forever. Eternal life does not deal with quantity as much as with quality of existence. Just so with eternal death.

Eternal death is a quality of existence, not cessation of being. Even in this life death can co-exist with life (Ephesians 2:1, I Timothy 5:6). What men call life God calls death.

There are two things the child of God gets: at the new birth, eternal life; at his resurrection, immortality; but he already had existence.

So it is in the case of the wicked; the second death does not mean cessation of existence, for he is dead now in this life. It means the eternal separation from God.

References: Revelation 20:14-15, Revelation 21:8.

C. THE NATURE OF THE LAKE OF FIRE.

The Scriptures that describe both Hades (the prison house) and Gehenna (lake of fire) describe the nature of hell. We shall not attempt to separate the descriptions for they both are similar in nature.

1. Extreme suffering - Revelation 20:10 - tormented.
2. Memory - Luke 16:25 - "Son, remember . . . "
3. Unsatisfied desire - Luke 16:24.
4. Remorse - Luke 16:27-28.
5. Shame and contempt - Daniel 12:2.
6. Worm dieth not - Mark 9:46.
7. Fire is not quenched - Mark 9:46.
8. Bottomless - Revelation 20:3.
9. Darkness - Matthew 25:30.
10. No rest - Revelation 14:11.

There will be no light, no sight, no music, no honor, and no hope in hell. What a dreadful, fearful place!

D. HELL WAS PREPARED FOR THE DEVIL AND HIS ANGELS.

Scriptural Reference:

"Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels" (Matthew 25:41).

Hell was never prepared for man. God made it for the devil and his followers. God has done everything He can do to stop man from going to this dreadful place. The Cross of Calvary is a roadblock stopping man from his slide down into a lost eternity. Christ died to stop men and women from going there. In the justice of God, hell was made for the devil. If man willfully chooses to be a follower of Satan, he definitely will spend eternity with Satan.

E. FIRE.

In the parable of the Tares (Matthew 13:36-43), Jesus explained every figurative word of the parable. He did not explain "fire." Why was this left without explanation? There can be only one answer. The word "fire" was not figurative.

