

Fireproof

Shadrack, Meshach and Abednego walked about in a fire storm and lived to tell about it. How would you like to have experienced what they went through?

If Jesus returns within our lifetime, and if we are translated without seeing death, we will experience a firestorm more spectacular than what these three worthies went through.

2 Kings 2:11 *“And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.”*

How did Elijah step into a chariot that was made of flaming fire without being burnt up? He was fireproof as were Shadrach, Meshach and Abendigo.

Those of us translated without seeing death will first be tested as were Shadrach, Meshach and Abendigo and then go through literal fire just as they did. The command to bow to Nebuchadnezzar’s image is equivalent to the command to worship a false Sabbath. Those of us who successfully pass the Sunday law test will survive the pre-second advent lake of fire.

Most of us are familiar with the lake of fire brought to view in Revelation 20 and 21. This lake of fire that engulfs the world takes place after the 1,000 years spent in heaven. We understand this to be a literal lake of fire into which Satan and his followers will be cast.

But, according to Revelation 19, there is a lake of fire that engulfs the world **before** the second coming of Jesus. Let me tell you how I’ve always understood final events on this earth up until just a couple weeks ago. Yes, we are never too old to learn something new.

I correctly understood that the entire world will be brought to decide between two different days of worship, the seventh-day Sabbath of the fourth commandment and the first-day Sunday worship of the popular Christian denominations. According to Revelation 13, those who choose, under the threat of economic boycott and finally under the threat of death, to keep the seventh-day Sabbath receive the seal of God and those who go along with the laws of the land and honor Sunday as the day of worship, receive the mark of the beast.

After everyone makes their choice, human probation will close and the seven last plagues will punish those who have the mark of the beast as stated in Revelation 16:2 *“And the first went, and poured out his vial upon the earth; and there fell a noisome and*

grievous sore upon the men which had the mark of the beast, and upon them which worshipped his image.”

This is what the Bible teaches. This is what the Seventh-day Adventist Church teaches. And I believe that this is all correct. Up until a couple weeks ago, I did not understand that there was a literal, pre-advent lake of fire. I thought that there was only one lake of fire that would engulf this world and that event would only take place after we spent 1,000 years in heaven. I see this differently now. I now see that there will be two literal lakes of fire, one before the second coming of Jesus and one after the 1,000 years. The pre-advent lake of fire takes place during the time period of the seventh plague.

Under the seventh plague it says: “...and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath.” Revelation 16:19 And in Revelation 19 it describes this wrath of God: Revelation 19:20 “And the **beast** was taken, and with **him** the **false prophet** that wrought miracles before **him**, with which **he** deceived **them** that had received the mark of the beast, and **them** that worshipped his image. **These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.**”

The beast and the false prophet symbolize the powers of the papacy and the two horned beast of Revelation 13 which is apostate Protestant America—the harlot and her daughters. They are the ones who promoted the false Sabbath and brought nearly the entire population of planet earth on board with their rebellion against the law of God.

These two powers represent systems of worship. They represent false ideologies. An ideology is not a living being that can be cast alive into a literal lake of fire. These belief systems deceived the “them” mentioned in the text and **caused** “them” to receive the mark of the beast (Revelation 13:16).

Revelation 18:8 “Therefore shall her **plagues** come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; **and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her.**”

Literal plagues affect literal people. Who will be utterly burned with fire? The harlot and her daughters are composed of living persons who at this time have the mark of the beast “*in their right hand or in their foreheads.*”

This is the very fire of which Peter writes: 2 Peter 3:9-12 “The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance [pre-close of probation]. **But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night** [this phrase “thief in the night” identifies the close of human

probation which initiates the beginning of the day of the Lord]; ***in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.*** Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved [burnt up], what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, ***wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?***”

Peter does not want us to miss this point:
melt with fervent heat, shall be burned up, heavens being on fire, shall be dissolved, the elements shall melt with fervent heat.

