

## The Book of Mark - Chapter 9 ESV.

At the Cross. [https://youtu.be/EFPaKEW-TDw?si=a3\\_auXXzlhZhr1rw](https://youtu.be/EFPaKEW-TDw?si=a3_auXXzlhZhr1rw)

Book of Mark <https://share.google/dusVwpmFdpljhDyGR>

Mark 8:38. “For whoever is ashamed of Me and of My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.”

### I. Introduction

Last week we reviewed the revelation that Jesus was the Christ/Messiah (Mark. 8:29). Six days have passed since Peter tried to barricade Jesus from His cross, now we have before us, Jesus, in all His splendor. The thought is continued from **Mark 8:38**, to this chapter (**Mark 9:1**).

Mark Chapter 9. **1**And He said to them, “Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God, after it has come with power,” or, as in Luke 9:27, more simply stated, “...till they see the kingdom of God.”

**A. Jesus promised that some would not taste death until they see the kingdom of God coming with power.**

**B. When was this promise fulfilled ?**

This reference is to take place during the disciples lifetime. Could it have been during the following occasions:

1. Jesus’ resurrection;
- 2 Jesus’ ascension;
- 3, the outpouring of the Holy Spirit;
4. the powerful growth of Jesus’ kingdom among Jewish and non-Jewish people?
5. Is this verse referring to the Kingdom of God, which continues, until the His glorious return of His Second Coming

## II. Outline and Key Themes in Mark 9: Radical Discipleship

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Chapter 9 calls for intense dedication with Jesus, urging the removal of anything that causes sin and warning against causing others to fall.

A. The Transfiguration (9:2-13) B. Valley Flop/ Jesus Heals A Boy (9:14-29)

C. Jesus Again Foretells His Death and Resurrection. (9:30-32)

D. Who was the Greatest? (9:33-37). E.. Anyone Not Against Us Is For Us. (9:38-41)

F. The Urgency to Enter God's Kingdom. (9:42-48) G. "Salted with Fire" (9:48-50)

### A. The Transfiguration - Mountain Top Experience Mark 9:2-13

2 And after six days Jesus took with Him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And He was transfigured before them, 3 and His clothes became radiant, intensely white, as no one on earth could bleach them. 4 And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, and they were talking with Jesus. 5 And Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good that we are here. Let us make three tents, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah." 6 For he did not know what to say, for they were terrified. 7 And a cloud overshadowed them, and a voice came out of the cloud, "This is My beloved Son; listen to Him." 8 And suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone with them but Jesus only.



9 And as they were coming down the mountain, He charged them to tell no one what they had seen, until the Son of Man had risen from the dead. 10 So they kept the matter to themselves, questioning what this rising from the dead might mean. 11 And they asked Him, "Why do the scribes say that first Elijah must come?" 12 And He said to them, "Elijah does come first to restore all things. And how is it written of the Son of Man that He should suffer many things and be treated with contempt? 13 But I tell you that Elijah has come, and they did to him whatever they pleased, as it is written of him.

1. Which mountain? v. 2– Tradition says Mount Tabor; but it is a low mountain, 1,843 feet. Also not likely because there was a Roman fortress at the top, during this period.

A more likely location is Mount Hermon. Mount Hermon is a mountain cluster on the border of Syria, Lebanon, and the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights, with its highest peak reaching 9,232 feet (2,814 meters). It is the highest point in Syria and Israel, and is snow-capped in the winter

2. The Christian life is full of mountains/hills and valleys.

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Deuteronomy 11:11 **“The land which you cross over to possess is a land of hills and valleys, which drinks water from the rain of heaven.”**

If you want to share in the glory of Jesus Christ on the mountain top, we must be willing to follow Him into the sufferings of the valley below. Mountain top experiences are great, but remember no fruit grows up there; all the fruit is grown down in the valley.

**3. Jesus’ Transfiguration-** Jesus gave Peter, James, and John a brief glimpse of His glory. The scriptures in Matthew and Luke speaks of His face changing. All three writings recognize His brightness of His clothes.

