

~LAKE OF FIRE (208)

- This expression occurs only in the book of Revelation and is clearly symbolic. The Bible gives its own explanation and definition of the symbol by stating; This means **the second death**, the lake of fire.
- And death and Hades were hurled into the **lake** of fire. This means the second death, the **lake of fire**. (**Revelation 20:14**)
- But as for the cowards and those without faith and those who are disgusting in their filth and murderers and fornicators and those practicing spiritism and idolaters and all the liars, their portion will be in the **lake** that burns with fire and sulphur. This **means the second death**. (**Revelation 21:8**)
- The symbolic quality of the **lake of fire** is further evident from the context of references to it in the book of Revelation. Death is said to be hurled into this **lake of fire**.
- And death and Hades were hurled into the **lake of fire**. This means the second death, the **lake of fire**. (**Revelation 20:14**)
- Death obviously cannot be literally burned. Moreover, the Devil, an invisible spirit creature, is thrown into the **lake**. Being spirit, he cannot be hurt by literal fire.
- And the Devil who was misleading them was hurled into the **lake** of fire and sulphur, where both the wild beast and the false prophet already were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. (**Revelation 20:10**)
- And the Devil who was misleading them was hurled into the **lake** of fire and sulphur, where both the wild beast and the false prophet already were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. (**Revelation 20:10**)
- So it came about that, as the flame ascended from off the altar heavenward, then Yehowah's angel ascended in the flame of the altar while Manoah and his wife were looking on. At once they fell upon their faces to the earth. (**Judges 13:20**)
- Since the **lake** of fire represents, the **second** death, and since,

- And death and Hades were hurled into the **lake of fire**. This means the second death, the **lake of fire**. (**Revelation 20:14**)
- Says that both death and Hades are to be cast into it, it is evident that the **lake** cannot represent the death man has inherited from Adam
- That is why, just as through one man sin entered into the world and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men because they had all sinned. (**Romans 5:12**)
- Nor does it refer to Hades, *Sheol*. It must, therefore, be symbolic of another kind of death, one that is without reversal, for the record nowhere speaks of the **lake** as giving up those in it, as do Adamic death and Hades *Sheol*.
- And the sea gave up those dead in it, and death and Hades gave up those dead in them, and they were judged individually according to their deeds. (**Revelation 20:13**)
- Thus, those not found written in the book of life, unrepentant opposers of God's sovereignty, are hurled into the **lake of fire**, meaning eternal destruction, or the second death.
- Furthermore, whoever was not found written in the book of life was hurled into the **lake of fire**. (**Revelation 20:15**)
- While the foregoing texts make evident the symbolic quality of the **lake of fire**, it has been used by some persons to support belief in a literal place of fire and torment.
- And the Devil who was misleading them was hurled into the **lake of fire** and sulphur, where both the wild beast and the false prophet already were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. (**Revelation 20:10**)
- Has been appealed to, because it speaks of the Devil, the wild beast, and the false prophet as being, tormented day and night forever and ever, in the **lake of fire**. However, this cannot refer to actual conscious torment. Those thrown into the **lake of fire** undergo the second death.
- And death and Hades were hurled into the **lake of fire**. This means the second death, the **lake of fire**. (**Revelation 20:14**)

- **In death there is no consciousness and, hence, no feeling of pain or suffering.**
- **For the living are conscious that they will die, but as for the dead, they are conscious of nothing at all, neither do they anymore have wages, because the remembrance of them has been forgotten. (Ecclesiastes 9:5)**
- **In the Scriptures fiery torment is associated with destruction and death. For example, in the Greek Septuagint translation of the Hebrew Scriptures the word for torment, Greek *ba'sa-nos*, is several times used with reference to punishment by death.**
- **And when someone righteous turns back from his righteousness and actually does injustice and I must put a stumbling block before him, he himself will die because you did not warn him. For his sin he will die, and his righteous acts that he did will not be remembered, but his blood I shall ask back from your own hand. (Ezekiel 3:20)**
- **There are Elam and all her crowd round about her grave, all of them slain ones, those falling by the sword, who have gone down uncircumcised to the land down below, those who have caused their terror in the land of those alive, and they will bear their humiliation with those going down into the pit. (Ezekiel 32:24)**
- **There is where the dukes of the north are, all of them, and all the Sidonians, who have gone down with the slain ones, in their terribleness because of their mightiness, ashamed. And they will lie down uncircumcised with those slain by the sword and will bear their humiliation with those going down into the pit. (Ezekiel 32:30)**
- **Similarly, concerning Babylon the Great, the book of Revelation says, the kings of the earth will weep and beat themselves in grief over her, when they look at the smoke from the burning of her, while they stand at a distance because of their fear of her torment, Greek, *ba-sa-ni-smou'*.**
- **And the kings of the earth who committed fornication with her and lived in shameless luxury will weep and beat themselves in grief over her, when they look at the smoke from the burning of her. (Revelation 18:9)**

- **While they stand at a distance because of their fear of her torment and say; Too bad, too bad, you great city, Babylon you strong city, because in one hour your judgment has arrived! (Revelation 18:10)**
- **As to the meaning of the torment, an angel later explains;**
- **And a strong angel lifted up a stone like a great millstone and hurled it into the sea, saying; Thus with a swift pitch will Babylon the great city be hurled down, and she will never be found again. (Revelation 18:21)**
- **So, fiery torment here is parallel with destruction, and in the case of Babylon the Great, it is everlasting destruction.**
- **And the ten horns that you saw, and the wild beast, these will hate the harlot and will make her devastated and naked, and will eat up her fleshy parts and will completely burn her with fire. (Revelation 17:16)**
- **That is why in one day her plagues will come, death and mourning and famine, and she will be completely burned with fire, because Yehowah God, who judged her, is strong. (Revelation 18:8)**
- **The traveling merchants of these things, who became rich from her, will stand at a distance because of their fear of her torment and will weep and mourn. (Revelation 18:15)**
- **Saying; Too bad, too bad, the great city, clothed with fine linen and purple and scarlet, and richly adorned with gold ornament and precious stone and pearl. (Revelation 18:16)**
- **Because in one hour such great riches have been devastated! And every ship captain and every man that voyages anywhere, and sailors and all those who make a living by the sea, stood at a distance. (Revelation 18:17)**
- **And they threw dust upon their heads and cried out, weeping and mourning, and said; Too bad, too bad, the great city, in which all those having boats at sea became rich by reason of her costliness, because in one hour she has been devastated! (Revelation 18:19)**

- Therefore, those who are tormented forever, from Greek, *ba-sa-ni'zo* in the **lake** of fire undergo **second death** from which there is no resurrection. The related Greek word *ba-sa-ni-stes'* is translated jailer. in
- With that his master, provoked to wrath, delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay back all that was owing. (**Matthew 18:34**) **RS, NW, ED**
- However, he was not willing, but went off and had him thrown into prison until he should pay back what was owing. (**Matthew 18:30**)
- Thus those hurled into the **lake of fire** will be held under restraint, or jailed, in death throughout eternity.

See Also GEHENNA
See Also TORMENT