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What is
Heaven or Hell

Why is it Important

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Contents

Contents 3

NM 25: Kingdom of God 6
What Others Say 6
What the Bible Says 6
Aeonian Life 6
Immortality 7
Life in the Kingdom of God 7
Life Forever in the New Heaven and Earth or New Universe 7
Pleasure in the New Life 7
Happiness Forever in the New Life 7
Love and Freedom in the New Life 7

NM 26: Plan of Creation, An Outline . . . . . NM 3:1 Page 8
NM26 Abstract . . . . . NM 3:1 Page 8
A Short Outline of Our Beliefs . . . . . NM 3:1 Page 8
1. Before the Beginning the All Powerful God Predestinated Events. . . . . NM 3:1 Page 8
2. In The Beginning God Created The Cosmos; In The Six Literal Days God Created . . . . . NM 3:1 Page 8
3. Man Went Out of God To *learn* Good And Evil . . . . . NM 3:2 Page 9
4. The Breaking of God's First Law Manifests . . . . . NM 3:2 Page 9
5. God Promised a Savior To Save Mankind . . . . . NM 3:2 Page 9
6. The Messiah Savior, Jesus Christ Came in the Flesh . . . . NM 3:2 Page 9
7. But Jesus Christ Was Resurrected and Became God . . . NM 3:3 Page 10
8. Jesus Christ Promised to Return to Earth . . . . . NM 3:3 Page 10
9. When Will Christ Return? . . . . . NM 3:3 Page 10
10. Christ The God Will Come to *Save* Mankind . . . . . NM 3:3 Page 10
11. At The Same Time Christ Will Judge Mankind . . . . . NM 3:3 Page 10
12. Christ The God Will Come to Set Up The Kingdom of God *on* Earth . . . . . NM 3:4 Page 11
13. But What Is The Kingdom of God? . . . . . NM 3:4 Page 11
14. What Will Happen During The Kingdom of God? . . . . NM 3:5 Page 12
What Are Some of the Specific Changes God Will Make When He Returns? . . . . . NM 3:5 Page 12
15. 1000 Years of the Kingdom of God . . . . . NM 3:6 Page 13

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B1 – Becoming-One Church – https://beone.ws

16. God's Kingdom *under* Christ. . . . . NM 3:6 Page 13
17. But After the 1000 Year Age . . . . . NM 3:7 Page 14
18. Then After The 1000 Year Age, And After The 100 Year Age . . . . . NM 3:7 Page 14

NM 24: Last Judgment . . . . . NM 3:8 Page 15
NM24 Abstract . . . . . NM 3:8 Page 15
Day of Judgment: An Old Idea . . . . . NM 3:8 Page 15
Scales of Justice . . . . . NM 3:8 Page 15
Pit of Fire; Lake of Fire . . . . . NM 3:9 Page 16
Second Death . . . . . NM 3:9 Page 16
Judgment After Death . . . . . NM 3:10 Page 17
Trial and the Thousand Years . . . . . NM 3:10 Page 17
Koran: Those on the Right and Left . . . . . NM 3:10 Page 17
Universal Salvation . . . . . NM 3:10 Page 17
Great White Throne Judgment . . . . . NM 3:11 Page 18
Questions . . . . . NM 3:11 Page 18
Biblical Teaching on Judgment . . . . . NM 3:12 Page 19
Know Three Things . . . . . NM 3:12 Page 19
Resurrection of the Dead and the Judgment . . . . . NM 3:12 Page 19
Christ given the power of the Resurrection and Judgment . . . . . NM 3:12 Page 19
Two Groups; Two Destinies . . . . . NM 3:13 Page 20
One on the Right, One on the Left . . . . . NM 3:13 Page 20
Lake of Fire . . . . . NM 3:14 Page 21
Second Death is the Lake of Fire . . . . . NM 3:14 Page 21
Lake of Fire: More Information . . . . . NM 3:14 Page 21
Scriptures that Point to the Last Judgment . . . . . NM 3:14 Page 21
Hell Fire: Who is it For? . . . . . NM 3:16 Page 23
Names for the Judgment . . . . . NM 3:17 Page 24
When is the Judgment? . . . . . NM 3:18 Page 25
Right and Left Side . . . . . NM 3:18 Page 25
Last Trumpet . . . . . NM 3:18 Page 25
Last Day . . . . . NM 3:18 Page 25
How will Christ Judge? . . . . . NM 3:19 Page 26
Last Day = Thousand Years . . . . . NM 3:21 Page 28
Gathering of the Nations . . . . . NM 3:21 Page 28
Who are those Dressed in White . . . . . NM 3:22 Page 29

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B1 – Becoming-One Church – https://beone.ws

Great Tribulation ..... NM 3:23 Page 30
Hell-Fire; Mankind; Real Judgment ..... NM 3:23 Page 30
Three Orders or Divisions ..... NM 3:24 Page 31
The first was Christ. ..... NM 3:25 Page 32
Second Order. ..... NM 3:25 Page 32
Third Order ..... NM 3:25 Page 32
Conclusion: ..... NM 3:26 Page 33
In Short: Judgment is ..... NM 3:26 Page 33
Index ..... NM 3:27 Page 34

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B1 – Becoming-One Church – https://beone.ws

NM 25: Kingdom of God

What Others Say

nm1 » *Is there a heaven?* In many churches members look upon going to heaven as going above the clouds and beholding God always while being in a state of heavenly bliss. Not too much detail is given, except it is a much better place to be than hell. According to many, if you go to hell, you are in a fire suffering forever (Last Judgment). But if you go to heaven you are blessed forever and you will live in one of the heavenly mansions in cities paved with gold. If you get to heaven there will be no work, no suffering, no day, no night. Everyone eats from the tree of life and worships God forever enjoying the beatific vision.

nm2 » In the Koran, one description of heaven for the males is having a continuous supply of virgin "companions," with alcoholic drink and delicate food to eat – a continuous orgy and feast (Sura 56:4-41ff). This belief is not particular to the Koran, for many others also believe that the pleasures forbidden them on earth will be their permissible pleasure in heaven. But are the sinful "pleasures" denied on earth, the rewards of heaven? Or does this have more to do with the other-mind's pleasures being projected into mankind's physical mind in this age? (See "Other Mind" paper [NM 21])

What the Bible Says

But what does the Bible say about the "reward" for Christians? Do they go to heaven?

nm3 » ***Go to Heaven?*** Now since the word "heaven" or "heavenly" is used interchangeably with "spirit" or "spiritual" (1Cor 15:44-49; see Duality Paper), then at Christ's coming, when we are infused into the spiritual dimension, we will, so to speak, go to heaven or go to the spiritual dimension. But at Christ's coming is also the end of the Beast of Revelation's rule ("Beast-System Paper" [PR2]), and the beginning of God's rule through his Christ and his saints (Dan 7:11-14, 24-27; Rev 19:20-20:4; 2Thes 1:7, 10). At Christ's coming there will be clouds in the sky (Dan 7:13; Mat 24:30; Rev 1:7; Ezek 32:7; Isa 13:10; Joel 2:31; 3:15; Amos 8:9; Rev 6:12-13; Zech 14:7) from the effects of the Last War [PR5], the two witnesses will be resurrected and ascend into heaven in a cloud (Rev 11:12), the other Christians also will ascend into heaven at that same time to meet Christ in the air (1Thes 4:13-17; 2Thes 2:1; 1Cor 15:23, 51-55) to be with Christ always, and because at that time Christ will come down to earth to rule, the Christians will bring Christ down (Rom 10:6) to rule on earth for the 1000 years (Rev 20:4; 5:10; 11:15), for Christ's kingdom will rule on the earth (Rev 5:10 Greek text; Psalm 37:29, 9; Mat 5:5). Thus, "heaven" as commonly thought of, is not the "reward" Christians receive, per se. Remember here that any "reward" Christians receive is not earned; we receive all from God as a gift (See NM 8-11).

nm4 » In this book [*New Mind Papers*] we have given you, here and there, some aspects of the heavenly "rewards." Let's review and put the facts together, so in one place we can see what these "rewards" will be:

- **Aeonian Life**: This is life in the 1000 year period. This is explained in the "Reward for Christians" paper. [NM 11] This is different from the immortal life.

