

Chapter Eight

THOSE WHO WILL SHED TEARS IN THE KINGDOM

In this chapter, we will deal with the pain that many of God's children will endure throughout the Millennial Reign. Every knee will bow and every tongue will confess the Lordship of Jesus at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

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Many of the people of our modern Christian world are in for a shock when they stand before the Lord at the Judgment Seat of Christ. The author is not trying to be judgmental, but **writing with the hope of alerting people of what lies ahead**. If a person, who has been careless in his Christian life, prayerfully reads this and responds to the Lord's direction, it should help his status in the Millennium and elevate **where he will live on the other side of the river**.

In our first section, we will examine the judgment that will produce pain to the populace as they face the ordeal of "ashes only."

In the second section, we will show the ordeal that the unfaithful Christians, who were **parents**, will face. "Something worse than death" awaits many worldly, unfaithful parents; and it concerns their most precious possession, their children.

THE PAIN OF THE POPULACE, "ASHES ONLY"

As a little boy, my whole life was changed **by fire**. Our family went from a moderately successful farming family to a bankrupt family, in one night, by the **burning of our huge barn**. The yearly crops were all gathered within the barn and the insurance had lapsed the thirty-first of the previous month. Everything was gone in one fire. **Everything was turned to ashes**. This is exactly the pain that many of God's rebellious children will face - **the pain of ashes only**.

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SAVED SO AS BY FIRE

In I Cor 3:10-15, the apostle Paul admonishes believers to be careful what materials they use in building their Christian life. He lists six different materials: **gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay and stubble** - "...and the fire shall try every

They did not save any of their time, any of their money, any of their life - it is all gone - ashes only.

man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire." verse 13-15

He will be saved and go into the Millennial Reign and then on into the eternal age, but **he will suffer loss of rewards**. No doubt, some people will have "ashes only." Everything will be gone, but they will be saved – "so as by fire."

Their whole life's work - GONE! They will stand before their Lord ashamed and naked. They did not save any of their time, any of their money, any of their life – it is all gone, **there are ashes only.**

SNATCHED FROM THE FIRE

In Jude, the Bible speaks of some Christians who were "snatched from the fire," meaning literally saved from hell at the last moment or opportunity. Jude 23

Many people will go to the Judgment Seat as a person who was saved late in life or just before they died. All of their sins were paid for by the blood of Jesus, but there was little or no time for them to work for the Lord.

There will be great joy that they are in Heaven. They will have a fresh start in the Millennial Reign as a newborn child of God, starting

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out in a new life. Snatched from the fires of hell, to learn and live for Jesus in His personal Kingdom and throughout the age to come. Snatched by grace from the fires of hell to live forever and praise Jesus. How marvelous is our Savior!

PURIFIED BY FIRE

The author's belief is that a lot of Christians who have had a set back and sinned, like King David, will be purified by

the fire and go into **the Kingdom victorious and rejoicing.**

When one studies the lives of Old Testament Saints, such as Abraham, one can see the frailty of the flesh. They were just humans in the process of learning to walk and follow God by faith. There were sins and mistakes, but in the New Testament **there is no mention** of those sins or mistakes.

I believe those Christians will be purified by fire and go into the 1000-year Kingdom **with joy and triumph.** They overcame their weakness and frailty and through faith began to grow spiritually. One finds the severity of God's judgment is always connected with a **willful sin or refusing to follow God's will.**

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The Bible teaches that many of God's children who had a lapse or a breakdown in their Christian life were chastised and learned from that experience. Their overall desire was to serve the Lord. Their motives were right. Jesus will judge at the Judgment Seat, taking into consideration all

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aspects of the breakdown, and will reward these Christians based upon what works remain. They will go into the Kingdom **to serve their King joyfully and with honor.** But, the rebellious, willful, worldly children of God, will have their work tried by fire and will go empty handed into their assignment. They will labor with their conscience and the memories of their deeds for 1000 years. They will suffer the pain and poverty of "ashes only."

