

"Outer darkness" seem to imply at least two things. First, the wicked will be cast outside, away from the center of blessedness and bliss, away from comfort and peace, away from joy and delight, far away from the realm where God manifests His presence in blessing and gracious favor and approval. Second, "darkness" implies the absence of light: the absence of righteousness and goodness and the presence of wickedness and evil. In this realm of outer darkness, the wicked will weep in frustration and anger, and will clench and gnash and grind their teeth in remorse and pain and fury. What a horrible destiny!

Matthew 13:40-42 -- "Therefore just as the tares are gathered up and burned with fire, so shall it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send forth His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all stumbling blocks, and those who commit lawlessness, and will cast them into the furnace of fire (κάμινον τοῦ πυρός); in that place there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

The place of punishment is here compared to a furnace of fire (or fiery furnace) in which counterfeit wheat is burned up. That this metaphor is to be taken seriously is shown by the mention of weeping and gnashing of teeth in that place on the part of the people represented by the figure of false wheat.

Matthew 13:47-50 -- "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea, and gathering fish of every kind; and when it was filled, they drew it up on the beach; and they sat down, and gathered the good fish into containers, but the bad they threw away. So it will be at the end of the age; the angels shall go forth and take out the wicked from among the righteous, and will cast them into the furnace of fire (τὴν κάμινον τοῦ πυρός); there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

Jude 4, 12-13 -- "For certain persons have crept in unnoticed, those who were long beforehand marked out for this condemnation, ungodly persons who turn the grace of our God into licentiousness and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ These men are those who are hidden reefs in your love feast. when they feast with you without fear, caring for themselves; clouds without water, carried along by winds; autumn trees without fruit, doubly dead, uprooted; wild waves of the sea, casting up their own shame like foam; wandering stars, for whom the black darkness has been reserved forever."

This reference to the "blackness of darkness" (ὁ ζόφος τοῦ σκότους) suggests that the wicked will be a vast distance from the realm where all is light and beauty and joy. Think of it! Never a ray of sunshine (or even reflected sunshine) will ever pierce that gloom or illuminate the dark corners of that horrific place; the blackness of stygian darkness will forever fill that God-forsaken hell!

Revelation 14:9-11 -- "And another angel, a third one, followed them, saying with a loud voice, 'If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives a mark on his forehead or upon his head, he also will drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is mixed in full strength in the cup of His anger; and he will be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment