



Daily Verse and Comment

[Revelation 20:10](#)

(10) And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

New International Version

To understand [Revelation 20:10](#) correctly, we must put it into its proper chronological context. Once we know when it occurs, much of the confusion about this verse clears up.

Though only twelve verses separate [Revelation 19:20](#) from 20:10, one thousand years elapse between their respective events. The Beast and the [False Prophet](#) are cast into the Lake of Fire when [Christ](#) returns ([Revelation 19:11-21](#)). Soon afterward, a strong angel imprisons [Satan](#) in the bottomless pit for the thousand years of the Millennium ([Revelation 20:1-3](#)). When the thousand years are about to pass, Satan is released, and he gathers Gog and Magog to fight against the saints (verses 7-9). After [God](#) defeats this futile attempt, He casts the Devil, a spirit being, into the Lake of Fire to “be tormented forever and ever” (verse 10).

Obviously, the flames of the Lake of Fire will utterly consume mortal men like the Beast and False Prophet. The apostle Peter describes the end-time fire as an all-devouring holocaust: “[T]he elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up” ([II Peter 3:10](#)). In no way could the Beast and False Prophet survive a thousand years of such high-temperature burning! The laws of nature simply will not allow it.

The translators of the King James and New King James versions render the final clause of the first sentence of [Revelation 20:10](#) as “where the beast and the false prophet *are*.” The present-tense verb “are” is not in the Greek text; it is an understood verb. In English grammar, such silent verbs take the same

tense as the verb in the main clause of the sentence. The translators ignored this rule, however. The primary verb of the sentence, “was cast” (an aorist verb usually translated as simple past tense), demands that the understood verb should be “were [cast]” (past tense) to agree with the plural subject “the beast and the false prophet.”

Deceived by the unbiblical doctrine of the [immortal soul](#), the translators had to deny nature and break the rules to make this verse fit their understanding! On the other hand, we can confidently assert that our teaching agrees with Scripture, nature, and grammar.

— Richard T. Ritenbaugh

To learn more, see:
[Eternal Torment?](#)

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