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# The Doctrine of Hell

## **REVELATION 20:11-15**

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# The Doctrine of Hell

## **REVELATION 20:11-15**

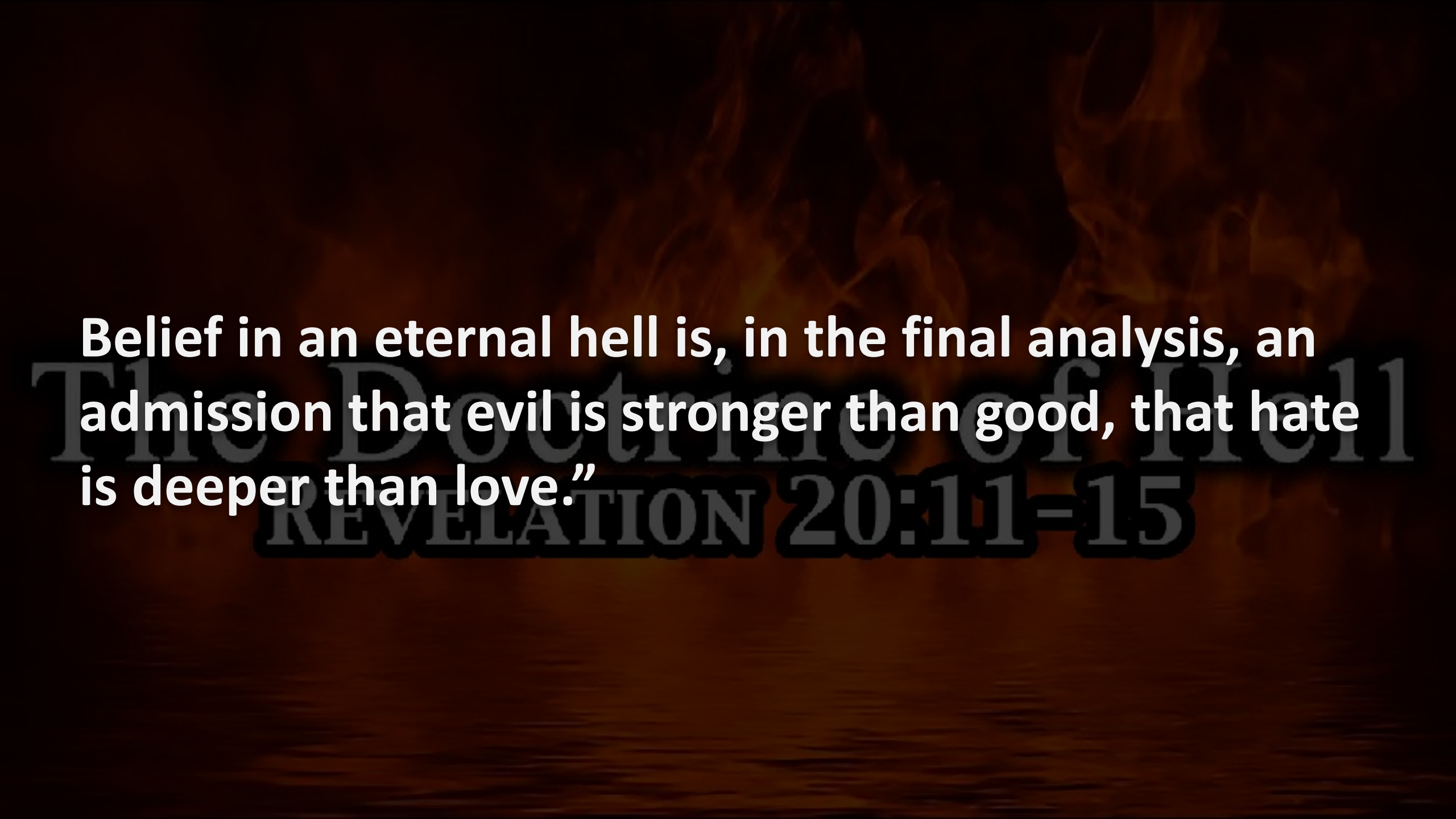
### **INTRODUCTION**

**“Hell has disappeared and no one noticed.” These words came from the respected American Church historian Martin Marty in the latter part of the 20th century. To some degree we must judge his assessment as correct, though that does not mean people have completely removed hell from their mind or their tongue.**

In January 1987 Insight Magazine ran an article entitled, “Hell Hath Little Fury These Days.” In that article the following judgments were given: • Alan Bernstein (Professor of Medieval History, University of Arizona) – “hell today is enveloped in silence.” • Donald Bloesch (theologian, Dubuque Theological Seminary) – “The doctrine of hell has passed out of conversation and preaching, even in conservative evangelical churches.”

However, March 25, 1991, US News & World Report runs as its cover story “The Rekindling of Hell” and a lead article entitled “Hell’s Sober Comeback.” They noted that 3 in 5 Americans, 60% believed in hell, up from 53% in 1981, 54% in 1965 and 58% in 1952. Interestingly only 4% believed they had a good or excellent chance of going there. Hell is real for many, it’s just no one, at least not me, is going to be there.

**In July 1997, The Dallas Morning News ran a point/counter point article entitled “Has Hell Frozen Over?” Representing the sentiments of modern liberal theology, Lonnie Kliever, Chairman of the Department of Religious Studies at S.M.U. said, “The idea that God could have created the world, knowing, much less predestinating, that some of his creatures would suffer in hell forever in hell is incompatible with a God of unlimited power and love.**



**Belief in an eternal hell is, in the final analysis, an admission that evil is stronger than good, that hate is deeper than love.”**

**REVELATION 20:11-15**

**Former evangelical Clark Pinnock likewise finds the traditional view of hell repulsive and unworthy of the God he envisions. Opting for annihilationism, the view that unbelievers simply go into existence, he says, “How can Christians possibly project a deity of such cruelty and vindictiveness whose ways include inflicting everlasting torture upon his creatures, however sinful they may have been?”**



**Surely a God who would do such a thing is more nearly like Satan than like God, at least by any ordinary moral standards... everlasting torment... makes God into a bloodthirsty monster who maintains an everlasting Auschwitz for victims whom he does not even allow to die. How is one to worship or imitate such a cruel and merciless God?... I consider the concept of hell as endless torment in body and mind an outrageous doctrine...which needs to be changed. (CTR, Spring 1990, 243-259).**

**Fast-forward to July, 1999. The Pope issues a statement from the Vatican announcing, “Hell is not a punishment imposed externally by God, but the condition resulting from attitudes and actions which people adopt in this life. More than a physical place, hell is the state of those who freely and definitively separate themselves from God, the source of all life and joy.**