Matthew 17:2 **“There He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light.”** Mark “9:3 **His clothes became radiant, intensely white, as no one on earth could bleach them.”**

**4. Why Moses & Elijah?** [Moses had been dead 1400 years ago; Elijah 900 years] Both of these men previously had conversations with God on a mountaintop.

**Moses** on Mount. Sinai (Ex.31:18); **Elijah** on Mount Horeb (1 Kings 19:9). Both men were shown God’s Glory.

Moses represented the Law, & Elijah the Prophets. Both men had amazing departures from earth.

- **Moses** died and was buried by God. His burial sight was never known.
- **Elijah** was caught up, raptured into heaven, in a flaming chariot.

I see this as a picture of the rapture recorded in I Thessalonians 4:15-17 NIV. 15 **“According to the Lord’s word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. 16 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. 17 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.”**

The men were talking with Jesus about His departure, His death. Lk.9:30-31 **“ Two men, Moses and Elijah, appeared in glorious splendor, talking with Jesus. They spoke about His departure, which He was about to bring to fulfillment at Jerusalem.”**

When facing the hardest thing in your life, you want encouragement. Jesus’ suffering would not be an **Accident**, but an **Accomplishment**. They came to encourage Him to **“Go, and continue to fulfill Your Heavenly Father’s plan!”**

## 5. The 3 disciples fell asleep (Lk.9:32), and almost missed.

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Moses, Elijah, and Jesus in His glory. Can you imagine missing that? But, with the high altitude of the mountain and long walk, they were tired.

Peter wakes up and didn't know what to say...so he said something???

**“Rabbi it is good that we are here. Let us make three tents....”**

Have you ever had that experience? If there was a time to be silent that was the time. Why three tents? Did Peter think that scene would be a permanent memorial ?

## 6. THE CLOUD COVER **“7And a cloud overshadowed them, and a voice came out of the cloud, “This is My beloved Son; listen to Him.”**

Cloud cover – This was none other than the *shekinah glory*, that manifestation of the presence of God. Remember how the Israelites traveled in Exodus, the cloud by day, fire by night, in the wilderness. The cloud that passed by Moses in the cleft of the rock, is the same cloud that filled the Tabernacle, and filled Solomon's' Temple. It has been over 600 years since anyone had seen the *shekinah glory*.

One day we will be in this same cloud, **“Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.”**

1 Thessalonians 4:17

**“Hear Him!”** – Peter spoke out of turn...the Father cuts him off, in other words, **shut-up Peter. Listening involves obedience.** When your mother used to ask you, **“Did you hear me?”** She wasn't asking a question about your hearing ability, but about your **obedience.**

## 7. THE COMING OF ELIJAH (9-13)

After seeing Elijah, it prompted a question about him. **“11And they asked Him, “Why do the scribes say that first Elijah must come?”**

How did You (Jesus) show up before Him?

Elijah is coming – Malachi .4:5 **“See, I will send the prophet Elijah to you before that great and dreadful day of the Lord comes.”**

Elijah had come – in the person of John the Baptist (Matthew 17:10-13).

Peter, learned he couldn't camp out there in his mountain top tent, there was work to be done in the valley. Again, If you want to share in the **glory** of Christ Jesus on the mountain top, we must be willing to follow Him into the **sufferings** of the valley below.

## B. A Valley Flop / Jesus Heals A Boy (14-29)

14 And when they came to the disciples, they saw a great crowd around them, and scribes arguing with them. 15 And immediately all the crowd, when they saw him, were greatly amazed and ran up to Him and greeted Him. 16 And He asked them, **“What are you arguing about with them?”** 17 And someone from the crowd answered Him, “Teacher, I brought my son to You, for he has a spirit that makes him mute. 18 And whenever it seizes him, it throws him down, and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid. So I asked Your disciples to cast it out, and they were not able.” 19 And He answered them, **“O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to Me.”**

