



1. Revelation's Hell Fire: Where is God's Love?



2. Johnny's father had a very bad habit. Every time little Johnny would do something wrong, he would grab his son by the arm, sit him down on the couch, and begin to lecture him. He would say, *"Son, if you don't stop doing these bad things, if you don't start making better decisions, one day, the almighty God will get a hold of you. And when He does, He's going to throw you into the fires of hell, and He's going to roast you and toast you through the ceaseless ages of eternity."*



3. Little Johnny would cower back in fear as he thought about a God who would do such a thing. This was his father's pattern all through his years of growing up.



4. Eventually, little Johnny became a young man, and he did some things that were very embarrassing to his father. Once again, his father grabbed him by the arm, sat him down on the couch, and said, *"Son, I don't know how to get through to you. I told you over and over again, if you don't stop doing these bad things, if you don't start making better decisions, one day, God's going to get a hold of you. And when He does, He'll throw you into the fires of hell, and He'll roast you, and toast you through the ceaseless ages of eternity. Is that what you want?"*



5. Well, Johnny had heard this all his life, and now he just couldn't stand it anymore. He jumped out of his seat, got in his father's face, and said, *"Dad, let me tell you something. If that's the kind of a God you serve, then I want nothing to do with Him. I hate a God like that. I hate Him."* And he walked out the door.



6. You see, my friends, what little Johnny's father did is not unlike what we sometimes do today. Many people use the idea of hell to try to threaten unbelievers, or try to force their children to get their lives together and to make better decisions.



7. But when you think about it, that's a terrible line of reasoning to use with anyone, because it teaches people to serve God out of fear, instead of love. It teaches them to be afraid of the Creator, instead of serving Him because they are thankful for what He did for them on the cross of Calvary.



8. It teaches them to respond out of fear, not love. It teaches them to look at God as though He is some kind of cruel, diabolical being who actually enjoys torturing people. Worst of all, it distorts the character of God in their minds.



- 9.** In fact, there are many churches today that produce grand elaborate productions, where they depict the sufferings of the wicked in hell. After dramatizing how the lost are writhing and screaming in pain while the molten lava burns the flesh off their bones, someone stands up and invites people to accept Jesus Christ as their loving and merciful Savior.



- 10.** But there's a disconnect in people's minds. They can't understand which God it is. Is it the God that wants to torture people in a forever burning hell? Or is it the God that gave His life on Calvary's cross? And they're not sure what to think. Which one is the character of God?



- 11.** You see, the devil has caused this doctrine of hell to be one of the most abused and misused doctrines in the entire world today, so much so that there are many churches that actually teach something that is not necessarily Biblical, and the character of God has been maligned and slandered.



- 12.** So, tonight, we need to go into the Scriptures and see what the Bible says about hell. Not tradition, not what's popular, not doctrines that come from the Middle Ages, but let's understand the character of God from what Scripture says.



- 13.** Because, my friends, the purpose of hell is to get rid of sin and Satan, and usher in the new heavens and new earth. The purpose of hell is not to scare people into following Jesus, but rather giving them hope that a better world is coming, and sin and sorrow will not last forever.



- 14.** So, with that understanding, the first thing we have to do tonight is answer a foundational question.



WHAT IS THE CHARACTER OF GOD?

- 15.** That question is this: What is the character of God? Which God do you and I serve? A loving God who wants us to go to heaven? Or a cruel God who desires us to go to hell? A God who has done everything to save us? Or a God who is a petty task masker, looking down from heaven trying to find a reason to send us to hell?



WHAT IS THE CHARACTER OF GOD?

- 16.** Now, you may think, “You’re being a little overly dramatic, pastor.” But the truth is, how I answer those questions affect the way I look at God’s character and how I relate to Him. How I answer those questions about God’s character also affects how I look at this subject of hell.



2 PETER 3:9

"The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is long suffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance."

17. So, we're going to go straight to the Bible and answers these significant questions right off the bat. Let's begin by going to 2 Peter 3:9. The Bible says this in describing the heart of God. *"The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is long suffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance."*



2 PETER 3:9

"The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is long suffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance."

18. Did you catch that, my friends? God is not willing that anyone should perish. He does not want people to be lost unnecessarily. He has done everything in His power to give people opportunity to use their free will to choose to be saved. This includes sending His Son to die on Calvary's cross and giving up all of heaven so that we could receive His perfect life in place of our imperfect life.



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"The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is long suffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance."

19. You see, when Jesus is our Savior and God looks at the record books of heaven in the time of judgment, He doesn't see all our sins and mistakes, but He sees the perfect, righteous life of Jesus that counts for us. Now, friend, does that sound like a God who wants us to be lost? No, that is a God who wants us to be saved and who is doing everything possible that you and I might have eternal life.



2 PETER 3:9

"The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is long suffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance."

20. So, now that we understand God's love towards us, we need to ask some practical questions about hell. First of all, how is the word "hell" used in the Bible?



42 times translated from "sheol" or "Hades" which means: "The Grave"

11 times translated in the New Testament from "gehenna" which means: "Place of Burning"

1 time referring to a: "Place of Darkness"

21. So, I want you to notice something on the screen. Over forty times in the Bible, the English word "hell" is translated from the words "sheol" or "hades", which simply means the grave. Eleven times, it's translated in the New Testament from the word "Gehenna", which means the place of burning we normally think of. And then there's one time when it refers to an abyss or place of darkness.



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22. Now, I need to make a point here. Did you notice that more than forty times in the Bible, when the English word "hell" is used, it's referring to the grave, not the place of burning? Only eleven times in the New Testament is it referring to the place of burning that we would normally think of. So, that means, I need to make sure to understand the context of the verse.



42 times translated from "sheol" or "Hades" which means: "The Grave"

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23. Read the verses before and the verses after, and then it will become clear whether it is talking about the grave or the place of burning? That will keep me from a lot of misunderstandings and misinterpretation. We'll see that as we go through some of the verses tonight. So, if we want to come to a clear and complete understanding of hell, there are really only three basic questions we need to answer.



1. When does hell fire burn?
2. Where does hell fire burn?
3. How long does hell fire burn?

24. Number one, when does hell fire burn? Number two, where does hell fire burn? And number three, how long does hell fire burn? The third question is the one that really affects how I look at the character of God. But let's start with the first one, because that's probably the easiest one to be able to answer.



- 25.** Number one, when does hell fire burn? Is it burning now? Or does it burn sometime in the future? To get the answer, we're simply going to go to the words of Jesus Himself. He is our best source of truth and inspiration.



- 26.** So, I want you to take your Bible and turn with me to Matthew chapter 13. We're going to take a look at a parable of Jesus that answers this question very clearly. It's the parable of the wheat and tares in verses 24-30.



- 27.** Now, for the sake of time, I'm going to summarize the parable for you, and then we're going to read verses 36-42, where Jesus explains the parable to His disciples. Now, the parable goes like this. There is a farmer who planted good crops or good seeds in his field. But during the night, an enemy came and planted tares in his field. Tares are those weeds that will grow up and destroy the good crops.



- 28.** They are the weeds none of us want in our gardens. Well, a few days later, the servants come running to their master, and they say, "*Didn't you plant good seed in your fields? Then where did these weeds come from?*" And the master says, "*My enemy has done this.*" And the servants say, "*Would you like us to go into the fields and pull up all those weeds?*" The master, says, "*No, don't do that, because by doing so, you will trample all of the good seed as well. Wait until the harvest time, and then we'll separate the good crops from the bad crops.*"



MATTHEW 13:24-30

29. That's the summary of the parable that Jesus told.

Later that day, the disciples come to Him and ask Him, *"Would you explain this parable to us?"* That's where we'll pick it up now in verse 36.



MATTHEW 13:36-42

"Then Jesus sent the multitude away and went into the house. And His disciples came to Him saying, 'Explain to us the parable of the tares of the field.' He answered

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MATTHEW 13:36-42

and said to them, 'He who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world, the good seeds are the sons of the kingdom, but the tares are the sons of the

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MATTHEW 13:36-42

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Now, pay attention to verse 40. *"Therefore, as the tares are gathered and burned in*



MATTHEW 13:36-42

the fire, so it will be at the end of this age [the end of the world]. The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that

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offend, and those who practice lawlessness, and will cast them into the furnace of fire, and there will be wailing and gnashing of teeth."

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MATTHEW 13:36-42

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- 35.** Now, in that parable, Jesus made it indubitably clear. In verse 40, He said, "*As the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of this age.*" In other words, it's going to be at the end of the world when the righteous are separated from the wicked, and the wicked are thrown in the fire



MATTHEW 13:36-42

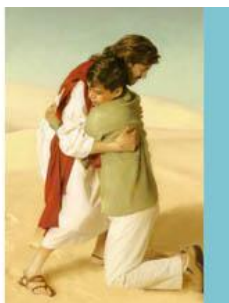
offend, and those who practice lawlessness, and will cast them into the furnace of fire, and there will be wailing and gnashing of teeth."

- 36.** So, looking at this parable, Jesus has answered the first question for us quite clearly. When does hell fire burn? The end of the world. That comes straight from the words of Jesus, and I'm pretty sure we can trust Him.

But let's look up another verse just to be clear. Let's take a look at something Peter wrote a few years later in 2 Peter 2:9.

2 PETER 2:9

"Then the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment."



37. The Bible says, *"Then the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment."*

Well, when is the day of judgment when the wicked are punished? That happens at the end of the world. You would expect that Peter would agree with Jesus. Peter was there when Jesus explained that parable, so, you wouldn't think that Peter is going to contradict what his Master said. They both agree, hell fire burns at the end of the world. That's clear.

THREE IMPORTANT POINTS



- People are not burning in hell right now.
- God is fair. Reward or punishment does not happen until the time of judgment.
- We have been influenced by false doctrines of the middle ages.

38. Now I'm just going to ask you a simple question. According to Jesus, according to these verses, how many people are burning in hell right now? Absolutely none. Zero, nada, zilch. You say, *"Wow. That goes against some things that I've heard said."* That's quite possible. Remember, we're not interested in popularity or what the majority says, we're interested in what Jesus says in His Word. He says hell fire burns at the end of the age.

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39. Why is this important to know? Think this through for a second. The reason this is so true is because it is also so logical. In fact, it is loving. You say, "What do you mean?" Let's pretend hell fire is burning right now. How would it make you feel to know that a loved one or a friend who decided not to follow Jesus is burning and writhing and screaming in hell right now, every second while you're alive?

THREE IMPORTANT POINTS



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40. Would that help you to be able to see that God is love? Of course not. That would make us see God as a cruel, diabolical tyrant. And there have been many people who have turned away from God because of a picture like that which was given to them.



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41. Secondly, would God punish someone before the time of judgment? That doesn't make any sense. If judgment is at the end of the world, why would He punish someone before judgment has occurred? More than that, think about Cain for a moment. How many people did Cain kill? One person. So, let's say that Cain dies, and he's been burning in hell ever since the time of Adam and Eve.



- People are not burning in hell right now.
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42. Compare that to a mass murderer today who goes out and murders a hundred people, or does even worse things. That would mean Cain, who murdered one, is burning for thousands and thousands of years longer than someone today, who destroyed a hundred people. Is that fair? Is that just? Of course not. God is a fair and just God. That's why hell fire happens at the end of the world after judgment takes place.



- People are not burning in hell right now.
- God is fair. Reward or punishment does not happen until the time of judgment.
- We have been influenced by false doctrines of the middle ages.

43. You say, *"Well, pastor, where did this idea that hell's fire is burning right now come from?"* Unfortunately, like many other false doctrines, it comes from the apostasy of the Middle Ages. Remember how we studied that the other night? You see, the church of the Middle Ages had created a teaching that scared a lot of people. This teaching said that when one dies, if they weren't right with God, they would go to hell right away, or maybe to an in-between place called purgatory.



44. But then something called indulgences were introduced. If you purchased an indulgence from the church, you could pull the soul of your loved one out of purgatory. What kind of a friend, what kind of a family member would you be, if you left your loved one suffering in that torment, when you might have had the ability to get them out of there? It was a scare tactic, and the church of that time period made a lot of money off of it.



