

BEYOND HADES **Revelation 20:11-15**

Hades, as we know it, is not the worst thing that can happen to an unbeliever

Beyond Hades there is ...

I. A FINAL EXAM (11-13)

A. THE PEOPLE INVOLVED (11-12a)

1. The Judge (11a)
 - a. His throne: Great and white indicating power and purity
 - b. His position: Setting on his throne: Ready to do business
 - c. His appearance: Causes earth and heaven to flee – See II Peter 3:10
2. The Accused (11b-12a)
 - a. Vulnerable: There is no place for them ... They can't hide anywhere
 - b. Dead: Unbelievers without Christ
 - c. Undistinguished: The small and great, no matter who or what you were
 - d. Standing: Before the throne of Christ for sentencing - Note John 5:29

B. THE RECORDS REVEALED (12b)

1. The books are opened: Opened so that the record can be read and revealed
2. The Book of Deeds: The dead are judged according to their works
3. The Book of Life: Recording those who were “born again”

C. THE JUDGMENT PRONOUNCED (13)

1. The dead given up (13a)
 - From the sea, death and Hades
2. Every one of them judged (13b) > God will overlook no one!
3. Judged according to their deeds: Their works will testify of their rejection
 - They have rejected a God-consciousness - Rom. 1:18-20, 2:5-16
 - They have rejected God's Son - John 3:36
 - They have rejected God's messengers - Mt. 23:33-34

II. THE FINAL SENTANCING (14-15)

A. CONDEMNATION: These things are cast into the Lake of Fire

1. The Consequences of Sin are condemned (14)
 - a. Review: The consequences of sin - Gen. 3
 - b. Reality: Death and Hades were cast into the Lake of Fire
 - 1) Death is the sentence for a person's body
 - 2) Hades is the cell for the unbeliever's soul

2. The Unreceptive Sinner is Condemned (14b-15)

- a. This is the second death (14b)
 - Ultimate and eternal separation from God - II Thess. 1:8-9
- b. No Book of Life record!
 - 1) "His name not found written" indicates a careful search of the records was made
 - 2) Having received no reconciliation or pardon - Rev. 21:8
 - 3) No reception of eternal life with Christ - Rom. 6:23

B. DESTINATION: The Lake of Fire

1. The nature of this lake
 - a. A lava flow ...
 - b. A sulfur cloud from brimstone
2. Another name for this Lake is "Hell" or "Gehenna" (Valley of Hinnom)
 - a. Translated "Hell" in Matthew 5:22 and 23:15,33 and see also Mark 9:45, 47; James 3:6
 - b. This is the place in the Valley of Hinnom where children were sacrificed to Molech
 - c. A place of constant fire and filth

C. SITUATION

1. The unbeliever will have a body especially suited for eternal suffering in this type of fire!
2. No final "resting" place
 - A burning sensation coupled with the anxiety of drowning and choking

CONCLUSION:

During WWII Kamikazes flew their planes into enemy's battleships and fortifications.

- The ignited fuel from these attacks quickly and horrifically engulfed many ...
- A similar thing happened with the 9-11 attacks

Those who watch others burn will never be the same

We who know for certain what God says about a burning lake of fire ought to never be the same either!

- We can rescue some ...
- We can share the gospel ...
- Will we? ...
- Will you?

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