- **Immortality**: This is explained also in the "Reward for Christians" paper and in the "Does All Mean All?" paper [NM11; NM 14]. Immortal life is life in an immortal physical body as a New Soul. It is different from the aeonian life, which is life with Christ in the 1000 year period during which others of the old age are in judgment (Last Judgment).
- **Life in the Kingdom of God**: There are three orders of going into the Kingdom (1Cor 15:20-24). The first was Christ the man. The second "order" occurs at the return of Christ. The third order occurs *after* the 1000 year period. Life in the Kingdom of God is life under the rulership of God in peace and harmony. What the Kingdom of God will be like in the present universe is outlined in NM26.
- **Life Forever in the New Heaven and Earth or New Universe**: Most fully this New Universe will start *after* the small age of 100 years which comes after the 1000 years of the Kingdom of God under Christ (NM 26 #18). It may be as impossible to understand this as it would for a child in the womb to understand how it will be after he/she is born. Our lives up to the time of the creation of the New Universe are in preparation for life in the New Universe.
- **Pleasure in the New Life**: We will have great pleasure in the New Life only because we have had great suffering in the old life. Pleasure and pain are comparative qualities: both need each other for either to exist (See "Reason Why" [NM 19], and GP 7 of the *God Papers*). Our very bodies, our New Souls, will be in and of themselves pleasurable (See "New Body" in GP6). We will live both in the physical dimension and the spiritual dimension (GP 6). We will not need to travel by foot, or by car, or by plane, or by space ship, but by and through the spiritual dimension if we so choose ("New Body" in GP6).
- **Happiness Forever in the New Life**: Because of the very law of knowledge, we will be happy in the New Life ("Reason Why" NM19). Happiness is a comparative quality. You cannot be happy, if you have never known unhappiness. Happiness and unhappiness are comparative qualities: both need each other for either to exist (See "Reason Why" [NM 19]).
- **Love and Freedom in the New Life**: God will be all in all (1Cor 15:28). "God is love. Whoever lives in love, lives in God, and God in him" (1John 4:16). "God lives in us and his love is made complete in us" (1John 4:12). We will all live in the Freedom and Harmony of the System of Love (See "Freedom and Law" [NM 17]).

Jesus Christ: "You are my friends if you do what I command... My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you" (John 15:12, 14). "Yes, I am coming soon" (Rev 22:20).

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NM 26: Plan of Creation, An Outline

NM26 Abstract

In this paper we will give a short outline of our main beliefs.

A Short Outline of Our Beliefs

Here follows an outline of our belief concerning the plan of creation, which we ascertained through scripture, patterns in scripture, and logic. Read the Introduction to the *Beginning Papers*[1] to understand our premises and to better understand why we use the Bible and believe that the Bible reveals the truth. Better yet, read all of the many papers we offer for more details. It is almost impossible to understand this outline in full without studying all the *BeComingOne Papers*. Please do not jump to conclusions.

1. Before the Beginning the All Powerful God Predestinated Events.

nm5 » Scripture indicated that God predestinated events *before* the creation. Christians were chosen before the foundation of the world (Eph 1:4). Jesus Christ, what he would do and what would happen to him, was foreordained before the foundation of the world or cosmos (1Pet 1:19-20; Act 2:23; 3:18; 4:27-28). God who is all powerful predestinated everything (NM 8; NM 9; etc.). Even evil was predestinated (Rom 9:21-23; Jude 1:4; Prov 16:4; 1Peter 2:8; etc.). God in his all powerfulness even commands Satan, the leader of evil (Job 1:12; 2:6). In his predestination God predestinated everything before the cosmos began, before good (as we know it), before evil (as we know it), before law (as we know it), and consequently, before sin (as we know it).

2. In The Beginning God Created The Cosmos; In The Six Literal Days God Created The First Cosmos From The Laws And Matter Created On The Very First Day.

nm6 » In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth, that is, the cosmos (Gen 1:1; Isa 48:3, 13; Heb 4:3). After the creation of the heavens and the earth, or the cosmos (Gen 1:1), the earth was not yet finished: "the earth was without form and void" (Gen 1:2). God continued to create during the first six days of creation and rested on the seventh day (Gen 1: 3-2:3). It was only when the real God creates and finishes everything that it is pronounced good: "everything that he had made ... was very good" (Gen 1:31; 2:1). What the true God creates is good, not in confusion, for God is not the author of confusion (1Cor 14:33; see Isaiah 45:18; 1Tim 4:4; Deut 32:4). This creation week typified the longer spiritual creation of approximately 7,000 years. Peter called a day of God being equal to 1000 years (2Peter 3:8). The book of Revelation speaks of a 1000 year period

[1] Included in the *Becoming-One Papers*, and the *God Papers*

when Satan is put away. This 1000 year period is like a rest period for mankind, a rest without evil (NM15; NM16).

3. Man Went Out of God To *learn* Good And Evil; The Kingdom of The Adversary Begins.

nm7 » After man was created, a spiritual adversary misled man to break a law of God (Gen 2:16-17; 3:1-24). This spiritual adversary was "the old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceives the whole world" (Rev 12:9). See the "Other Mind Paper" [NM 21] for more information on this apparent myth concerning the "serpent." Mankind by breaking this first law of God was sent out of the Garden of Eden and, "Behold, the man is become as one out of [or from] us, to *know* good and evil" (Gen 3:22). After mankind sinned in the Garden they were sent out to learn good and evil (see the "Reason Why" paper [NM 19] and see GP 7 of the *God Papers* for the reason for evil). There is a great reason why the all powerful God allowed evil.

4. The Breaking of God's First Law Manifests the Other-Mind Inside Mankind.

nm8 » In the "Other Mind Paper" [NM 21] we learn why man broke the first law of God and why this present age is an age of confusion and hate. It was the other-mind inside of man's mind that misled man into breaking God's first law. Because of this the world has been held in "the bondage of corruption" and "the whole creation groans and travails in pain" because of the other-mind's power (Rom 8:21, 22; Rev 12:9; 13:2,3; see the "Other Mind Paper" [NM 21]).

5. God Promised a Savior To Save Mankind

nm9 » When God spoke to the "serpent" after he had misled man into taking the forbidden fruit, God said he would send a child of the woman ("her seed") and that he "shall bruise your [serpent's] head and you [serpent] shall bruise his [the seed's] heel" (Gen 3:14, 15). See the "Other Mind Paper" [NM 21] to understand the serpent of Genesis.

There was a child that was born of a woman (Gal 4:4) who will "bruise Satan," and he is Jesus Christ (Rom 16:20). "Jesus" is a word that means, Jehovah's *Savior*, and "Christ" is a word that means, anointed. Christ Jesus is the, "Anointed Savior of Jehovah." He is "the Savior of the cosmos" (1John 4:14).

Jesus Christ is the savior of the world, who is/will save the world from the spiritual adversary's influence that now is misleading mankind towards destruction. See the *God Papers* to understand who is Jesus Christ.

6. The Messiah Savior, Jesus Christ Came in the Flesh, and Died.

nm10 » But Jesus Christ was a man ("the *man* Christ Jesus," 1Tim 2:5); he came in the flesh as a man (1John 4:1-3). Jesus Christ was a man born to be savior of the world, yet he did not save the world when he was alive. He died on a stake and was buried (John 19:16-17, 33, 40-41). While he was on earth, before his death, he had the Spirit of God in him, leading him and giving him power over evil (GP 4). In fact, this "Spirit of God" was the actual angel of God who helped Israel in the Old Testament (GP 3; GP 4; GP 5).

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7. But Jesus Christ Was Resurrected and Became God.

nm11 » After Jesus was resurrected, Thomas called him "My Lord and my God," for he was in God (John 20:28; see *God Papers*). Jesus who was born a man actually went into God and sits at God's right hand, as the right side of God (GP 5). The Bible talks about human beings actually becoming like God – that is, being *born* of God (1John 3:9; 5:18). If one is born of mankind, we know he is a man. If one is born of God, we know he is a God-like person – a son or daughter of God. The Bible actually calls man, Gods (John 10:33-35). In some way mankind will become God-like. See the *God Papers* to understand who or what is God, and in what way and how Jesus became God. It is by Jesus Christ's new life as God that He will save us (Rom 5:10).

8. Jesus Christ Promised to Return to Earth.

nm12 » Time after time Christ promised to return to the earth (Mat 24:27; 30-31, 42; Mark 13:26; Luke 12:42-43; 13:28-29; 17:24; 18:8; 19:12; 21:27; John 14:3).

9. When Will Christ Return? – At The End of The Age.

nm13 » Notice what Christ's students asked him: "Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of your coming, and the *end* of the age?" (Mat 24:3) What age is being spoken about here? It is the present age of confusion that is being spoken about. See *End of the Age* [NM7] for more details.

10. Christ The God Will Come to *Save* Mankind at the End of the Age of the Adversary's Spiritual Rulership.

nm14 » Christ will come as the savior of mankind; he will save man from destroying themselves: "for the son of man [Christ] is *not* come to destroy men's lives, but *to save them*" (Luke 9:56). There is going to be a great Last War at the end of the age, and if Christ does not come to save, then *no* flesh will be saved out of this war (Mark 13:20; see "Last War and God's Wrath" paper [PR4; PR5; PR6]).

11. At The Same Time Christ Will Judge Mankind.

nm15 » The judgment of God is probably the most misunderstood doctrine of the Bible. What is God's judgement?: "The LORD is known by the judgment which he executes: the wicked is snared in the work of his *own* hands" (Psa 9:16). In other words, Christ the God will come to save the world after an atomic *Last War* has started before he returns to the physical dimension. And God's judgment is to let the works of man's OWN hands (their own weapons) begin to destroy mankind, then He saves mankind from their own madness. Man thus actually judges his own self, but God comes to save. See "Last War and God's Wrath" paper [PR5] for information on the Last War.

There will be a 1000 year judgment (see "Thousand Years and Beyond Paper"[NM 15]). This is the judgment of the dead. Some people have mixed this judgment up and turned it into a "hell" theory, or "lake of fire" theory.

