

The Outer Darkness Matthew 8:10-12

Jesus speaks of a place known as the "outer darkness"
From all indications, it is not a pleasant place
What is it? Where is it? Who is going? How can we avoid it?

The Outer Darkness

We see the "outer darkness" mentioned in three passages - **Matthew 8:12; 22:13; 25:30**

Why "Outer Darkness"?

Jesus describes the spiritual reality of the situation - **John 1:5; 8:12; 1John 1:5**

God is light, "outer darkness" represents entire separation from God, the source of all life

Lack of God's presence should not be assumed to mean that the "outer darkness" is simply the lack of all that is good!

With "outer darkness", also "weeping and gnashing of teeth"

With "weeping and gnashing of teeth" is the fiery furnace - **Matthew 13:42,50** (Net Parable)

Seem "outer darkness" and "fiery furnace" are same place: hell!

It is certainly not just the absence of good-- it is a terrible place!

Lest one find any inconsistencies.

Fiery furnace assume light of fire, yet Jesus speaks of "outer darkness"!

"Outer darkness" is not literal-- represents ultimate separation from God

No inconsistency: separated from God, one in a fiery furnace for eternity!

What can be known about the outer darkness?

The Nature Of The Outer Darkness

The outer darkness represents separation from God

Requires a separation from all that is good, holy, and right

It is separation from light and the Source of life

What a lonely, desolate, bitter place!

Exemplified by what goes on there

"Weeping" - There is much sorrow and lamentation in the outer darkness

Weeping over all the mistakes and errors

Weeping over not taking the opportunities presented to obey God!

"Gnashing of teeth" - Descriptive demonstration of great pain endured

They are in such pain that they grit their teeth together in the agony

Not a pleasant place indeed!

Fiery furnace - Deduce quite fairly that outer darkness is same as fiery furnace, since both places are where there is "weeping and gnashing of teeth"

The last place we really want to be!

Who are those who will be in the outer darkness?

Those In The Outer Darkness

The "sons of the kingdom" - context, reference to disobedient Israelites (A good warning to us!) - **Matthew 8:11-12**

"Tares" - of world who do not obey Gospel in parable of wheat & tares - **Matthew 13:40-42**

Those as the bad fish cast into the furnace forever - **Matthew 13:47-50**

One who refused good will of king in wearing garment given to him - **Matthew 22:11-14**

The wicked servant who does not behave himself properly

The Master comes, and he is cast where the hypocrites are

We understand from this that hypocrites will be in the outer darkness - **Matthew 24:48-51**

"Worthless" servant - one of Master's servants, does not use his talent!

The consequence: cast out into the outer darkness - **Matthew 25:24-30**

Those who professed Jesus but found by Him to be working iniquity

Cast into the place of "weeping and gnashing of teeth" - **Luke 13:23-30**

Not explicitly mentioned, best understood as outer darkness/fiery furnace

Such, then, are those destined for this location

The Outer Darkness

It is manifestly a place none of us want to be!

A place of great sorrow, lamentation, and suffering

Highly unpleasant

We must do all we can to not be cast there!

Those who never obey God will be cast there

Yet so will many who profess Christ!

We even see warning that unproductive Christians will also be cast there!

Must be obedient to Christ, not just in part, not just showing up, but in full!

Let us be faithful in all things, so that we may never be separated from God!

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