“Overcomers” are the conquerors, the victors;
they are the ones who will have successfully run the race of the faith;
they are the ones who will have conquered the numerous encountered obstacles along the way.

**The Second Death***Can Christians be hurt by the Second Death?*

**By Arlen L. Chitwood of** [**Lamp Broadcast**](http://lampbroadcast.org/)

Exactly what does it mean in [Revelation 2:11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+2.11&t=NKJV) for individuals to “*be hurt by*” the *second* death?

*He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death.*

[Revelation 2:11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+2.11&t=NKJV) is dealing with *Christians*, relative to *overcoming or being overcome*. And in the light of [Revelation 20:4-6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+20.4-6&t=NKJV); [21:7-8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+21.7-8&t=NKJV), which deals with the *same* subject, [Revelation 2:11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+2.11&t=NKJV) can mean *only one thing*:

*Non*-overcoming Christians are going to be “*hurt by the second death*,” defined in Scripture as having “*their part in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone*” ([Revelation 21:8b](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+21.8b&t=NKJV)).

“Fire” in Scripture is associated with *the judgment of the saved as well as the judgment of the unsaved*. And though the Christians’ *works* will be tried “*by* [‘in’] *fire*” at the judgment seat ([1 Corinthians 3:12-15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=1Corinthians+3.12-15&t=NKJV)), this is *not* synonymous with Christians having a *part* in "*the lake that burns with fire and brimstone*.”

Rather, at this judgment, Christians will be shown to have *either* overcome or to have been overcome, with the *carrying out* of decisions and determinations made at the judgment seat occurring at a time *following* these events. And it will be at this time, *following* judgment, that *non*-overcoming Christians will be “*hurt by the second death*,” which is associated with *the lake of fire*.

(Note in the judgment of the *unsaved* in [Revelation 20:11-15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+20.11-15&t=NKJV) that the second death and the lake of fire enter into the matter *only following judgment*. The second death and the lake of fire come into view only *following* decisions and determinations surrounding the judgment of the *unsaved*.

And it will be the *same* for the *saved preceding* this time. They will *first* be judged. Only then, *only following* the decisions and determinations surrounding their judgment, do the second death and the lake of fire come into view.)

**The Overcomer's Promises**

The word “overcome” is a translation of the Greek word *nikao*, which means “to conquer” or “to gain a victory over.” The thought inherent in the word *nikao* (or *nike\*\**, the noun form of the word) always means *to be victorious in a contest or conflict*. The “overcomers” are the conquerors, the victors; they are the ones who will have *successfully* run the race of the faith; they are the ones who will have *conquered* the numerous encountered obstacles along the way.

There are seven different overcomer’s promises in [Revelation 2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+2&t=NKJV); [3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+3&t=NKJV); and each promise is *millennial* in its scope of fulfillment. That is, these promises will be realized *during* the 1,000-year reign of Christ *after* Christians have had their works tried “*by* [‘in’] *fire*” at the judgment seat.

(There can be *no such thing* as Christians being hurt of the second death *beyond* the millennium, for [Revelation 21:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+21.4&t=NKJV) plainly declares that there will be *no more death during this time*. Former things of this nature will have passed away.

*Nor* can the Son *invite* Christians to sit on “*My throne*” [the seventh and last overcomer’s promise; [Revelation 3:21](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+3.21&t=NKJV)] *beyond* the millennium, for He will *not* be seated on this throne at that time. Instead He *will be* seated with His Father on “*the throne of God and of the Lamb*” [[Revelation 22:1](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+22.1&t=NKJV), [3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+22.3&t=NKJV)].

*During* the millennium, regal power over the earth will emanate from *the Son’s throne above* the *present earth*. But during the ages *beyond*, regal power over the universe will emanate from *the throne of God and of the Lamb on* the *new earth*.)

Christians have been *saved* with a view to *being* overcomers and *bringing* forth fruit. This matter comprises the very *heart* of the message that is to be proclaimed to Christians *throughout* the dispensation. Israel has been set aside during this time, and God is calling *another* people — a separate and distinct people — “*for His name*,” taken mainly from among the Gentiles ([Acts 15:14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Acts+15.14&t=NKJV)).

Those whom God is *presently* dealing with comprise an entirely new creation, which is *neither* Jew nor Gentile, forming *one new man* “*in Christ*.” And God is extending to *individual* members of this one new man, to Christians, the *privilege* of overcoming and bringing forth fruit, with a view to their *occupying* positions as joint-heirs with His Son in the heavenly sphere of the coming kingdom.

God has set aside an *entire* dispensation for this purpose, and judgment at the *end* of this dispensation will *reveal* man’s *response* to this privilege. *Some* Christians will be shown to have overcome, possessing works comparable to “*gold, silver, precious stones*”; but *other* Christians will be shown to have *been* overcome, possessing works comparable to “*wood, hay, straw*.”

The overcomers will, at that time, *inherit* the promised *blessings* of [Revelation 2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+2&t=NKJV); [3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+3&t=NKJV); but those shown to have *been* overcome will be *denied* these *blessings*. This is the subject matter dealt with in the opening *three* chapters of the book of Revelation ([Revelation 1](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+1&t=NKJV); [2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+2&t=NKJV); [3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+3&t=NKJV) ).

