

## "Hell" in the Old Testament:

In the Old Testament, the word “**hell**” as we understand it today (a place of eternal torment) **doesn't actually appear** in the original Hebrew texts the same way it does in later Christian theology. Instead, the concept is usually represented by the Hebrew word Sheol:

### 1. Sheol – The Grave / The Pit / The Underworld (שְׁאוֹל)

**Sheol** appears **65 times** in the Hebrew Bible and is often translated in English Bibles (especially older ones like the KJV) as:

- *Hell*
- *Grave*
- *Pit*

But **Sheol** isn't specifically a place of punishment—it's more like a shadowy place of the dead, where *all* souls go (both righteous and wicked), a kind of neutral underworld. Sheol is the primary term used in the Old Testament for the underworld, a realm of the dead.

### Judgment and Punishment

Verses where Sheol is associated with consequences for wickedness or spiritual decline.

- **Deuteronomy 32:22** – "For a fire is kindled in mine anger, and shall burn unto the lowest hell (Sheol)..."
- **Psalms 9:17** – "The wicked shall be turned into hell (Sheol), and all the nations that forget God."
- **Proverbs 5:5** – "Her feet go down to death; her steps take hold on hell (Sheol)."
- **Proverbs 7:27** – "Her house is the way to hell (Sheol), going down to the chambers of death."

- **Isaiah 14:15** – "Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell (Sheol), to the sides of the pit."

## **The Grave / Death Itself**

Verses that describe Sheol as the general realm of the dead, akin to the grave.

- **Genesis 37:35** – "I will go down into the grave (Sheol) unto my son mourning."
- **1 Samuel 2:6** – "The LORD killeth, and maketh alive: he bringeth down to the grave (Sheol), and bringeth up."
- **Job 7:9** – "As the cloud is consumed and vanisheth away: so he that goeth down to the grave (Sheol) shall come up no more."
- **Ecclesiastes 9:10** – "There is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave (Sheol), whither thou goest."

## **Fear / Sorrow / Anguish**

References connecting Sheol with pain, trouble, and despair.

- **Psalms 116:3** – "The sorrows of death compassed me, and the pains of hell (Sheol) gat hold upon me: I found trouble and sorrow."
- **Psalms 18:5** – "The sorrows of hell (Sheol) compassed me about: the snares of death prevented me."
- **Jonah 2:2** – "Out of the belly of hell (Sheol) cried I, and thou heardest my voice."
- **Psalms 86:13** – "Thou hast delivered my soul from the lowest hell (Sheol)."

## **God's Power Over Sheol**

Verses showing that God is sovereign even over death and the grave.

- **Psalm 139:8** – "If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell (Sheol), behold, thou art there."
- **Job 26:6** – "Hell (Sheol) is naked before him, and destruction hath no covering."
- **Proverbs 15:11** – "Hell (Sheol) and destruction are before the Lord: how much more then the hearts of the children of men?"
- **Hosea 13:14** – "I will ransom them from the power of the grave (Sheol); I will redeem them from death..."

## Notes on Translation

KJV and older English translations often use "hell" for Sheol.

Modern translations (like ESV, NIV, NRSV) usually just say "Sheol" or "the grave" to avoid theological confusion with the New Testament concept of hell (Gehenna).

## 2. Gehenna (גֵּיהֶנוֹם, "Valley of Hinnom")

This term is mentioned in the later Old Testament (and more frequently in the New Testament) and refers to a valley outside Jerusalem known for its association with idolatrous practices, including child sacrifice (which is considered an abomination in the Bible). Gehenna eventually became a symbol of judgment and destruction, often used to depict a place of eternal punishment in the New Testament.

- **Jeremiah 7:31:** "They have built the high places of Topheth in the Valley of Ben Hinnom, to burn their sons and daughters in the fire, something I did not command, nor did it enter my mind."

- **Jeremiah 19:6:** "So beware, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when this place will no longer be called Topheth or the Valley of Ben Hinnom, but the Valley of Slaughter."

While **Gehenna** is not directly referred to as "hell" in the Old Testament, it takes on a more distinct and **darker meaning** in the New Testament, often used by Jesus to describe **the final destination for the wicked**.