Isaiah quotes God concerning the religious services, which God totally rejects: "When ye come to appear before me, who hath required this at your hand, to tread my courts? Bring no more vain oblations; incense is an abomination unto me; the new moons and sabbaths, the calling of assemblies, I cannot away with; it is iniquity, even the solemn meeting. Your new moons and your appointed feasts my soul hateth: they are a trouble unto me; I am weary to bear them. And when ye spread forth your hands, I will hide mine eyes from you: yea, when ye make many prayers, I will not hear: your hands are full of blood. Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil;" Isaiah 1:12-16

LOOK TO GOD'S REACTION

They were busy with their "church work," but never did anything to influence sinners to be saved. In Isa. 1:12, we have God's same reaction to many of the church services today. Their order of services is great, the musicians are talented, and to outward appearances it is a great worship service. That is man's view, but God sees the heart, **and is appalled.**

There will be many surprises at the Judgment Seat of Christ. Many church members who seemed to be good Christians will have their motives for serving Christ **tried by fire, and their works will be found as wood, hay, or stubble.** Some people who were barely recognized by the majority of their generation will shine brightly as their works are cleansed and revealed to be Christ-centered and true. Others who served as their leaders or supervisors will weep when the judgment fires burn their works and leave "**ashes only.**"

They will weep over their carnal, traditional life which, when tried by the pure judgment fires will reveal a self-serving life.

They will realize how hurtful and destructive their religion was as the judgment fires render their works and life to “ashes only.”

PARENTS WHO WILL FACE SOMETHING WORSE THAN DEATH

Many parents will face something worse than death, and it will involve their dearest possession, their children.

In our modern day thinking, death is the worse thing that could happen to a person. Someone may ask, "What could happen to a person that would be worse than dying?" We will go through a verse by verse study in order to answer this question.

REVEALING TO PARENTS A PUNISHMENT WHICH IS WORSE THAN DEATH

In Hebrews Chapter 10, beginning in verse 22, we have several verses that are clearly speaking to the saved. But many have a tendency, when they come to a verse **that crosses their traditional way of thinking, to apply that verse to the lost.** Many do

this in spite of Peter's warning that one can't interpret a scripture by taking it out of context in order to make it fit one's preconceived view. Please carefully study the verses, beginning with verse twenty-two. We will use enough of these verses to prove our point.

Verse 22: "Let us draw near with a true heart," – speaking to the saved.

Verse 23: "Let us hold fast the profession of our faith," – speaking to the saved.

Verse 24: "Let us consider one another," – speaking to the saved.

Verse 25: "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together," – again, speaking to the saved.

Verse 26: "For if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth," – Many want to apply this verse to the Jews, but he is still speaking to the saved.

Verse 27: "But a certain fearful looking for of judgment," – still speaking to the saved.

Verse 28: "He that despised Moses' law [one of the Ten Commandments] died without mercy [was stoned to death] under two or three witnesses." – This historical

fact happened over and over again in the history of the Jews. This is good illustration that Paul draws from the Old Testament in order to prove his point.

Verse 29: "Of how much sorer punishment," [something worse than death] – still speaking to the saved.

What are the offenses that will bring something to the child of God that is worse than death? Paul listed three of these offenses:

- Trod under foot of the Son of man (Jesus)
- Count the blood of Christ an unholy thing
- Do respite unto the spirit of grace

Some would instantly object and state that a child of God could not do any of those things. Let me restate that in a more accurate statement. You, as a faithful child of God, with your experience and spiritual condition may not do any of these things. But the child of God, who refuses to surrender to the will of God for his life, and turns back to the

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world, as Lot did, certainly could and does do these things. In the world, **some children of God become addicted to alcohol, drugs, or sex** and live lives which are shameful and contrary to Biblical standards.

There are children of God who are saved, but become offended in a church split or a broken marriage, and stop going to church. They will soon have their spirituality robbed by their unforgiving attitude and bitterness. That child of God soon begins to resist the leading of the Holy Spirit. His life and conversation soon begins to bring disgrace to himself and to Christ. **The flesh begins to take over and dominates his life.**

But the child of God, who refuses to surrender to the will of God for his life and turns back to the world, as Lot did, certainly could and does do these things.

