

# 2nd Thessalonians 5-8-22

1:6-8 <sup>6</sup> Since it is just for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you <sup>7</sup> and to give relief to you who are afflicted, along with us. This will take place at the revelation of the Lord Jesus from heaven with his powerful angels, <sup>8</sup> when he takes vengeance with flaming fire on those who don't know God and on those who don't obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. <sup>9</sup> They will pay the penalty of eternal destruction.



2 Thess 1:1-12

**Vengeance & Hellfire**

2 Thess 2:1-12

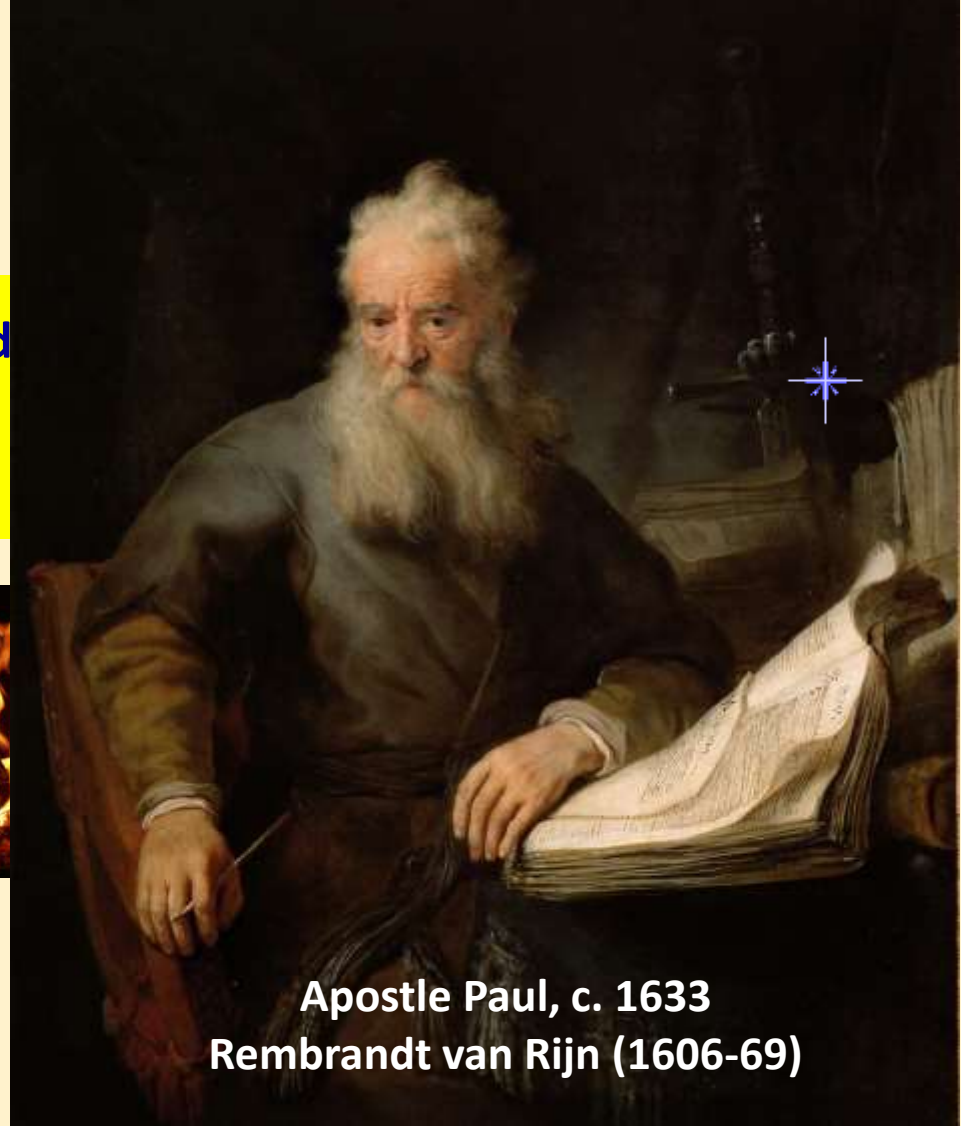
**Man of Lawlessness**

2 Thess 2:1-3:16

**Lord Be with You**

Rev. 21-22

**Heaven—Our Everlasting Rest**



Apostle Paul, c. 1633  
Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-69)



FBC Woodville  
Sunday School Class

Michael G. Maness  
[PreciousHeart.net/SS](http://PreciousHeart.net/SS)  
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Alternate Title

# Vengeance and Hellfire





# On July 8, 1741, Jonathan Edwards preached **Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God**

Scholars TODAY publishing NEW  
works on Edwards' life & writings  
Preached this in Enfield, CT, in 1741

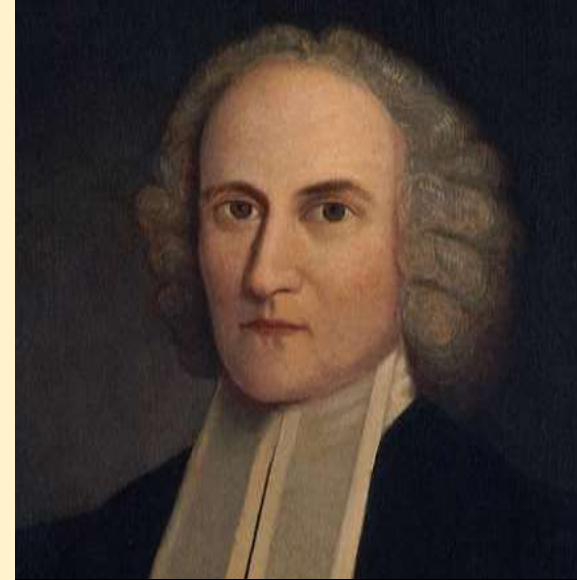
One New England catalyst of the

**First Great Awakening 1730–70**

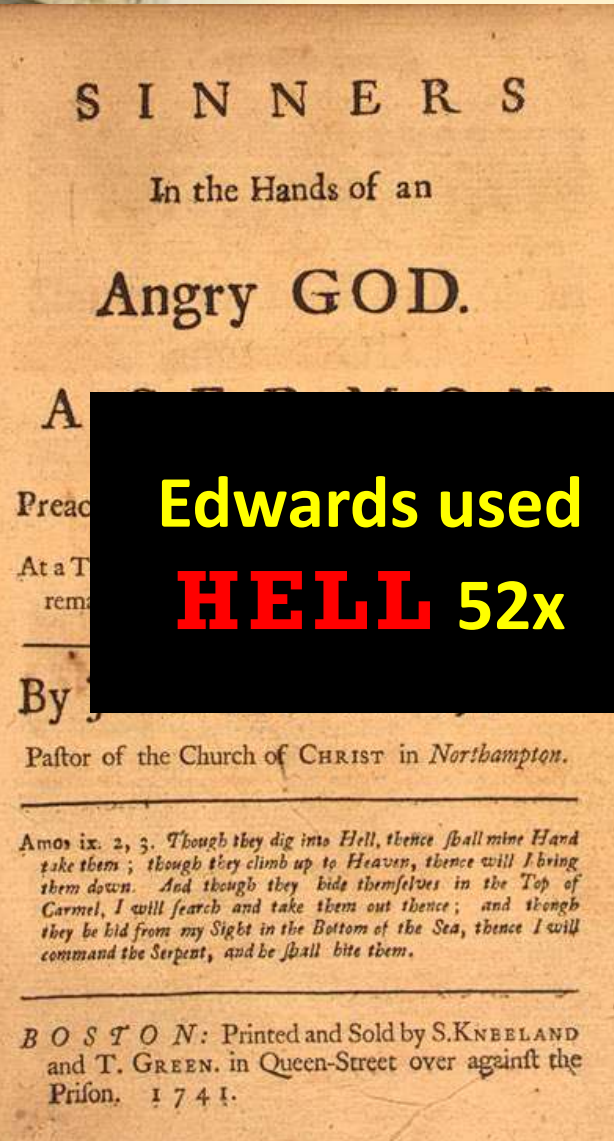
George Whitefield more popular

Edwards considered America's 1st Theologian

Some said people **CLINCHED** the pew  
as Edwards preached this sermon



Jonathan Edwards  
1703-1758  
3rd President of  
Princeton University



Edwards used  
**HELL 52x**



[https://www.google.com/books/edition/Sinners in the hands of an angry God A s/2oLkSPXk1Wcc](https://www.google.com/books/edition/Sinners_in_the_hands_of_an_angry_God_A_s/2oLkSPXk1Wcc) >

< [www.blueletterbible.org/Comm/edwards\\_jonathan/Sermons/Sinners.cfm](http://www.blueletterbible.org/Comm/edwards_jonathan/Sermons/Sinners.cfm)



1741, Jonathan Edwards  
**Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God**

So says the inimitable Edwards of the lost:

They *deserve* to be cast into hell;

so that divine justice never stands in the way ...

