

A TALE OF TWO ETERNITIES

Matthew 25:34, NIV

“Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.’”

Matthew 25:41, NIV

“Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.’”

Matthew 25:46, NIV

“Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”

I. The Eternity of the righteous

1. there will be a return

1 Thessalonians 4:16, NIV

For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God...

2. there will be a RESURRECTION

1 Thessalonians 4:15, NIV

According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep.

1 Thessalonians 4:16, NIV

For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

Revelation 20:6, NIV

Blessed and holy are those who share in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years.

3. there will be a RAPTURE

1 Thessalonians 4:17, NIV

After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.

1 Corinthians 15:50, NIV

I declare to you, brothers and sisters, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

1 Corinthians 15:51-52, NIV

Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed— in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.

4. there will be a REUNION

1 Thessalonians 4:17-18, NIV

After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage each other with these words.

5. there will be a REWARDS

2 Corinthians 5:10, NIV

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.

II. The Eternity of the UNrighteous

1. there will be a RETURN

Revelation 19:11, NLT

Then I saw heaven opened, and a white horse was standing there. Its rider was named Faithful and True, for he judges fairly and wages a righteous war.

Revelation 19:12, NLT

His eyes were like flames of fire, and on his head were many crowns. A name was written on him that no one understood except himself.

Revelation 19:13-14, NLT

He wore a robe dipped in blood, and his title was the Word of God. The armies of heaven, dressed in the finest of pure white linen, followed him on white horses.

2. there will be a RESURRECTION

Revelation 20:13, NIV

The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what they had done.

3. There will be righteous retribution

Revelation 20:11, NIV

Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. The earth and the heavens fled from his presence, and there was no place for them.

Revelation 20:12, NIV

And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books.

Revelation 20:14-15, NIV

Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.

4. There will be regret

Luke 16:27-28, NIV

“He answered, ‘Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my family, for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.’

Luke 16:29, NIV

“Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.’

Luke 16:30, NIV

“‘No, father Abraham,’ he said, ‘but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.’

Luke 16:31, NIV

“He said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’”

Matthew 7:13-14, NIV

“Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

5. There can be redemption

1 Thessalonians 5:9, AMP

For God has not destined us to [incur His] wrath [that is, He did not select us to condemn us], but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,