

Briefing Document: The Fall of the World: Lesson 20

Sunday PM-July 19, 2026

Executive Summary

This briefing document outlines the concluding events of the earthly kingdom and the transition into eternity, based on an analysis of biblical prophecy. The study covers the final revolt of society led by a released Satan, the total destruction of the current physical world, and the ultimate judgment of humanity at the Great White Throne.

Key takeaways include:

- **The Final Rebellion:** Despite a thousand years of perfect rule by Jesus Christ, a vast number of people will choose to follow Satan in a final, failed attempt to overthrow the beloved city of Jerusalem.
- **The End of the Old World:** The current heaven and earth will be destroyed by fire, making way for a new creation where sin and death no longer exist.
- **The Two Resurrections:** There is a clear distinction between the "First Resurrection" for the godly and the "Second Resurrection" for those facing judgment.
- **The Basis of Judgment:** Individuals will be judged either by their works—which cannot save—or by their presence in the "Book of Life" through faith in Jesus Christ.

The Revolt of Society

At the conclusion of the thousand-year reign of Christ, the world faces a final period of conflict. This transition begins with the release of Satan from his prison, referred to as the *abusos* [^1].

The Deception of Nations

Upon his release, Satan traverses the globe to deceive the nations, identified as "Gog and Magog." In this context, the terms do not refer to a specific local territory but symbolize the entire earth. Despite living under the perfect, productive, and peaceful rule of Jesus, a staggering number of people—described as being as numerous as the "sand of the sea"—will be convinced to rebel.

The Attack on Jerusalem

Satan organizes this global confederation to march upon the "camp of the saints" and the "beloved city" of Jerusalem. This is a deliberate attempt to dethrone Jesus. However, the rebellion is short-lived. Scripture records that fire comes down from God out of heaven and devours the insurgents.

The Destruction of the Earth and the End of Sin

The fire that consumes the rebellious armies likely marks the end of the physical planet as it is currently known.

- **The Passing of the Old World:** As seen in *Revelation 21:1*, the first heaven and the first earth pass away, and there is no more sea.
 - **The Fate of the Deceiver:** Following the failed revolt, the devil is cast into the Lake of Fire and brimstone. He is not the ruler of this place; rather, he is a victim of eternal torment alongside the beast and the false prophet.
 - **The Finality of Sin:** This event marks the last rebellion, the last death, and the last sin. From this point forward, sin will never again touch the universe.
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The Two Resurrections and the Two Deaths

A critical distinction is made between the timing and nature of the resurrections for believers and non-believers. The Greek term used for resurrection is *anastasis* [²], implying a physical standing up of the body.

The First and Second Resurrections

- **The First Resurrection:** This is for the "blessed and holy." It consists of the godly who are raised to reign with Christ. This resurrection occurs before or during the beginning of the thousand-year kingdom.
- **The Second Resurrection:** This occurs after the thousand years are finished. It is the resurrection of the ungodly, who are brought forth to face judgment.

The First and Second Deaths

- **Physical Death (The First Death):** The temporary end of physical life on earth.
 - **Eternal Death (The Second Death):** Defined as being cast into the Lake of Fire. Those in the First Resurrection are exempt from the Second Death. As stated in *Revelation 20:6*: *Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.*
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The Great White Throne Judgment

Following the destruction of the old earth, all who are not part of the first resurrection must stand before Jesus Christ at the Great White Throne.

The Standard of Judgment

The dead, both "small and great," are judged according to two sets of records:

1. **The Books of Works:** These contain a running record of every deed performed by every person. However, no person can be justified by the law or their own works. As noted in *Romans 3:20: Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight.*
2. **The Book of Life:** This is also called the "Lamb's Book of Life." It contains the names of those who put their faith in Jesus Christ.

The Outcome of Judgment

Judgment by works leads to condemnation because no human is perfect. Even those who claim to have done religious works in Christ's name may be rejected if they did not truly know Him. *Matthew 7:23* records: *And then I will declare to them, "I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!"*

Those whose names are not found in the Book of Life are cast into the Lake of Fire, which was originally prepared for the devil and his angels, not for humanity.

The Path to Life

The primary conclusion of the source context is that the "Second Death" is avoidable through faith. The judgment at the Great White Throne is for those who chose to live without God during their temporal lives.

The promise of Jesus provides the alternative: *Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life (John 5:24).* Salvation is found in no other name but Jesus, and it is through Him that a name is recorded in the Book of Life.

Key Terminology

Greek Word	Phonetic Pronunciation	Definition
Abusos	ah-BOO-sohs	Often translated as "the Abyss" or "the bottomless pit"; refers to a place of confinement or prison for spiritual beings.
Anastasis	ah-NAH-stah-sis	Literally meaning "to stand up again"; refers to a bodily resurrection from the dead.

[^1]: See **Abusos** in the Key Terminology table for phonetic pronunciation and definition. [^2]: See **Anastasis** in the Key Terminology table for phonetic pronunciation and definition.