45. But here's the worst part. It created in people's mind this slanderous character of God as an evil taskmaster who enjoys torturing people. Jesus taught that hell fire doesn't burn until the end of the world. No one is burning in hell right now.



46. Let's go to the second question. Where will hell fire burn? Will it burn right here? Is it somewhere in the core of the earth? Will it burn somewhere else in the universe? What do the Scriptures say about this?



REVELATION 20:9

"They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them."

47. Well, you'll find the book of Revelation answers this question very clearly. I want to invite you to go to Revelation 20:9. Now, this verse describes what happens after the thousand years of peace as the Holy City is descending from God out of heaven, down to the new earth. This is how Revelation describes it.



REVELATION 20:9

"They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them."

48. The Bible says, "*They [meaning the wicked] went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them.*"



REVELATION 20:9

"They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them."

- 49.** Well, let's pause right there. The text tells us when the wicked see the Holy City coming down from God out of heaven, they choose to surround it. The devil has tempted them once again and deceived them to think that they could take this city by force. And so, as they surround the city to attack, it becomes clear their evil rebellious nature has not changed.



REVELATION 20:9

"They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them."

- 50.** It is at this point that God can be both righteous and just, and He chooses to eliminate Satan and sin forever. It says, Fire comes down from God out of heaven and it devours them. They are completely consumed.



REVELATION 20:9

"They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them."

- 51.** Now let's ask a question, where is all this happening? It's happening right here on this earth. Where has sin been for the last few thousand years? This earth. Where has God's law had been broken the last few thousand years? It's here on this earth. Where has this great controversy between good and evil been taking place? It's been here on this earth. So, where is it that hell fire burns? Right here on this earth.



**BEGINNING
OF THE
MILLENNIUM**

- When Jesus Comes Believers Are Resurrected and Taken to Heaven
- Wicked Are Slain by the Glory of God
- The Wicked Who Were Already Dead Remain in the Grave
- Believers Are Taken to Heaven for 1000 Years
- Satan Confined to a Desolated, Destroyed Earth

- 52.** Now, let's do a very quick review of what happens when Jesus comes and the events that happen during the millennium, the 1000 years of peace. Remember we studied that the other night too. When Jesus comes believers are resurrected and receive immortality. The wicked who were alive at the coming of Christ are slain by the glory of God.



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53. The wicked who were dead before Jesus came remain in their graves. In other words, they stay dead. There's no reason for them to be resurrected at this time. Believers ascend to heaven. They spend a thousand years of peace in heaven, while Satan is confined to a desolated, destroyed earth. This is part of Satan's punishment for that thousand-year period. The desolated earth is the bottomless pit, the prison that he is in.



- The Holy City Descends to the Earth
- The Wicked Are Resurrected to Face Judgment
- Satan Deceives Them and They Surround the Holy City
- Fire Comes Down From Heaven and Devours Them

54. After the thousand years, at the end of the millennium, the holy city, New Jerusalem begins descending to the earth. The wicked who are dead are now raised because they must face their final judgment. After that judgment, Satan musters them together as a great army and they try to attack the city. Fire then comes down from God out of heaven and devours them. Satan and sinners are destroyed. Sin is eliminated forever. God then creates new heavens and a new earth.



- The Holy City Descends to the Earth
- The Wicked Are Resurrected to Face Judgment
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55. So, where does hell fire burn? On this earth. But you know what's interesting, where did hell fire come from? It came from heaven. If you were to ask most people where hell is, what direction would they point? They would point downward. But the truth is, the Bible says hell fire is coming from upwards. Fire came down from God out of heaven to destroy sin, to burn this earth to ashes, and then Christ creates new heavens and a new earth.



- The Holy City Descends to the Earth
- The Wicked Are Resurrected to Face Judgment
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56. Let me show you something that Peter wrote about this. Now, I'm sharing this because there is something Peter writes in this verse, that has been puzzling for many generations before us. Only the last few generations have been able to understand it. Let's see if you can catch it.

2 PETER 3:7

"But the heavens and the earth, which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men."



- 57.** Let's turn in our Bibles to 2 Peter 3:7. The Bible says, *"But the heavens and the earth, which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men."*

2 PETER 3:7

"But the heavens and the earth, which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men."



- 58.** Now, what does Peter say? He says, *The heavens and the earth, as they are now, are reserved for fire.* So, Peter is agreeing with the verse that we just read in Revelation. This earth is where hell fire burns. But did you catch what else he said? He said the heavens are also reserved for fire. Now, we can understand why the earth is reserved for fire because this is where sin has been for a long, long time.

2 PETER 3:7

"But the heavens and the earth, which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men."



- 59.** But why the heavens? Now that's not talking about Heaven where God dwells. It's talking about the heavens, plural. It's talking about the atmosphere, the firmament above the earth. Why would God need to destroy the heavens above the earth?

2 PETER 3:7

"But the heavens and the earth, which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men."



- 60.** Think about it. It's only been in the last hundred years that man has taken sin beyond this planet. Man has been to the moon. Man has flown his space shuttle up into the heavens. There is an International Space Station floating around up there doing all kinds of experiments. There are many different satellites situated in the firmament in space. And it is those same satellites that beam down into our phones, into our homes, into our laptop computers, all the filth that destroys homes, destroys marriages, and destroys relationships.

2 PETER 3:7

"But the heavens and the earth, which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men."



- 61.** It all goes up to the satellite, and then is beamed down into millions of homes, phones, and tablets all over the world. So, since man has taken sin beyond this planet, even up into the heavens, the Bible says that God must make new heavens and a new earth. Have you ever considered that?

2 PETER 3:7

"But the heavens and the earth, which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men."



- 62.** But after hell fire destroys this earth, then comes the good news about hell. Really? You mean there's good news about hell? You see, the whole purpose of hell is to eliminate sin. Hell destroys the devil once and for all and ushers in the new heavens and the new earth where sin will never rise again.



2 PETER 3:13

"Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells."

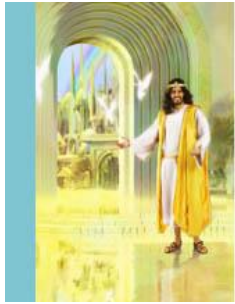
- 63.** That's what Peter writes about in verse 13. Let's read it. The Bible says, *"Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells."*



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"Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells."

