

Thrown Alive into the Lake of Fire? Are Antichrist and Gog the Same Individual?

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Whenever the claim is made that Antichrist and Gog are the same individual, a common objection brought up goes something like this: “The Antichrist cannot be Gog, because the Antichrist is cast alive into the lake of fire (Revelation 19:20) whereas Gog is buried (Ezekiel 39:11).” This is an excellent example of forming an opinion about a matter without consulting the fuller mosaic of Scriptural references concerning a particular issue. When we do consider the full counsel of the Bible on this matter, we find that the Antichrist will most definitely be killed by Jesus and his body will be buried in a mass grave. Let’s look at the evidence.

First, let us note that Daniel informs us that the Beast/Antichrist will be killed:

Then I kept looking because of the sound of the boastful words which the horn was speaking; I kept looking until the beast was slain, and its body was destroyed and given to the burning fire. (Daniel 7:11)

Later, in chapter 8, we again read of the Antichrist’s death:

...through his shrewdness, he will cause deceit to succeed by his influence; and he will magnify himself in his heart, and he will destroy many while they are at ease. He will even oppose the Prince of princes, but he will be broken without human agency. (Da 8:25).

And again, in Daniel 11:

He will pitch the tents of his royal pavilion between the seas and the beautiful Holy Mountain; yet he will come to his end, and no one will help him. (Daniel 11:45)

In a powerful passage describing the return of Jesus, Habakkuk the prophet gives us a graphic visualization of the Antichrist’s death:

You (Jesus) will come out to save your people, to save your anointed. You will crush the head of the house of the wicked and lay him open from thigh to neck. (Habakkuk 3:13)

It is Isaiah the prophet however, who specifically informs us that the Antichrist, although he considers himself a King, will not be buried in a royal sepulcher, but will instead be buried with the bodies of others in a mass grave. The prophecy begins by addressing Satan, but bleeds almost seamlessly into a rebuke of the actual man, the Antichrist:

...You said in your heart, 'I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God, and I will sit on the mount of assembly, in the recesses of the north. 'I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.' "Nevertheless you will be thrust down to Sheol, to the recesses of the pit. "Those who see you will gaze at you, they will ponder over you, saying, 'Is this the man who made the earth tremble, who shook kingdoms, who made the world like a wilderness and overthrew its cities, who did not allow his prisoners to go home?' All the kings of the nations lie in glory, each in his own tomb. But you have been cast out of your tomb like a rejected branch, clothed with the slain who are pierced with a sword, who go down to the stones of the pit like a trampled corpse." (Isaiah 14)

In the New Testament, the Apostle Paul cites Isaiah 11 and also informs us that the Antichrist will be slain by Jesus when He returns:

Then that lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming. (2 Thessalonians 2:8)

In light of the full range of Scriptural evidence, we see that the Antichrist will both be killed and his body buried in a mass grave, covered with the bodies of others who were slain with him.

How then should we understand the reference in Revelation 19:20 to the beast being cast 'alive' into the lake of fire? We have a few options. First, this portion of John's vision may simply be communicating the victory of Christ over the Antichrist and the false prophet, but is not to be

understood as literal. Second, Revelation could simply be referring to the conscious souls of these two men as they are cast into the fire to experience eternal torment. Third, we may understand this literally, but not as something that happens immediately upon Christ's return. Thus, although he will be killed when Jesus returns, he will also be cast into the lake of fire after the literal physical resurrection of the wicked (Daniel 12:1-2) to consciously experience the torments of hell. Regardless as to which view one takes, the claim that the Antichrist cannot be the same as Gog because one is buried and the other thrown alive into the fire is seen to be a fallacy that is not in accordance with the full counsel of Scripture.