



The Consequences of God's Judgement

What happens to those under God's Judgement!

I. People in unrepentant rebellion towards God will be destroyed.

Key Verse: Obadiah 1:15

In the book of Obadiah we see four (4) aspects of God's message of judgement:

1. Evil will certainly be punished.
2. Those faithful to God have hope for a new future.
3. God is sovereign in human history.
4. God's ultimate purpose is to establish His eternal kingdom.

(2 Chronicles 7:14; Ezekiel 33:11; Psalm 9:17; Romans 6:23)

II. Christians will be judged by how they used God's gifts.

Key Verse: Matthew 16:27

Although His judgement is already working in our life, there is a future, final judgement when Christ returns **(Matthew 25:31-46)** and everyone's life is reviewed and evaluated. This will not be confined to unbelievers; Christians too will face a judgement. Their eternity is secure, but Jesus will look at how they handled gifts, opportunities, and responsibilities in order to determine their heavenly rewards. At that time of judgement, God will deliver the righteous and condemn the wicked. We should never judge others' salvation; that is God's Work.



III. The final judgement for unbelievers will be eternal.

Key Verse: Matthew 25:46

Eternal punishment takes place in hell (the lake of fire or Gehenna), the place of punishment after death for all those who **refuse** to repent. In the Bible, three words are used in connection with eternal punishment.

1. **Sheol** or **"the grave"** is used in the Old Testament to mean the place of the dead, generally thought to be under the earth. **(Psalm 16:10; Isaiah 38:10; Job 24:19)**
2. **Hades** is the Greek word for the underworld, the realm of the dead. It is the word used in the New Testament for Sheol. **(Revelation 1:18, 20:13-14)**
3. **Gehenna, or hell**, was named after the Valley of Hinnom near Jerusalem where children were sacrificed by fire to the pagan gods. **(2 Chronicles 28:3)** This is the place of eternal fire prepared for the devil, and his angels, and all those who do not believe in God. **(Matthew 10:28; Mark 9:43; Revelation 19:20 & 20:9-10)**

When Jesus warns us in His Word against unbelief, He is trying to save us from agonizing punishment.

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IV. God's Judgement is complete.

Key Verse: Revelation 20:12

At the judgement, the books are opened. They represent God's verdict, and in them are recorded the deeds of everyone, good or evil. We are not saved by deeds, but deeds are seen by God as clear evidence of a person's actual relationship with Him.

V. God's Judgement is final.

Key Verse: Revelation 20:15

Death and hades are thrown into the lake of fire. God's judgement is finished. The lake of fire is the ultimate destination of everything wicked - Satan, the beast, the false prophet, the demons, death, hades, and all those whose names are not recorded in the Book of Life because they did not place their faith in Jesus Christ. John's vision from God does not permit any gray areas in God's judgement. If by faith we have not identified with Christ, confessing Him as Lord, there will be no hope, no second chance, no other appeal.