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Satan's End

The Lake of Fire — Day and Night, Forever and Ever

The Final Judgment of the Deceiver Who Deceived the Whole World

Revelation 20:10, *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.*

Overview.

Element	Content
The Subject	The devil who deceived them
The Action	Was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone
The Company	Where the beast and the false prophet are
The Duration	They will be tormented day and night forever and ever

Introduction.

> **✦ The Nuremberg Sentences — October 1946**
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> When the **Nuremberg verdicts** were announced in **October 1946**, survivors, witnesses, and victims' families described a strange

> emptiness. Justice had been done ten of the most powerful perpetrators of the Holocaust had been executed. And yet something felt incomplete. The sentences were real. The executions were real. But the scale of evil they addressed the six million murdered, the civilisations destroyed, the children killed demanded more than ten hangings could provide.
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> One survivor, **Elie Wiesel**, wrote years later: *'There is a justice we cannot provide. We can punish the architects. We cannot punish the idea. We can execute the men. We cannot execute the spirit that moved them. A justice adequate to the Holocaust would require eternity.'*
>
> Wiesel was right. And Revelation 20:10 provides exactly that. The one who stands behind every genocide, every Holocaust, every act of mass evil in human history the 'ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world' receives a sentence that requires eternity to complete. Not because God is cruel, but because only eternity is proportionate to the evil of a being who has spent six thousand years destroying the image of God in human beings.
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> *Day and night. Forever and ever. The sentence is the measure of the crime.*

Revelation 20:10 is one verse. It is also one of the most theologically significant verses in the Bible.

Because it settles permanently the question of Satan's ultimate fate, demonstrates the eternal nature of conscious punishment, and provides the framework for understanding the Great White Throne judgments that follow in verses **11–15**.

Context.

Revelation 20:10 is a single verse, but it occupies a precise and necessary position in the sequence of **Revelation 20**.

Satan's casting into the lake of fire occurs after the final rebellion (**V 7–9**) and before the Great White Throne judgment (**V 11–15**).

The order is theologically significant.

Event	Significance of Sequence
The Beast and False Prophet cast in (**Revelation 19:20**)	At the Second Coming, a thousand years before this moment. The lieutenants are imprisoned first the army is decapitated before the campaign ends.
Satan bound in the abyss (**Revelation 20:1–3**)	Not the lake of fire, yet a temporary confinement for the duration of the Millennium. The sentence is staged deliberately.
The final rebellion and its destruction (**Revelation 20:7–9**)	Satan organises one final act of defiance. It is destroyed instantly. His last move is his most futile.
Satan cast into the lake of fire (**Revelation 20:10**)	THIS VERSE — Permanent judgment. The lake of fire. Day and night, forever and ever.
The Great White Throne (**Revelation 20:11–15**)	Human beings judged and sentenced. The structural evil is removed first; individual judgment follows.

> *'God could have cast Satan into the lake of fire immediately after the cross, when the decisive victory was won. Instead, He stages the judgment using Satan's ongoing activity to accomplish His sovereign purposes, including the final proof of human depravity in the Millennium.*
> *The lake of fire comes at exactly the right moment: after the last evidence has been presented, after the last rebellion has been crushed, after the last purpose has been served. Not one moment too early. Not one moment too late.'*

I. The Subject — 'The Devil who deceived who them'

> **Revelation 20:10,** *"The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone..."*

The Devil who deceived them'

John identifies Satan at this moment not by his power or his titles but by his characteristic activity: **Deception**.

'The devil who deceived them' the article is definitive. The participle is descriptive. This is who he is at his core: **the deceiver**.

- The one who deceived Eve.
- The one who deceived the nations.
- The one who deceived the multitudes into following him into the fire at the end of the Millennium.

Deception is his nature, his method, and ultimately his indictment.

The deceiver cannot deceive his way out of the lake of fire.
The father of lies cannot lie his way past the judgment of God.

The one who used words to distort reality for six thousand years meets the One whose word is reality and there are no more words that help him.

> *In **John 8:44**, Jesus called Satan 'the father of lies.' He was the first liar. The first creature in the universe to assert a reality other than God's reality.*
> *Every lie ever told, every deception ever practised, every false religion, every distortion of truth, every betrayal of trust traces its lineage to him.*
> *When he is cast into the lake of fire, the source of the world's deception is permanently removed. The lake of fire is the end of lying.*

II. The Lake of Fire — The Place.

What Is the Lake of Fire?

The lake of fire (**limen pyros**) is described in Revelation as burning with brimstone (sulphur). It is the final, permanent place of judgment.

- Distinct from **Hades** (the temporary holding place of the dead),
- The abyss (the prison of certain demons), and
- **Gehenna** (the valley of Hinnom, used by Jesus as a picture of hell).

The lake of fire is the ultimate, eternal, irreversible place of judgment.