### 3. Abaddon (אַבְדֹּן)

This term appears in the Old Testament, meaning "destruction" or "place of destruction," and is sometimes associated with a place of ruin or final judgment.

- **Job 26:6:** "The realm of the dead is naked before God; Destruction (Abaddon) lies uncovered."
- **Proverbs 15:11:** "Death and Destruction (Abaddon) lie open before the Lord—how much more do human hearts!"

### 4. The Pit (בֹּרַחַ, "Boor")

This is often associated with a place of death or destruction, which could be seen as a negative afterlife experience, similar to Sheol, but not necessarily the same. It is sometimes used to refer to a deep, consuming fate for the wicked.

- **Psalms 28:1:** "To you, Lord, I call; you are my Rock, do not turn a deaf ear to me. For if you remain silent, I will be like those who go down to the pit."
- **Ezekiel 32:18:** "Son of man, wail for the hordes of Egypt and consigned to the earth below, all the mighty nations—the leaders of the world—who went down to the grave (or pit), with their weapons of war."

## Summary:

In the Old Testament, **Sheol** is the primary term associated with the afterlife and is usually viewed as a neutral place where both the righteous and wicked end up. However, **Gehenna**, **Abaddon**, and the **Pit** introduce notions of destruction, judgment, and ruin that could be linked to later depictions of **hell** or punishment in the New Testament.

So, while **Sheol** is the most common term in the Old Testament, there are other terms, such as **Gehenna**, that take on a darker, more judgmental connotation, particularly in later biblical writings. These ideas gradually evolved, particularly in the intertestamental period and in the New Testament, into the more developed concept of **hell** as a place of eternal punishment for the wicked.

## New Testament “Hell”

### Gehenna (γέεννα) – The Place of Final Judgment

**Gehenna** refers to a place of fiery punishment and is mentioned primarily in the Synoptic Gospels. It symbolizes the final abode of the wicked.

- **Matthew 5:22** – "But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment... and whoever says, 'You fool!' will be liable to hell (Gehenna) of fire."
- **Matthew 5:29-30** – "If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out... for it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell (Gehenna)."
- **Matthew 10:28** – "Fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell (Gehenna)."
- **Matthew 18:9** – "It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into hell (Gehenna) of fire."
- **Matthew 23:15, 33** – "You make him twice as much a child of hell (Gehenna) as yourselves... You serpents, you brood of vipers, how are you to escape being sentenced to hell (Gehenna)?"

- **Mark 9:43-47** – "It is better for you to enter life crippled than with two hands to go to hell (Gehenna), to the unquenchable fire."
- **Luke 12:5** – "Fear him who, after he has killed, has authority to cast into hell (Gehenna)."

## **Hades (ᾍδης) – The Realm of the Dead**

**Hades** parallels the Old Testament concept of Sheol, representing the temporary abode of the dead.

- **Matthew 11:23** – "And you, Capernaum... you will be brought down to Hades."
- **Matthew 16:18** – "The gates of Hades shall not prevail against it."
- **Luke 10:15** – "And you, Capernaum... you shall be brought down to Hades."
- **Luke 16:23** – "In Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off."
- **Acts 2:27, 31** – "You will not abandon my soul to Hades... he was not abandoned to Hades."
- **Revelation 1:18** – "I have the keys of Death and Hades."
- **Revelation 6:8** – "And Hades followed him."
- **Revelation 20:13-14** – "Death and Hades gave up the dead... Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire."

## **Tartarus (ταρταρώ) – The Abyss for Fallen Angels**

**Tartarus** appears only once and refers to a place of punishment for rebellious angels.

- **2 Peter 2:4** – "God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell (Tartarus) and committed them to chains of gloomy darkness."

## Symbolic and Apocalyptic Imagery

These passages use vivid imagery to describe the consequences of sin and final judgment.

- **Revelation 20:14-15** – "Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire... And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire."
- **Revelation 21:8** – "But as for the cowardly, the faithless... their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death."

## Hell as Metaphore

### 1. Gehenna – The Burning Waste of the Soul

**Metaphor:** *The inner ruin and spiritual decay of one who resists transformation.*

Gehenna was an actual valley outside Jerusalem, a place historically associated with idolatry and later with burning refuse. In metaphorical terms, it becomes the symbol of what happens when one's inner life is consumed by hatred, pride, or unrepentant desire. It is not necessarily about eternal punishment, but about the *consequence of living apart from divine love and truth*. Gehenna is where things go to be consumed because they can no longer be transformed.