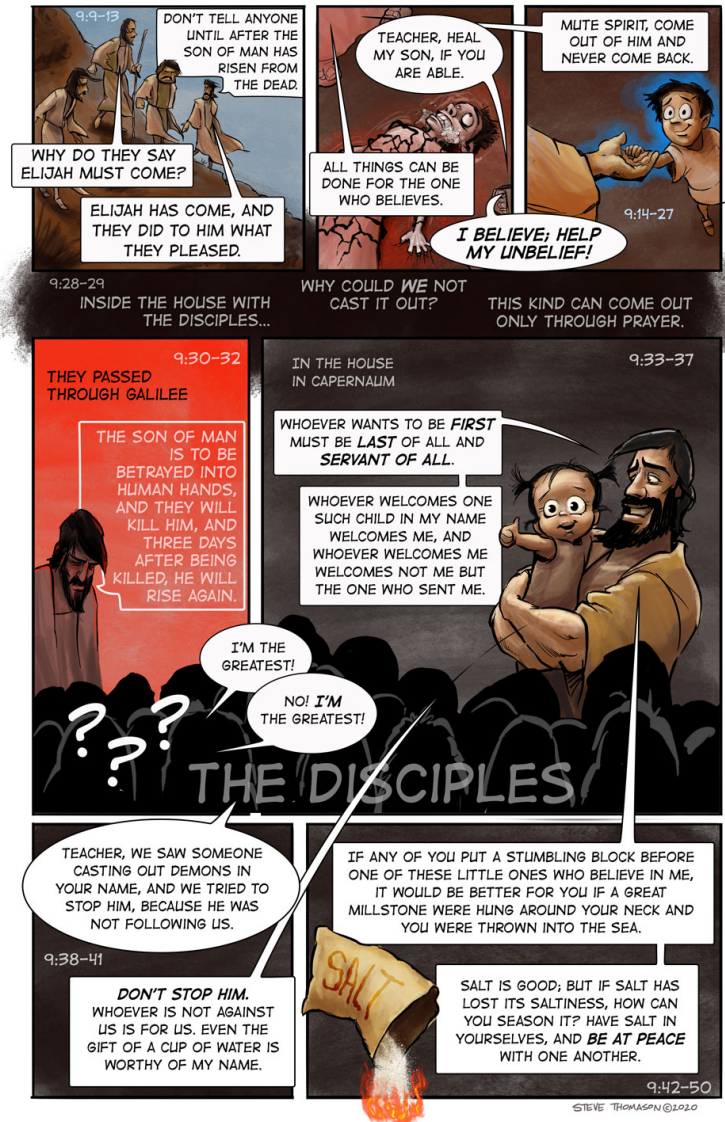
20 And they brought the boy to Him. And when the spirit saw Him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. 21 And Jesus asked his father, **“How long has this been happening to him?”** And he said, “From childhood. 22 And it has often cast him into fire and into water, to destroy him.

But if you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us.”

23 And Jesus said to him, **“If you can”! All things are possible for one who believes.”**

24 Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, “I believe; help my unbelief!”

25 And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, **“You mute and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him and never enter him again.”** 26 And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse, so that most of them said, “He is dead.” 27 But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. 28 And when He had entered the house, His disciples asked Him privately, “Why could we not cast it out?” 29 And He said to them, **“This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer.”** (Some Bible versions, such as the Kingdom James Version, include the words prayer and fasting.).



## 1. The failure of the disciples - A Valley Flop (18b,19)

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Poor young boy, he was deaf, mute, epileptic, and demon possessed. "A cruel spirit lies in wait for him like a bully waiting to pounce on a child coming home from school. It sneaks up on the boy, jumps him from behind, and mashes his face into the dirt; all the while, delighting in the tyranny." (Max Lucado).

Like a lion he singles out the youngest, most vulnerable one, & ruthlessly runs him down.

The disciples failure to heal the boy:

- a. grieved the Lord
- b. gave support to the enemy- the demons
- c. there was something missing within the disciples.

## 2. The problem was *unbelief*.

The disciples where given the tools (Mark 6:7 They were given power) 7 "Then Jesus called the twelve to Him and began to send them out two by two, giving them authority over unclean water spirits.

v. 19 "O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you..." In other words, when will you get it, Jesus is asking?

## 3. The FATHER (21,22)

Imagine being in the fathers shoes; he was just trying to keep his son alive.