Given a few years, this unforgiving attitude and bitterness will rule his life, and he will soon:

- Trod underfoot the Son of God by resisting His leadership
- Do things that will cause the blood of Christ to appear unholy

- Resist and respite the Holy Spirit

At the Judgment Seat, we will learn of all of the efforts the Holy Spirit made to turn people from that type of life. We will find that some literally trod the Son of God underfoot, as they resisted His will while living their sinful and backslidden lives.

That child of God soon begins to resist the leading of the Holy Spirit.

If God disqualified Moses for striking the rock (representing Christ and the sufficiency of His blood) instead of speaking to the rock, then we will see that countless Christians have counted the blood of Christ an unholy thing by the way they live. Actions speak louder than words.

Most children of God have in some way treated the Holy Spirit in a despiteful way by resisting, quenching, or grieving the Holy Spirit at some point in their lives.

Verse 30: “For we know him,” – speaking to the saved.

Verse 31: “It is a fearful thing,” – still speaking to the saved.

If you don't believe it is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of a living God, just ask King David, who received severe punishment. Ask Moses, whose ministry was cut short. Ask Nebuchadnezzar, who

lived like an animal for seven years. Ask Achan or Ananias or Sapphira, who all died.

Verses 32-39: All of these verses are clearly speaking to the saved.

What Could Be Worse Than Death?

Again, why not ask King David what could possibly be worse than death? If this was possible, then King David would surely weep as he told you. David had at least two sons die. When you look at the contrast of David's reactions toward the deaths of these two sons, you can see clearly **what could be worse than death.**

Before his baby boy died, David fasted and prayed for days. After the baby died, he got up, bathed, worshipped God, and then ate dinner.

His servants inquired why he was so calm after all of his praying and tears. David simply answered, "**I cannot bring him back, but I can go to where he is.** He is in paradise and I will see him again." II Sam 12:21-23

Contrast that with the weeping and screaming when Absalom was killed. David screamed, "O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! Would God **I had died**

for thee, O Absalom, my son, my son!"

II Sam 18:33

Why all the screaming and uncontrollable bereavement? David was screaming because Absalom was in hell, and his blood was on David's hands. Absalom was never saved. **For David, it was worse than death.**

There will be thousands of rebellious parents

who will live with the memories of what their wicked, self-centered lives

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have done to their families, and to others for the entire 1000 years.

Some in sympathy will exclaim, "How awful! How terrible!"

Wait! Please wait and think a minute. What about the victims **who are suffering in hell because of the sinful lives of their backslidden parents?**

- They walked all over Jesus by their sinful lives.
- They brought reproach to the precious blood of Christ by their sinful lives.
- They did respite to and resisted the Holy Spirit by their sinful lives.

- God was active in these backsliders' lives.

He offered them grace. But now, "...he shall have judgment without mercy, that hath showed no mercy...." James 2:13

Somewhere in the position of servitude, these people will serve for 1000 years in a state that they would give anything to change, but it is too late. They denied God's grace over and over again and now they must brace up and live in the judgment that their sinful lives have dictated. Some parents will face something worse than death for 1000 years.

THE NIGHTMARES THAT SOME PARENTS WILL LIVE WITH

What exactly will they dread and lament about? What could be worse than death? Some of their

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children will be in hell. They will have to witness their eternal banishment. They will have to live with the regrets of their wasted life. Oh, the lonely, agonizing days that will drag by throughout the 1000 years!

They would gladly die, if they could only go back and change things.

In the next section, we will examine those **parent's lifestyles that** will cause them to live through the full Millennial Reign with **something worse than death.**

SOME PARENTS WHO FAIL TO PROPERLY USE GOD'S BLESSINGS WILL BRING ABOUT SOMETHING WORSE THAN DEATH

There are two common practices that will bring parents to the place of living 1000 years with something **worse than death.** These two mistakes are so **human and natural** for parents to make that it took the wisdom of the wisest man who ever lived to expose them.