**“So eternal damnation is not God’s work, but is actually our own doing. Hell is the pain, frustration and emptiness of life without God.”**

**The Pope’s statement ignited a firestorm of reaction.**

**R. Albert Mohler, Jr. responded on August 3, 1999 with “Should We Lose the Fear of Hell? The Pope Redefines the Doctrine.” In the article he writes, “The Pope’s denial of the traditional Christian understanding of hell is one more step in a progressive rejection of the very real and very horrible picture of hell revealed in the Bible.**

**“The temptation to “air condition hell,” as one Catholic magazine put it, is constant in a secular world that rejects hell as outdated and promises some kind of vague harmonic convergence in the afterlife. In popular culture, hell has gone the way of the hula hoop. It simply doesn’t fit the modern secular mind.” R. Albert Mohler Jr.**

**As British novelist David Lodge once remarked, “At some point in the nineteen-sixties, hell disappeared. No one could say for certain when this happened. First it was there, then it wasn’t. Different people became aware of the disappearance of hell at different times.” Though Americans poke fun at “hellfire and brimstone” sermons, you are not likely to hear one in most pulpits, where hell has been conveniently domesticated for popular consumption.**

**The Doctrine of Hell**  
**REVELATION 20:11-15**

**In liberal Protestantism, the traditional concept of hell is simply denied and “demythologized.” Among some evangelicals, the preferred practice is simply to preach the promise of heaven and avoid hell at all cost. Polls consistently reveal that most Americans believe in heaven – and believe they are going there. Far fewer believe in hell, and almost no one believes he is headed there.**

**Modern Americans are quite certain that their democratic deity wouldn't do anything so rash as to consign their neighbors to eternal punishment; much less themselves."**

**The Doctrine of Hell  
REVELATION 20:11-15**



**Newsweek, Nov. 1, 1999 had again reported, of those polled, only 3% believe they will be going to hell.**

**REVELATION 20:11-15**

**However, as interesting and fascinating as all of this is, the most important question still remains to be answered: WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT HELL? And complementing that questions, WHAT DID JESUS TEACH ABOUT HELL? We will quickly survey the gospels to answer the latter question. We will turn to Rev. 20:11-15 to answer the former.**

**Jesus spoke more often about hell than any other person in the Bible: “The Greek word gehenna is found 12 times in the New Testament and is always translated as “hell.” Christ used the word 11 times (Matt. 5:22, 29, 30; 10:28; 18:9; 23:15, 33; Mark 9:43, 45, 47; Luke 12:5). The only other mention is in James 3:6 in reference to the tongue.**

**Christ warned his listeners to be afraid of gehenna (Matt. 5:22) and claimed that only God has the power to cast humans into it (Luke 12:5). He testified that both the soul and the body could enter gehenna (Matt. 10:28). The unsaved could go there with two eyes (18:9; Mark 9:47), two hands (v. 43) and two feet (v. 45). It is a place marked by fire (Matt. 5:22).**

**In His contrast between the sheep (the saved) and the goats (the unsaved), Christ said that the unsaved eventually would go into “everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels” (25:41).”**

**Summarizing the teachings of Jesus on hell using Matt. 25:31-46 as a primary text, Don Whitney of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary says Jesus taught:**

**1) Hell is real. 2) Hell is separation from God. 3) Hell is for all the “accursed ones.” 4) Hell is eternal. 5) Hell is fire. 6) Hell is a prepared place. 7) Hell is eternity with the devil and his angels. 8) Hell is inevitable if you have never come to Christ. 9) Hell is inescapable once you are there. 10) Hell is avoidable if you will repent and believe in Jesus Christ**

**Add to this Luke 16:19-31, The Story of the Rich Man and Lazarus, and it becomes clear that our Lord believed hell was real. He leaves no room for either:**

- 1) Universalism – all will eventually be saved.**
- 2) Annihilationism – all who are lost will go into non-existence.**

**Robert Murray M'Cheyne got it exactly right: "The dying of the Lord Jesus is the most awakening sight in the world. Why did that lovely One that was from the beginning the brightness of His Father's glory, and the express image of His Person, degrade Himself so much as to become as a small "corn of wheat," which is hidden under the earth and dies? Why did He lie down in the cold, rocky sepulcher? Would Christ have wept over Jerusalem if there had been no hell beneath it?"**



**Would He have died under the wrath of God if there were no wrath to come? Oh! Triflers with the gospel – and polite hearers, who say often, “Sir, we would see Jesus,” but who never find Him – go to Gethsemane, see His unspeakable agonies; go to Golgotha, see the vial of wrath poured upon His breaking heart; go to the sepulcher, see the “corn of wheat” laid dead in the ground. Why all this suffering in the spotless One if there is no wrath coming on the unsheltered, unbelieving head?”**

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# The Doctrine of Hell

## REVELATION 20:11-15

### CONTEXT

**The wicked are judged at the return of Christ (19:21: “the rest were killed”) and are denied resurrection at the beginning of the millennium (20:4–6). Following the millennium, the wicked are pulled back from the realm of the dead when Satan is also released from his prison (20:8–9).**

**They are duped once again into following the deceiver in a final act of rebellion before being decisively defeated (20:9). At the end of 20:10, the drama seems to be complete with all God's enemies vanquished.**

**As a result, 20:11–15 can be seen to provide further details of the judgment already mentioned in 20:9. In other words, 20:4–10 and 20:11–15 are really two versions of the same event: the final judgment of the wicked.**

**None of those facing judgment in 20:11–15 will have their names included in the book of life. Those whose names are recorded have already been raised from the dead and made ready for eternal life in the new heaven and new earth. In many ways, 20:4–10 offers the positive side of final judgment, while 20:11–15 presents the negative side.**

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# The Doctrine of Hell

## REVELATION 20:11-15

TEXT

**Revelation 20:11–12 (CSB) Then I saw a great white throne and one seated on it. Earth and heaven fled from his presence, and no place was found for them. I also saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life, and the dead were judged according to their works by what was written in the books.**



**Revelation 20:13–14 (CSB) Then the sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them; each one was judged according to their works. Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire.**

