

goes up forever and ever; and they have no rest day and night, those who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name.' "

Here we are told that those who receive the mark of this personage and worship him and his image will be "tormented with fire and sulphur" (βασανισθήσεται ἐν πυρὶ καὶ θείῳ). And the smoke of this just torment is said to go up day and night without rest or respite for ever and ever! Such a horrific scene of human suffering stuns our minds and stuns our sensibilities -- we are struck dumb as we contemplate it!

Revelation 19:20 -- "And the beast was seized, and with him the false prophet who performed the signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image; these two were thrown alive into the lake of fire which burns with brimstone." (τὴν λίμνην τοῦ πυρὸς τῆς καιομένης ἐν θείῳ)

Notice that the two "beasts" of Revelation 13 (the first beast and his prophet) are thrown alive (ζῶντες ἐβλήθησαν) into the lake of fire and sulphur. This takes place before the thousand-year period of Revelation 20 begins.

Revelation 20:10 -- "And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever."

After the thousand-year period, the devil is thrown into the lake of fire and sulphur. How the spirit substance of Satan is affected by fire and sulphur is not explained, but the fact that he is tormented in that lake is clearly stated.

Notice that a thousand years after the beast and the false prophet are thrown into the lake of fire, they are still being tormented. They have not been annihilated in the sense that they have ceased to exist. In fact, their torment (as well as that of Satan) is said to continue day and night forever and ever!

Revelation 20:14-15 -- "And death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire."

All who never repented of their sins and trusted in Christ and His atonement, whose name were never inscribed in the book of life, are reconstituted as souls/spirits united to bodies, and judged on the basis of their works, and are thrown alive into the lake of fire.

Revelation 21:7-8 -- "He who overcomes shall inherit these things, and I will be his God and he will be My son. But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

Those who overcome are those who are faithful to God in the warfare against sin and Satan. Their faith in Jesus Christ is the instrument God uses to make them alive and to give them the victory (I John 5:4-5). But those who fear the opinion of their fellow human beings or the malice of Satan more than God, who refuse to turn away from their wicked forms of sin and to trust in Christ, their destiny is to be thrown into the lake that burns with fire and sulphur.