12. Christ The God Will Come to Set Up The Kingdom of God *on* Earth.

nm16 » Christ will return to set up the kingdom or rulership of God that will rule all the earth. Notice what prophecy shows: "the kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign into the ages of ages" (Rev 11:15). At His return the kingdoms of the world will be His. Since Christ is God, then these kingdoms will become the kingdoms of God.

nm17 » Notice in Daniel 7:14 where it prophesies of Christ's return, "and there was given him dominion, and glory, and a *kingdom*, that *all* people, nations and languages, should serve him." The kingdom of God will rule people, *all* people. This is the time God will live with mankind and rule mankind (Rev 20:4). This kingdom of God will rule *on* earth with the saints, "and they shall reign ON the earth" (Rev 5:10). Notice that the symbolic stone, which is a symbol of Christ, smote the image, which represents the world's kingdoms, "and filled the whole earth" (Dan. 2:35).

nm18 » The Messiah is coming to set up a kingdom *on* the earth to bring mankind into a utopia. God will then be King of kings (Rev 19:16).

13. But What Is The Kingdom of God?

nm19 » A kingdom is a kingdom. It is a system of rulership. The expression, kingdom of God or the kingdom of heaven, is used about 150 times in the New Testament of the Bible. And tens of times in the Old Testament it speaks about God setting up a kingdom on earth. In the book of Isaiah it continually speaks of the LORD (BeComingOne, that is "Jehovah" or YHWH) coming to earth to save his people and setting up a utopian society.

nm20 » Some think the Church is the kingdom of heaven or of God. But God's Bible says that when the kingdom is set up there will be no misery, no wrong, no tears (Isa 2:4; 11:9; Zeph 3:15; Rev 21:4). In the truest sense, the kingdom has not come to the earth. The Church now is merely a typical kingdom of God with only some of the world's people in it. Not until the Messiah comes with His peace, will there be true peace.

nm21 » We know the kingdom of God is here only when we see Christ coming in clouds (the smoke of the Last War), for "every eye shall see him" (Rev 1:7). All will eventually *see* him. Since God is coming to save the world from cosmocide, and since he comes to set up a system of peace, and since everyone will literally see him; then we know he has not come yet and the kingdom is not set up on earth yet, for we still have war and we do not see anyone on earth like Christ. If you study the resurrected Christ you see pictured a person that could appear from nowhere and disappear out of sight. But when he appeared he was flesh and blood just like us. But he could change his body at will into an invisible body that could go through walls and any other matter. There is no one on earth who can walk through walls or appear and disappear at will; thus, Christ has not returned yet. If any one says to you that he is Christ, ask him to kindly walk through the wall (of course walk through the wall without harming it like Christ did). See the *God Papers* to understand who or what is God. Christ's main message throughout his ministry on earth was about the coming of the kingdom of God: "Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God" (Mark 1:14). He preached the gospel of the kingdom of

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God. The word "gospel" is translated from a Greek word that means *good news*. Christ was teaching people about the good news of the kingdom of God. It is good news because when the kingdom of God is set up there will be complete peace (Isa 2:4).

nm22 » Paul the apostle also taught about the kingdom of God (Acts 19:8; 20:25; 28:23, 31).

nm23 » Christ sent 70 men preaching the kingdom of God (Luke 10:9). He sent the apostles to preach the kingdom of God (Luke 9:1a-2). In fact one of the most important things that the Church has to do in this age is teach about the kingdom (Mat 24:14; Mark 16:15; Col 1:23).

14. What Will Happen During The Kingdom of God?

nm24 » As Isaiah 2:4 says the first thing that will happen is "they shall beat their swords [weapons] into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more" (Isa 2:4). This will happen because man's mind will change the instant Christ the God returns physically to earth. God will put away the spiritual adversary out of man's mind (Zech 13:2; Rev 20:1-3; see the "Other Mind Paper" [NM 21]). Man's attitude will change. He will no longer desire violence.

What Are Some of the Specific Changes God Will Make When He Returns?

nm25 » **A**. ***Cities Rebuilt***. Just before Christ the God's return there will be a Last War that will be destroying the earth (see "Last War and God's Wrath" paper [PR5]). The cities destroyed in this war will be rebuilt (Amos 9:14).

nm26 » **B**. ***The Earth Repopulated***. After this Last War many of the people alive now will be dead. The earth will be repopulated (Ezek 36:10-11).

nm27 » **C**. ***The Earth's Surface Renewed***. After the Last War the world will have atomic waste. But Christ the God will renew the surface of the world (Psa 104:30; Isa 61:4). This is the *typical* creation of the *new* heaven and earth.

nm28 » **D**. ***Trees And Forests Will Be Everywhere*** even in the places where there are now deserts (compare Isa 41:19; 29:17; 60:13; 51:3).

nm29 » **E**. ***Great Highways Will Be Built*** (Isa 19:23; 11:16; 40:3).

nm30 » **F**. ***Children Will Play With Animals That Are Now Wild***. Animals will all be tame in the kingdom of God (Isa 11:6-7).

nm31 » **G**. ***Everyone Will Own His Own Land*** with the products of the land for their personal use (Amos 9:14; Isa 65:21-22; Micah 4:4).

nm32 » **H**. ***Rain Will Fall At The Right Time In The Right Amounts*** so as to produce fantastic crops (Ezek 34:26; Isa 30:23; Jer 31:5, 12; Amos 9:13; Ezek 36:29-30).

nm33 » **I**. ***A New Clear Language*** will be given to all mankind; there will be *one* language (Zeph 3:9).

nm34 » **J**. ***There Will Be No More Sickness***; all diseases will be cured (Isa 58:8; 33:24; 35:5-6; Jer 31:13-14). There will be no more sickness because Christ the God will heal them (Jer 30:17).

nm35 » **K.** ***There Will Be True Freedom***. When people speak of freedom they mean not total freedom, but freedom from things, activities, and restrictions that make them unhappy. What makes people unhappy is sin. Sin should be looked upon as a way of destruction. War is sin because in war people kill. Killing is against the laws of harmony and love. There will never be peace until people stop sinning, that is, stop making war. "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men of good will" (Luke 2:14). Peace will only come when men are of peace, that is, when men are of "good will." He that kills with the sword or weapon will be killed by the sword (Rev 13:10). Man kills, therefore man will die by the sword until he stops killing. Man will have true freedom in God's kingdom because God will automatically change man's attitude from conflict to peace.

nm36 » **L.** ***All Men Will Be Prosperous During The Kingdom***. Man will be prosperous because man during God's kingdom will be in harmony with the ways of harmony. Man will be putting his total output of work towards useful and constructive projects and thus will be in a much better economic situation than today when much energy is directed towards destruction (war) and towards the repairing of the destruction. There won't be any sick, mentally or physically, and this will allow more energy to be directed towards a prosperous economy.

15. 1000 Years of the Kingdom of God.

nm37 » The Bible speaks about an "everlasting" kingdom of God (2Pet 1:11; Dan. 7:27). But the translators of the Bible have *mistranslated* such words as "forever," "everlasting," and "eternal." The Bible was written mostly in two languages – Hebrew and Greek. The original words that were translated into "forever," "everlasting," and "eternal" actually mean aeonian, not forever (see the "Age Paper" [NM 7]). In other words, almost everywhere in the Bible where you see "forever," "everlasting," and "eternal" should read aeonian, age, or ages. Aeonian is a far cry from forever, for in order for it to be aeonian it must have a beginning and it implies the possibility of an end. But the word everlasting means it has no possibility of an end. Thus, when scripture is correctly translated, God's kingdom is an aeonian kingdom, and there are ageS within it not everlastingS or eternitieS within it. But unlike most ages, God's great age does not end, yet within this great age there are other ages (see "Age Paper" [NM 7]). One age within the ages of the Kingdom of God is the 1000 years (Rev 20:3, 5). Also see NM11 to learn more about *Ages in God's Plan* .

16. God's Kingdom *under* Christ, Who Is King of Kings (Rev 19:16), Will Last Through an Age of 1000 Years (Rev 20:4).

nm38 » During this age some men "born" of God will rule as servants with Christ (Rev 20:4). These who are to be born of God, who were human beings during the time *before* Christ's physical return, can be labeled as true Christians. These real Christians will rule as *servants* of mankind, not as warlords (read Mat 20:25-28), during this 1000 year age.

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17. But After the 1000 Year Age, The Kingdom of God Will Continue Into The Next Age – The Great Spiritual Last Day.

nm39 » The next age in the kingdom of God is an age of 100 years, which we call the Great Last Spiritual Day of Creation. It is a spiritual day of unity with God. *ALL* people who ever lived will be resurrected and live during this 100 year period. This age is a period of typical equal rulership and authority between all peoples – "the God, all things in all" (1Cor 15:28).

This period after the millennium has been completely overlooked by most people. See "God's Appointed Times Paper" [NM 16] and the "Thousand Years and Beyond Paper" [NM 15] for more information on the 100 year period.

18. Then After The 1000 Year Age, And After The 100 Year Age, Comes The End of The Spiritual Creation When The Antitypical New Heaven And Earth Will Be Created (1Cor 15:24-28; Rev 21:5).

nm40 » The antitypical creation is unlike the typical creation of the new heaven and earth. The typical creation of the new heaven and earth begins at Christ's physical return at the beginning of the 1000 year period (see 14 C above). The antitypical creation of the new heaven and earth happens at the time the totally *new* universe is created (note Rev 21:5). In that time everyone and everything will have been created new and will live in harmony and freedom from then and onward for God's age is an age without end (See "Age Paper" [NM 7]).