"It is better to lose a part of yourself than to be thrown wholly into Gehenna..." — a metaphor for the cost of keeping destructive aspects of the self.

### 2. Hades – The Shadow of Unawareness

**Metaphor:** *The realm of the unconscious — spiritual sleep, forgetfulness, or absence of awareness of truth.*

Hades, like Sheol in the Old Testament, is a place of the dead — not evil, just *separated from life*. Metaphorically, it's the state of being *disconnected from the divine presence*, living without awareness of spiritual truth or love. Jesus speaks of it to contrast *life* with *death*, not merely physical but spiritual.

When he says, "The gates of Hades will not prevail," he is promising that death — separation, unawareness, entropy — has no ultimate power over the Church, or truth.

### **3. Tartarus – The Chains of Pride**

**Metaphor:** *The spiritual exile that occurs when one exalts self above the divine.*

Tartarus is only mentioned once, in reference to fallen angels. As metaphor, it speaks to the condition of beings who refuse to serve truth and instead seek power, control, or rebellion. It's a deep abyss — not geographic, but existential. The farther one turns from truth, the darker and deeper the separation becomes.

### **4. The Lake of Fire – The Great Purifier**

**Metaphor:** *The consuming fire of divine truth and love that reveals and refines all things.*

This is not simply punitive — fire in Scripture often symbolizes purification (Malachi 3:2-3, 1 Corinthians 3:13). The "lake of fire" might be seen as the *consuming encounter with divine reality*, which destroys illusion, pride, lies — everything false. It could even be, paradoxically, a hopeful metaphor: one of transformation, though painful.

What cannot survive divine truth is what was never real in the first place.

### **5. Hell as Metaphor for Separation from God**

Across all these, the common thread is **separation** — from truth, from love, from self, from God. Whether that's a temporary condition (like Hades), a destructive path (Gehenna), or a fundamental choice of rebellion (Tartarus), it always carries the sense of **loss**, not just punishment. But even then, the tone is often cautionary, not damning — inviting repentance, awareness, and return.

## Qualifications for Hell

### 1. Those Who Reject God's Love and Truth

In the New Testament, hell is often presented as the final consequence for those who continually reject God's invitation to transformation and reconciliation through Christ. This rejection isn't simply about ignorance but a conscious, sustained choice to resist the work of love and truth.

- **Matthew 23:33:** "You serpents, you brood of vipers, how are you to escape being sentenced to hell (Gehenna)?" — Jesus directs this to religious leaders who, despite their knowledge, actively resist the truth and use their power to deceive and oppress.
- **John 3:36:** "Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him." — Those who reject belief in Christ (the embodiment of God's love and truth) are considered outside the scope of salvation.

This doesn't imply a one-time rejection but a life lived in opposition to God's transformative love — whether through active rebellion or indifference.

### 2. Those Who Live in Persistent Sin (Without Repentance)

The Bible speaks of hell as a place for those who live in unrepentant sin, particularly sins that are seen as a rejection of divine justice, mercy, and love. In the New Testament, sin isn't just about moral failings; it's tied to the state of the heart in relation to God.

- **Matthew 5:22:** "But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment... whoever says, 'You fool!' will be liable to hell (Gehenna) of fire." — This emphasizes the deep internal transformation required in living according to God's will. Anger, hatred, and contempt for others signify a failure to embody God's love.
- **Galatians 5:19-21:** "Now the works of the flesh are evident... those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God." — This lists sins that disqualify someone from eternal life, including sexual immorality, idolatry, and drunkenness, among others. The idea here is not just that individuals struggle with sin, but that they persist in it without seeking redemption or transformation.

### 3. Those Who Harm Others and Cause Spiritual Death

The Bible consistently warns about the dangers of leading others astray or causing spiritual harm to others. This is particularly serious because it not only affects the individual but has a ripple effect on the broader community.

- **Matthew 18:6:** "Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea." — Those who harm or mislead others, particularly vulnerable individuals in faith, are seen as deserving of severe consequences.
- **Luke 17:1-2:** "It is inevitable that stumbling blocks come, but woe to him through whom they come! It would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck and he were cast into the sea, than that he should cause one of these little ones to stumble."