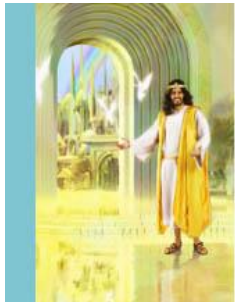
- 64.** You see, my friends, that's the purpose of hell. The purpose of hell is not to give a picture of God as a diabolical being who wants to torture people. The purpose of hell is to get rid of sin forever so that righteousness can dwell for eternity. It is the end of our struggle. It is the end of sin.



2 PETER 3:13

"Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells."

- 65.** If I think the purpose of hell is simply for God to punish and torture all those evil people for millions and millions of years, that's going to cause me to look at God's character in a certain way, a very negative way. But if I understand the purpose of hell is the good news that God is going to eliminate sin and suffering, blot it out forever, and create new heavens and a new earth, and restore us to the way things should have been in the Garden of Eden, that causes me to look at God's character in a different way, a much more positive way.



2 PETER 3:13

"Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells."

- 66.** When the new heavens and new earth are created, then finally we will live in a land where we'll no longer have to hear about evil.



- 67.** No longer do I have to hear about an innocent child caught in the crossfire of a drug deal gone bad.



- 68.** No longer do I ever have to hear about mom and dad screaming at each other in the home.



69. No longer do I have to hear about thugs knocking over an old lady just to get a few dollars out of her pocketbook.



70. No longer do I have to read about millions of children with distended bellies starving from malnutrition.



71. No longer do I have to read about terrorists blowing up buildings, bridges, or schools.



72. No longer do I have to read about mass shootings and the senseless loss of innocent lives.



73. No longer do I have to read about funerals happening every single day. All of that is gone because now we will live in a place where righteousness dwells, where sin is eliminated, where the presence of Jesus shines bright. We will live in a place where love reigns supreme! Can you say, Amen?



74. There ought to be "*hallelujahs*" ringing out all over North America when we hear this, because this is the land that you and I are waiting for. This is the ultimate hope that Bible prophecy forecasts for the future, and it is all made available because of what Jesus has done for us. You and I can enter the doors of heaven, not because we're good, not because we were perfect, but because we have a Savior who died on Calvary's cross for us, and because of Him, we can be saved.



75. Do you have the assurance of salvation in your heart tonight, my friend? Do you have the confidence that He is your personal Savior? Do you have the certainty the Jesus loves you and you are forgiven? I want you to have the assurance tonight. If you don't have that assurance, then please come talk to me after the meeting tonight and we'll pray together.



76. Now, the first two questions were answered very easily and clearly from the Bible, but now let's go to the third one. How long will hell fire burn? This is where a lot of people get tripped up. This is where many people misunderstand the doctrine of hell, and as a result, the loving character of God is maligned. So, as we look at this a little closer now, I want to make a statement.

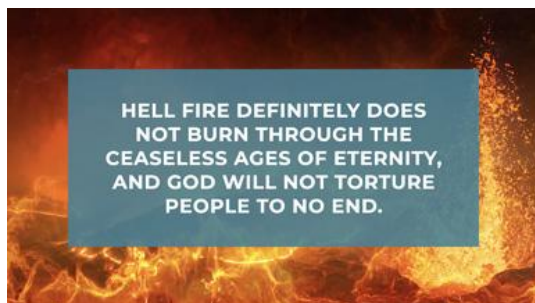


77. Normally, we look up all the verses and then come to a conclusion. For this one, I'm going to give you the conclusion first, and then we're going to look at the verses that verify the conclusion.

So, are you ready for the statement? Here it is.



78. According to the many verses in the Bible, hell fire definitely does not burn through the ceaseless ages of eternity, and God will not torture people to no end. Oh, there will be a hell—and it will be used to get rid of sin—but eventually, the fires of hell will go out. They will not burn for eternity.



79. Now, you might be thinking, *“Oh, pastor, I've really loved this seminar, but I'm not too sure about what you just said.”* My friends, I understand. Hang with me though. I realize that statement goes against the majority of the Christian world. But we're searching the Scriptures on this. Remember, this is a search for truth, prophetic truth. It's not a search for what is popular or traditional. It's not a search for what everyone else believes. It's a search for what the Bible actually teaches.



80. Tonight, I am happy to say there are a number of scholars out there now from various denominations, who are beginning to restudy this idea that hell burns forever and never goes out. After we go through some of the verses, you'll understand why. My prayer is, as we answer this question from the Bible and the Bible alone, that it will set you free.



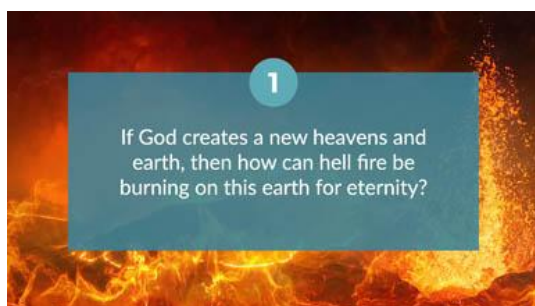
81. That it will set you free from this conundrum of wondering how a loving, merciful God can torture people forever. That it will set you free from any anger that you have towards God because of a distorted picture you've been given. That it will set you free from any fear you might have because of some loved one that's passed away and you're not sure about their salvation. Friend, let the truth of the God's Word set you free. Didn't Jesus say, *"And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free"*?



82. So, before we go to Scripture, I want to share with you three logical reasons why hell fire cannot burn for eternity. Logical reason number one, the Bible says that God will create new heavens and a new earth. I think we all agree on that. So, if God creates a new heavens and a new earth, then how can hell fire be burning on this earth for eternity? Think about it.



83. If the New Jerusalem comes down from God out of heaven, but this earth is one big burning ball of fire, do you want to come down here then? The fact that God creates a new earth tells us that at some point, when hell fire has done its job of eliminating sin, that it will go out. Doesn't that stand to reason?