NM 24: Last Judgment

Day of Judgment: An Old Idea
Universal Salvation
Great White Throne Judgment
Biblical Teaching on Judgment
Two Groups
Lake of Fire
When is the Judgment?
Last Day
Gathering of the Nations
Hell Fire, Mankind, Real Judgment
Three Orders or Divisions

NM24 Abstract

In many religions there is a day of judgment, scales of Justice, a lake of fire, and hell. In this paper we are going to learn what the Bible says about judgment and hell. Is there a hell, and will people go to hell? Because of much confusion on these ideas, we will take a close look at these subjects.

nm41 » Before we see what the Bible says about the Judgment we will briefly examine some other ideas about it. We ourselves have heard various legends pertaining to hell and the judgment of the dead so we will recognize some of the following ideas. But the only ideas that count are the ones actually taught in the Bible, not the ideas that are alleged to be in the Bible.

Day of Judgment: An Old Idea

nm42 » The idea of the day of judgment has existed in most religions at least as far back as ancient Mesopotamia and Egypt. One book by S. Brandon, called *The Judgment of the Dead*, finds the idea of the judgment in ancient Egypt, Mesopotamia, the Greco-Roman culture, among Hebrews, among Christians, among Islamites, among Iranians, among Hindus and Buddhists, and among those in China and in Japan. Brandon believes that, "it is in Egypt that the earliest evidence is found of the idea that judgment awaited a man after death" (p. 6).

nm43 » Actually, this idea can be traced from the Biblical statement about not eating from the tree of knowledge of good and evil, "for in the day that you eat thereof, in dying, you will die" (see Hebrew text). Thus, If you sin, then when you die, you will really be dead, for you will be part of those called the "dead" in the Bible. The idea of the judgment of the dead is indeed very old, and not new.

Scales of Justice

nm44 » Brandon after expounding for pages about various ancient Egyptian writings about the weighing of good deeds and bad deeds of people at death writes about the tale of Senosiris, "Those whose misdeeds outweigh their good deeds are

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delivered to Amait, the bitch belonging to the lord of Amentit, so that their bodies and souls are utterly destroyed. Those who pass the awful test are conducted to heaven. The man, whose good and bad deeds equally balance, is placed among the dead furnished with amulets who serve Sokarosiris." Brandon goes on, "Belief in a judgment after death, symbolized by the balance or scales, can be traced on into the Roman period of Egyptian religion, and, as the curious *History of Joseph the Carpenter* shows, it passed in turn unto Coptic Christianity. The idea of weighing the deeds of men had already been adopted into Jewish apocryphal literature, and the variant concept of the weighing of souls had entered into Greek thought, as we shall see. Ultimately the idea found expression in mediaeval Christian art, with the archangel Michael assuming the role of 'Master of the Balance' which Thoth had held in ancient Egypt."(p . 45, *The Judgment of the Dead*)

Pit of Fire; Lake of Fire

nm45 » "In the *Amduat*, which purports to describe the underworld, these 'enemies,' represented either in human form or by hieroglyphs denoting 'shadows' or 'souls,' are shown in pits of fire" (p. 46). In the *Book of the Dead* it speaks of the " double Lake of Fire" (p. 186, 342 in Budge's Dover ed.).

nm46 » In *The Legends of the Jews*, Louis Ginzberg writes about what Enoch saw in hell, "He saw there all sorts of tortures, and impenetrable gloom, and there is no light there, but a gloomy fire is always burning. And all that place has fire on all sides, and on all sides cold and ice, thus it burns and freezes. And the angels, terrible and without pity, carry savage weapons, and their torture is unmerciful" (Vol. I, p. 132). In Ginzberg's books there are about 60 or more sections that speak about the Jewish legends concerning hell.

nm47 » The *Apocalypse of Peter*, a once popular book, which dates from approximately the early second century, shows the horrors of hell: "hanging by their tongues, and those were they that blasphemed the way of righteousness, and under them was laid fire flaming and tormenting them ... And in another place were gravel-stones sharper than swords or any spit, heated with fire, and men and women clad in filthy rags rolled upon them in torment" (Brandon, p. 116-117). These and other torments were to last forever, for the sinners, "shall be tormented eternally, for God willeth it so" (Brandon, p. 117).

Second Death

nm48 » "With these indications of the perpetual torments of the damned must also be set the idea of 'second death,' about which concern is shown in the *Book of the Dead*. From this conflict of eschatological imagery we can, accordingly, only safely deduce that the Egyptians believed that some awful fate awaited those whose hearts were found to be not right with *Maat* in the judgment after death" (p. 46-47). In the *Book of the Dead*, there are sections that deal with what one must do to escape the second death. These sections start out with the phrase, "chapter of not dying a second time [second death] in the netherworld." (p. 105, 184, 341 in Budge's Dover ed.)

Judgment After Death

nm49 » **Greek Thought.** In Brandon's opinion, "there was a significant body of opinion which affirmed that after death men would be judged on their conduct here. This belief was authorized by the poetry of Homer, which was truly the 'Bible of the Greeks.'" (p. 87) From Plato's *Republic* we see Socrates fearing what may come after his death. At one time Socrates "laughed at the tales about those in Hades, of punishment to be suffered there by him who here has done injustice. But now his soul is tormented by the thought that these may be true" (P. 87).

Are the above descriptions of a forever torture in a hell fire, and other tales even worse, really what hell is all about?

Trial and the Thousand Years

nm50 » Among the Greeks, if Plato's writings are any indication, was the idea of the judgment or trial of the souls after death: The souls are "on the termination of their first life, brought to trial; and, according to their sentence, some go to the prison-houses beneath the earth, to suffer for their sins, while others, by virtue, of their trial, are borne lightly upwards to some celestial spot, where they pass their days in a manner worthy of the life they have lived in their mortal form. But in the **thousandth year** both divisions come back again to share and choose their second life, and they select that which they severally please" (Plato, *Phaedrus*).

Notice that the idea of the millennium was also in Greek thought in Plato's time. And notice that *after* 1000 years both divisions would come back again (are resurrected) and do as they please.

Koran: Those on the Right and Left

nm51 » In the Islamic holy book, the Koran, the tales of hell and judgment are told. "The sinners will be in punishment of hell, to dwell therein" (Sura 43:74). At the end of the world, "when the earth will be shaken to its depths, and the mountains shall crumble to atoms" there will be those on the right and left of God, those on the right have "fruits in abundance" they are given "shade," "thrones," and virgin companions, but those on the left go off into "the midst of a fierce blast of fire and in boiling water" (Sura 56:4, 8, 27ff, 41ff).

Universal Salvation

nm52 » Not all shared in the idea of the forever judgement to hell. The great Alexandrian scholar Origen (about 185-254 AD) believed in universal salvation. "According to his doctrine of *apokatastasis*, in the end all souls, and even the demons, would be purified and reunited with God. Although Origen's views greatly influenced many Eastern Christians, Christians generally found it easier, and, it would seem, more congenial, to believe in both a Purgatory and a Hell where sinners would suffer physically the most horrible and revolting tortures that a morbid imagination could devise" (Brandon, p. 118).

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nm53 » In Ginzberg's books on the legends of the Jews, he relates the legends of how God revealed to Enoch "that the duration of the world will be seven thousand years, and the eighth millennium will be a time when there is no computation, no end, neither years, nor months, nor weeks, nor days, nor hours" (Vol. I, p. 135).

nm54 » In some forms of Zoroastrianism all men are saved after the Good ultimately prevails over the Evil, "and all men become immortal for ever and everlasting" (Brandon, p. 163).

nm55 » Hosea Ballou in his book, *The Ancient History of Universalism*[2] attempts to show the belief in universal salvation from Titus Flavius Clemens (190 AD) to Origen (230 AD) and those who agreed with him, and onto the other traces of it in history to about 1498 AD. So the belief in universal salvation is not new. Some today who believe in it are called universalist. Ballou was pastor of the Universalist Church in Roxbury in the early 1800's.

Great White Throne Judgment

nm56 » The popular Christian belief concerning the judgment of the dead is not new and can be stated as follows:

> At the return of Christ there will be a resurrection of the righteous and the wicked. (The Pre-millenarians teach a double resurrection: one of the just at the return of Christ, and another of the unjust a thousand years later.) Christ will judge those resurrected. This is called the great white throne judgment. All people will be judged at that time. This final judgment will be at the end of the world. Those judged the "wicked" will be consigned to hell or the lake of fire, and will suffer pains in body and soul for ever and ever. Those judged righteous will be given heaven as a reward. This heavenly state will be eternal. The resurrected will enjoy the fullness of life in communion with God for ever and ever.

Questions

nm57 » Is there a judgment of the dead? What is the judgment of the dead? Does this judgment last forever? Is there a hell fire? Who goes into the hell fire? Are people tortured forever? Can people's flesh burn forever? Will people be tortured? When is the Judgment? What happens to Satan and his angels? Is there a heaven?