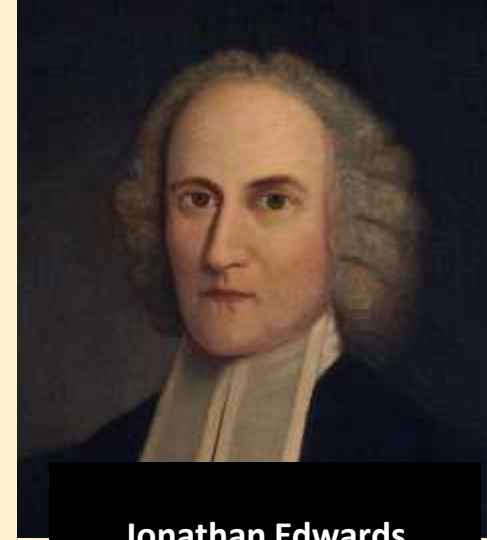
God's using his power at any moment to destroy them.... Yea ... Justice calls aloud for an Infinite Punishment of their Sins.

Divine justice says of the tree that brings forth such grapes of Sodom, *Cut it down, why cumbereth it the ground?* Lk 13:7.

Sword of divine justice is every moment

brandished over their heads ...

nothing but the hand of arbitrary Mercy ... holds it back.



Jonathan Edwards  
1703-1758  
3rd President of  
Princeton University

1741, Jonathan Edwards  
**Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God**

They are *already* under a sentence of  
condemnation to **Hell**.

They do not only justly deserve to be cast down ...  
eternal and immutable rule of righteousness  
that God has fixed between him and mankind,  
is gone out against them, and stands against them;  
so that they are bound over already to **Hell**.

John 3:18, *He that believeth not is condemned already.*

So that every unconverted man properly belongs to **Hell**....



Jonathan Edwards  
1703-1758  
3rd President of  
Princeton University



**2nd Thessalonians – perhaps written 2nd too ...**

**Largest % of end-times verses – 38% or 18 of its 47 verses**

**Authorship by Paul has been questioned, though more church fathers have preferred Paul – conservatives too**

**Remember – Thessalonica was capital under Alexander's General Cassander, who renamed the city after his wife**


**Major city in Paul's day – older THEN than the U.S. is today**

**Prior to John's Revelation, Paul gives us some of the most**

**radical revelations – even **Hellfire****

**For some, 2nd Thess is THE 2nd Coming – separate**

**and apart from 1st Thess' Rapture ... I do not**



**As we look at 2nd Thess ... as the 2nd Letter written ...**

**What is Paul Clarifying AFTER his 1st Letter?**

**Again, remember the Idiot Factor ... Was Paul an Idiot?**

**No ... Paul was the SHARPEST ... He COULD have said**

**2nd Thess Coming COMES after the Rapture**

**He doesn't. Easiest reading: 1 & 2 Thess is ONE 2nd Coming**

**2 Thessalonians 1 opens ...**

**<sup>1</sup> Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy: To the church of the  
Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.**

**<sup>2</sup> Grace to you and peace from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ.**



Paul reflects the GREAT love he detailed in 1st Thess.

Here in 2 Thessalonians, **Faith & Love** are *increasing*

**3 We ought to thank God always for you, brothers and sisters, and rightly so, since your Faith is flourishing and the Love each one of you has for one another is increasing.**


**4 Therefore, we ourselves boast about you  
among God's churches —  
about your perseverance and faith in all the persecutions  
and afflictions that you are enduring.**

So “Among God's churches” surely implies a timeframe ...

Paul has been BRAGGING ... then hears MORE ...