**Revelation 20:15 (CSB) And anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.**

**The Doctrine of Hell**  
**REVELATION 20:11-15**

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# The Doctrine of Hell

## **REVELATION 20:11-15**

### **COMMENTARY**

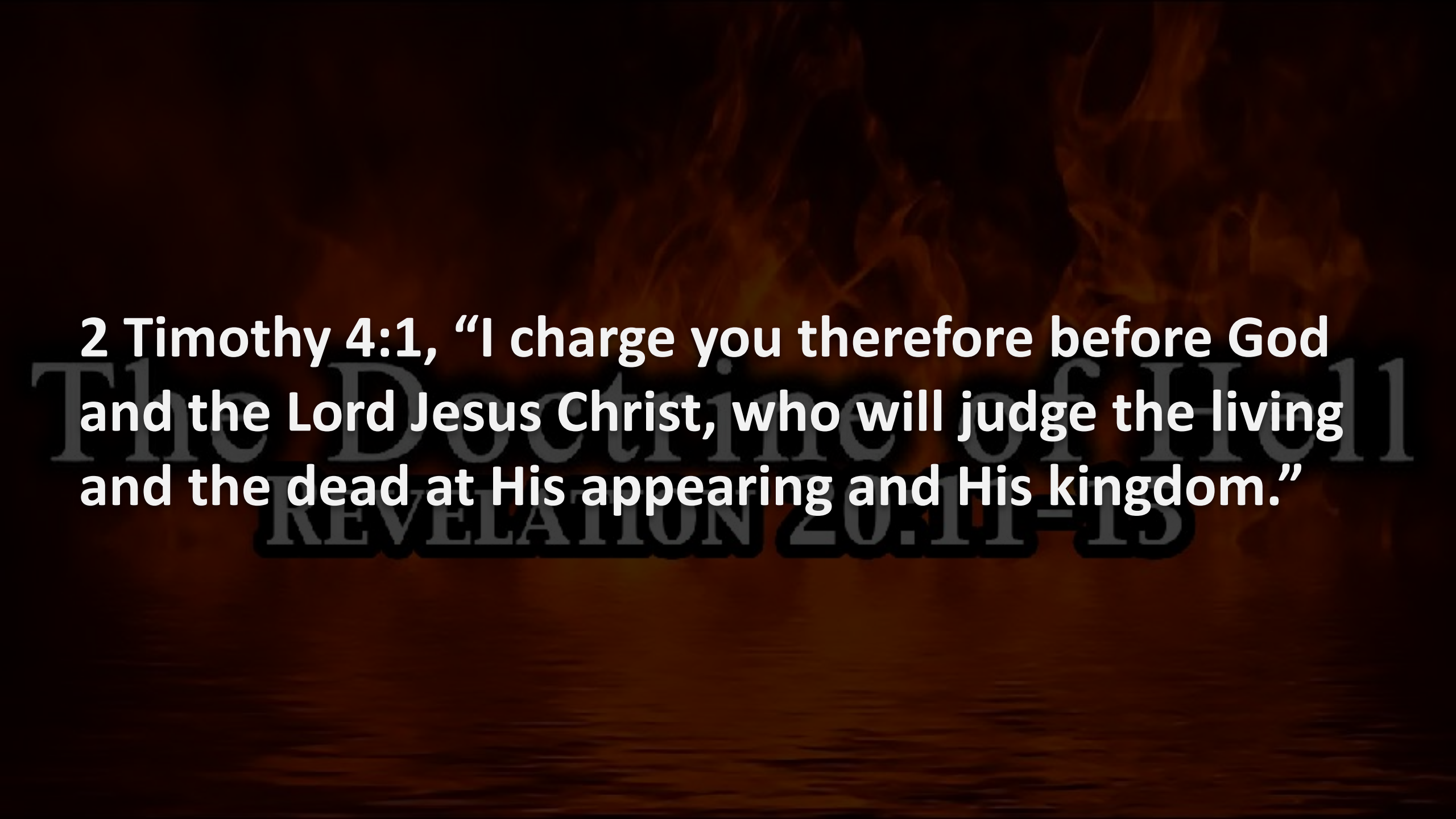
Revelation 20:11 (CSB) **Then I saw** a great white throne and **one** seated on it. Earth and heaven fled from his presence, and no place was found for them.

**Then I saw** – what follows takes place after the millennium and the final rebellion by Satan.

**One** – The Lord Jesus.

**John 5:22, 26-27, “For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son, ... For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself, and has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man.”**

**Acts 10:42, “And He commanded us to preach to the people, and to testify that it is He [Jesus] who was ordained by God to be Judge of the living and the dead.”**

The background of the image features a dark, fiery scene with orange and yellow flames. In the upper right corner, a human skull is visible, partially obscured by the flames. The overall atmosphere is ominous and dramatic.

**2 Timothy 4:1, “I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom.”**

**The Doctrine of Hell**  
**REVELATION 20.11-13**

Revelation 20:11 (CSB) Then I saw a **great white throne** and one seated on it...

**Great** – dignity of the judge, the extent of its judgment.

**White** – purity, holiness and justice of the one seated there.

**Throne** – sovereign majesty and authority.



**Psalm 9:7-8, “But the Lord shall endure forever; He has prepared His throne for judgment. He shall judge the world in righteousness, and He shall administer judgment for the peoples in uprightness.”**

**Revelation 20:11 (CSB) ... Earth and heaven fled from his presence, and no place was found for them.**

**Earth and heaven fled from his presence.. this expresses the fear of corruptible creation before the presence of God in anticipation of the “new” in chapter 21. The scene is unnerving, as everything in all of creation flees from its Creator.**

**What is to follow at this throne is terrifying to imagine. Unbelievers, in their own righteousness, will stand before the sinless, perfect holy Savior whom they rejected. Words cannot capture the horror of the moment.**

**Revelation 20:12 (CSB) I also saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life, and the dead were judged according to their works by what was written in the books.**

**Hell is an equal opportunity provider for the spiritually dead.**

Revelation 20:12 (CSB) I also saw **the dead**, the **great and the small**, standing before the throne,

Those without Christ are called **the dead** 4 times in this text. “Dead” or “death” occurs 7 times. Note **small and great** “dead ones” are here. Your status in this life, your accomplishments and accolades in this life will count for zero when you stand before the great white throne.

Hell will not be equally hot and terrible for everyone. There will be degrees of punishment. Revelation brings responsibility...

Hear the words of Jesus:

**Matthew 10:14-15**, “And whoever will not receive you nor hear your words, when you depart from that house or city, shake off the dust from your feet. Assuredly, I say to you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment than for that city!”