The issue here is not just the personal sin, but how one's actions affect the community and others' spiritual journeys.

### 4. Those Who Are Spiritually Blind or Hardened in Heart

Biblically speaking, hell also seems to be a consequence of spiritual blindness — the inability or unwillingness to perceive and respond to

God's work in the world. Those whose hearts are hardened against God's will, despite His continued call to them, may end up in this state of separation.

- **Matthew 13:15:** "For this people's heart has grown dull, and with their ears they can barely hear, and their eyes they have closed..." — Those who persist in spiritual blindness, not seeking God, could be seen as moving toward hell because they do not choose to open their hearts to God's transforming grace.
- **Romans 1:18-32:** This passage speaks of individuals who, despite knowledge of God, choose to suppress the truth and worship idols. God, in turn, allows them to live in the consequences of their choices, which can ultimately lead to spiritual separation from Him.

## 5. Those Who Have No Love for Others

At the heart of the Gospel is love — love for God and love for others. In this context, hell could be seen as the consequence of living a life devoid of this love, even if it's due to neglect rather than active malice.

- **Matthew 25:41-46:** In the parable of the sheep and the goats, Jesus describes the final judgment where those who fail to show compassion, kindness, and love to "the least of these" are cast into the "eternal fire" prepared for the devil and his angels. The test of true discipleship is love and action toward the marginalized.

## 6. Those Who Deny the Power of Christ to Save

Ultimately, in Christian doctrine, hell is often viewed as the ultimate rejection of the *grace of God revealed in Christ*. Those who refuse to accept that salvation is available through Christ, and who instead persist in trusting their own way, are said to be rejecting God's invitation.

- **John 14:6:** "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." — This passage underscores that rejecting Christ, in Christian belief, means rejecting the only path to reconciliation with God.

## Summary: A Nuanced Understanding

Biblical references suggest that hell is a **state of separation from God** — a place for those who reject God's love, truth, and grace, particularly those who live in ways that hurt others or refuse the transformative power of love. The key is not necessarily the specific actions someone has committed, but whether they have chosen to *align* with God's love and truth or not. This aligns with the larger Christian message of redemption, grace, and transformation — that anyone, no matter their past, can turn toward God and find salvation.

The concept of hell, then, in the biblical narrative, isn't about the eternal punishment of individuals but the painful consequence of living in a way that rejects love and truth, whether knowingly or through hardened hearts.

## Salvation vs Death

### 1. The Universal Offer of Salvation

Jesus' sacrifice on the cross — in Christian theology — was for *all people*, not just a select few. **1 John 2:2** says that Christ is the "propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world." The scope of salvation is universal, meaning that all have been given the opportunity to be reconciled to God. The death of Jesus is a payment for the consequences of sin for everyone, regardless of past actions.

- **2 Corinthians 5:19** also speaks of God "not counting people's sins against them," implying that God's attitude towards the world is one of grace, extending forgiveness through Christ.

This suggests that no one is left out from the possibility of salvation, and there's a great deal of room for the belief that anyone who earnestly seeks God will find Him.

### 2. Free Will and Personal Responsibility

If salvation is available to all, then the concept of *rejecting* it must also be available — not as a punishment but as a **choice**. In a world where human free will exists, it would follow that the choice to accept or reject God's

grace is ultimately up to the individual. This is central to the Christian understanding of love and relationship: God does not force anyone to love Him, and genuine love and connection cannot be coerced.

The Bible speaks of a **willful rejection** of the truth as a serious matter, especially when the opportunity for reconciliation has been made clear:

- **Romans 1:18-20** speaks of those who "suppress the truth by their wickedness," and **John 3:19** says that "light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil." These verses suggest that while God reveals Himself to all, some actively choose to turn away from Him.

### 3. Knowing and Willful Rejection

When we speak of those who "KNOWINGLY reject Life," we are getting to the heart of the matter: *conscious, willful rejection after full exposure to God's love and truth*. The key here is that **God doesn't condemn anyone arbitrarily**. If someone fully understands the gift of life and chooses to reject it — not because they've misunderstood, but because they've made a conscious choice to turn from it — then that decision, the Bible seems to suggest, comes with severe consequences.