Then writes 2nd Thessalonians





**4 Therefore, we ... boast about you among God's churches — about your perseverance and faith in all the persecutions and afflictions that you are enduring.**

**Paul resonates with their persecution in the Pagan City**

**Paul relates as one who was LIKEWISE persecuted**

**WHAT KIND of persecution? ... We don't know ... however**


**We assume RIDICULE at the least ... WHAT HAPPENED?**

**Paul was BRAGGING ... on their PERSEVERANCE**

**Then writes 2nd Thessalonians ... to reveal**



**Vengeance & Hellfire**



**What does Paul clarify in 2nd Letter AFTER 1st Letter?  
Paul gave some great Revelations in 1st Thessalonians ...  
Rapture ... Day of the Lord ... Golden List of Urgencies  
Here in 2nd Thessalonians ... we have a Revelation  
NOT Found Elsewhere in the Bible**

## **Man of Lawlessness**

**Which we will touch upon NEXT Week ... *hint, hint*  
1 Thessalonians 1 ... see Judgement at Christ's return  
Reading WITHOUT the charts, how is this NOT connected to  
**2nd Coming & Day of Lord in 1 Thessalonians?**  
READING 1 & 2, we seem to see ONE 2nd Coming**



# HELL

## We need to deal with HELL

*Encyclopedia Britannica*: English *Hell* from Old English *hel* which *hel* came from German “to cover” or “to conceal”

*Hel* also Old Norse/Scandinavian Queen of the Underworld

- ✓ English OT *hell* for Hebrew terms *She'ōl* & *Gehenna*
- ✓ English NT *hell* for Greek *Hades* & *Tartarus*

Abode of the Dead

OT had no clear picture of *Hell* ... NT translate *Hades* = *Hell*



# HELL

Greek *Hades* dominated after Alexander the Great c. 320 B.C.

Ancient Greece to 480 BC,

**Hades** is an underworld god

realm divided from the land of the living by a terrible river

Paul uses “**Hades**” – Scraps Idolatry – Adds **FIRE**

**Adds Eternal Punishment**



Hades bust 5th cen. B.C.  
sculptor unknown

# HELL

Ancient Greece to 480 BC, **Hades** is an underworld god whose **House of Hades** is a dark, cold, endless labyrinth of halls with locked gates ...  
Guarded by the hellhound  
**three-headed dog Cerberus**  
Hell's queen, **Persephone**, wife of Hades





# HELL

While Odysseus travels no farther than the entrance to the underworld

Roman Virgil, author of the *Aeneid*, sends Aeneas through Sibyl's cave by the shores of the foul-smelling Lake of Averno

Across the River Styx on Charon's ferry, past the three-headed dog Cerberus ... down the labyrinthine path as it forks

- ✓ Right to the torture fields of Tartarus and
- ✓ Left to the Elysium fields of the blessed

**Virgil's Hades places for infants, suicides, specific crimes**



Roman Poet Virgil 70-19 B.C.  
his bust at crypt in Naples



# HELL

Charon's Ferry on River Styx by  
Gustave Doré (1832–83), illus. in  
1861 version of  
Dante's *Inferno*

Dante Alighieri's 14th-century  
epic poem Divine Comedy

Part 1, *Inferno*, helped give

in Medieval Europe myths on Hell, Purgatory, Heaven



# HELL

## Greek PLAYS

Visit Roman Theater in Thessalonica

See *Oedipus Rex* by Sophocles

See *Prometheus Bound* by Aeschylus

See *Medea* by Euripedes

America's been growing for only 200+ years

Declaration, Valley Forge, Washington, National Anthem

^^^ words bring two centuries of PRIDE to American Patriots

Thessalonica **500 years OLD** when Paul visited, **350** new name

**Centuries of PAGAN Heritage w a couple Jews**







# HELL

Making the **CHRISTIAN** Life in Thessalonica all the **GRANDER**

*King James* trans. O.T. Hebrew word **she'ol**

31 out of 65 occurrences translated **Hell**

N.T. Greek **Hades** occurs 11x ... trans. **Hell** 10x

1x **Hades** = 1 Cor 15:55 reads "**grave**"

- ✓ English OT **Hell** for Hebrew terms **She'ōl** & **Gehenna**
- ✓ English NT **Hell** for Greek **Hades** & **Tartarus**

**Abode of the Lost Dead > NT ADDS MORE**



# Superbly smooth presentation on Revelation by David Jeremiah Pastor of Shadow Mountain Community Church, San Diego

## The Church Age

In this present era, God uses

communities of believers—local

## The Rapture

## The Tribulation

The moment after the Rapture, God's Spirit will cease to restrain evil in the world. As God's anger burns against the wicked, conditions will grow worse than they have ever been.

## The Second Coming

When the Tribulation reaches its climax and it seems there is no hope, Jesus will defeat the

## The Millennium

The word *Millennium* means "one thousand years." For ten centuries, Christ and His followers will rule the earth in peace and righteousness from His capital in Jerusalem.