Description	What It Tells Us
Lake (not a river or stream)	A contained body those in it do not flow out. It is a permanent location of immersion, not a temporary passage through.
Fire	The consistent biblical symbol of divine judgment on sin consuming, painful, inescapable. Used from Sodom and Gomorrah (**Genesis 19:24**) to the last judgment.
Brimstone (sulphur)	Associated specifically with divine judgment in the OT (**Genesis 19:24; Ezekiel 38:22**). The combination of fire and sulphur produces an intense, enduring, irreversible burning.
Prepared for the devil and his angels (**Matthew 25:41**)	The lake of fire was not created for human beings it was prepared for Satan and his fallen angels. Human beings enter it only by choosing to align with the one for whom it was prepared.

III. 'Where the beast and the False Prophet are'

> **Revelation 20:10b,** *"...where the beast and the false prophet are."*

The Present Tense — 'Are'

This is present tense. The beast and the false prophet were cast into the lake of fire in **Revelation 19:20** at the Second Coming, over a thousand years before this moment.

When Satan is cast in, the text says they 'are' there present tense. They have been there for the entire Millennial Kingdom.

This is one of the most significant grammatical details in the passage.

The beast and false prophet have been in the lake of fire for a thousand years when Satan arrives.

- They are still there.
- They are not annihilated.
- They are not asleep.
- They are not in a reduced state of consciousness.

They are present tense. Alive. Conscious. There.

This verse alone demolishes annihilationism and soul sleep as interpretations of the final judgment.'

> *The present tense 'are' is the grammatical proof that the lake of fire is not annihilation.*
> *If the beast and false prophet had been annihilated at the Second Coming, they could not 'be' anywhere a thousand years later. The fact that they 'are' in the lake of fire present tense, a millennium after being cast in proves that conscious existence continues in the lake of fire.*
> *Hell is not the end of existence.*
> *It is the continuation of existence in permanent separation from God.*

IV. 'Tormented day and night forever and ever'

> **Revelation 20:10c,** *"And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever."*

'Tormented' — Conscious Suffering

The Greek ***basanisthēsontai*** (will be tormented) is from ***basanizō*** a word that specifically refers to conscious, felt pain.

It is used in **Matthew 8:29,** *the demons cry out 'Have You come here to torment us?*

In **Revelation 11:10**, *the two witnesses 'tormented those who dwell on the earth',*

In **Revelation 14:10**, *'he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone'*.

The word cannot be applied to unconscious annihilation it requires a conscious subject experiencing the torment.

The lake of fire is a place of conscious, felt, eternal suffering for those who are in it. This is not a conclusion I enjoy drawing. It is a conclusion that the text demands. To take "tormented" as anything other than conscious suffering is to use the word in a way that Greek grammar does not permit.

Eternal Duration

'Day and night forever and ever'

This phrase means into the ages of the ages is the strongest possible expression of eternity in Greek.

It is the same phrase used for:

Usage of 'Forever and Ever' in Revelation	What It Refers To
'Who lives forever and ever' (**4:9–10; 10:6**)	God's own eternal existence
'To Him be glory and dominion forever and ever' (**1:6**)	The eternal glory of Christ
'They will reign forever and ever' (**22:5**)	The eternal reign of the redeemed
'Tormented day and night forever and ever' (**20:10**)	The eternal punishment of Satan, beast, false prophet

The same Greek phrase that describes God's eternal existence describes the eternal punishment of His enemies. If God's eternity is literal, the punishment's eternity is literal.

'You cannot take "forever and ever" as eternal when applied to God and then take it as temporary when applied to punishment.

It is the same grammatical construction. If one is eternal, both are.'

Application: The Doctrine of eternal punishment is not negotiable, and it is not cruel.

The objection is always the same, eternal punishment is disproportionate to temporal sin.

But this objection misunderstands the nature of sin. Sin against an infinitely holy God is infinitely serious. The duration of punishment reflects not the length of time the sin took but the infinite dignity of the One against whom it was committed. Every sin is an act of cosmic treason against the Creator of the universe.

Furthermore, eternal punishment reflects eternal, unrepentant rebellion. Those in the lake of fire do not repent.

Satan, cast in, does not repent. The beast and false prophet, after a thousand years in the lake of fire, are not described as repenting. Hell is not a purifying fire, but it is the permanent state of a will fixed against God. The duration of the punishment reflects the permanence of the rebellion.

> **Matthew 25:46,** *"And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."*

The same Greek word (aiōnios) modifies both 'punishment' and 'life' in Matthew 25:46.

If eternal life is endless, so is eternal punishment. The grammar will not allow any other reading.

Conclusion

One verse. The end of six thousand years of Satanic activity.

The dragon.
The ancient serpent.
The devil.
Satan.
The deceiver of the nations,
The accuser of the brethren,
The murderer from the beginning,
The father of lies 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.