- a. He couldn't leave his son alone for a minute. Who knew when the next attack would come?
- b. He was desperate, tired, and his posture reflects both. He drops to his knees. (Matthew 17:14)

## 4. The misplaced "If" – The conjunction implies **doubt**.

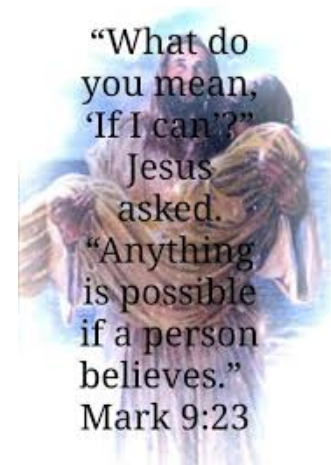
This one's probably a

little out of your league (Jesus)...but if you can..."

- a. Jesus turns it back on the father "If you can believe"? His **unbelief** needed to be healed first.

- b. Like this man, we often see an **if** in relation to our problems. And we too put it in the wrong place. "If Jesus can help me overcome the things I struggle with." "If He can change my life."

- c. No, the real issue is, **if** we can believe, He both **can** and **will** respond. Don't misplace your **if** and put it on Jesus, wear it yourself, and ask Jesus to, "Help my unbelief!"



## 5. The Lost Power (28, 29)

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Later, the disciples privately asked Jesus why they could not cast out the unclean spirit (Mark 9:28), and Jesus replied that this particular kind could only come out **“by prayer and fasting”** (Mark 9:29, KJV). It is only the King James Version (and NKJV) that records Jesus saying the demon could only come out by prayer and fasting. Other translations (ASV, NASB, ESV, NIV, a more leave out ...**and fasting** and only mention **prayer**.

### a. Why This Change Matters

The omission of "fasting" in some modern versions of Mark 9:29 is not a minor textual difference—it significantly impacts doctrine.

### b. What Does Mark 9:29 Say?

- KJV (Traditional Text): "This kind can come forth by nothing, but by prayer and fasting."
- NIV (Modern Critical Text): "This kind can come out only by prayer."

### c. Why Is "Fasting" Removed in Some Versions?

- The earliest Greek manuscripts (Codex Sinaiticus & Codex Vaticanus) omit the word "fasting", leading modern Bible versions like the NIV and ESV to follow suit.
- However, later manuscripts (such as the Textus Receptus, used in the KJV) include "fasting."
- Some scholars argue "fasting" was a later addition, while others argue it was intentionally removed by early scribes or copyists who downplayed fasting.

### d. What does the Bible teach about prayer and fasting?

- Prayer and fasting are both essential spiritual disciplines in Christianity. Removing "fasting" shifts the doctrine regarding how spiritual battles are fought.

**The Biblical Pattern:** Jesus fasted before His ministry (Matthew 4:2). Matthew 4:2 states that **after Jesus fasted for 40 days and 40 nights in the wilderness, he was hungry**. The verse acts as a bridge between Jesus's spiritual preparation and the confrontation with Satan.

- Prayer and fasting are both essential spiritual disciplines in a Christian's life. Removing "fasting" shifts the doctrine regarding how spiritual battles are fought.
- The apostles fasted before making important decisions (Acts 13:2-3).  
2 **“As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, “Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them. 3 Then, having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent them away.”**

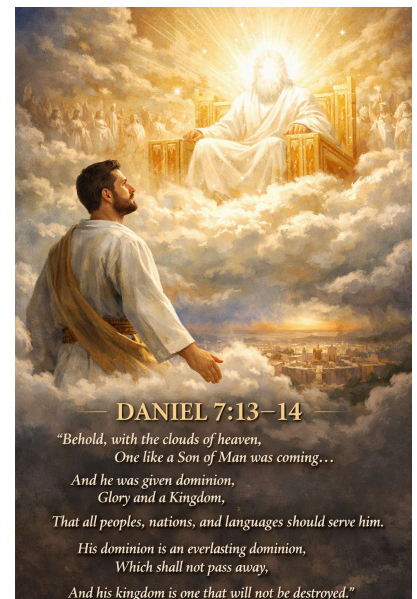
## C. Jesus Again Foretells His Death and Resurrection. (9:30-32)

30They went on from there and passed through Galilee. And He did not want anyone to know, 31for He was teaching His disciples, saying to them, **“The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill Him. And when He is killed, after three days He will rise.”** 32But they did not understand the saying, and were afraid to ask Him.