Peter is talking about a lake of fire that comes into play in the day of the Lord. Zephaniah speaks of this great day of the Lord: Zephaniah 1:2, 3, 14, 18 ***“I will utterly consume all things from off the land, saith the LORD. I will consume man and beast; I will consume the fowls of the heaven, and the fishes of the sea, and the stumblingblocks with the wicked; and I will cut off man from off the land, saith the LORD.... The great day of the LORD is near, it is near, and hasteth greatly, even the voice of the day of the LORD: the mighty man shall cry there bitterly... Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them in the day of the LORD'S wrath; but the whole land shall be devoured by the fire of his jealousy: for he shall make even a speedy riddance of all them that dwell in the land.”***

Here is the Spirit of Prophecy support for a literal, **pre-advent lake of fire**. In this statement we find the definition for the phase, the day of the Lord. “The bowels of the earth were the Lord’s arsenal, from which he drew forth the weapons he employed in the destruction of the old world. Waters in the earth gushed forth, and united with the waters from heaven, to accomplish the work of destruction. Since the flood, God has used both water and fire in the earth as his agents to destroy wicked cities. In the **day of the Lord, just before the coming of Christ**, God will send **lightnings from heaven** in his wrath, which will unite with fire in the earth. (The day of the Lord is the day of God’s wrath – the seven last plagues that occur just before the coming of Christ. Lightning is an aspect of the seventh plague, Revelation 16:17-18 ***“And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done. And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as***

was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great.)

The mountains will burn like a furnace, and will pour forth terrible streams of lava, destroying gardens and fields, villages and cities; and as they pour their melted ore, rocks and heated mud, into the rivers, will cause them to boil like a pot, and send forth massive rocks, and scatter their broken fragments upon the land with indescribable violence. Whole rivers will be dried up. The earth will be convulsed, and there will be dreadful eruptions and earthquakes everywhere. **God will plague the wicked inhabitants until they are destroyed from off the earth. But the saints will be preserved in the midst of these dreadful commotions, as Noah was preserved in the ark at the time of the flood.**" {ST March 13, 1879}

Just as no one outside of the ark survived the flood of water, so no one without the seal of God will survive this firestorm. All those who have received the mark of the beast will be destroyed from off the earth in this seventh plague, lake of fire.

"Water will never destroy the earth again, but the weapons of God are concealed in the bowels of the earth, which He will draw forth to unite with the fire from heaven to accomplish His purpose in the **destruction of all those who would not receive the message of warning** and purify their souls in obeying the truth and being obedient to the laws of God. (ST Jan. 3, 1878) and {7BC 946.9}.

Ellen White is saying that the plagues will destroy the wicked inhabitants from off the earth. **This is before the second coming of Jesus**. Those of us who reject the mark of the beast and receive the seal of God will go through this lake of fire without it having any effect on us. This fire will have no more effect on us than had the fiery furnace on Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. We will be fireproof.

Isaiah 43:1, 2 *"But now thus saith the LORD that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine. When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: **when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.**"*

No one who received the mark of the beast will live to see Jesus return to this earth. If this be the case, why does the Bible say that the wicked will be destroyed by the brightness of His coming? Because there will be a resurrection of wicked people **after** the fire has fulfilled its mission.

“There is a mighty earthquake, ‘such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great.’ Revelation 16:18. . . . The whole earth heaves and swells like the waves of the sea. Its surface is breaking up. Its very foundations seem to be giving way. . . . **Graves are opened, and ‘many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth . . . awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.’ Daniel 12:2.** All who have died in the faith of the third angel's message come forth from the tomb glorified, to hear God's covenant of peace with those who have kept His law. Those who had died in faith under the third angel's message, keeping the Sabbath, came forth from their dusty beds. ‘They also which pierced him’ (Revelation 1:7), those that mocked and derided Christ's dying agonies, **and the most violent opposers of His truth and His people**, are raised to behold Him in His glory, and to see the honor placed upon the loyal and obedient... {FLB 182}

Revelation 14:13 *“And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord **from henceforth.**”*

From which point in time is this henceforth? This verse follows Revelation 14:8-12 which presents the three angel's messages. Those who will be resurrected in this special pre-advent resurrection are those who died, keeping the Sabbath, since 1844. These righteous saints will be resurrected alongside those who crucified Christ and those who were most active in opposing Christ and His people over the past 6,000 years.

These wicked people will be the ones who will be destroyed with the brightness of His coming: 2 Thessalonians 2:8 *“And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming.”*

There will be many who were violent opposers of truth during the time when men are receiving the mark of the beast. They will be consumed by fire from God in the time of the seventh plague. **Then shortly after**, they will be resurrected along with those who crucified Christ. They will once again be destroyed, but this time by the brightness of His coming.

There could be hundreds of thousands if not millions of “*most violent opposers of His truth and His people*” raised from the dead from those who died over the last 6,000 years in this special resurrection that takes place several days before the coming of Christ.

This special resurrection takes place after the fires have consumed all the wicked from off this earth. It will be the wicked from this resurrection who will call for the rocks and mountains to hide them at the second coming of Jesus.