**Being Hurt of the Second Death**

That which is in view concerning a *non*-overcoming *Christian* one day being hurt of the second death *following* decisions and determinations at the judgment seat, as previously seen, is explained later in this same book. *The second death* for the non-overcomer is having a “*part in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone*” ([Revelation 21:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+21.8&t=NKJV)); and having a *part* in the lake of fire is explained through God’s dealings with the *unsaved* in the previous chapter as being “*cast into the lake of fire*” ([Revelation 20:15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+20.15&t=NKJV)).

And seeing individuals cast into “a furnace of fire” in [Matthew 13:42](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+13.42&t=NKJV), [50](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+13.50&t=NKJV) is simply *another way* of expressing the *same thing*.

(The parables in [Matthew 13](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+13&t=NKJV) deal with the Kingdom of the Heavens and fruit bearing, *not* with eternal salvation. Thus, the subject matter has to do with the *saved*, *not* with the *unsaved*.

Further, In [Matthew 13:1](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+13.1&t=NKJV), Christ going out of “*the house*” [a reference to Israel] and down by “*the seaside*” [a reference to *the Gentiles*], *the one new man* “*in Christ*” [about to be brought into existence at the time these parables were given] is seen throughout the first four parables. In this respect, *those* who are *gathered out* of Christ’s kingdom, who “*offend*” and “*do iniquity*” and are *cast* into a furnace of fire, can *only* be identified as *Christians*.

Also, the casting into a furnace of fire in [Matthew 13:42](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+13.42&t=NKJV), [50](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+13.50&t=NKJV) occurs *before* the millennium. The *unsaved* cast into the lake of fire in [Revelation 20:15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+20.15&t=NKJV) occurs *following* the millennium. They are *not* the same.)

But is the second death, being *cast* into the lake of fire, something that will be carried out in a *literal* sense? Or, is Scripture dealing with *metaphors* at this point? And, if the *latter*, what about the *unsaved* being cast into the lake of fire at the *end* of the millennium, in [Revelation 20:11-15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+20.11-15&t=NKJV)?

If one is literal, would not the other have to be literal as well? Or, if one is metaphorical, would not the other have to be metaphorical as well?

**Allowing Scripture to Interpret Scripture**

In [John 15:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=John+15.6&t=NKJV) and [Hebrews 6:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Hebrews+6.8&t=NKJV), *saved* individuals are spoken of in a *metaphorical* sense, where a *burning with fire* is referenced. And the context of both places has to do with *either bearing fruit or not bearing fruit*, which is exactly the *same* thing seen in the [Matthew 13](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+13&t=NKJV) parables. Or, as the matter is expressed in [Revelation 2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+2&t=NKJV); [3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+3&t=NKJV), *either overcoming or being overcome*.

And the negative side of the matter is expressed at least two other ways in Scripture — being cast into *Gehenna* (a reference to the place of refuse outside the city walls of Jerusalem at this time [Matthew 5:22](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+5.22&t=NKJV), [29-30](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+5.29-30&t=NKJV); [23:15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+23.15&t=NKJV), [33](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+23.33&t=NKJV)) or being cast into *outer darkness* ([Matthew 8:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+8.12&t=NKJV); [22:13](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+22.13&t=NKJV); [25:30](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Matthew+25.30&t=NKJV)).

Overcoming or not overcoming and being unhurt or being hurt by the second death in [Revelation 2:11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+2.11&t=NKJV) is expressed a slightly different way in [Romans 8:13](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Romans+8.13&t=NKJV).

*For if you* [a reference to “brethren” in [Romans 8:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Romans+8.12&t=NKJV)] *live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.*

Whether *Gehenna* or *outer darkness* in Matthew, *a burning with fire* in John and Hebrews, *being cast into a furnace or lake of fire* in Matthew and Revelation, or *suffering death or being hurt by the second death* in Romans and Revelation, different facets of *exactly the same thing* are in view. All of these are used in contexts showing that they have to do with *saved* people in relation to *fruit bearing and the kingdom*.

Through comparing Scripture with Scripture, it is plain that these are simply different ways of *expressing the same thing*. And since a *literal* casting into outer darkness, Gehenna, or a furnace or lake of fire could *not possibly be in view* (for these different places could not possibly be looked upon as referring to the *same* place in a *literal* sense), it is evident that *metaphors are being used throughout*.

But relative to the *unsaved* and the lake of fire, this is simply *not expressed other ways* in Scripture as it is with the *saved*, leaving no room for any thought other than understanding the matter as *literal*, *not* metaphorical.

Aside from the preceding, it is clear that *all* Christians, faithful and unfaithful alike, *will be in the kingdom*. This is seen in *type* in Genesis chapters eighteen and nineteen ([Genesis 18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+18&t=NKJV); [19](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+19&t=NKJV)). Both Abraham and Lot, in the final analysis, are seen on the mount (a “mountain” in Scripture signifies a *kingdom*). But note the stark difference in the place which each occupied. Abraham stood *before* the Lord, where he had always stood ([Genesis 18:22](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+18.22&t=NKJV); [19:27](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+19.27&t=NKJV)). Lot though found himself in a place *separate* from the Lord, in a place where he also had always stood ([Genesis 19:1](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+19.1&t=NKJV), [30](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+19.30&t=NKJV)).

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\*\*Aside: ***Nike*** sportswear.

[The Time of the End by Arlen Chitwood](http://lampbroadcast.org/Books/TOE.pdf), Appendix 4

The following Word Document is Safe to open and copy: [Nike.docx](https://www.koffeekupkandor.com/resources/Nike.docx).