There is no appeal.
There is no mitigation.
There is no parole.
There is no annihilation.

There is only the fire day and night, forever and ever proportionate to the infinite evil of a creature who spent every moment of his existence destroying the image of God in human beings.

> **✦ The Discovery of Treblinka — 1943**
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> In the **summer of 1943**, a **Polish resistance fighter** named **Jan Karski** smuggled himself into the **Warsaw Ghetto** and then into a transit camp to witness first-hand what was happening to the Jewish people. He later presented his testimony to **President Roosevelt, British Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden**, and dozens of world leaders.

Karski spent the rest of his life asking why no one acted on what he told them.

He said in a **1978** interview: *'There must be a higher justice. I don't know where it is, or what it looks like, or whether I will live to see it. But I know that the universe cannot be such that six million people are murdered and no justice is ever done. There must be an accounting somewhere, from someone, that is adequate to what I saw.'*

Revelation 20:10 is that accounting.

Not from a human court, not from a limited jurisdiction, not in a verdict that can be appealed or commuted.

From the eternal God, with eternal jurisdiction, on the one who stands behind every genocide, every Treblinka, every act of mass evil in human history.

The accounting is adequate. Day and night, forever and ever.

He will be tormented day and night forever and ever.
The deceiver will deceive no more. The liar will lie no more.

Satan's Biblical History: From creation to the lake of fire.

To fully appreciate what Revelation 20:10 means, we must understand the arc of Satan's history in Scripture from his origin as the highest created being to his final, irreversible judgment.

Stage	Scripture and Significance
Created as the highest angelic being *'the anointed cherub'* (**Ezekiel 28:14**)	Before his fall, Satan was the pinnacle of God's creative work perfect in beauty, full of wisdom, set on the holy mountain of God. His fall was not the corruption of

	a weak creature but the rebellion of the strongest.
His fall: pride and the desire to be like God (**Isaiah 14:12–14; Ezekiel 28:15–17**)	'How you have fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning.' Five 'I will' statements in **Isaiah 14**. The anatomy of pride. He wanted God's position. He received God's judgment.
The deceiver in the Garden **Genesis 3:1–5**	His first recorded act after his fall: corrupting the first human couple. The pattern of his entire career is established here: deception about God's word, deception about God's character, deception about consequences.
The accuser of the brethren. **Job 1:6–11; Zechariah 3:1–2; Revelation 12:10**	He has access to God's presence as the prosecuting attorney of the heavenly court, accusing God's people day and night. This is the activity that ceases forever when he is cast into the lake of fire.
The god of this age. **2 Corinthians 4:4**	During the current age, he exercises significant authority over human systems blinding minds to the gospel, energising false religion, organising human civilisation against God.
Defeated at the cross. **John 12:31; Colossians 2:15; Hebrews 2:14**	The decisive, fatal blow was struck at Calvary. Christ 'disarmed principalities and powers' and 'destroyed him who had the power of death.' He has been a defeated enemy operating under a

	suspended sentence since the resurrection.
Bound in the abyss for 1,000 years. **Revelation 20:1–3**	The sentence is partially executed. He is silenced, confined, sealed. The Millennium demonstrates what a world looks like without his deception.
Cast into the lake of fire forever. **Revelation 20:10**	The sentence is fully and finally executed. Day and night, forever and ever. The arc of six thousand years ends here.

Annihilationism Refuted.

Revelation 20:10 is one of the primary texts used to refute annihilationism, the view that the wicked are ultimately destroyed (cease to exist) rather than punished eternally.

Three specific arguments from this verse and its context.

Argument Against Annihilationism	The Evidence
The present tense 'are' (eisin) proves ongoing existence	The beast and false prophet were cast into the lake of fire in **Revelation 19:20** over a thousand years before this verse. When Satan arrives, they 'are' there, present tense. A thousand years later, they still exist. If annihilation had occurred, they could not 'be' anywhere.

'Tormented' (basanizō) requires a conscious subject	The Greek word basanizō specifically means conscious, felt torment. It cannot apply to non-existence. It is used of the rich man in Hades who is 'in torment' (**Luke 16:23–24**) a passage that explicitly depicts conscious suffering in the afterlife.
'Forever and ever' is the same phrase used for God's eternity	Eis tous aiōnas tōn aiōnōn in Revelation is used for God's eternal existence (**4:9–10**), Christ's eternal glory (**1:6**), and the saints' eternal reign (**22:5**). If these are eternal, so is the punishment same phrase, same grammar, same force.
Matthew 25:46 provides the grammatical parallel	*'These will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.*' The same Greek adjective (aiōnios) modifies both punishment and life. If eternal life is endless, eternal punishment is endless.

What Satan's judgement means for the believer now?