In a sense, **hell**, or the "lake of fire," could then be seen as the final expression of that choice. It's not just a place of suffering, but a symbol of the **irreversible consequence of rejecting Life**, to the point of total separation from God and His sustaining presence.

- **Hebrews 10:26-31** speaks of the "willful sin" of those who reject the gospel after having received the knowledge of truth, implying that such a rejection leads to a fate where no further sacrifice for sins remains. This speaks to the seriousness of rejecting God after understanding the gospel.

### 4. The Lake of Fire as Final Separation

The "lake of fire" imagery in Revelation (often misunderstood as simply eternal torment) could be more accurately seen as the **ultimate**

**separation** from God. It may symbolize the *end of the possibility* of spiritual change, transformation, or redemption — a place where any lingering capacity for repentance is removed because the person has entirely rejected God's life-giving grace.

**Those who knowingly and fully reject God's grace after having it fully revealed to them** may find themselves in this place of eternal disconnection, no longer capable of the transformation that comes with being in the presence of God's love.

## 5. The Nature of Eternal Life vs. Eternal Death

In Christian thought, eternal life is not just a never-ending existence but an **abiding relationship with God** (John 17:3). Conversely, hell or the "lake of fire" could be seen as a state of **eternal separation**, where life as God intended — communion, connection, and eternal growth — is no longer possible.

In this understanding, hell is not eternal existence in torment but **eternal Dead**— a state of spiritual death, where the soul is no more at all. The idea is that one's own choice to remain apart from God **results in a spiritual annihilation**, not in eternal torment.

### Conclusion:

So, in a balanced view of the biblical narrative:

- **God's desire is for all to be saved**, and He goes to great lengths to reveal His truth to humanity.
- **Free will** allows for the possibility of rejecting this grace, but that rejection must be an informed, willful choice.
- The **lake of fire** represents the ultimate consequence of **knowing rejection** of life — not a punishment in the traditional sense, but a **final separation from the divine source of all life**. IE - Death.

- God's grace is available to all, but **eternal life** is offered to those who accept it, and for those who consciously reject it after knowing it, the consequence is eternal separation — the complete loss of communion with God.

## So then what Happens after death?

### Revelation 20:1–6 (ESV)

1. Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding in his hand the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain.
2. And he seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years,
3. and threw him into the pit, and shut it and sealed it over him, **so that he might not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were ended.** After that he must be released for a little while.
4. Then I saw thrones, and seated on them were those to whom the authority to judge was committed. Also I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. **They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.**
5. (The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.) This is the first resurrection.
6. Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection! Over such the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, **and they will reign with him for a thousand years.**

### Interpretive Highlights:

- The "**thousand years**" (millennium) is a time of **peaceful reign** with Christ, where Satan is **no longer able to deceive** the nations.

- It is also a time when those who were faithful unto death (especially martyrs) are **resurrected** and **reign** with Christ.
- There is a distinction between the **first resurrection** (for the righteous) and a later one (implied for the rest of the dead).
- After the thousand years, Satan is **released for a short time** (verse 7 and beyond), followed by the final judgment.

### What is the Purpose of the First Resurrection?

The **First Resurrection** is to **raise to life** those who have already been **redeemed, faithful, and chosen (They who HAVE chosen)**, so they can:

- **Reign with Christ** for 1,000 years (Revelation 20:4–6)
- Be **priests of God and Christ**
- Be **exempt from the second death** (eternal destruction) IE Eternal Already
- Begin the **Kingdom age** where peace, justice, and truth are taught to the world without Satan's deception

It is **not** a resurrection for judgment.

### Who Qualifies for the First Resurrection?

Those who:

1. **Believe in and follow Jesus Christ** — in Spirit and truth - John 11:25–26 – “Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live.”
2. **Remain faithful** — even in suffering or persecution - Matthew 24:13 – “The one who endures to the end will be saved.”
3. **Do not worship the beast** or take its mark (i.e., reject evil systems of deception)

4. Born of the Spirit - John 3:5–6 – “Unless one is born of water and the Spirit...”
5. **Are written in the Book of Life** - Philippians 4:3, Revelation 3:5
6. **Live holy and blameless** lives, clothed in righteousness through grace - IE that we participate in the Life of Christ - Romans 6:5 – “For if we have been united with Him in a death like His...”