“Then those who pierced Him will call on the rocks and mountains to fall on them and hide them from the face of Him that sitteth on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb.” Letter 131, 1900. (LDE 275)

After Revelation 19:20 speaks of those who received the mark of the beast being thrown alive into the lake of fire it then says this in the next verse: *“And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh.”* Revelation 19:21

This remnant includes those who crucified Christ who were raised to life in the special resurrection after the lake of fire event. Here is the statement that puts these events in the correct chronological order:

“At this time, when wickedness is at its height, ministers of the gospel are crying, “Peace and safety.” Upon the minds of those who are thus set at rest, ***“sudden destruction cometh.”*** [1 Thessalonians 5:3.] Unprepared, they shall not escape.... ***Everything will be penetrated by fire. The tainted atmosphere will be cleansed by fire. The fire having fulfilled its mission*** (sudden destruction), the dead that have been laid away in the grave will come forth—some to the resurrection of life, to be caught up to meet their Lord in the air; and some to behold the coming of Him whom they have despised, and whom they now recognize as the judge of all the earth. ***All the righteous are untouched by the flames.*** They can walk through the fire, as Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego walked in the midst of the furnace heated seven times hotter than it was wont to be heated. The Hebrew worthies could not be consumed because the form of the fourth, the Son of God, was with them.... *“The day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also, and the works that are therein shall be burned up.”* [2 Peter 3:6, 7, 10.] This scene has been presented before me as fully as I could bear to behold it.” {Ms159-1903.20}

From what I've shown you, here is how I now understand these final events: All who receive the mark of the beast will be destroyed from off this earth by the plagues. The final plague will include the very atmosphere being set on fire. God's people will be preserved alive in the midst of this fire storm.

During the Loud Cry many will oppose God's people. They will die from the plagues. The most vigorous opposers will then be resurrected to witness the 2nd coming. There will be many opposers who will be resurrected in this special resurrection. These people who will be resurrected will come into a world that has just been scorched by fire. There will be nothing left alive except the righteous people who have passed through this fire.

The wicked will hear the blessings of God pronounced upon those who they persecuted in their former life and they will worship at the saint's feet: Revelation 3:9 *"Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee."*

"Then Jesus ... took His place on the cloud which carried Him to the East, where it first appeared to the saints on earth—a small black cloud which was the sign of the Son of man. While the cloud was passing from the Holiest to the East, **which took a number of days**, the synagogue of Satan worshipped at the saints' feet." {Mar 287.8}

Then they will be destroyed by the brightness of the second coming of Jesus and be resurrected 1000 years later to receive the wages of sin which is eternal death. It is at this time that the second lake of fire will consume Satan and his followers and melt this earth down to then be recreated by God. Revelation 20:10, 14-15 *"And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."* The saints will be inside the Holy City, New Jerusalem, preserved once again from a lake of fire.

Isaiah 33:12-15 ***"And the people shall be as the burnings of lime: as thorns cut up shall they be burned in the fire. Hear, ye that are far off, what I have done; and, ye [that are] near, acknowledge my might. The sinners in Zion are afraid; fearfulness hath surprised the hypocrites. Who among us shall dwell with the devouring fire? who among us shall dwell with everlasting burnings? He that walketh righteously, and speaketh uprightly; he that despiseth the gain of oppressions, that shaketh his hands from holding of bribes, that stoppeth his ears from hearing of blood, and shutteth his eyes from seeing evil;"***

The Hebrew worthies could not be consumed because the form of the fourth, the Son of God, was with them. So in the day of the coming of the Lord, smoke and flame will be powerless to harm the righteous.” {Ms159-1903.20}

It was because of the choices that the Hebrew worthies made in the first chapter of Daniel that allowed them to be persevered in the fiery furnace. They chose a diet and a lifestyle that helped to keep their minds in tune with the Holy Spirit. Who among us shall dwell with the devouring fire? Who shall dwell with everlasting burnings? He that walketh righteously as did Shadrack, Meshach and Abednego.

‘Be not afraid’

For I have redeemed you
 Be not afraid
 I have called you by name
 When you pass through the waters
 I will be with you
 When you pass through the floods
 They will not sweep o’er you
 When you walk through the fire
 You will not be consumed
 You are Mine
 You are precious in My sight.

My love for you
 Is everlasting
 My love for you
 Shall have no end
 When you pass through the waters
 I will be with you
 When you pass through the floods
 They will not sweep o’er you
 When you walk through the fire
 You will not be consumed
 You are mine
 You are precious in My sight

Helena, MT. 6/2020
 Isaiah 43:1-4