1. **Jesus predicts His death and resurrection for the second time, (Mark 8:31)**  
Jesus tells His disciples that He will be delivered into the hands of men, be killed, and rise again after three days. However, the disciples do not understand this prediction and are afraid to ask Him about it.
2. The **Son of Man** is a title that Jesus uses of Himself. It highlights that Jesus was truly human, born of a woman, and experienced life on earth, with the human race.
3. The question that the disciples were wrestling with is, **“Why does Messiah have to die and how can His death be a part of God’s plan to bring about the Messianic Kingdom?”**

These are very valid questions and thankfully for us, we now have the full council of God through the scriptures to understand what the disciples didn’t at that time. (We have the full picture.) Daniel 7 gives us a better understanding of the mission, we must first understand who is the One sending Jesus the Messiah on this mission to die?

4. Messianic Prophecy (Daniel 7): It connects directly to Daniel’s vision of one like a **“Son of Man”** coming on clouds to receive authority, glory, and an eternal kingdom from God. **Daniel 7:13–14**, **“...one like a Son of Man,”** who appears before God—the **“Ancient of Days. He was given dominion...”** God gives an everlasting kingdom in which all the nations of the earth serve Him. ... **“His Kingdom is one that will not be destroyed”**



## D. Who was the Greatest? (9:33-37)

33And they came to Capernaum. And when He was in the house He asked them, **“What were you discussing on the way?”** 34But they kept silent, for on the way they had argued with one another about who was the greatest. 35And He sat down and called the twelve. And He said to them, **“If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all.”** 36And He took a child and put him in the midst of them, and taking him in His arms, He said to them, 37**“Whoever receives one such child in my name receives Me, and whoever receives Me, receives not Me but Him who sent Me.”**

We saw Jesus spending some time alone with His disciples in order to teach. Page 9  
them. The main theme of Jesus' teaching was how to be great. **What Jesus does is He takes the human values of wanting to have first place position, being the greatest, and He dumps them on their head.** He turns them upside down. You see, we think greatness is about being first. Jesus' teaching says, "Greatness is about being a servant." **A great person puts everyone else before himself and takes on the role of a servant.**

## E. Anyone Not Against Us Is for Us. (9:38-41)

38John said to Him, "Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in Your name and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us." 39But Jesus said, "**Do not stop him, for no one who does a mighty work in My name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of Me.** 40**For the one who is not against us is for us.** 41**For truly, I say to you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you belong to Christ will by no means lose his reward.**

a. The disciples told Jesus, they gave this man a *Cease and Desist order*. *What is really funny is this no name guy was successful in his exorcism and the nine disciples weren't.* Paul said, **Who are you to judge another's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. Rom.14:4.**

### b. Your church isn't the best...mine is. (38-41)

How many churches/groups have thought this same thought, "We have the special relationship with You Jesus". "v. 38"...**we tried to stop him because he was not following us.**"

This is a quote worth remembering, "**We're all branches of the same vine; when one branch grows, we all grow.**"

## F. The Urgency to Enter God's Kingdom (42-48)

42"Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him if a great millstone were hung around his neck and he were thrown into the sea. 43And if your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life crippled than with two hands to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. 45And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life lame than with two feet to be thrown into hell. 47And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into hell, 48'where their worm does not die and the fire is not quenched.' 49For everyone will be salted with fire. 50Salt is good, but if the salt has lost its saltiness, how will you make it salty again? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another."

1. "These **little ones** refers to all Gods children who follow Jesus Christ and seek to serve Him." (*Warren Wiersbe; BeDiligent.*)

2. We are to receive **all of God's people** as we do **children**, with no thoughts of their accomplishments, their influence, their fame, or their gifts, but simply because they are **His children**.