## Great White Throne Judgment

Every human being who has not responded through the stars

## New Heaven & New Earth

After the present heaven and earth pass away, a city of indescribable beauty will descend from heaven. God will restore the world and dwell with His people in perfect harmony forever.



1st KEY to all is the Millennium in John's Revelation

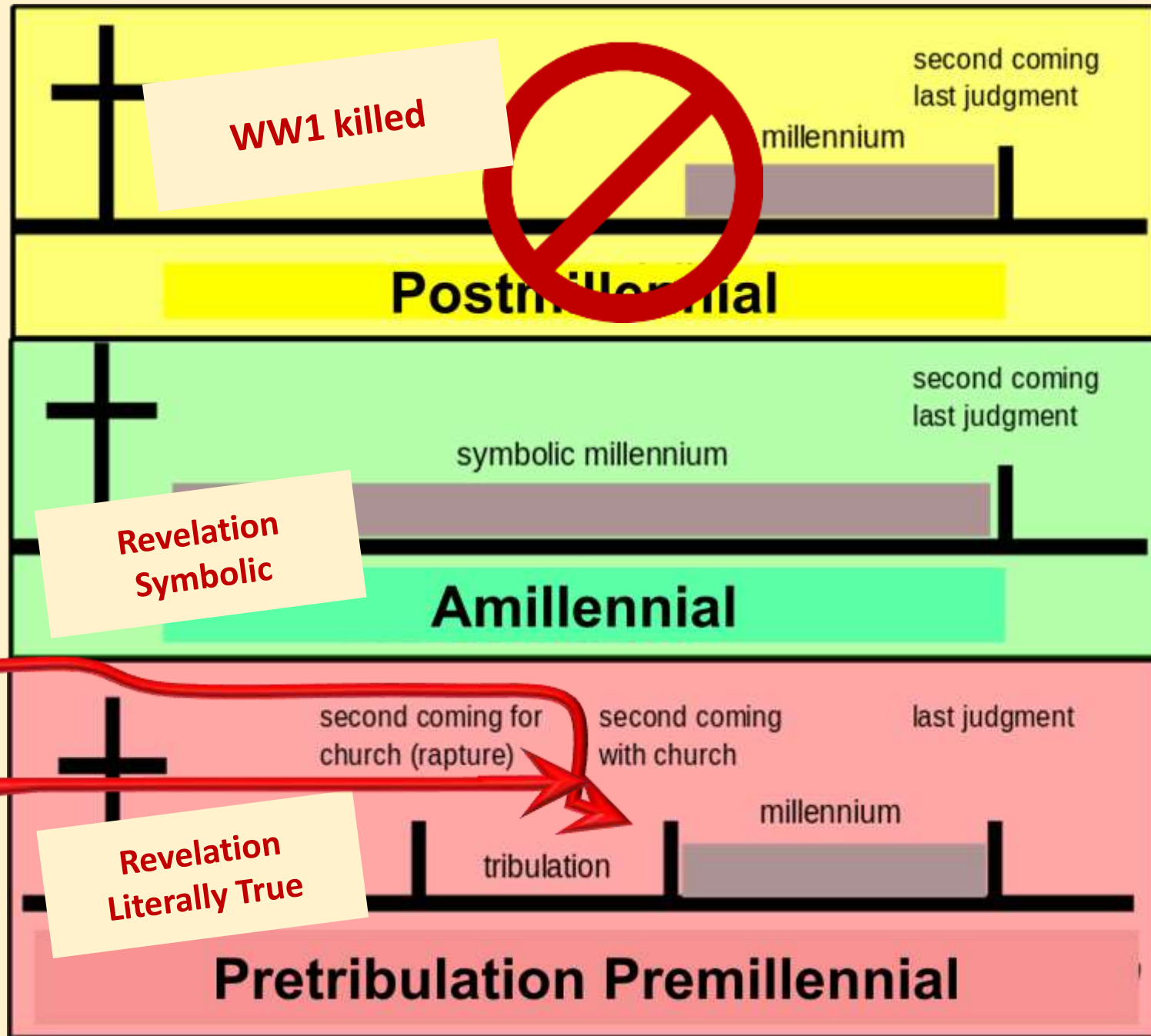
IF literally true, you have to work a LOT around it

Therefore, 2nd Coming INITIATES the Millennium

- ✓ Postmillennial fell out of favor after WW1
- ✓ Amillennial led the pack for centuries