These are the "**blessed and holy**" ones — spiritually alive, fully reconciled to God **before** the millennium begins.

### **How do we do this?**

1. **John 3:16–17** *“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”*

### **Belief in Jesus = Eternal Life**

2. **John 5:24** *“Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.”*

### **Hear + Believe = Already Passed from Death to Life**

3. **John 6:40** *“For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.”*

### **Looking to the Son in trust = Resurrection Promise**

**4. Luke 10:25–28** *A lawyer asks: “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?”* **Jesus responds:** *“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.”* **Then He says:** *“Do this, and you will live.”*

### **Love for God and Neighbor — True Heart Condition**

**5. Matthew 19:16–17, 21** *“Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life?”* *Jesus answers: “If you would enter life, keep the commandments... If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.”*

### **Key: Obedience + Detachment from wealth + Following Jesus**

**6. Matthew 16:24–27 (ESV)** *Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul? For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done.”*

### **Jesus then turns to all the disciples and lays down the conditions of true discipleship:**

- Deny your ego/self-will
- Embrace suffering, sacrifice, or rejection (*your cross*) In other terms, accept your condition, and give it to God.
- Walk in His steps

### **In Other Gospels (same message):**

- **Mark 8:34–38**

- **Luke 9:23–26** (*adds: “daily” take up your cross*)

### **Summary:**

Jesus is inviting — not forcing — every person to **enter into a life of transformation**. To **deny oneself** is to dethrone ego. To **take up your cross** is to be willing to endure hardship, even death, for love and truth. And to **follow Him** is to walk the same road — into resurrection.

### **What Is the Purpose of the Second Resurrection?**

The **Second Resurrection** occurs **after the 1,000-year millennium** (Revelation 20:5, 11–13). Its purpose is:

- 1. To raise all the dead who were not in the First Resurrection**  
– This includes **everyone who ever lived** but was not yet judged or redeemed.
- 2. To give a fair and righteous judgment to each person**  
– Based on their **works**, their **response to truth**, and whether their names are **found in the Book of Life**.
- 3. To finalize the eternal outcomes**  
– Either entrance into eternal life (if written in the Book of Life), or eternal destruction in the lake of fire (Revelation 20:15).

### **Who Qualifies for the Second Resurrection?**

Those who:

- 1. Were not part of the First Resurrection** (Revelation 20:5)  
– This includes those who lived and died without ever knowing Christ.

- 2. Lived during times or places without access to the truth**
  - Many people throughout history who never had a real chance to know Jesus.
- 3. Were spiritually blind, deceived, or confused**
  - The millennium serves as a time of peace, learning, and **true revelation**, without Satan’s deception (Revelation 20:1–3).
- 4. May yet be written in the Book of Life**
  - Revelation 20:12–13 describes books being opened, **including** the Book of Life — suggesting a final opportunity to be found **justified**.

## **Final Judgment – Not Just Punishment**

*“And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened...”*  
(Revelation 20:12)

This is a moment of **divine fairness**. Everyone receives judgment **based on what they’ve done and what they’ve known**. The second resurrection offers the opportunity for many to finally **see clearly** and respond to truth — before the final separation of good and evil.

## **SO THEN what get’s thrown into the lake of fire?**

### **1. The Beast (Antichrist system)**

*“The beast was captured... and these two were thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur.”*  
– **Revelation 19:20**

The **beast** symbolizes a corrupt world empire, driven by deception, domination, and rebellion against God’s kingdom.

### **2. The False Prophet**

*“...who had performed the signs on its behalf... With these signs he had deluded those who had received the mark...”*

– **Revelation 19:20**

The **false prophet** represents spiritual deception — a figure/system that uses signs, lies, and religious authority to draw people away from truth.

### **3. Satan (the Devil)**

*“And the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire... and will be tormented day and night forever and ever.”*

– **Revelation 20:10**

The **enemy of all life** — the accuser, deceiver, and adversary — is thrown in **after** his final rebellion at the end of the millennium.

### **4. Death**

*“Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire.”*

– **Revelation 20:14**

God **destroys death itself**, showing it has **no power** in the new creation. This is a fulfillment of the promise: *“The last enemy to be destroyed is death”* (1 Corinthians 15:26).