[2] Published in Boston, 1828

Biblical Teaching on Judgment

Know Three Things

nm58 » In order to understand the real last judgment mentioned in the Bible you must know three things.

- **That God judges righteously**. See "God's Wrath" [PR4] to understand God's righteous judgment. In short, "the LORD is known by the judgment which he executes: the wicked is snared in the work of his own hands" (Psalms 9:16). In short, God's wrath and judgment is righteous: he lets those who do evil destroy themselves.
- **That the word translated "forever" or "everlasting" or "eternal"** in the English Bible literally means age or aeon or aeonian. See our "Age Paper" [NM 7] for proof on this matter. In short, there are ages in God's plan.
- **There is a difference between immortal life and aeonian life.** Knowledge is distinguishing between facts that superficially may seem to be the same (see below & NM 11).

Resurrection of the Dead and the Judgment

nm59 » There is Biblical doctrine pertaining to the resurrection and judgment (Heb 6:2).

> "Indeed, just as **the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whomever he wishes**. 22 The Father judges no one but has given all judgment to the Son, 23 so that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. Anyone who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him. 24 Very truly, I tell you, anyone who hears my word and believes him who sent me has aeonian life, and does not come under judgment, but has passed from death to life. 25 "Very truly, I tell you, the hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. 26 For just as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself; 27 and he has given him authority to execute **judgment**, because he is the Son of Man. 28 Do not be astonished at this; for the hour is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice 29 and will come out-- those who have done good, to the **resurrection of life**, and those who have done evil, to the **resurrection of judgment**" (John 5:21-29).

Christ given the power of the Resurrection and Judgment

nm60 » So in John 5 we have scripture that says the Father gave the authority to Christ ("Son of Man") to execute judgment. Remember the Father gave Christ *all* the power (Mat 28:18). One of these powers was to execute judgment and to give life to "whomever he wishes." In other words, Christ has the power to resurrect people. In verse 29 it speaks about the resurrection of life and the resurrection of judgment. Those who have done good will be in the resurrection of life, but those who have done evil will be in the resurrection of judgment. To be resurrected, you must have first died. So in the book of Acts 24:15 we see Paul saying "I have a hope in God – a hope that they themselves also accept – that there will be a resurrection of both the

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righteous and the unrighteous." Paul called this the resurrection of the dead (Acts 24:21; 1Cor 15:21). Jesus Christ himself was resurrected from the dead by the Father (1Pet 1:3; see GP 5). Daniel spoke about the resurrection of the dead, "And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to life of olam, and some to shame and contempt of olam." (Dan 12:2).

Two Groups; Two Destinies

One on the Right, One on the Left

nm61 » Notice that there are two groups or divisions: one of the just and good, and one of the unjust and evil (John 5:29; Acts 24:15; Dan 12:2).

> "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. 32 All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, 33 and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. 34 Then the king will say to **those at his right hand**, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, **inherit the kingdom** prepared for you from the foundation of the world; 35 for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, 36 I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' 37 Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? 38 And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? 39 And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' 40 And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.' 41 Then he will say to those **at his left hand**, 'You that are accursed, depart from me into the **aeonian fire** prepared for the devil and his angels.' 46 And these will go away into aeonian punishment, but the righteous into aeonian life" (Mat 25:31-41, 46).

One group, the just, at Christ's right hand, is given the kingdom, the other group on the left hand side is sent to the aeonian fire.

Lake of Fire

Second Death is the Lake of Fire

nm62 » Notice in the book of Revelation, 20:11-15:

> "Then I saw a **great white throne** and the one who sat on it; the earth and the heaven fled from his presence, and no place was found for them. 12 And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Also another book was opened, the book of life. And the dead were judged according to their works, as recorded in the books. 13 And the sea gave up the dead that were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and all were judged according to their works. 14 Then Death and Hades were thrown into the **lake of fire**. This is the **second death**, the lake of fire; 15 and anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire."

nm63 » Those not written in the book of life are thrown into the lake of fire, and this is the second death – the lake of fire (Rev 20:14). Notice that all were judged according to their works (Rev 20:13; see NM 12). Those who overcome evil "shall inherit all things, and I will be his God, and he shall be my son. But the **fearful, and unbelieving**, and abominable, and murderers, fornicators, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall **have their part in the lake which burns with fire** and brimstone [lake of fire], which is the second death" (Rev 21:7-8). Thus the lake of fire is the second death.

Lake of Fire: More Information

nm64 » As we have just seen in the book of Revelation, chapters 20 and 21, there is going to be a "lake of fire," and the lake of fire is the second death. The lake of fire is not a myth. This is not a myth. But at the beginning of this paper we wrote about the mythical *Book of the Dead* wherein a lake of fire is also mentioned. Also in many of the "myths" of ancient civilizations, pits of fire, hell of fire, lakes of fire, and other such descriptions are mentioned in connection with the fate of those judged evil in the day of judgement, or at the last judgment. There seems to be a collective-subconscious idea about some fiery fate for those who are evil, or for those who do not do enough good works while they are on earth. These myths are not the truth; they only have some aspects of the truth. The spirits of this age know something about a future judgment for them (Mat 8:28-29). Do they somehow project this subconsciously to mankind? (See, "Other Mind" paper [NM 21])

Scriptures that Point to the Last Judgment

nm65 » The following verses, through type and antitype (NM15; Nm16; PR1; etc.), in their higher meaning all point to the real last judgment:

> 2Peter 3:10 But the **day of the Lord** will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and **the elements will be dissolved with fire**, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.
>
> Zephaniah 1:18 Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the **day of the LORD's wrath**; in the **fire of his passion** the whole earth shall be consumed; for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

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Malachi 4:1 See, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble; the **day that comes shall burn them up**, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch.

Isaiah 29:6 you will be visited by the LORD of hosts with thunder and earthquake and great noise, with whirlwind and tempest, and the **flame of a devouring fire.**

Ezekiel 38:22 And I will judge against him with pestilence and with blood; and I will rain upon him, and upon his bands, and upon the many people that *are* with him, an overflowing rain, and **great hailstones, fire, and brimstone**.

Isaiah 30:30 And the LORD will cause his majestic voice to be heard and the descending blow of his arm to be seen, in furious anger and a **flame of devouring fire**, with a cloudburst and tempest and **hailstones**.

Ezekiel 13:13 Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: In my wrath I will make a stormy wind break out, and in my anger there shall be a deluge of rain, and **hailstones** in wrath to destroy it.

Jeremiah 10:10 But the LORD is the true God; he is the living God and the everlasting King. At **his wrath the earth quakes**, and the nations cannot endure his indignation.

Ezekiel 31:16 I made the nations quake at the sound of its fall, when I **cast it down to Sheol [hell] with those who go down to the Pit**; and all the trees of Eden, the choice and best of Lebanon, all that were well watered, were consoled in the world below.

Revelation 16:18 And there came flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, and a **violent earthquake**, such as had not occurred since people were upon the earth, so violent was that earthquake.

Revelation 11:19 Then God's temple in heaven was opened, and the ark of his covenant was seen within his temple; and there were flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, an **earthquake**, and **heavy hail**.

Job 38:22 have you entered into the treasures of the snow? or have you seen the treasures of **the hail**, JOB 38:23 Which **I have reserved against the time of trouble**, against the day of battle and war?

Revelation 16:21 and huge **hailstones**, each **weighing about a hundred pounds**, dropped from heaven on people, until they cursed God for the plague of the hail, so fearful was that plague.

Revelation 11:13 At that moment there was a **great earthquake**, and a tenth of the city fell; seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake, and the rest were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven.

Revelation 8:5 Then the angel took the **censer and filled it with fire** from the altar and threw it on the earth; and there were peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning, and an **earthquake**.

Revelation 18:8 therefore her plagues will come in a single day-- pestilence and mourning and famine-- and she [spiritual Babylon] will be **burned with fire**; for mighty is the Lord God who judges her."

Revelation 19:20 And the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who had performed in its presence the signs by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped its image. These two were thrown alive into the **lake of fire** that burns with sulfur.

Revelation 20:10 And the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the **lake of fire** and sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night into the ages of ages [not, forever and ever].

Revelation 21:8 But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the polluted, the murderers, the fornicators, the sorcerers, the idolaters, and all liars, their place will be in the **lake that burns with fire** and sulfur, which is the second death.

nm66 » The scriptures above and others point to the great fire, great earthquake, great hailstones, great wind, great thunder, great lightning, thus, a **great tribulation**. This is the Last War. I write about in the "Last War and God's Wrath" paper [PR5]. See an outline of scripture concerning this Last War in "God's Wrath, An Outline" [PR6]. This Last War has to do with a great atomic war with a massive fiery wind storm caused by the abundance of weapons going off in close proximity to each other.

Hell Fire: Who is it For?

nm67 » There is a lake of fire, but who is it for? Is the fire for humans? Myths say that humans in bodily form will be tortured in a hell fire forever and ever for the evil they committed on earth. Does the Bible teach this?

> "Then he will say to those at his left hand, You that are accursed, depart from me into the aeonian **fire prepared for the devil and his angels**" (Mat 25:41).
>
> "And **the devil** who had deceived them **was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur**, where the beast and the false prophet are, and they will be tormented day and night into eons and eons" (Rev 20:10).
>
> "He seized the dragon, **that ancient serpent, who is the Devil and Satan**, and bound him **for a thousand years**, and **threw him into the pit**, and locked and sealed it over him, so that he would deceive the nations no more, until the thousand years were ended. After that he must be let out for a little while" (Rev 20:2-3).

Jesus Christ said that the fire of hell was prepared or made for the devil and his angels. In the book of Revelation it prophesies about the Devil (Satan that old serpent) being sent to a pit of fire for one thousand years.

nm68 » Peter and Jude also wrote about Satan and his angels being reserved unto the day of judgment.

> 2PET 2:4: For if GOD spares not [the] angels who sin, but casts them chained into the hell [Tartarus] of darkness to be kept [there] for judgment;
>
> JUDE 1:6: And angels who had not kept their own original state, but had abandoned their beginning, for [the] judgment of [the] great day; chained perpetually[3] under gloomy darkness, he keeps [them].

And In Proverbs, "The LORD has made all things for a purpose, Yes, even the wicked for the day of evil" (Prov 16:4).

nm69 » This is much like the heavens and earth being kept in store for the day of judgment:

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[3] Strong's # 126 (from #104) = always, continual, perpetual, not necessarily "forever." See NM 24.

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2PET 3:7: But the present heavens and the earth by his word are laid up in store, kept for fire unto a **day of judgment** and destruction of ungodly men.

nm70 » And this day of judgment will be with fire so hot the elements will melt:

2PET 3:12: waiting for and hastening the **coming of the day of the GOD**, by reason of which [the] heavens, being on fire, shall be dissolved, and [the] elements, burning with heat, shall melt?

ISA 64:1: Oh that you [God] would rip the heavens, that you would come down, that the mountains might flow down **at your presence**. ISA 64:2 As **when the melting fire burns**, the fire causes the waters to boil, to make your name known to your adversaries, that the nations may tremble at your presence! ISA 64:3 When you did terrible things which we looked not for, you came down, the mountains flowed down at your presence. ISA 64:4 For since olam past men have not heard, nor perceived by the ear, neither has the eye seen, O God, beside you, what he has prepared for him that waits for him.

PSA 97:1 The BeComingOne [YHWH] reigns; let the earth rejoice; let the multitude of isles be glad thereof. PSA 97:2 Clouds and darkness are round about him: righteousness and judgment are the habitation of his throne. PSA 97:3 A **fire goes before him**, and burns up his enemies round about. PSA 97:4 His lightning enlightened the world: the earth saw, and trembled. PSA 97:5 The **hills melted like wax** at the presence of the BeComingOne, at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth. PSA 97:6 The heavens declare his righteousness, and all the people see his glory.

Names for the Judgment

nm71 » A day will come when God will Judge the world. Various phrases are used in the Bible to describe it.

- Day of the LORD's anger (Zeph 2:2)
- Wrath of the LORD of hosts (Isa 13:13)
- Day of His fierce anger (Isa 13:13)
- Day of the LORD's wrath (Zeph 1:18)
- Great day of wrath (Rev 6:17; Psalms 110:5)
- Day of the Lord (2Pet 3:10; 1Thes 5:2)
- Day of judgment (Mat 10:15; 2Pet 2:9; 3:7)
- Day of the Lord Jesus (1Cor 1:8)
- Great and dreadful day of the LORD (Mal 4:5)
- Great day of the LORD (Zeph 1:14)
- Day of the Lord Yehowah [YHWH], a day of vengeance (Jer 46:10)
- Day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God (Rom 2:5)

There are many places in the Bible where it speaks about the day of judgment for the enemies of physical Israel. But in the Spiritual view or higher meaning they pertain to the Last War, and the Last Judgment against the enemies of Spiritual Israel.

When is the Judgment?

nm72 » The next question is, *when* will this Judgment begin? "Jesus Christ, who shall judge the living and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom" (2Tim 4:1). At the appearance of his kingdom Christ will judge the living and the dead.

Right and Left Side

nm73 »

> MAT 25:31 But **when the Son of man comes in his glory**, and all the angels with him, then shall he sit down upon his throne of glory, 32 and all the nations shall be gathered before him; and **he shall separate them** from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats; 33 and he will set the sheep **on his right hand**, and the goats on his left. 34 Then shall the King say to those on his right hand, Come, blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the world's foundation: MAT 25:41 Then shall he say also to **those on the left**, Go from me, cursed, into aeonian fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: MAT 25:46 And these shall go away into aeonian punishment, and the righteous into life aeonian.

Last Trumpet

nm74 » This judgement of the right and left side occurs when Christ comes with his angels at the last trumpet,

> "And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a **trumpet**, and they shall gather together his elect..." (Mat 24:31).
>
> "For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's **trumpet**, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first" (1Thess 4:16).
>
> "In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the **last trump**: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall all be changed, for this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal put on immortality" (1Cor 15:52-52).
>
> "Then the seventh angel blew his **trumpet** [last trumpet], and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, 'The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Messiah, and he will reign into the ages of the ages.'" (Rev 11:15)

When are those on the right and left separated? When is the last trumpet, when the angels help gather the elect, when immortality is given, when the kingdoms of this world become the kingdom of God?

Last Day

nm75 » The Bible mentions the *day* of the Lord, the *day* of wrath, the *day* of anger, the *day* of judgment. And the Bible also mentions the **last day**:

> John 6:39 And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the **last day**.
>
> John 6:40 This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see the Son and believe in him may have aeonian life; and I will raise them up on the **last day**."
>
> John 6:44 No one can come to me unless drawn by the Father who sent me; and I will raise that person up on the **last day**.

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> John 11:24 Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the **last day**."
>
> John 12:48 The one who rejects me and does not receive my word has a judge; on the **last day** the word that I have spoken will serve as judge,

nm76 » What happens on this last day? There is a resurrection for those who are drawn Spiritually, who see Spiritually, and believe Spiritually. But those who reject Christ are judged by the words Christ spoke (John 12:48; Ho 6:5).

nm77 » When is this resurrection? From the "last trumpet" section above we see that the resurrection is at the last trumpet, just as the kingdom of God begins its reign on earth. "Jesus Christ, who shall judge the living and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom" (2Tim 4:1).

How will Christ Judge?

nm78 » At Christ coming in his kingdom he will judge (2Tim 4:1). He will let his words be the judge (John 12:48; Ho 6:5). One is judged according to their works (See NM 12). He judges righteously (PR4). Note the books (Bible) being opened in Revelation 20:12, "and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works." In other words, those who are "just" according to their works and are on the right are given the kingdom and aeonian life (Mat 25:33-34, 46); those who are "unjust" according to their works and are on the left are sent away from the glory of the kingdom and given aeonian punishment (Mat 25:41, 46). This is the righteous judgment, you are judged according to your works. The evil other-minds will be destroyed in the lake of fire of their own creation – the results of the Last War (see "Last War and God's Wrath" paper [PR5]).

> "The Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels in flaming fire [caused by Satan's war], inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. These will suffer the punishment of aeonian destruction, separated from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might" (2Thess 1:7-9).

nm79 » The judgment and the resurrection occur at the very time Christ comes with the power of his kingdom.

> DAN 7:26 But the **judgment shall sit**, and they [Saints] shall take away his [Satan & Beast's] dominion, to consume and to destroy it unto the end. DAN 7:27 And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is a kingdom of olam, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.

nm80 » This in context with Daniel 7:12-14, 21-22, pictures the time when Christ and his saints take the kingdom away from Satan, and when the judgment is set to happen, which is at the time the Beast and its kingdom are destroyed (See *Beast Papers*; PR2, PR3).

> "And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city: and fire came down and devoured them. And the Devil who deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, and where the Beast and the false prophet [are]; and they shall be tormented day and night into the ages [aeons] of ages [aeons]. And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled, and place was not found for them" (Rev 20:9-11; see Rev 20:15 & 19:19-21).

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Last Day = Thousand Years

nm81 » There are patterns in the Bible. One of them is the cycle of seven: Six similar units; the seventh different (See NM 15). In the beginning was the pattern of the week: six days of work; one day of rest (Gen 1:1-2:3; Exo 20:8-11). There is type and antitype in the Bible ("Duality Paper"). As Paul made much of the scriptures about Adam and Eve and Christ being the second Adam and the Church being the second Eve[4] (1Cor 15:45; Eph 5:23-32; etc), I will also make a great deal about the antitypical week of creation, in which each "day" equals 1000 years. When Peter was talking about the judgment, he wrote about a day for the Lord is as a thousand years (2Pet 3:7-8). Revelation 20:2-5 speaks about a rest from Satan lasting for 1000 years. Putting this together and knowing about type and antitype, we conclude that the "last day" Christ was speaking about in the book of John pertaining to the resurrection and judgment is the "day" of one-thousand years as mentioned in the book of Revelation.

When the Beast system is destroyed is when the judgment occurs, and when the kingdom of God takes over. This is also the time of the gathering of the nations to fight against Christ and his saints.