1 & 2 Thessalonians is a 2nd KEY to ALL

READING 1&2 Thess I see ONE 2nd Coming





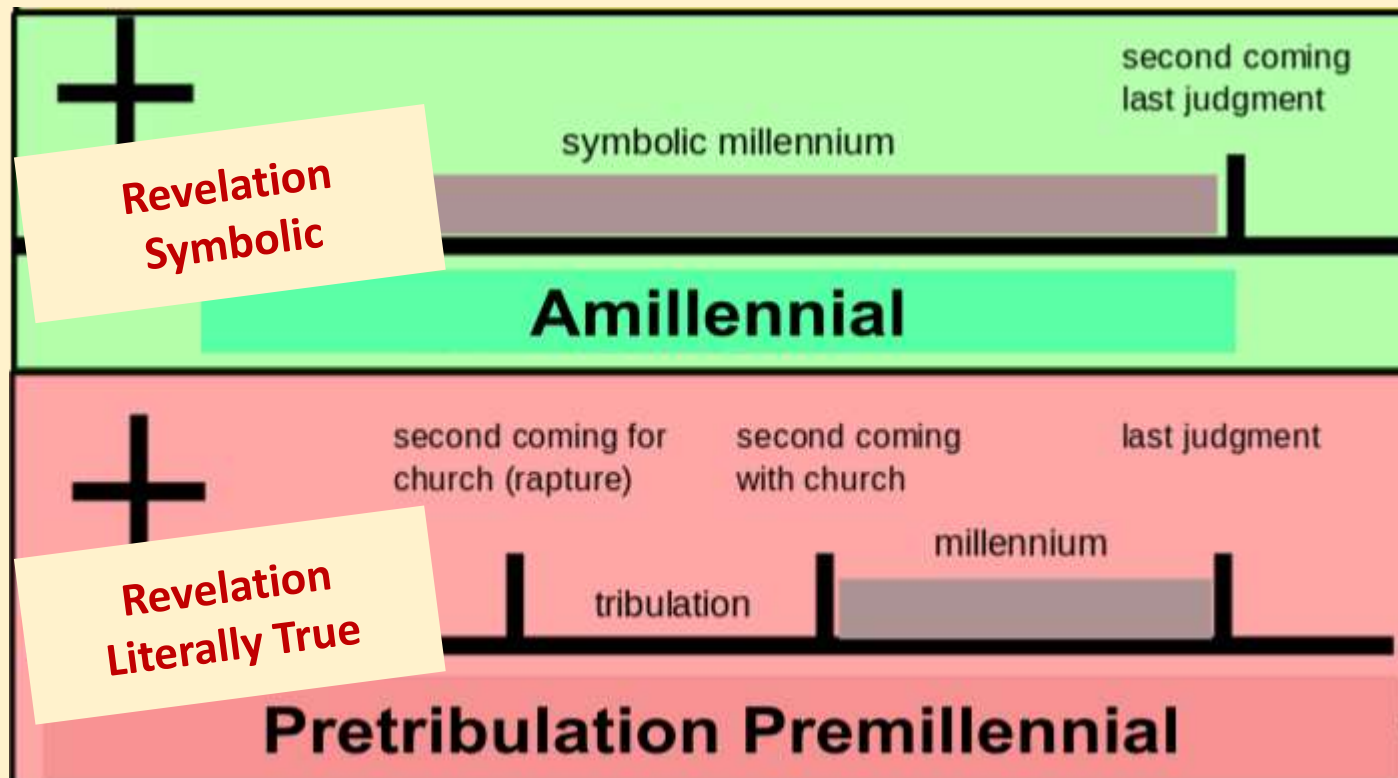
## WORK YOU MUST DO

### Must Decide Rev. 20

- 10 devil ... into the lake of burning sulfur ... tormented day & night for ever & ever.
- 11 great white throne ...
- 12 great & small ... before the throne ... books opened...
- 15 Anyone ... not found ... in book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.

1. Actual Burning "Lake"
2. "Lake" kind of torment or symbol of a state of being

**Key difference between these**  
**HOW** symbolic you want to take parts  
**1. Wholly Symbolic 2. Partly Symbolic**



**One thing certain—GOD is Consistent**  
**1,000 yrs Literal?—Why NOT Everything?**  
**How do YOU choose what IS or IS NOT?**






Language of 2nd Thess is cooler, less loving than 1st Thess  
There is a little question that Paul sees himself as clear here:

<sup>5</sup> It is clear evidence of God's righteous judgment that you will be counted worthy of God's kingdom, for which you also are suffering, <sup>6</sup> since it is just for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you <sup>7</sup> and to give relief to you who are afflicted, along with us. This will take place at the revelation of the Lord Jesus from heaven with his powerful angels, <sup>8</sup> when he takes vengeance with flaming fire on those who don't know God and on those who don't obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.