84. Now, someone might be tempted to say, *"Yes, but we'll probably be able to look out the walls of the city and there'll still be a place on the earth where we'll see the wicked burning, and we'll see the smoke of their torment rising forever."*



85. Let's think about that for a second. Are we saying that while we're in the New Jerusalem, that we're going to be able to look outside those walls and we'll be able to see people, maybe people we know, burning and writhing and screaming in pain for eternity? All the while God turns a deaf ear to their cries. How would I be able to look at the throne of God and believe, "God is love"? That doesn't add up. It makes God look sadistic.



86. No, my friend, when hell fire turns Satan and the wicked to ashes, the fire will go out. When it has done it's job of eliminating sin, the fire will cease. Because God is not looking to torture people. He is simply putting an end to the sin problem.



87. Reason number two, the Bible says God is a fair and just God. Would it be fair and just for God to take a person who has sinned 70 or 80 years, and then burn them for all of eternity? Now, think about it. The average lifespan today is just about 70 or 80 years.

MILLIONS,
BILLIONS,
TRILLIONS,
QUADRILLIONS,
SEXTILLIONS,
SEPTILLIONS, AND
OCTILLIONS.



88. Are we really willing to say that for 70-80 years of sin God is going to take someone and He is going to burn them for millions and billions and trillions and quadrillions and sextillions and septillions and octillions of years?

[illegible]

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- A photograph of a seagull, likely a Herring Gull, walking on a sandy beach. The bird has white plumage on its head and neck, with grey feathers on its back and wings. It has a yellow beak and yellow legs. The background is a blurred view of the ocean and a cloudy sky.

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- A photograph of a seagull standing on a sandy beach. The seagull has white plumage on its head and neck, with grey feathers on its wings and back. It has a yellow beak and yellow legs. The background is a blurred view of the ocean and a cloudy sky.

-

- 92.** Well, guess what? That would only be the first second of eternity! Are we saying that God is going to burn people for that amount of time? Is that according to God's character of love?



93. Furthermore, let me ask you another question? Have you ever burned yourself? If you have, you know how much it hurts. How long does one have to have their hand over the fire before they realize, *"You know what? This hurts!"* By the time the body sends a signal to the brain that says, *"Move your hand, dummy,"* it's basically about a second. It doesn't take long at all. How long do you have to have your hand in the fire before it can cause permanent damage and excruciating pain? It takes just a few seconds, doesn't it?



94. Am I really willing to say that God wants to inflict that type of pain on people with no end in sight? Does that really agree with what the Bible says about the character of God?



95. (YOU ALSO HAVE THE OPTION OF TELLING YOUR OWN FIREWORKS STORY HERE. YOU CAN SKIP THIS IF YOU NEED TO SHORTEN THE MESSAGE)
Let me tell you the story of a kid named David. He grew up in a place called York, Pennsylvania. Whenever the 4th of July came it was always a big deal in his neighborhood because kids like fireworks. His family lived in the inner city, and there was an alleyway that went right by their house. David remembers there was a guy that lived across the alley from them.



96. Every 4th of July, this neighbor would go out buy the big stuff. He would purchase the big M-80s that make these loud booming noises when they explode. He would buy the bottle rockets that shoot high into the air and flash into all different colors. So, the neighborhood kids wanted to go over by his house and watch him set off the fireworks.



97. But most of these would have been the illegal fireworks that you're not supposed to shoot off within the city limits. So, when David's mom found out, she would say, *"You're not going over to his house. It's too dangerous."* And she wouldn't let him go. So, you know what poor little David got stuck with for the 4th of July? Sparklers. You know what sparklers are, right?



98. They are these little sticks that you light, and they shoot out a few sparks. Big deal! Nothing to get excited about! They pale in comparison to the big stuff. So, while his friends are over watching the M-80s explode and watching the big bottle rockets shoot high into the air, he had to stay in the yard and play with these measly little sparklers. He was so disappointed.



99. But one night, David found out that sparkers can be dangerous too if you're not paying attention. He was holding a sparkler in his hand, but he was holding it in the wrong place. He had his hand too close to the place where the sparks fly off the stick. Well, that sparkler burned down to where his hand was, and it burned one of his fingers.



100. He dropped that sparkler in an instant. He ran into the house as fast as he could and put his hand under cold water. And do you know what? Even after running it under cold water for a few minutes, it still throbbed in pain. If you've ever burned yourself, you know what I'm talking about. You don't forget it.

Are we going to say that the God of love is willing to inflict that kind of pain on the people that He created? Think about that long and hard for a few minutes.



101. Logical reason number three, the Bible says that man is not naturally immortal—only the saved are given immortality. So, if the wicked burn forever that means they live forever. It means they'd have eternal life. Think that through—the only way you can be punished forever is if you live forever.



102. Nowhere in the Bible are the wicked ever promised immortality. Now, granted, it wouldn't be much of a life, but it would still be immortality.

So, just based on those three logical reasons, hell fire must end at some point.



103. But let's go to some verses in the Bible now because Scripture is more important than logical reasoning. Let's go to some well-known texts that we probably have read many, many times, but never looked at them through the lens of this topic.



ROMANS 6:23

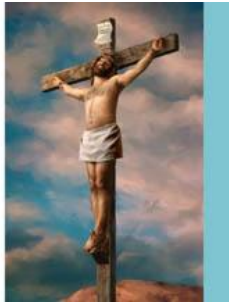
"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

104. Let's start with Romans 6:23. The Bible says, *"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."*

Did you notice the two options? Death or eternal life. The text doesn't speak about being eternally punished. It says the wages of sin is what? Death. Death is a final state. It is the end. It is to cease to exist.

JOHN 3:16

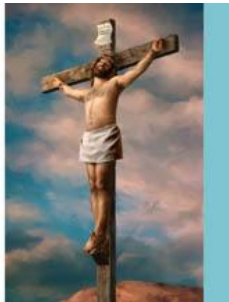
"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."



- 105.** Let's go to the most famous verse in the Bible that many memorized as a kid. What does it say in John 3:16? The Bible says and you can say it with me, *"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."*

JOHN 3:16

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."



- 106.** What are the two choices in this gospel-centered verse? I either perish or I have everlasting life. It doesn't say to be eternally burning. It says to perish. That's a final state. I simply cease to exist. There's only two options. Perish or everlasting life.