2. **Don't coddle sin...Crucify it (43-48).**

In these scriptures, **Jesus puts personal holiness in the most dramatic terms.**

Deal drastically with sin like a surgeon going after the cancerous tumor. Of course the Lord is not commanding literal physical surgery.

But, yes, this is a direct order for spiritual surgery, Jesus had already made it clear sin comes from the heart.

(Mark 7:20-23)

- Unfortunately, some of the early church fathers took scriptures like this literally. Origen of Alexandria, an early Christian scholar, **castrated** himself or had someone else do it, in an attempt to overcome sensual desires. (Eusebius, a close friend, claims in his *Ecclesiastical History* that, as a young man, Origen secretly paid a physician to surgically **castrate** him, a claim which affected Origen's reputation for centuries,<sup>[43]</sup> as demonstrated by these fifteenth-century depictions of Origen castrating himself.) The Council of Nicea finally outlawed this practice.
- You can hack off your *hands*, chop off your *feet*, and pop out your *eye balls and still* be the worse of sinners. Hand, foot, and eye maybe representing the totality of life: Hand/what we **do**; Foot/where we **go**; Eye/what we **see**. (Kent Hughes)
- Jesus doesn't want *physical* mutilation but *spiritual* mortification.

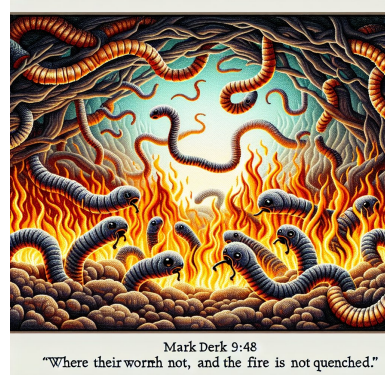
**(Think about it.)** What harmful practice does Jesus want you to cut off or out of, in your life? Half-way measures just won't do, and no one can do it for you. We must die to our flesh.

3. **What happens between death and resurrection?** Descriptions of the dead being raised appear in the Old Testament and the New Testament. But what happens in the time between death and resurrection? Some assume that the postmortem destination is "heaven", Hebrew word (שמים; *shamayim*), but that's where God lives, not where people go when they die. Instead of describing an afterlife in heaven, the Bible refers to "Sheol" (שאול), a Hebrew word and Hades, a Greek word, as the interim realm in which the deceased wait for resurrection.

4. According to Scripture, hell is spoken of *after* the resurrection of the dead. When Jesus described hell as a place "**where the worm does not die and the fire is not**



**quenched**" (Mk 9:48), He quotes from Isaiah's vision of the righteous living in God's kingdom and the rebellious dying in fire. Using the prophet, God describes a grand future creation: **"The new heavens and the new earth that I make shall remain before Me.... All flesh shall come to worship before Me... and they shall go out and look at the corpses of the people who have rebelled against Me. For **their worm will not die, nor their fire be quenched...**"(Isa 66:22-24).**



### The Great White Throne Judgment- Revelation 20:11-15

**11** Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. **12** And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is *the Book of Life*. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. **13** The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and **Death and Hades** delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. **14 Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire.** This is the second death. **15** And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

In John 5:28-29 Jesus says, **"An hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear [My] voice and come out: those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment"**.

### G. "Salted with Fire" (9:48-50)

**49**For everyone will be salted with fire. **50**Salt is good, but if the salt has lost its saltiness, how will you make it salty again? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another."

- Salt and peace:** Jesus concludes with a metaphor about salt, saying that everyone will be salted with fire. Salt represents purification and preservation. Jesus exhorts His disciples to have salt in themselves and live in peace with each other.
- Salt - Many analogies.** Most **sacrifices** were seasoned with salt. Salt was used for **cleansing & preserving** meat thus hindering corruption. Salt **seasons** whatever it touches. Salt **stings** when it touches a wound. Salt makes people **thirsty**.
- (v. 49) Embrace the salt of a **sacrificial** life and the fire of **persecution** which comes with it. (v.50 ) Don't lose your **salty character**. **If you've lost that precious Christian character, how will you restore it.** As followers of Jesus, let us keep our **preserving** influence in a **decaying** world.

**Lesson References:**

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**Bible Translation: ESV, KJV, and others**