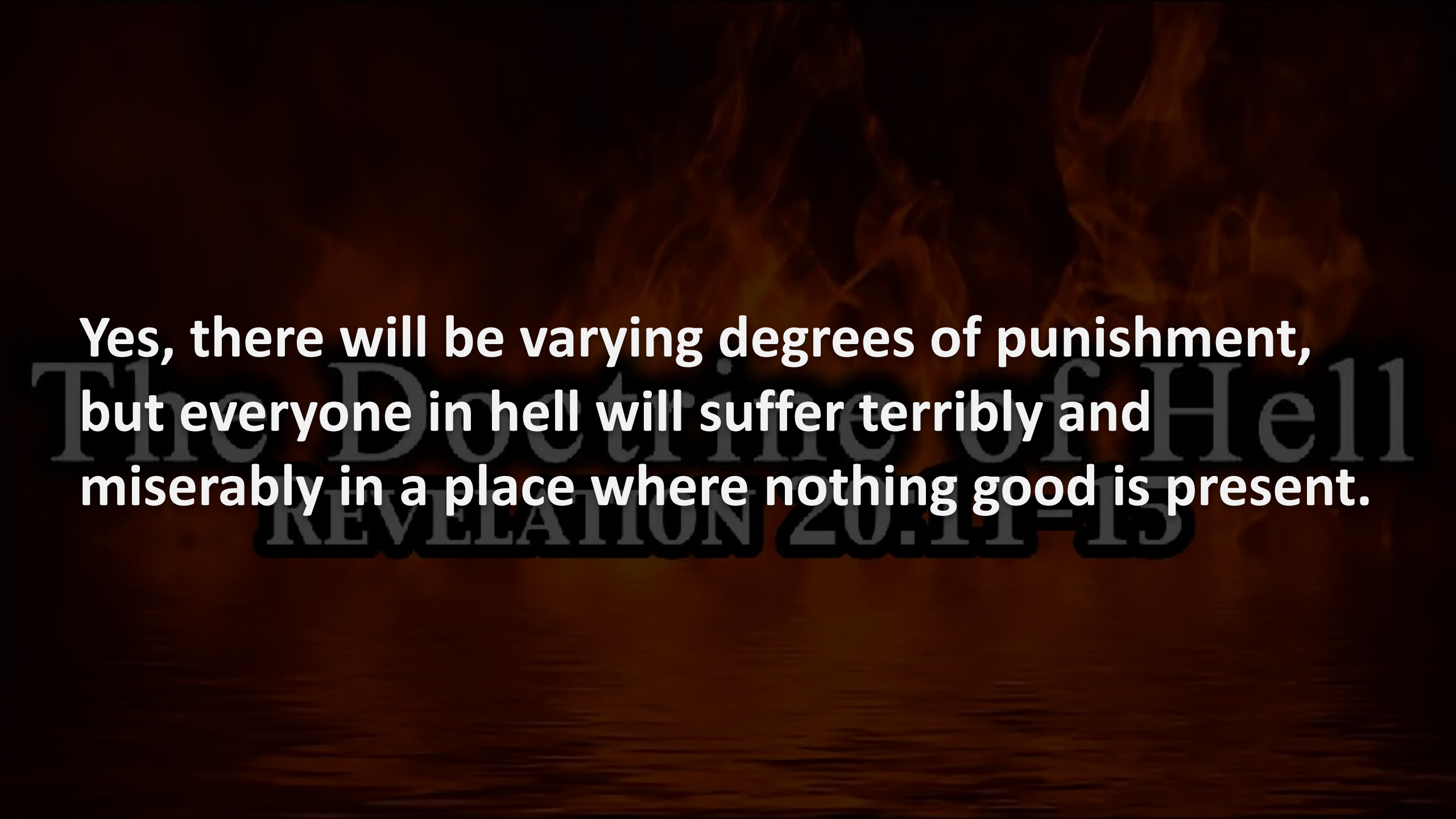
**Matthew 11:21-24, “Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. But I say to you, it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in the day of judgment than for you. And you, Capernaum, who are exalted to heaven, will be brought down to Hades;**

for if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. But I say to you that it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment than for you.”

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REVELATION 20:11-15



**Mark 12:38-40, “Then He said to them in His teaching, “Beware of the scribes, who desire to go around in long robes, love greetings in the marketplaces, the best seats in the synagogues, and the best places at feasts, who devour widows’ houses, and for a pretense make long prayers. These will receive greater condemnation.”**

The background of the image features a dark, fiery scene with orange and yellow flames. In the upper right corner, a human skull is visible, partially obscured by the flames. The overall atmosphere is dark and ominous.

**Yes, there will be varying degrees of punishment,  
but everyone in hell will suffer terribly and  
miserably in a place where nothing good is present.**

**The Doctrine of Hell**  
**REVELATION 20:11-15**

Revelation 20:12 (CSB) ...and **books** were opened.

**Books** — books of works, which contain the record of every thought, act and emotion of every unsaved person.

**Psalm 44:21, “Would not God search this out? For He knows the secrets of the heart.”**

**Ecclesiastes 12:14, “For God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil.”**

**Matthew 12:37, “For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.”**

**Matthew 16:27, “For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works.”**

The Doctrine of Hell  
REVELATION 20:11-15

**Luke 8:17, “For nothing is secret that will not be revealed, nor anything hidden that will not be known and come to light.”**

**Romans 2:16, “In the day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my gospel.”**

**Punishment in hell will fit the sins. No one will call God unfair or unjust when His heavenly video recorder plays back, "This is Your Life." These books will tell one side of the story. But another book will tell the other side.**

**The Doctrine of Hell  
REVELATION 20:11-15**

Revelation 20:12 (CSB) Another book was opened, which is the **book of life**...