### **5. Hades (the Grave / Sheol)**

*“...and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire.”*

– **Revelation 20:14**

This represents **the end of the realm of the dead** — no more separation, decay, or spiritual sleep. Everything that keeps souls apart from life is gone.

## 6. Anyone Not Found in the Book of Life

*“And if anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.”*

– **Revelation 20:15**

### What is the Book of Life?

The **Book of Life** is God's eternal record of those who belong to Him — those who choose **life, truth, and love**, either in this age or in the age to come. It represents **eternal citizenship** in God’s kingdom.

*“...only those whose names are written in the Lamb’s book of life.”*

– **Revelation 21:27**

*“...rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”*

– **Luke 10:20**

### So Let Us Remember God’s Heart:

*“The Lord is... not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”*

– **2 Peter 3:9**

God desires to save — and the Book of Life may be more **inclusive** than some traditions imagine. He **knows every soul**— every hardship, wound, confusion, or deception they suffered. And He judges with **perfect justice and mercy**.

### Who Did Jesus Come to Save?

#### 1. The Whole World

*“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”*

– **John 3:16**

*“God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.”*

— **John 3:17**

Jesus came for **everyone** — across every race, time, and place. Salvation is offered to *all*.

## **2. The Lost**

*“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”*

— **Luke 19:10**

Those wandering in darkness, confusion, shame, or rebellion — **He came looking for them**, not waiting for them to find Him.

## **3. Sinners**

*“I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.”*

— **Luke 5:32**

He didn't come for the “put-together,” but for the **broken**, the **outcasts**, the **guilty**, the **forgotten** — those in need of mercy.

## **4. The Sick and Wounded**

*“It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick.”*

— **Mark 2:17**

He came to **heal hearts**, **restore minds**, and **bring hope** to those weighed down by life, sin, or sorrow.

## **5. His Own — and Yet, Even More Than That**

*“I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.”*

— **Matthew 15:24**

...But then...

*“I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also... and there shall be one flock and one shepherd.”*

— **John 10:16**

Jesus first came to **Israel**, the covenant people — but His mission expanded to **include the nations**, fulfilling the promise to Abraham: *all families of the earth will be blessed.*

### **Summary:**

Jesus came to save: All who are **lost** - All who are **hurting** - All who are **bound in sin** - All who are forgotten or rejected - All who are seeking truth and love - **Everyone**, regardless of background, once the light reaches them.

And even those who never had the chance in this life — the story isn't over.

*“This is a trustworthy saying... Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners — of whom I am the worst.”*

— **1 Timothy 1:15**

**If the Father wanted ALL mankind saved, and Jesus paid the price for ALL mankind, and the Father gave ALL Judgment to Jesus and Jesus came NOT to judge but to save?**

### **Final Thought:**

Those **not found in the Book of Life** are **not those who failed**, nor are they those of us humans who have been deceived, even to the worst of us, but those who ultimately **refused**:

- Refused light after being shown it - the Wicked and Unrepentant (Satan or spirit of satan)
- Refused love after being surrounded by it - Those who Oppress or Harm (Satan or spirit of satan)
- Refused life even when it was freely given. - The proud and Arrogant who suppress truth (Satan or spirit of satan)

They are not condemned for **not knowing** — they have **CHOSEN WHILE knowing LIFE and still rejecting LIFE**. They condemn themselves.

### **Revelation 14:9–11 (ESV)**

*“If anyone worships the beast and its image and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand, he also will drink the wine of God's wrath, poured full strength into the cup of his anger, and he will be tormented with fire and sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever, and they have no rest, day or night...”*

This passage speaks specifically about **those who worship the beast** — not everyone, but a particular group identified in Revelation's vision.

**Revelation 20:10** “The devil... was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur... and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.”

**No human will worship the beast in truth, for it would be by force, and not for love. (This is also a clue as to WHY we have fractured minds, for we cannot or will not worship death and we have refused to worship pain and suffering imposed upon us) They who will worship the beast are they of darkness and satan who already have chosen death while knowing the fullness of life. (Long before mankind) No human has known the fullness of life, nor CAN we until such time as we are in the fullness of Spirit - IE, after we die the physical death.**