PSALMS 37:20

"But the wicked shall perish. And the enemies of the Lord, like the splendor of the meadows, shall vanish. Into smoke they shall vanish away."

- 107.** Even in the Old Testament it says the same thing. Notice what is written in Psalm 37:20. The Bible says, *"But the wicked shall perish. And the enemies of the Lord, like the splendor of the meadows, shall vanish. Into smoke they shall vanish away."*

Did you catch that? They vanish, or some versions say, consume away. In other words, they shall cease to exist.



MALACHI 4:1-3

"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 shall burn them up," says the

- 108.** But the clearest verse in all the Bible on this subject is probably Malachi 4:1-3. Let's take a look at it. The Bible says, *"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 shall burn them up,"* says the



MALACHI 4:1-3

Lord of hosts, 'that will leave them neither root nor branch. You shall trample the wicked, for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet on the day that I do this,' says the Lord of hosts."

109. *Lord of hosts, 'that will leave them neither root nor branch. You shall trample the wicked, for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet on the day that I do this,' says the Lord of hosts."*



**SUMMARY
POINTS FROM
MALACHI**

1. Will Be Stubble & Ashes
2. Burned Completely
3. There Is Nothing Left, Neither Root Nor Branch Remain

110. Do you notice what that verse is telling us? It says the wicked will be turned to stubble and ashes. They are burned up completely. There is nothing left. Neither root nor branch remain. They are not burning continually for millions and trillions of years. Life is snuffed out. When the wicked are turned to stubble and ashes and nothing is left, the fire goes out. God is just because He will get rid of sin, but God will also be merciful because He is not looking to torture people and burn them for eternity. That is not God's character.



**SUMMARY
POINTS FROM
MALACHI**

1. Will Be Stubble & Ashes
2. Burned Completely
3. There Is Nothing Left, Neither Root Nor Branch Remain

111. When the fires of hell snuff out the life of the wicked, then God creates new heavens and a new earth. When you understand this, you see the character of God in a completely different way. Often when people understand this for the first time it sets them free because they no longer see God as One who inflicts pain upon His creation and tortures people. He simply puts the wicked out of their misery. They cease to exist.



**SUMMARY
POINTS FROM
MALACHI**

1. Will Be Stubble & Ashes
2. Burned Completely
3. There Is Nothing Left, Neither Root Nor Branch Remain

112. There was a pastor doing a seminar like this in another place. On the night they studied about the subject of hell, there was a lady who came up to him after the meeting was over. He could see her coming down the aisle. He could tell she was upset and didn't like something he said. She came up to him and said, *"Let me get this straight. You're saying hell doesn't burn forever"*? The pastor said, *"Well, ma'am, I'm just sharing with you what the Bible says."*



1. Will Be Stubble & Ashes
2. Burned Completely
3. There Is Nothing Left, Neither Root Nor Branch Remain

113. He'll never forget what she said next. She looked at him and replied, *"Well, if hell doesn't burn forever, then why would anybody want to follow Jesus?"* Think about that question. *"If hell doesn't burn forever, why would anybody want to follow Jesus?"* When someone makes that kind of statement it tells me their reason for following Jesus isn't because they are thankful for what Christ did for them on the cross.



1. Will Be Stubble & Ashes
2. Burned Completely
3. There Is Nothing Left, Neither Root Nor Branch Remain

114. Their motivation is the fear of hell and trying to avoid something. In her mind, she couldn't understand why people would want to follow Jesus if hell doesn't burn forever.



1. Will Be Stubble & Ashes
2. Burned Completely
3. There Is Nothing Left, Neither Root Nor Branch Remain

115. But, friends, that's not the motive for following Jesus. The motive for following Jesus is because I recognize the great and costly sacrifice He made on the cross for me. When I understand that love, I can't help but respond that I want to follow Jesus. It's not because I'm trying to avoid something. It's not because I'm afraid of Him. It's because I am in love with the Savior. And that makes an entire difference in my relationship with Christ. Because it's not a relationship of fear, it's a relationship of love and trust.



1. Will Be Stubble & Ashes
2. Burned Completely
3. There Is Nothing Left, Neither Root Nor Branch Remain

116. Now, you may be thinking, *"Pastor, I see it. This makes sense to me. I love it. But there are just a couple verses in my mind that confuse. Can you help me with them?"*



1. Will Be Stubble & Ashes
2. Burned Completely
3. There Is Nothing Left, Neither Root Nor Branch Remain

117. (If you need to shorten the message you can skip the section on the confusing verses and go straight to the appeal)

I recognize there are a couple verses in the Bible that on the surface almost seem to contradict what we just studied tonight. But what we need to do is look at those verses through the lens of all of Scripture. Let's cover a couple of those confusing texts and let the Bible interpret itself.



118. The question many people probably have is this: what about Revelation 14:11 where it says the smoke of their torment rises forever? Well, let's take a look at that verse.

REVELATION 14:11

"And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night."



119. In Revelation 14:11, the Bible says, *"And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night."*

Okay, we have to admit, that verse is a bit confusing. It appears to contradict all the other verses we just studied, doesn't it? Now, we could just ignore this verse and act like it doesn't exist and forget about it. But that's really not a good way to study the Bible.

REVELATION 14:11

"And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night."



120. I can't just pick the verses I like and ignore the ones that I don't like or understand. But on the other hand, I don't pick one verse that isn't clear to me and then try to develop an entire doctrine around one verse. I've got to take all the verses of Scripture together, and then I will get a picture of what truth is.

REVELATION 14:11

"And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night."



121. Let's look a little closer. If this verse is truly saying that hell burns forever, and people are being tormented for eternity, then it totally contradicts other verses in the Bible. More than that, it would contradict what other verses say about God's character. So, how do we make sense of this?

REVELATION 14:11

"And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night."



122. There are a couple of things to keep in mind. Number one, what kind of book is Revelation? It's a symbolic book. It uses figurative language. Much of it is not meant to be taken literally. We need to keep that in mind. This is one of the few places in the Bible where the word "forever" is actually associated with hell. But it's found in a book that is largely symbolic.

REVELATION 14:11

"And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night."