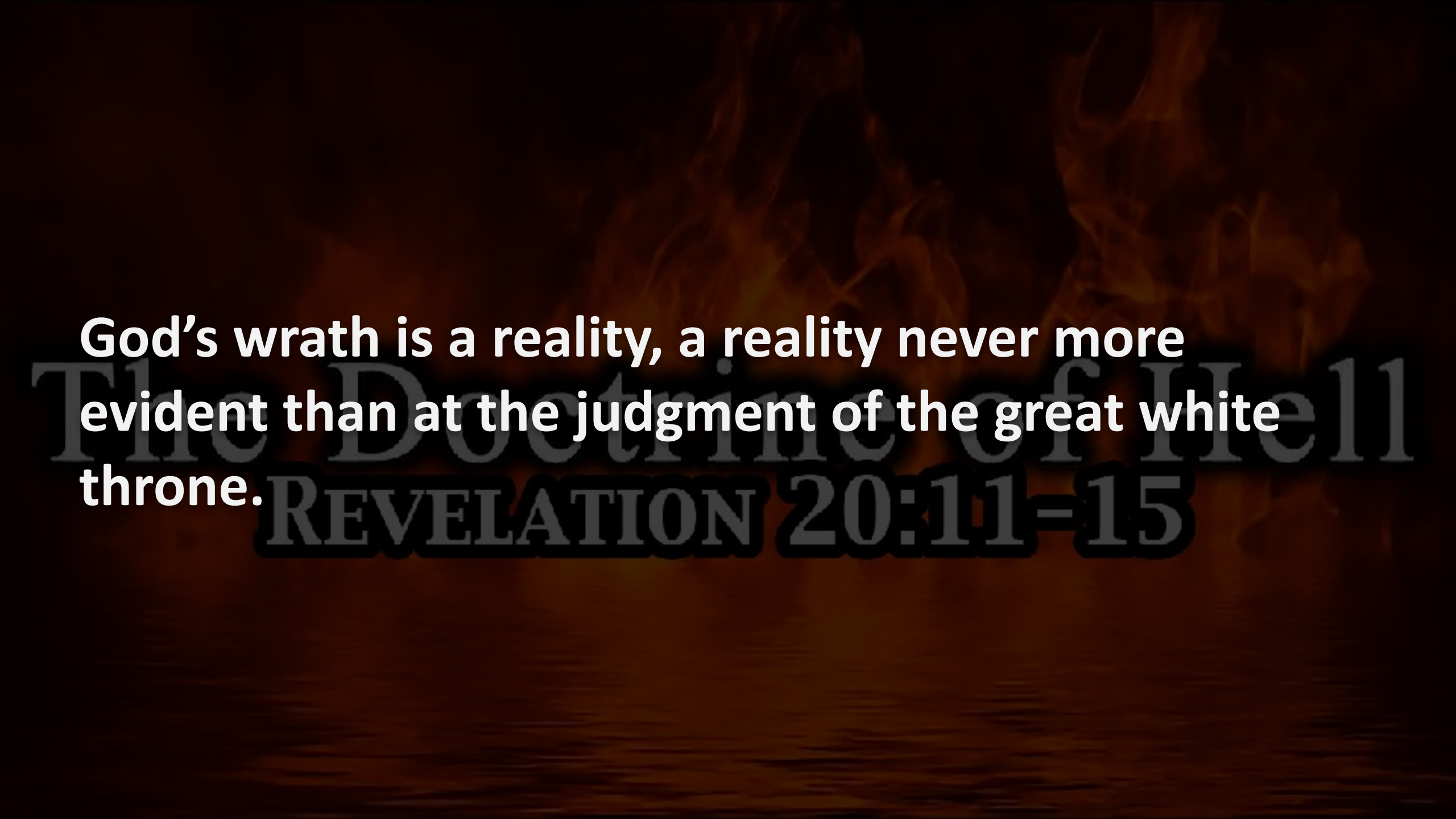
**Book of Life** – This corresponds to the ancient idea of a divine register and also to the registry of citizens in ancient cities. It contains the record of the names of all persons who have trusted and received Jesus as Lord and Savior (see also Rev. 3:5; 13:8; 17:8; 20:15; 21:27).



**Philippians 3:20 says, “For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.” If your name is in the Book of Life it will not be in the books of works. But, if your name is in the books of works, it will not be in the Book of Life.**

**Revelation 20:13 (CSB) Then the sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them; each one was judged according to their works.**

**“Preaching that downplays God’s wrath does not enhance evangelism: it undermines it. One survey of evangelical seminary students revealed that nearly half (46%) felt preaching about hell to unbelievers is in poor taste.” John MacArthur**

The background of the image is a dark, fiery scene with orange and yellow flames. Overlaid on this background is the text 'The Doctrine of Hell' in a large, semi-transparent, serif font. Below this, the text 'REVELATION 20:11-15' is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font with a white outline. In the foreground, the main text 'God's wrath is a reality, a reality never more evident than at the judgment of the great white throne.' is displayed in a white, bold, sans-serif font.

**God's wrath is a reality, a reality never more evident than at the judgment of the great white throne.**

**REVELATION 20:11-15**

**Revelation 20:13 (CSB) Then the sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them; each one was judged according to their works.**

**God's summons goes out to all. - The sea, Death (claims the body) and Hades (claims the soul). -**

**Every speck of dust, every particle that makes up the bodies of the unsaved will be regathered and reformed when they stand “naked” before the Savior. With resurrected bodies fit for hell they will all, from every corner of the earth, stand before God.**

**Revelation 20:13 (CSB) ...each one was judged according to their works.**

**God's standard is applied to all. A 2nd time we are told, "they were judged, each one according to his works."**

How will the unsaved be judged from the books?

**First**, by how they responded to the Word of God (which they rejected). Jesus said, “John 12:48 (CSB) The one who rejects me and doesn’t receive my sayings has this as his judge: The word I have spoken will judge him on the last day..”

**Even if people never read the Word of God, they will still be without excuse (Rom. 1:20; 2:12) because God's law was written in their hearts (Rom. 2:14-16), and the revelation of God could be discerned in their consciences from creation (Rom. 1:19- 20).**



How will the unsaved be judged from the books?

**Second**, their own words will judge them: “But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned” (Matt. 12:36-37).

How will the unsaved be judged from the books?

**Third**, their own works (v.13) will judge them. All the evil that people thought, said, or did will be manifested and properly rewarded in that day.

**Concerning the wicked, one writer put it this way:  
“Back they will come, with faces wrecked and  
ruined by sin and with souls knotted and gnarled,  
shriveled and shorn by lust and hate, envy and  
scorn, passion and pride, iniquity and crime. Back  
they will come to be judged – according to their  
works” (John Phillips, Exploring Revelation, p. 258).  
The Bible is clear: “be sure your sin will find you  
out” (Num. 32:23).**

Revelation 20:14 (CSB) Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire.

*“The pit is prepared. The fire is made ready. The furnace is now hot, ready to receive them. The flames do now rage and glow. The glittering sword is whet, and held over them, and the pit has opened her mouth under them... O sinner!*

*Consider the fearful danger you are in.”* Jonathan Edwards, “Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God.”

**C.E. Autrey - "It is an unworthy motive to preach on hell to frighten people into the family of God... We preach it because it tenders the hearts of the Christians and creates within them a concern for the lost people... No redeemed child of God can look through the eyes of the scriptures at the awful glaring destiny of the lost and not have a grave concern about the sinners on their way to eternal damnation..."**

**...The mantle of the prophet falls upon the shoulders of a preacher who can look through the eyes of this great doctrine at a lost world.” C.E. Autrey, Prof. of Evangelism, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, 1957 Texas Baptist Evangelism Conference.**

Revelation 20:14 (CSB) **Death and Hades** were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the **second death**, the lake of fire.

**Death and Hades** (body & soul joined together?) are cast into hell, the lake of fire.

**Second death** – spiritual death; eternal death; permanent separation forever from God. Alone, no way out, no 2nd chance.

