

The Destiny of the Wicked

1. WHAT is the wages of sin? Rom. 6: 23.
2. How will each case be decided? Rev. 20: 11-13; 2 Cor. 5: 10.
3. By what means will God destroy sin finally? 2 Peter 3: 10; Matt. 13: 40-42.
4. When will this take place? Ps. 11: 6; Rev. 20: 9, 15.
5. How completely will sin and sinners be destroyed? Mal. 4: 1, 3; Ps. 37: 10, 20; Nahum 1: 9, 10. Note 1.
6. What becomes of Satan? Eze. 28: 18, 19; 1 Cor. 15: 26; Rev. 20: 14.
7. What else will be consumed in the fire that destroys the wicked? 2 Peter 3: 10. Note 2.
8. Will there be degrees of suffering in the destruction of the wicked? Luke 12: 47, 48; Rev. 22: 12.
9. Where will both righteous and wicked be rewarded? Prov. 11: 31; Ps. 37: 34.

Notes on Reading No. 6

NOTE 1.—“The wicked are to be utterly destroyed—consumed away into smoke, brought to ashes. Having inseparably allied themselves with sin, they have forfeited the right to life and an immortal existence, and chosen the way of death and destruction. By their choice they have proved themselves worthless. For this reason they are compared to chaff, briars, thorns, etc. Their destruction will consequently be no real loss. They will themselves have lost their opportunity to obtain eternal life; but by the way in which they used their probationary time they proved themselves unworthy of it. Their destruction will, in fact, be an act of love and mercy on the part of God; for to perpetuate their lives would only be to perpetuate sin, sorrow, suffering, and misery. Terrible, therefore, as this judgment will be, there will, in consequence of it, be nothing of value lost—nothing lost worth saving. The experiment of sin will be over, and God’s original plan of peopling the earth with a race of holy, happy beings will be carried out.” 2 Peter 3:13.—“*Bible Readings for the Home Circle*,” p. 522.

NOTE 2.—“This fire is called ‘everlasting’ because of the character of the *work* it does; just as it is called ‘unquenchable’ because it cannot be *put* out, and not because it will not *go* out when it has done its work.”—*Id.*, p. 520.