Gathering of the Nations

nm82 » The following pertain to the time of the gathering of nations, Gog and Magog:

> EZE 38:2 Son of man, set your face against **Gog, the land of Magog**, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal, and prophesy against him, EZE 38:14 Therefore, son of man, prophesy and say unto **Gog**, Thus says my Lords the BeComingOne; In that day when my people of Israel dwells safely, shall you not know it? EZE 38:15 And you shall come from your place out of the north parts, you, **and many people with you**, all of them riding upon horses, a great company, **and a mighty army**: EZE 38:16 And you **shall come up against my people of Israel**, as a cloud to cover the land; it shall be in the end of days, and I will bring you against my land, that the nations may know me, when I shall be sanctified in you, O Gog, before their eyes. EZE 38:17 Thus says my Lords the BeComingOne; are you he of whom I have spoken in old days by my servants the prophets of Israel, which prophesied in those days many years that I would bring you against them? EZE 38:18 And **it shall come to pass at the same day when Gog shall come against the land of Israel**, says my Lords the BeComingOne, **that my fury shall come up in my face**. EZE 38:19 For in my jealousy and in the **fire of my wrath** have I spoken, Surely in that day there shall be a great **shaking** in the land of Israel; EZE 38:20 So that the fishes of the sea, and the fowls of the heaven, and the living creatures of the field, and all creeping things that creep upon the earth, and all the men that are upon the face of the earth, **shall shake at my presence**, and the mountains shall be thrown down, and the steep places shall fall, and every wall shall fall to the ground. EZE 38:21 And I will call for a sword against him throughout all my mountains, says my Lords the BeComingOne: every man's sword shall be against his

[4] Christ the second Adam; the Church the second Eve returns and becomes one with her Husband: the marriage of the Bride and Lamb (Rev 21:2, 9). Etc.

brother. EZE 38:22 And **I will judge against him** with pestilence and with blood; and I will rain upon him, and upon his bands, and upon the many people that are with him, an overflowing rain, and **great hailstones, fire, and brimstone.** EZE 38:23 Thus will I magnify myself, and sanctify myself; and I will be known in the eyes of many nations, and they shall know that I am the BeComingOne.

REV 20:8 and [Satan] shall go out to deceive the nations which [are] in the four corners of the earth, **Gog and Magog**, to **gather** them together **to the war**, whose number [is] as the sand of the sea. REV 20:9 And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and **surrounded the camp of the saints** and the beloved city: and fire came down and devoured them. REV 20:10 And the **devil** who deceived them was **cast into the lake of fire and brimstone**, and where the beast and the false prophet; and they shall be tormented day and night into the ages [aeons] of ages [aeons] REV 20:11 And I saw a **great white throne**, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled, and place was not found for them.

REV 19:19 And I saw the **Beast** and the **kings of the earth** and their **armies gathered** together **to make war** against him that sat upon the horse, and against his army. REV 19:20 And the beast was taken, and the false prophet that [was] with him, who worked the signs before him by which he deceived them that received the mark of the beast, and those that worship his image. Alive were both **cast into the lake of fire** which burns with brimstone; REV 19:21 and the rest were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which goes out of his mouth; and all the birds were filled with their flesh. REV 20:2 And he [Christ] laid hold of the dragon, the ancient serpent who is [the] Devil and **Satan, and bound him a thousand years**, REV 20:3 and cast him into the abyss, and shut [it] and sealed [it] over him, that he should not any more deceive the nations until the thousand years were completed; (after these things he must be loosed for a little time.) REV 20:4 And I saw thrones; and they sat upon them, and **judgment was given to them** [Christ & Saints, Dan 7:22]; and the souls of those beheaded on account of the testimony of Jesus, and on account of the word of the GOD; and those who had not done homage to the Beast nor to his image, and had not received the mark on their forehead and hand; and they lived and reigned with the Christ a thousand years: REV 20:5 (the rest of the dead did not live until the thousand years had been completed.) This [is] the first resurrection. REV 20:6 Blessed and holy he who has part in the first resurrection: over these the second death has no power; but they shall be priests of the GOD and of the Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years. REV 20:7 And when the thousand years have been completed, Satan shall be loosed from his prison.

nm83 » **Gathered Against Christ**. Here we have Gog and Magog, with the gathered nations and their armies going against Christ and his "army." Christ's army is, "And the armies which [are] in the heaven followed him upon white horses, clad in white, pure, fine linen" (Rev 19:14).

Who are those Dressed in White

nm84 » And who are those dressed in white?

REV 7:13 And one of the elders answered, saying to me, These who are clothed with white robes, who are they, and whence came they? REV 7:14 And I said to him, My lord, you know. And he said to me, These are **they who come out of the great tribulation**, and have washed their robes, and have made them white in the blood of the Lamb. REV 7:15 Therefore are they before the throne of the GOD, and serve him day and night in his temple, and he that sits upon the throne shall spread his

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> tabernacle over them. REV 7:16 They shall not hunger any more, neither shall they thirst any more, nor shall the sun at all fall on them, nor any burning heat.

Thus, those clothed in white are the saints (Rev 3:5, 18; 6:11). They came out of the great tribulation.

Great Tribulation

nm85 » There are two senses to this tribulation: (1) The greatest and last tribulation at the very end, and (2) the whole tribulation since the time of Adam (cf. Rom 8:22; Rev 1:9; 1Thess 3:4; 2Cor 7:4;). By reading our newspapers and by reading history, we know that the whole world has been in tribulation: and we know this is the result of sin.

To review. We see that the time of the last judgment is right at the time Christ comes to take over the kingdom or rulership from Satan. Christ does not destroy the world, the world destroys itself, for Christ comes to save not destroy (see God's Wrath papers [PR4, PR5, PR6]).

Hell-Fire; Mankind; Real Judgment

nm86 » We know by various scriptures that the hell-fire will be for Satan and his angels (Mat 25:41; Rev 20:2-3, 10). But according to myth some of mankind will suffer **in** a fire forever for their sins. How can this be since physical bodies will burn-up in a fire? This whole idea is nonsense. They make God out to be sadistic. But our God is Love. (The *Parable of Lazarus* is logically explained in the "All Saved" paper [NM 13]) Yet Augustine in his book called, the *City of God*, quotes from John 5:29, Matthew 13:41-43, and Matthew 25:46 as proof of "the perpetual punishment of those condemned with the devil." In Augustine's answer to the question "whether bodies can survive in a burning fire," he says, "what proof then can I offer to convince unbelievers that it is possible for human bodies, endowed with soul and life, not merely never to be decomposed by death, but also to outlast the torments of eternal flames? They refuse to accept from us an appeal to the power of the Almighty, but press us to cite a precedent by way of argument. We can reply that there are animals, which are certainly liable to destruction, since they are mortal, but still survive in the midst of flames" (Book 21.1). This animal Augustine is speaking about is the so-called "fire-salamander" which never existed, except in myth. Later Augustine goes on and says, "we say that there will be living human bodies which will always burn and suffer, yet will never die" (21.5, Loeb Classical Lib, p. 31). He goes on about this, "In many things it is unclear to us what His will is. This [human bodies in hell, never dying], however, is very certain, that none of the things which He has willed is impossible, and we believe His predictions since we cannot question either his strength or his truth" (Loeb Lib, p. 31).

nm87 » **God's Will**. Augustine tries to argue with things in nature, but fails, so he falls back on *his* corrupt idea of God's will. But what is God's will? "God our Savior, who wishes <u>all</u> to be saved, and to come to the knowledge of the truth" (1Tim 2:3-4). And the Lord is "not willing that any should perish, but that <u>all</u> should come to repentance" (2Pet 3:9). Because Christ does his Father's will (Heb 10:7; John 6:38), then what Christ wills is also what God wills. As shown in the paper called "All Saved" [NM 13], God willed that <u>all</u> will eventually be saved, and He will make this happen, irrespective if Augustine or you or anyone else believes otherwise. See "All Saved" paper [NM13] for details.

nm88 » By his own arguments, we can see that Augustine knew that the word translated into "forever" in many Bibles can mean an "age" or "long period of time" and not an eternal period of time. In order to disprove that the Greek word *aionios* or the Latin word *aeternus* means forever and not aeonian, Augustine agues thus,

> Then what sort of reasoning is it, to take the eternal [*aionios*] punishment of the wicked as a fire of long duration and believe that eternal life is without end? For Christ said in the very same place, including both in one and the same sentence: "So these will go into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life." If both are eternal, then surely both must be understood as "long," but having an end, or else as "everlasting," without an end. For they are matched with each other: in one clause eternal punishment, in the other eternal life. But to say in one and the same sentence: "Eternal life shall be without end, eternal punishment will have an end," is utterly absurd. Hence, since the eternal life of the saints will be without end, eternal punishment also will surely have not end, for those whose lot it is.

(See "Context Argument Two in the "Age Paper" [NM 7] for a fuller explanation of this.)

nm89 » **What Augustine does here is mix-up two things**: (1) Christians are given immortal life when they are resurrected at Christ's coming; and (2), they are given aeonian life in the same age that the "dead" and Satan are given their aeonian punishment.

nm90 » Notice that Paul in the so-called resurrection chapter in the first book of Corinthians, mentions Christian's immortality:

> 1Corinthians 15:42: So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable [immortal].
>
> 1Corinthians 15:51: Listen, I will tell you a mystery! We will not all die, but we will all be changed, 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. 53 For this perishable body must put on imperishability, and this mortal body must put on immortality. 54 When this perishable body puts on imperishability, and this **mortal body puts on immortality**, then the saying that is written will be fulfilled: "Death has been swallowed up in victory."