SOLOMON REFERRED TO THESE PRACTICES AS SORE EVILS

The information concerning these human mistakes comes from the book of *Ecclesiastes*; the book that God commissioned Solomon to write to reveal **man's purpose on this earth.** This book also reveals how man can be happy and

have tremendous satisfaction with his life.

When Solomon said that something was bad or empty, he used the word "**vanity**." If it was a stage of evil, more than vanity, he used "**vanity of vanities**," meaning that the deed was very sinful and empty. But if it was something worse than very sinful, he used the term "**sore evil**," which meant it was worse than death. He used this term, "sore evil," twice in the book of Ecclesiastes.

If one reads the book of Ecclesiastes, he will discover that it is a series of experiments by King Solomon to discover why man was placed on the earth. After each experiment, he would declare that that type of life was not the lifestyle that man was created to live. Some the experiments Solomon tried were:

- **The lunacy of liquor** or the emptiness and foolishness of alcohol – Ecclesiastes 2:1-3; Proverbs 23:29-35
- **The ludicrousness of laughter** or living it up – Ecclesiastes 2:1-3; Ecclesiastes 7:6

- **The lucid emptiness of luxury** or the fruition of what money can buy- Ecclesiastes 2:4-11
- **The laborious worriment of labor** or who's going to get what I leave behind- Ecclesiastes 2:16-20
- **The lying of lust** or deceived to despair- Ecclesiastes 2:1-12

After each experiment, Solomon maintained that man was placed on this earth for a far greater purpose than what he found from living in that realm. After each experiment, he would express sadness and emptiness; and declared "*vanity, all is vanity.*"

Every scientific experiment demands a conclusion. The wisest man on earth gave his findings in *Ecclesiastes 12:13-14*. In his summary, he gave the general purpose for man's existence on the earth. His deductions, after a lifetime of investigation into God's purpose for creating man and the reason He placed him on the earth, are very pointed. Memorize

"Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work unto judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil."

Solomon's inspired to discover why you and the rest of the human race are alive. Solomon stated, "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work unto judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil." Ecc 12:13-14

The First Sore Evil Is Money Kept To One's Own Hurt

"There is a sore evil which I have seen under the sun, namely, riches kept for the owners thereof to their hurt." Ecc 5:13

This does not sound like a serious offense on the surface; something done with money that will cause one to face something **worse than death for 1000 years.**

"You must be kidding!" remarks one reader. "No," responds another, "He sounds like one of those money hungry preachers you see on television." Please! Before you jump to any conclusions, consider how God looks at the whole matter. **The Bible boldly claims that the earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof.** It is His by right of creation, by

right of His maintenance, and by right of His redemption. He bought it back from destruction by His death on Calvary.

The Bible teaches that a person's role on earth is **not one of ownership, but one of stewardship**. The Bible also teaches that God gives people different abilities or talents to be used **for their welfare and God's glory**.

Paul stated this truth when he wrote, "Having then differing according to the

He <i>was</i> quickly asked, "Where did you get the strength to work? Where did you get the brain to think and plan?"

grace that is given to its..." Rom 12:6 Paul continued on by naming the various gifts that God gives His children. In verse eight, he states that making money is one of these gifts. Paul admonished those that have the gift of making money, "he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity [liberally]."

Solomon stated that God gives man "riches, wealth and honor." Ecc 6:2 One man rebelled at the statement that God gave him riches and wealth. He said, "God hasn't given me anything! I've worked for everything I ever got!"

He was quickly asked, "Where did you get the strength to work? Where did

you get the brain to think and plan?" The ungrateful man quickly dropped his head and left the area.