The Accuser Is Silenced

Revelation 12:10 describes Satan as *'the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night.'*

He has been bringing charges against God's people in the heavenly court throughout the entire age of the church and indeed throughout all human history.

Every doubt about your standing before God, every whisper that your sins are too great, every lie that God has rejected you many of these are the echoes of the accuser's voice.

When Satan is cast into the lake of fire, the accusations end. Forever. Day and night, forever and ever he is in the lake of fire, not at the throne of God bringing charges against the saints.

The silence of the accuser is the permanent guarantee of the believer's security.

> **Romans 8:33–34,** *"Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us."*

The Deceiver is silenced.

Every false religion, every distorted theology, every lie about God's character, every deception about the human condition, every counterfeit spirituality that has competed with the truth of the gospel. All of it traces back to 'the father of lies' (**John 8:44**). When the lake of fire closes over him, the source of the world's deception is permanently removed.

This means that the new creation (**Revelation 21–22**) is a creation in which deception is structurally impossible not merely resisted but absent.

The tree of life is accessible.
The presence of God fills everything.
The one who whispered, 'Has God indeed said?' in the Garden whispers no more.

Application: How to fight the accuser now, in the Present Age.

Until the lake of fire, the accuser operates. The believer who understands **Revelation 20:10** knows both that his defeat is certain and that his activity is real in the present.

How do we fight him now?

The Weapon	How It Works Against the Accuser
The blood of the Lamb (**Revelation 12:11**)	Satan's accusations are silenced not by our righteousness but by Christ's atoning work. When he accuses, the answer is: *'It is Christ who died.*' The cross is the answer to every charge he brings.
The word of our testimony (**Revelation 12:11**)	Faithful, consistent, public witness to Christ destabilises his operation. He thrives in silence and darkness. The spoken testimony of the gospel is light in which he cannot operate.

Not loving life unto death (**Revelation 12:11**)	The willingness to be a martyr removes his greatest leverage the threat of physical death. If you do not love your life more than Christ, what can he threaten you with? His power over you is proportional to what you love more than God.
Resisting, firm in faith (**1 Peter 5:9**)	Peter pairs the warning about the roaring lion (5:8) with the command to resist, firm in the faith. Knowledge of his tactics (we are not ignorant of his devices, **2 Corinthians 2:11**) combined with faith-grounded resistance is the pattern.

Three Questions before you leave.

1. **Does the certainty of Satan's end change how you engage his activity in the present?**

   He is a defeated enemy. The sentence has been passed. He is operating under a suspended sentence, knowing his time is short (**Revelation 12:12**, *'he knows that he has a short time'*).

   You are not fighting an equal adversary in an uncertain war you are fighting a condemned prisoner who has escaped his cell temporarily and will be recaptured.

   Fight accordingly: with faith, not fear.

2. **Are you aware of the accuser's tactics against you personally?**

   He accuses you before God, day and night. He also accuses you in your own conscience the whisper that you are too sinful, too far gone, too inconsistent, too unworthy of grace.

The answer to every charge is the same: *'It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen.'*

Stand on the blood of the Lamb. It is the only argument that silences the accuser permanently.

3. **Does the eternal nature of the punishment trouble you?**

   It should not because it is unjust, but because the stakes of human existence are that high. The same 'forever and ever' that seals Satan's fate in the lake of fire is the 'forever and ever' that secures the saints' reign in the new creation.

   These are the two eternal outcomes. Knowing both should fill you with gratitude that you are on the right side of grace, and urgency to bring others with you.

STUDY QUESTIONS

Question	Insights
Does the present tense 'are' in verse 10 prove conscious existence in the lake of fire?	Yes, this is primary grammatical argument against annihilationism. The beast and false prophet were cast into the lake of fire in **19:20**. A thousand years later, Satan is cast in 'where they are' present tense. They have been there for the entire Millennium and are still there. They have not ceased to exist. Conscious existence continues.
How do we respond to the objection that eternal punishment is	Three responses: 1. Sin against an infinitely holy God has infinite gravity the dignity of

Question	Insights
disproportionate to temporal sin?	the One sinned against determines the weight of the offence. 2. The duration reflects not the length of the sin but the permanence of the rebellion those in the lake of fire do not repent. The punishment continues as long as the rebellion continues. 3. Jesus used the same word for eternal life and eternal punishment (**Matthew 25:46**) if one is unending, so is the other.
What is the difference between the lake of fire and Gehenna/Hades?	Gehenna (used by Jesus, e.g. **Matthew 5:22, 29**) is a picture of the final place of judgment drawn from the Valley of Hinnom, where fires burned continually outside Jerusalem. Hades is the current temporary holding place of the dead (**20:13–14**). The lake of fire is the final, permanent place of judgment into which both Hades and death are cast at the end (**20:14**). It is the ultimate reality that Gehenna pictures.