123. The other thing we need to ask is, how does the Bible use the word "*forever*"? You say, "*Well, what do you mean?*" Instead of putting our 21st century definition to the word "*forever*", we should ask how the Bible use the word "*forever*" in the time in which it was written? That's a very important point because the meanings of words can change over time, and different cultures in different time periods use words differently.

REVELATION 14:11

"And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night."



124. Let me give you an example. Now, I'm not trying to be funny with this example, neither do I want to be offensive, but let's take the word "*gay*". If we were reading a piece of literature from the 1800s that described someone as being "*gay*", what would it be saying? It would mean that they were a carefree and happy person, because that's what the word meant 200 years ago. Fast forward now to our day, and what does the word "*gay*" mean? Does the word "*gay*" have a different meaning from what it had 200 years ago?

REVELATION 14:11

"And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night."



125. Yes, it has a completely different meaning. Today, when I use that word, it describes a different kind of lifestyle. So, if I'm reading something from the 1800s that uses the word "*gay*", but I bring today's definition into the literature from the 1800s, am I going to misunderstand and misinterpret something? Indeed, I am. So, if I want to understand a book from the 1800s that uses that word, I need to understand how that word was used and what it meant at the time the book was written. Does that make sense?

REVELATION 14:11

"And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night."



126. So, I have to ask the question, how does the Bible use the word "*forever*"? Do you know what's interesting?

There are at least 50 verses in the Bible where the word "*forever*" is used to describe things that have already ended.

127. There are at least 50 verses in the Bible where the word "*forever*" is used to describe things that have already ended. The word "*forever*" is used very loosely in some places in Scripture, and it does not always mean through the ceaseless ages of eternity. In fact, get out your concordance, look up all the verses that use the word "*forever*", and you will find many instances where the word "*forever*" is used in conjunction with things that ended, things that didn't actually last forever.

1 SAMUEL 1:22

"I will take him, that he may appear before the Lord and remain there forever."



128. Let me show you a couple of those verses so this makes concrete sense to us. I want you to turn your Bible now to 1 Samuel 1:22. This is the story of a woman called Hannah, who prayed to the Lord that she would have a child. She said, "*Lord, if you give me a child, I will dedicate him to serve you in the temple.*" This is what she says in 1 Samuel 1:22, "*I will take him, that he may appear before the Lord and remain there forever.*"



I SAMUEL 1:22

"I will take him, that he may appear before the Lord and remain there forever."

129. Now pause for a second. How long would he remain there to serve in the temple? Forever. If in the Bible, the word "*forever*" always means through the ceaseless ages of eternity with no end, then where should Samuel be right now? Samuel should still be in that temple in Israel serving the Lord. Is he? No, Samuel is dead. He's in the grave. What is the maximum period of time that Samuel can serve the Lord in the temple in Israel? As long as he lives.



I SAMUEL 1:28

"Therefore I also have lent him to the Lord; as long as he lives he shall be lent to the Lord."

130. That's why verse 28 clarifies it. Notice what she says next, "*Therefore I also have lent him to the Lord; as long as he lives he shall be lent to the Lord.*" In other words, she knew in her mind that forever simply meant as long as a person shall live. That's the maximum amount of time a person can serve the Lord. And that's the definition you most commonly find in the Bible—that forever means as long as a person shall live.



I SAMUEL 1:28

"Therefore I also have lent him to the Lord; as long as he lives he shall be lent to the Lord."

131. When you take that definition from the Bible and apply it to what we just read in Revelation 14:11, it makes perfect sense and harmonizes with the rest of Scripture. Hell fire burns as long as the wicked live. When life is snuffed out and they are turned to ashes, and neither root nor branch is left, then the fire goes out, and God creates new heavens and new earth. It makes perfect sense.



I SAMUEL 1:28

"Therefore I also have lent him to the Lord; as long as he lives he shall be lent to the Lord."

132. I want to show you one other place in the Bible where forever means an even shorter period of time. Remember the story of Jonah? Jonah ended up in the belly of the big fish.

JONAH 2:6

"I went down to the moorings of the mountains. The earth with its bars closed behind me **forever**. . ."



133. This is what Jonah says about the experience. In Jonah 2:6, the Bible says, *"I went down to the moorings of the mountains. The earth with its bars closed behind me forever. . ."*

He got a little poetic here. How long did Jonah say he was in the fish? Forever. But how long was Jonah actually in the belly of the fish?

JONAH 1:17

"And Jonah was in the belly of the fish **three** days and three nights."



134. Read chapter 1 and verse 17. It says, *"And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights."*

JONAH 1:17

"And Jonah was in the belly of the fish **three** days and three nights."



135. It says that he was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights. But Jonah used the word *"forever"* in chapter 2. Now, honestly, I can't blame the guy. If you were in the belly of a fish for three days and three nights it would certainly seem like forever, wouldn't it? Five minutes would seem like forever. Scripture uses the word *"forever"* very loosely in many places.



136. And my friends, the truth is that even now in the 21st century, we also use the term very loosely, don't we? If you're stuck in traffic somewhere and you had to wait for half an hour because of an accident which made you late for your appointment, what do we say? *"Oh, I was stuck in traffic forever."* But were you really stuck forever? Were you really stuck through the ceaseless ages of eternity?



137. Or let's say after the meeting tonight, you tell your husband, *"I forgot to get some milk and eggs. We need that for breakfast tomorrow. Can we make a quick stop at Walmart on the way home?"* So, instead of parking hundreds of feet away, he parks right by the doors and put his flashers on, because you're only going to be five minutes, right? You're only getting two things.



138. So, you say, *"I'll be just a minute, honey."* You go in. You go right to the aisles where the milk and eggs are. You get what you need. You go to check out. But the express line is closed because it's so late at night. So, you join another line. There are only three people ahead of you, so this shouldn't take long. But the person at the front of the line has 70 items in their cart. Then she pulls out 30 coupons that have to be scanned and checked one by one. You can't believe it!



139. Then the next person in line decides to write out a check instead of using debit card, and they're filling out that check so slow. It's like they're writing in mud. The clock is ticking. At this point, you're going nuts and your patience is being tested. Then the final person that's ahead of you picked up a couple items with no UPC symbol on it. Now the cashier has to do a price check, and someone has to go to the aisle and find another item with the code on it.