Please consider these sequences of events when one keeps money to his own hurt:

- God gives a man talent to make money.
- God blesses that talent.
- God adds His blessing in order for that man to use his money to bless or help others.
- The man keeps the money to his own hurt by hoarding up the money he doesn't even need.
- Therefore, God's **purpose for blessing** the man's talent goes unfulfilled.
- The need that people had, that God blessed the man with money to supply, **is never satisfied.**
- The people **perish.**
- The money **gathers mildew** in the bank.
- The man who earned the money inwardly **dries up** and becomes hardened and bitter.

- **Everyone is a loser**, the man kept the money that

<p>Everyone is a loser, the man kept the money that God gave him to bless humanity, to his own hurt</p>

God gave him to bless humanity, **to his own hurt.**

- At the Judgment Seat of Christ, the man faces the truth, the reason God **gave him the money.** That it was not his own to use for self-gratification, but it was given by God to bless other people. He sees what **God intended** to be done, that was not done. The missionary that **was starved** off the field. The souls that the missionary would have won are languishing **in hell.**

Through his act of hoarding money, the numbers of souls suffering are multiplied. It is like a domino effect, one soul influencing another, which causes many to be lost in hell. The overall affect of **hoarding money is the reason Solomon calls it a “sore evil”** (something worse than death), and describes the person that kept the blessing of making money **to his own hurt** a “sore evil.”

SOME PARENTS' BLESSINGS WILL TURN INTO A CURSE (SOMETHING WORSE THAN DEATH)

- God blesses a man with talent to **build a prosperous business.**
- The man has a son that he programs to take over and **expand the business.**
- From a child the son **works in the family business** after school, on weekends, and during summer vacations.
- The father sends the son to college to study and **prepare to run** the business.
- The son understands and accepts his role to push the business and the family name **to greater heights.**
- The son catches the vision and spirit of building the business and **works enthusiastically.**
- **Everything in the son's life** is programmed to improve and build the business.
- The company **goes public** and its stock soars.

- This **growth goes on** for a lifetime and the company becomes well known.

THEN, SOMETHING WORSE THAN DEATH HAPPENS. Listen to the summation of the **father and mother who programmed** their son to run the family business. This was their "little darling." They were going to make him **affluent, well known**, and enable him to **live with prestige and honor**. Everything they did was for **his welfare and happiness**. But God reveals the tragedy of it all, through Solomon, who spoke of the son in this light – the son is born **with “...nothing in his hand.”** Ecc 5:14 "As he came, forth of his mother's womb, **naked shall he return to go as he came, and shall take nothing of his labour**, which he may carry away in his hand." Ecc 5:15

<p>He was addicted to the business. All of his life, goals, and thoughts were of the business, and God calls what he did for a full lifetime, "laboring for the wind!"</p>

Solomon's summation is in verse 16, that for all of his work in building the business, all of his dedication, and long hours of labor for the family name, his paycheck was as if, **"HE HATH**

LABORED FOR THE WIND." He was addicted to the business. All of his life, goals, and thoughts were of the business, and God calls what he did for a full lifetime, "**laboring for the wind!**"

How tragic! And his father and mother **did it to him!** It almost causes me to weep to think about it. Words will not describe the pain and emptiness of this whole ordeal.

BUT THAT IS NOT HALF OF THE HEARTACHE AND TRAGEDY

The Bible states in *verse 17*, that because of his sickness (addiction to the company), he laid down in **darkness. He died and went to hell.**

Mom and dad programmed their own son to labor for the wind , and then die and go to hell. He worked like a slave, only to leave it all and lie down in darkness.

Mom and dad programmed their own son to **labor for the wind**, and then die and go to hell. He worked like a slave, only to leave it all and lie down in darkness.

You haven't heard the worst part yet! His influence and life caused many of his family members and acquaintances to

follow in his footsteps.

But the "**something worse than death**" comes in at the Judgment Seat, where the parents have to face what **they did** to their little darling who trusted them.

They will live in a place of servitude, remembering what they did to their children and grandchildren, for a full 1000 years –

something worse than death.

No wonder Solomon's description of this tragic story was "**a very sore evil under the sun.**"

They will live in a place of servitude, remembering what they did to their children and grandchildren, for a full 1000 years – something worse than death.

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