**Timothy George, “Hell for me would be I would never see God. That would be the greatest punishment.”**

**In one sense God is there (Ps. 139), but the lost will have no sense of His presence, other than that of His wrath.**

**The Doctrine of Hell**  
**REVELATION 20:11-15**



**Revelation 20:15 (CSB) And anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.**

**They experience the suffering of fire. 20:15 - Is the fire literal?**

- 1) I don't want to find out.**
- 2) Whatever it is, it is worse than you could ever imagine.**

Language like this leaves no room for any form of universal salvation, soul sleep, an intermediate state of purgatory, a second chance, or annihilation of the wicked. This is the eternal infliction of punishment resulting in the physical and mental misery mentioned by Jesus (Mt. 25:41, 46). The wicked will be tormented without rest, day and night, forever (Rev. 14:11). Remember, "it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment" (Heb. 9:27).



# The Doctrine of Hell

**REVELATION 20:11-15**

**MODERN APPLICATIONS**

**1. Unbelievers will face God's eternal judgment.** While the very last part of Revelation speaks about all the wonderful things God has in store for his people, this text provides a sobering reminder of the punishment awaiting those who rebel against God. While some would like to find support for the doctrine of annihilation in Revelation (i.e., the belief that the wicked will be destroyed and cease to exist once thrown into the fiery lake), the book seems to teach the eternal conscious punishment of the wicked.

**In Revelation 14:9–11 and 20:10, we find the phrases “torment,” “night and day,” and “forever and ever,” phrases that suggest eternal judgment. The main point, however, is more than a theological argument between eternal conscious torment versus annihilation.**

**Although the word “hell” is often thrown around in our society as a curse or exclamation, the Bible clearly teaches the reality of hell as the place of final punishment (cf. 21:8; 22:15). This will be the fate of real people, people we know.**

**The Doctrine of Hell**  
**REVELATION 20:11-15**

**“What causes my heart to ache right now as I’m writing this is that my life shows little evidence that I actually believe this. Every time my thoughts wander to the future of unbelievers, I quickly brush them aside so they don’t ruin my day. But there is a reality here that I can’t ignore. Even as the conversations of people around me fill my ears, the truth of Scripture penetrates my heart with sobering statements about their destinies.”**

**“We can talk about the fate of some hypothetical person, but as I look up and see their smiles, I have to ask myself if I really believe what I have written in this book. Hell is for real. Am I?”**

**REVELATION 20:11-15**

**Chan and Sprinkle, Erasing Hell, 107–8.**



**Dealing honestly with the biblical truth that God will judge the wicked brings us face-to-face with God's absolute holiness and purity without any sort of boasting or gloating. It also ought to motivate us to pray for and reach out to our unbelieving friends with the good news of Jesus Christ.**

**2. God's judgment is rendered on the basis of divine initiative and human responsibility.** The two sets of books ("the book of life" and "the books") point to the importance of both God's sovereignty and our response of faith. In Revelation (and in the rest of the Bible, in my view), it is not either-or but both-and.

**God's sovereignty stands as one of the main themes of the entire book, while human choices carry eternal significance (e.g., the importance of listening to the Spirit throughout the seven letters in chapters 2–3 and of failing to repent in 9:20–21; 16:9–11).**

**3. A genuine faith must be not only a believed faith but also a lived faith.** Revelation does not stand in conflict with the Pauline doctrine of justification by faith but emphasizes (along with James and even Paul himself) that true faith will be revealed through its actions.

REVELATION 20:11-15

**One of the book's central verses:**

***Revelation 12:11 (CSB) They conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; for they did not love their lives to the point of death.***

**highlights both the finished work of Christ on the cross and our active response to that.**

**Sometimes we drift into thinking that following Christ is more about knowing than about living. But Jesus commanded his disciples to teach others “to obey everything I have commanded you,” not merely to know his commands (Matt. 28:20)**

**This text provides a crucial opportunity to examine our own lives to make sure that our faith is a lived and expressed faith.**

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# The Doctrine of Hell

## REVELATION 20:11-15

# OLD TESTAMENT CONNECTIONS

**Revelation 20:11–12** Then I saw a great white throne and one seated on it. Earth and heaven fled from his presence, and no place was found for them. **12**I also saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life, and the dead were judged according to their works by what was written in the books.



**Daniel 7:9–10 “As I kept watching, thrones were set in place, and the Ancient of Days took his seat. His clothing was white like snow, and the hair of his head like whitest wool. His throne was flaming fire; its wheels were blazing fire. 10A river of fire was flowing, coming out from his presence. Thousands upon thousands served him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him. The court was convened, and the books were opened.**

**Revelation 20:11** Then I saw a great white throne and one seated on it. Earth and heaven fled from his presence, and no place was found for them.

**Psalm 114:3–7** The sea looked and fled; the Jordan turned back. 4The mountains skipped like rams, the hills, like lambs. 5Why was it, sea, that you fled? Jordan, that you turned back? 6Mountains, that you skipped like rams? Hills, like lambs? 7Tremble, earth, at the presence of the Lord, at the presence of the God of Jacob,

**Revelation 20:12–13** I also saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life, and the dead were judged according to their works by what was written in the books. **13** Then the sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them; each one was judged according to their works.

**Psalm 28:4 Repay them according to what they have done—according to the evil of their deeds. Repay them according to the work of their hands; give them back what they deserve.**

**Psalm 62:12 and faithful love belongs to you, Lord. For you repay each according to his works.**

**Proverbs 24:12** If you say, “But we didn’t know about this,” won’t he who weighs hearts consider it? Won’t he who protects your life know? Won’t he repay a person according to his work?

**Isaiah 59:18** So he will repay according to their deeds: fury to his enemies, retribution to his foes, and he will repay the coasts and islands.

**Jeremiah 17:10 I, the Lord, examine the mind, I test the heart to give to each according to his way, according to what his actions deserve.**

**The Doctrine of Hell**  
**REVELATION 20.11-15**

**Revelation 20:12** I also saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life, and the dead were judged according to their works by what was written in the books.

**REVELATION 20:11-15**

**Psalm 69:28** Let them be erased from the book of life and not be recorded with the righteous.

**Exodus 32:32–33** Now if you would only forgive their sin. But if not, please erase me from the book you have written.” 33The Lord replied to Moses, “Whoever has sinned against me I will erase from my book.

**Daniel 12:1** At that time Michael, the great prince who stands watch over your people, will rise up. There will be a time of distress such as never has occurred since nations came into being until that time. But at that time all your people who are found written in the book will escape.