When He Comes: 1. Counted Worthy ~ 2. God's Vengeance

**Bad DAY for Unbelievers When HE COMES**



**So says the inimitable Edwards of the lost:**

**Devil stands ready to fall upon them, and seize them as his own.... They belong to him....**

**Scripture represents them as his *Goods*, Lk 11:12.**

**Devils watch them; they are ever by them at their right Hand; they stand waiting for them, like greedy hungry Lions that see their prey....**

**If God should withdraw his Hand ... Devils would in one Moment fly upon their poor Souls.**

**old serpent is gaping for them;**

**Hell opens its Mouth wide to receive them.**



**Jonathan Edwards  
1703-1758  
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**VERY Bad Day ... then Paul expands upon that DAY**

**<sup>9</sup> They will pay the penalty of ETERNAL DESTRUCTION from the Lord's presence and from his glorious strength**

**VERY Bad Day ... ETERNAL Destruction from Lord's Presence**

**Eternal Destruction ... begins WHEN?**

**<sup>10</sup> on that DAY when he comes to be glorified by his saints and to be marveled at by all those who have believed, because our testimony among you was believed.**

**From 1st & 2nd Thessalonians ... it is EASY to see ONE DAY**

**Very Hard for Thessalonian Readers to see TWO DAYS**

**On that DAY ... Thessalonians & WE will**

**Glorify and Marvel at Him**





**As we wait for that DAY ...**

**RATHER as they SUFFER as they WAIT for that DAY ...**

**PERSECUTED ... waiting for GOD's Vengeance ...**

**Waiting for God to send THEIR persecutors to HELL ...**

**During these times and seasons ... Paul encourages ...**

**<sup>11</sup> In view of this, we always pray for you that our God will make you worthy of his calling, and by his power**

**fulfill your every desire to do good and your work produced by faith,**

**<sup>12</sup> so that the name of our Lord Jesus will be glorified by you, and you by him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.**



As hard on our **HOLY EARS** for us to hear ...

Paul is using the God's **VENGEANCE** to **COMFORT** them

There's a **RIGHTNESS** to punishing the wicked

There is **NO** River Styx ~ **NO** boatman ~ **NO** three-headed dog

There is a place called **Hades, HELL** ... kind of Fire Lake

**Eternal Torment**

Somehow, Christians who suffer for their faith are to feel

Comfort in Their Oppressors in **HELL**

But when Christ Comes, we will Marvel and give Glory on

**The DAY**



**So says the inimitable Edwards of the lost:**

**It is everlasting Wrath.... dreadful to suffer  
this Fierceness and Wrath of Almighty God**

**one Moment**

**but you must suffer it to all Eternity;**

**there will be no End to this exquisite horrible Misery**

**When you look forward, you shall see a long For-ever,  
a boundless Duration before you ...**

**you will absolutely despair of ever having any Deliverance,**


**any End, any Mitigation, any Rest at all**



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**So says the inimitable Edwards of the lost:  
you will know certainly that you must  
wear out long Ages, Millions of Millions of Ages,  
in wrestling and conflicting with this  
almighty merciless Vengeance;  
when so many Ages have actually been spent ...  
you will know that all is but a Point to what remains.  
So that your Punishment will indeed be infinite.  
Oh who can express WHAT IS the  
State of a Soul in such Circumstances!**




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**Near his close, Edwards reflected on HELL**  
**If we knew that there was one**  
**Subject of this Misery,**  
**what an awful Thing would it be to think of! ...**  
**what an awful Sight would it be to see such a Person!**  
**How might all the rest of the Congregation**  
**lift up a lamentable and bitter Cry over him!**





In the great **Cosmopolitan Pagan Hell-bound Thessalonica**  
**Paul asked the Thessalonians in 1:12 that the**  
**name of our Lord Jesus will be glorified by you,**  
**and you by him,**  
**according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.**

**Though HELL FIRE be Vengeance – with Christ Glorified**

**OTHERS too might Escape God's Wrath**

