

Be Careful

An important rule of Bible study is that you need at least several verses to make a teaching. Here's a perfect example: One verse, II Pet. 3:10 says the whole earth is going to be burned up. But this is not consistent with the rest of the Bible. This larger body of truth teaches that the earth will be **cleaned** up! Back up just a few verses to 3:7, "But the heavens (the sky) and the earth ... are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and **the destruction of ungodly men.**"

I did an extensive study on the words *fire* and *burn* in the Bible. I found many references to God's *fiery* wrath and *burning* anger toward the wicked. Interesting? Yes!

Jesus told what would happen

In Matt.13:24-30, Jesus told a story to illustrate what would happen at the end of this age. Then later when His disciples were alone with Him, they asked Him to explain this one to them. He did in 13:36-43. If you want to read it all, you can, but here is a summary: A farmer planted good seeds in his field, and an enemy came at night and planted weed seed among the wheat. When they matured some, the servants asked what they should do. The owner told them to let

the plants all grow together until the harvest time, and then take out the **weeds first**, and burn them (13:30).

In the explanation, Jesus told them that the field is the **world**; the wheat seeds are the sons of the kingdom; and the weeds are the sons of the wicked one (the devil). The enemy is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age; and the reapers are the angels. 13:40, "Just as the weeds are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of this age; the Son of Man (Jesus) will send out His angels and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness, and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father." (Please notice that the world will be cleaned up, but He called it the kingdom. I think He's claiming the planet! Daniel 7:16-18 and Daniel 2 agree.)

Verses 47-50 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet that was cast into the sea and gathered some of every kind. Which, when it was full, they drew to shore, and they sat down and gathered the good into vessels, but threw the bad away. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come forth and **separate the wicked from among the just**, and cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth."

Shine like the sun?

Did you notice that after the weeds were removed, Jesus said we'd shine like the sun? Many believe that we'll glow when we get to heaven. But remember our rule? What does the rest of the Bible say?

Matt. 5:14-16, "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket but on a lamp stand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so **shine before men** that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven." Phil. 2:15, Prov. 4:18, and Dan. 12:3 are other verses which also say that our good lives are to be conspicuous. That is shining!

The wicked go first!

Prov. 2:21-22, "For the upright will dwell in the land and the blameless will **remain in it**. But the wicked will be cut off (destroyed) from the earth, and the unfaithful will be uprooted from it."

Isa. 13:9, "Behold, the **day** of the Lord comes cruel with both wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate, and He will **destroy its sinners out of it.**"

Psa. 119:119, "You put away all the wicked of the earth like dross."

Isa. 41:10-13, Psa. 11:5-6, Psa. 21:8-10
Psa. 34:16, 101:8, 104:35, Col. 3:6, and
Eph. 5:6 are other verses that agree.

We'll be here

Psa. 58:10-11, "The righteous shall rejoice
when he **sees** the vengeance ..."

John 17:18, (Jesus is praying for His
disciples and us!) "I do **not** pray that You
should take them out of the world, but that
You would keep them from the evil one."

Prov. 10:30, "The righteous will **never be
removed**, but the wicked will not inhabit
the earth."

Psa. 52:5-6, (Spoken to the wicked) "God
will likewise destroy you forever. He shall
take you away, and pluck you out of your
dwelling place and uproot you from the
land of the living. **The righteous shall see**
and fear, and shall laugh at him ..."

Psa.37:9-11, "Evil doers shall be cut off,
but those who wait on the Lord shall
inherit the earth. For yet a little while and
the wicked will be no more. You will
look carefully for his place, but it shall be
no more. But the meek shall delight them-
selves in the abundance of peace."

And Psa. 37:22, 28-29, 34-36, Prov. 11:31,
12:7, Matt. 5:5 and Heb. 12:26-28

We're protected!

Psa.91:7-8, "A thousand may fall at your
right side, and ten thousand at your right
hand, **but it shall not come near you**.
Only with your eyes shall you look and **see**
the reward of the wicked."

Isa. 26:20-21, "Come, My people, enter
your chambers and shut your doors behind
you. Hide yourselves as it were for a little
moment, until the indignation is past. For
behold, the Lord comes out of His place to
punish the inhabitants of the earth for their
iniquity." (Also, Zeph. 2:3)

Prov.3:25-26, "Do not be afraid of sudden
fear, neither the *desolation* of the wicked
when it comes. For the Lord shall be your
confidence and shall keep your foot from
being *taken*." (Words from the King James
translation are in italics.)

Mal. 3:16 to 4:3 is all good, but here is 4:3.
"For behold, the **day** is coming, burning
like an oven, and all the proud, yes all who
do wickedly will be stubble. And the **day**
which is coming will burn them up,' says
the Lord of hosts. You shall trample the
wicked, for they shall be ashes under the
soles of your feet on the **day** that I do this."

Others are: Rev. 18:4 and 3:10. (For one
day, Rev. 18:8, or one hour, 18:10, 17, 19.)

What does the
Bible say about the

RAPTURE?



A mini Bible study
By Cheryl Boone