**Revelation 20:15 And anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.**

**Psalm 69:28 Let them be erased from the book of life and not be recorded with the righteous.**

**Exodus 32:32–33 Now if you would only forgive their sin. But if not, please erase me from the book you have written.” 33The Lord replied to Moses, “Whoever has sinned against me I will erase from my book.**

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# The Doctrine of Hell

## REVELATION 20:11-15

### SUMMARY

## **Key Themes of Revelation 20:11–15**

- **The unrepentant dead will face God's judgment.**
- **God's judgment is rendered on the basis of divine initiative and human responsibility.**
- **In the end, God will cast death, Hades, and the unrepentant into the lake of fire.**

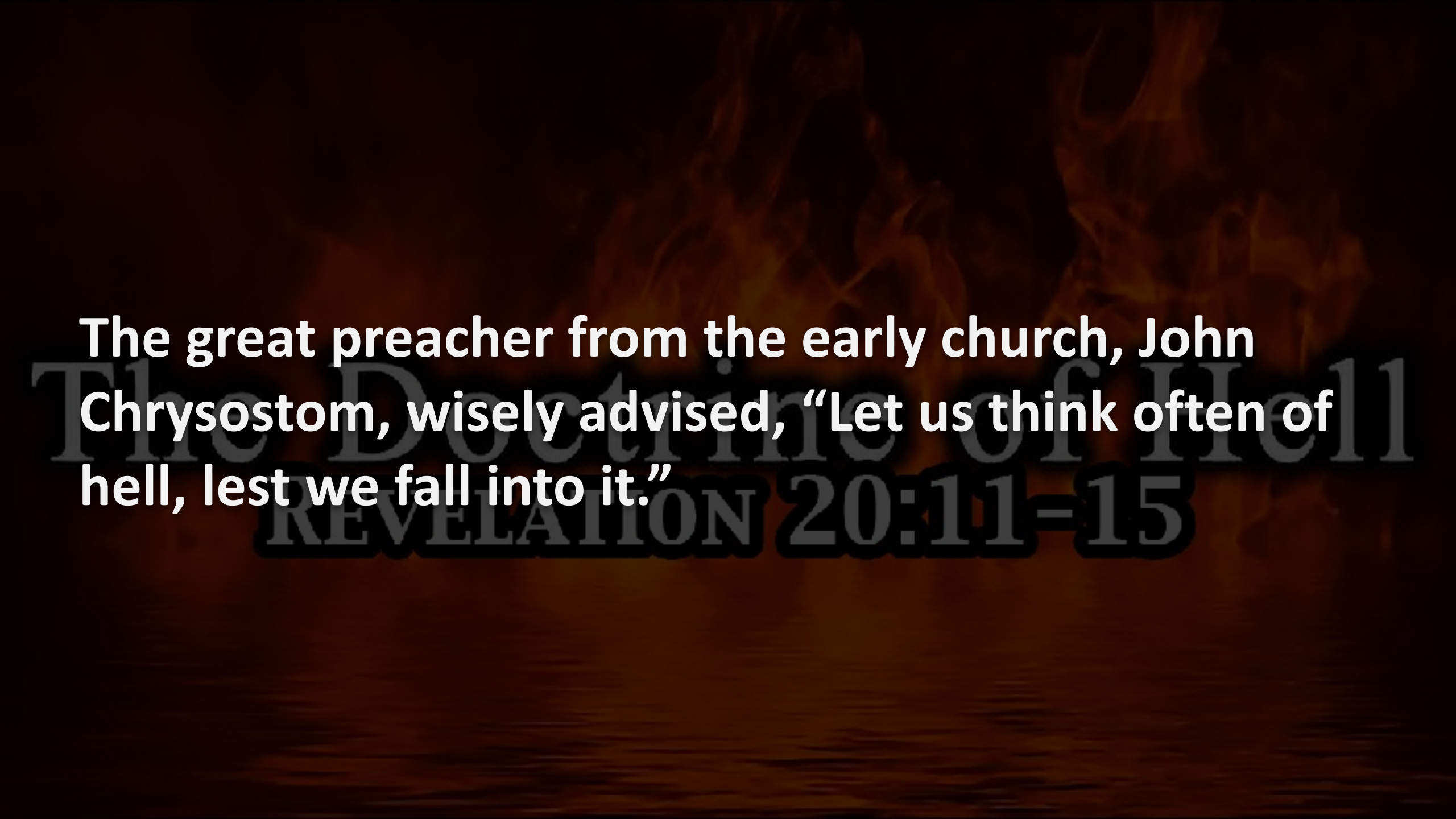


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**REVELATION 20:11-15**

**CONCLUSION**

**In an interview in the year 2001 boxing champion Muhammad Ali was asked if there was anything he was afraid of. His response: "I'm afraid of not going to heaven." Ali is wise to have such fear.**