Thus Christians will receive immortality as a gift. There is a difference between immortal life and aeonian life (NM11).

Three Orders or Divisions

nm91 » **Three Orders:** This resurrection chapter is also talking about the sequential *order* in which mankind will be given immortal life.

> 1Corinthians 15:20 But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruit of those who have died. 21 For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; 22 for as all die in Adam, so **all will be made alive in Christ**. 23 But **each in his own order**: **Christ the first fruit, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. 24 Then comes the end**, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, after he has destroyed every ruler and every authority and power.

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This thus pictures the three times that mankind will be resurrected from the dead and given immortal life. This fulfills the typical three times physical Israel was ordered by God to stand before him (See NM 16).

The first was Christ

nm92 »

> 25 "Very truly, I tell you, the hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. 26 **For just as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself**; 27 and he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man. 28 Do not be astonished at this; for the hour is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice 29 and will come out-- those who have done good, to **the resurrection of life**, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of judgment (John 5:25-29).

Christ was resurrected from the dead by the power of his Father (Rom 1:4; 1Pet 1:3; GP 5). He was first, "If then you see the Son of man ascending up where he was the first?" (John 6:62; see Greek text) Christ was the "beginning of the creation of God" or the *new* creation of God (Rev 3:14; Gal 6:15), "the first born of all creation" (Col 1:15), thus "first born of the dead" "who is the beginning" (Col 1:18) "He is the first-born among many brethren" (Rom 8:29).

Second Order

nm93 » The second time mankind will be resurrected to immortal life is at Christ's coming (1Cor 15:23). This is the resurrection of life (John 5:29). This is the group on Christ's right at his coming who are given the kingdom and rule during the 1000 years (Rev 20:1-6). Satan and his angels, on the left side, are counted as unjust, and are put into the bottomless pit for 1000 years (Rev 20:2-3, 11-15; 21:8; 2Thess 1:9). Those counted as good are given immortal life and also the 1000 year aeonian life (Rom 2:7; NM 11). We explain the difference between the immortal life and the aeonian life in our paper called "Reward for Christians." [NM 11] They will rule with Christ during the 1000 years (Rev 2:26; 3:21; 5:10; Dan 7:27). This is the first of the last two resurrections to immortal life (Rev 20:5b).

Third Order

nm94 » But the others "will suffer the punishment of aeonian destruction, separated from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his power" (2Thess 1:9). While the "just" are enjoying the wonders of the kingdom during the 1000 years, the "unjust" will be taken from the kingdom for 1000 years. It is at the "end," after the 1000 years, when the "unjust" are resurrected (Rev 20:5a; 1Cor 15:24). This is the resurrection of the dead (John 5:29).

Conclusion:

nm95 » The "just" are given immortal life and given the 1000 year aeonian life, but the "unjust" go for the 1000 year aeonian punishment (Mat 25:46 w/ Rev 20:1-5). This is the aeonian judgment (Heb 6:2). The judgment for sin is death (Ezek 18:11-13; Gen 2:17; Rom 6:23). "The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is aeonian life, through Jesus Christ" (Rom 6:23). What God said in Genesis 2:17 was that if they ate from the forbidden tree they would in dying, be dead: "in dying, you will die" or "in dying, you will be dead" (see Hebrew text or BCB). What God was doing was projecting to us the group called the "dead" in the Bible (Luke 9:60; 2Tim 4:1; 1Pet 4:6).

In Short: Judgment is

nm96 » Those who overcome will inherit all things (Rev 20:7; 1Cor 3:21-22; 2Pet 1:3). Those who do not overcome or are unjust or are evil are sent to the lake of fire to be destroyed from the presence of the Lord and his glory (Rev 20:10, 15; 21:8; Mat 13:41-42; 25:41; 1Pet 3:7, 10-11; 2Thess 1:9), for the 1000 years (Rev 20:4-5). Those who overcome eat from the tree of life, are not hurt by any second death, given a new Name, rule over nations in the 1000 years, will not be taken out of the book of life, will have God's Name, and will sit in/on Christ's throne (Rev 2:7, 11, 17; 26; 3:5, 12, 21 cf. 21:8). But after the 1000 year judgment there will be the coming together of all, so that God will be all in all (1Cor 15:28; NM15; NM16; GP6).

nm97 » Christians will also judge, so to speak, the angels and the world at Christ's coming (1Cor 6:2-3; Dan 7:26-27). Their good works judge-down the evil works of the world, Satan, and his angels.

Remaining questions:

What happens to Satan and his angels? (See, NM 13,14, 15; GP 6, 7, 8) Is there a Heaven? (See, NM 25)

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Index

Aeonian Life 6
Apocalypse of Peter . . . . . NM 3:9 Page 16
Augustine
    mix-up two things . . . . . NM 3:24 Page 31
Christ
    How will Christ Judge . . . . . NM 3:19 Page 26
    power of the Resurrection and Judgment . . . . . NM 3:12 Page 19
    return, to . . . . . NM 3:3 Page 10
    The first . . . . . NM 3:25 Page 32
Christ resurrected . . . . . NM 3:3 Page 10
clouds
    Christ's coming, at 6
creation
    God in the Beginning . . . . . NM 3:1 Page 8
Day
    Last . . . . . NM 3:18 Page 25
Death
    Second . . . . . NM 3:9 Page 16
Destinies
    Two . . . . . NM 3:13 Page 20
Eve
    second . . . . . NM 3:21 Page 28
Fire
    Hell . . . . . NM 3:23 Page 30
    Lake . . . . . NM 3:14 Page 21
    Lake, Pit . . . . . NM 3:9 Page 16
Gathering nations
    Against Christ . . . . . NM 3:22 Page 29
Gathering of the Nations . . . . . NM 3:21 Page 28
God's Will
    salvation . . . . . NM 3:23 Page 30
good and evil . . . . . NM 3:2 Page 9
Groups

Two ..... NM 3:13 Page 20
happiness 7
Hell Fire
Who is it For ..... NM 3:16 Page 23
Hell-Fire ..... NM 3:23 Page 30
Immortality 7
Jesus
return, to ..... NM 3:3 Page 10
Jews
Legends of the ..... NM 3:9 Page 16
Judge
How will Christ ..... NM 3:19 Page 26
Judgement
Great White Throne ..... NM 3:11 Page 18
Judgment
After Death ..... NM 3:10 Page 17
An Old Idea ..... NM 3:8 Page 15
Biblical Teaching ..... NM 3:12 Page 19
Conclusion ..... NM 3:26 Page 33
Day ..... NM 3:8 Page 15
Greek Thought ..... NM 3:10 Page 17
Last ..... NM 3:8 Page 15
Names ..... NM 3:17 Page 24
Real ..... NM 3:23 Page 30
When ..... NM 3:18 Page 25
Justice
Scales of ..... NM 3:8 Page 15
kingdom of God
ChristiaMoses ..... NM 3:4 Page 11
Koran
Those on the Right and Left ..... NM 3:10 Page 17
Lake of Fire ..... NM 3:9 Page 16, NM 3:14 Page 21
and second death ..... NM 3:14 Page 21
Pit of Fire ..... NM 3:9 Page 16
Last Day ..... NM 3:18 Page 25
Thousand Years ..... NM 3:21 Page 28

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B1 – Becoming-One Church – https://beone.ws

Last Judgment ..... NM 3:8 Page 15, NM 3:26 Page 33
Last Trumpet ..... NM 3:18 Page 25
law
first ..... NM 3:2 Page 9
Legends of the Jews ..... NM 3:9 Page 16
Life in the Kingdom of God 7
Love and Freedom 7
Nations
Gathering ..... NM 3:21 Page 28
New Heaven 7
New Universe 7
NM 26 ..... NM 3:1 Page 8
Order
Second ..... NM 3:25 Page 32
Third ..... NM 3:25 Page 32
Orders
Three ..... NM 3:24 Page 31
other-mind
first law ..... NM 3:2 Page 9
Peter
Apocalypse of ..... NM 3:9 Page 16
Plan of Creation (Paper) ..... NM 3:1 Page 8
Pleasure in the New Life 7
Resurrection ..... NM 3:12 Page 19
Salvation
Universal ..... NM 3:10 Page 17
Satan
What happens to ..... NM 3:26 Page 33
savior
promised ..... NM 3:2 Page 9
Second Death ..... NM 3:9 Page 16
and the lake of fire ..... NM 3:14 Page 21
Second Order ..... NM 3:25 Page 32
Third Order ..... NM 3:25 Page 32
Thousand Years ..... NM 3:10 Page 17
Among the Greeks ..... NM 3:10 Page 17

Last Day ..... NM 3:21 Page 28
three orders ..... NM 3:24 Page 31
Tree of knowledge ..... NM 3:8 Page 15
Trumpet
Last ..... NM 3:18 Page 25
Universal Salvation ..... NM 3:10 Page 17
utopia ..... NM 3:4 Page 11
white
dressed in ..... NM 3:22 Page 29