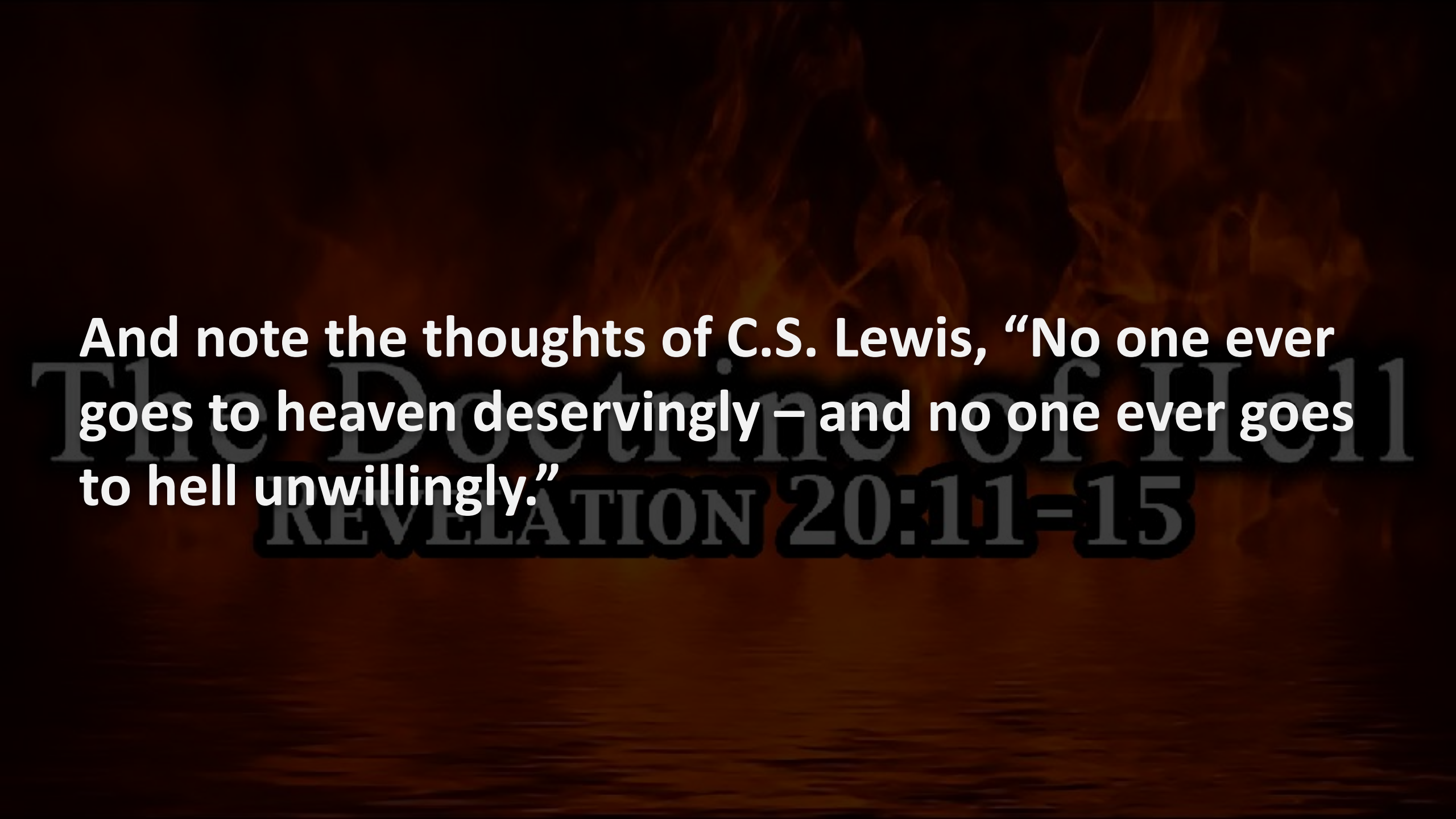


The great preacher from the early church, John Chrysostom, wisely advised, "Let us think often of hell, lest we fall into it."

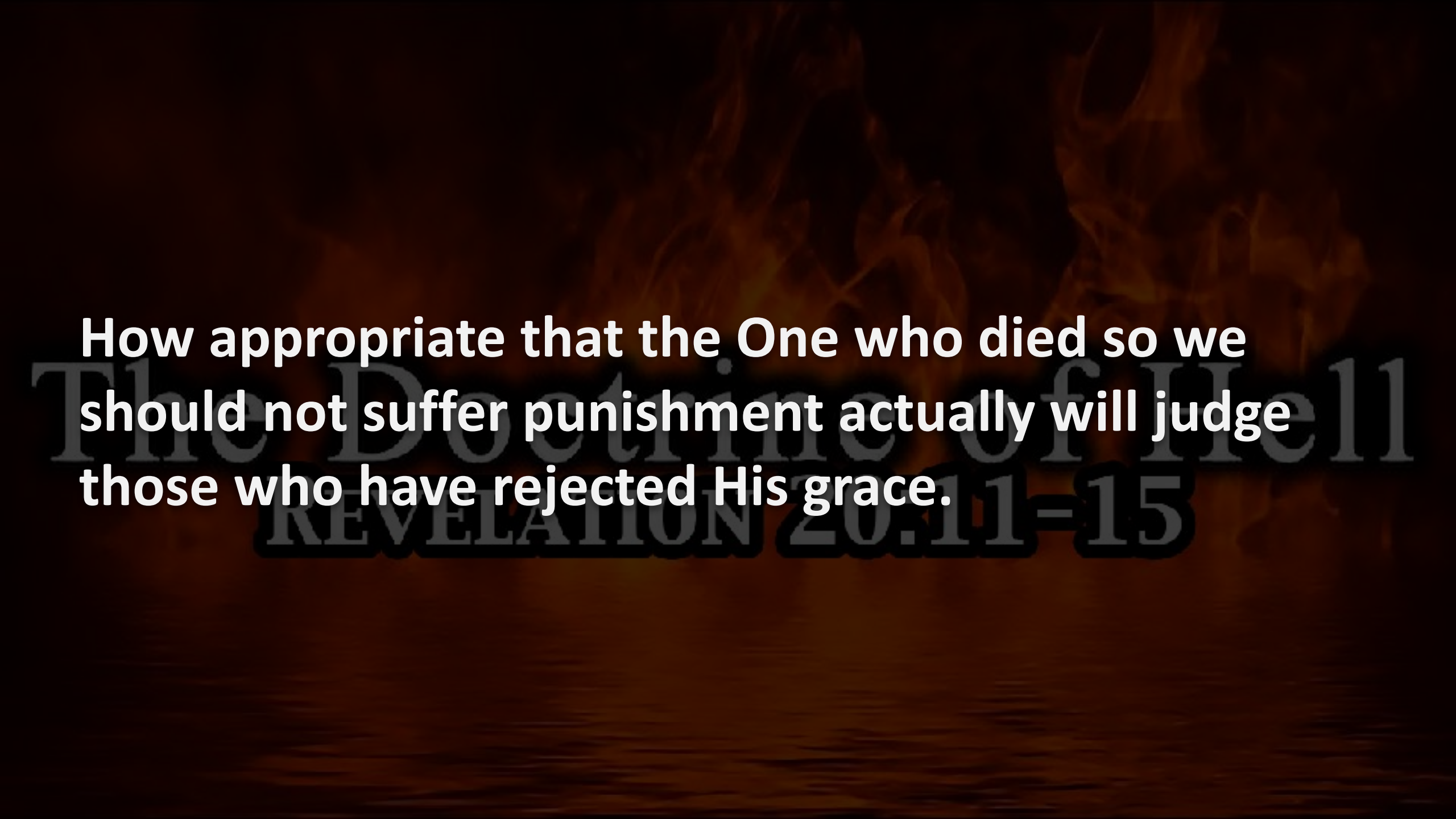
**Charles Spurgeon adds, “Think lightly of hell, and you will soon think lightly of the cross.... He who does not believe that God will cast unbelievers into hell will not be sure that He will take believers into heaven.”**

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**REVELATION 20.11-13**





**And note the thoughts of C.S. Lewis, “No one ever goes to heaven deservingly – and no one ever goes to hell unwillingly.”**

The background of the slide features a dark, fiery scene with orange and yellow flames. In the upper right corner, a human skull is visible, partially obscured by the flames. The overall atmosphere is somber and dramatic.

**How appropriate that the One who died so we should not suffer punishment actually will judge those who have rejected His grace.**

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**Charles Haddon Spurgeon again says, “He shall be the judge. He shall lay open the thoughts and intents of the heart. There will be no witness needed to convict you, for the Judge will know all the evidence. The Christ whom you despised will judge you; the Savior whose mercy you trampled on, in the fountain of whose blood you would not wash, the despised and the rejected – it is He who will judge you.”**



# The Doctrine of Hell

## **REVELATION 20:11-15**