140. By the time you get through the line and out to the car it's been 20 minutes. Exasperated, you get in the car and look at your husband. His face is as red as a beet. Beads of sweat are dripping down his forehead. He looks at you and with a highly agitated voice says, *"What took you so long?"* And what's your answer? *"Oh, honey, I had to wait in line,"* how long? *"Forever!"* But did you really wait forever? No, you just waited 20 minutes. But it felt like forever. So even we use the term very loosely.



141. You see, when you understand how the word “*forever*” is used, what the Bible says about hell makes perfect sense. It burns as long as a person shall live. When life is over and the wicked are turned to ashes, the fire goes out. Then God creates the new heavens and the new earth.



142. (If you need to shorten the sermon, you can skip the explanation of the Rich Man and Lazarus parable and go to the conclusion and appeal)

Now, friends, we could end right here tonight, and it would be clear. But there is one more text I need to cover because someone’s going to ask, “Well, what about the rich man and Lazarus story?” This is a parable that Jesus told in Luke 16:19-31. We don’t have time to go through all those verses but let me summarize the parable and then explain some things.



143. This parable was a common Jewish legend, except Jesus changes it around to make a point. In Jesus’ version of the story, there is a rich man who lives luxuriously and there is a poor man named Lazarus who is a beggar. In fact, he begs at the rich man’s gate every day. Eventually, both men die. But Jesus turns the story around. Jesus has the rich man going to hell, and the poor man, Lazarus, going to heaven to the bosom of Father Abraham.



144. So, the rich man says, “*Father Abraham, please let Lazarus put his finger in some water and drop it on my tongue to cool me from the torment of this place.*” And Father Abraham says, “*I’m sorry, my son, but there is a great gulf between us. No one can pass from here to there.*” Then the rich man says, “*Oh, Father Abraham, let Lazarus go back and warn my brothers and my family so they will make better decisions and not end up in this place.*”



THE RICH MAN & LAZARUS
LUKE 16:19-31

145. Father Abraham says, *“I’m sorry, my son. They have the testimony of the law and the prophets, the Scriptures. If they won’t listen to them, they won’t listen to anyone, even someone rising from the dead.”*



THE RICH MAN & LAZARUS
LUKE 16:19-31

146. Now, people will sometimes take this parable and say, *“Hey, that shows people are in heaven and hell right now.”* But actually, this story is what’s called an allegory. An allegory is a fictional story with a spiritual lesson. It’s not meant to be taken literally. If we take it literally, there are a couple of serious problems.



PROBLEM 1

When Lazarus died, he goes to heaven to Abraham’s bosom. If all the righteous go to Abraham’s bosom, he must have a very large bosom.

147. Number one, it says that when Lazarus died, he goes to heaven to Father Abraham’s bosom. Well, if all the righteous go to lay on Abraham’s bosom, he must have an awfully big bosom or belly.



PROBLEM 2

People in hell will not be able to talk to people in heaven.

148. Number two, the rich man in hell is talking with Abraham in heaven. People in hell will not be able to talk to people in heaven. This story is clearly an allegory.



**RICHES ARE NOT NECESSARILY A
SIGN OF GOD'S FAVOR.**

149. What were the lessons that were being taught here? The lessons Jesus was bringing out are these. Number one, riches are not necessarily a sign of God's favor. See, in the Jewish society, they thought those who are rich were blessed by God and those who were poor were cursed by God.



**RICHES ARE NOT NECESSARILY A
SIGN OF GOD'S FAVOR.**

150. So, in their minds, Lazarus should have been the one in hell and the rich man should have been the one in heaven. But Jesus switched it around to let them know that salvation has got nothing to do with money or earthly possessions. Salvation has everything to do with accepting Jesus as our Savior.



**THERE IS NO SECOND CHANGE AFTER DEATH.
OUR OPPORTUNITY FOR SALVATION IS NOW.**

151. Number two, the passage also teaches us that there's no second chance after death. Our opportunity for salvation is now.



**EVEN A RESURRECTION FROM THE DEAD WILL
NOT CONVINCE THOSE WHO REJECT THE
TESTIMONY OF GOD'S WORD.**

152. Lesson number 3, it's showing that even a resurrection from the dead will not convince those who reject the testimony of God's Word. Jesus was alluding to His resurrection. Even though He would come back from the dead, it would not convince anyone He was the Messiah, because they had already rejected the testimony of Scripture. They had already rejected the prophecies about the Messiah.



EVEN A RESURRECTION FROM THE DEAD WILL NOT CONVINCE THOSE WHO REJECT THE TESTIMONY OF GOD'S WORD.

153. When you reject the plain Word of God, not even miracles will change a person's mind. That's why in the story Abraham said, *"If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead."*

See, this parable actually had nothing to do with teaching something about hell. In fact, if I take it literally, it actually would make Jesus a liar. You may say, *"What do you mean?"*

MATTHEW 13

PARABLE OF WHEAT & TARES

Hell burns at the end of the world.

LUKE 16

PARABLE OF RICH MAN & LAZARUS

Wicked are in hell now?



154. Remember the parable we looked at in Matthew 13 about the wheat and the tares? Jesus said hell fire burns at the end of the world. Well, if I take the parable of the rich man and Lazarus literally and try to say Jesus is teaching that hell fire is burning right now, then Jesus would be contradicting Himself.

MATTHEW 13

PARABLE OF WHEAT & TARES

Hell burns at the end of the world.

LUKE 16

PARABLE OF RICH MAN & LAZARUS

Wicked are in hell now?



155. Either He's lying in Matthew 13 when He says hell fire burns at the end of world, or He's lying here in Luke 16 when He alludes that the wicked are in hell right now. But you see, the parable of the rich man and Lazarus is a fictional story. It's an allegory with a spiritual lesson. When you understand that, it makes sense.

WHAT WE'VE LEARNED ABOUT HELL



1. There Is a Place Called Hell
2. Hell Is Designed for the Devil and his Angels
3. Hell's Purpose Is to Eliminate Sin and Usher in the New Heavens and New Earth
4. Hell Fire Will Go Out

156. CONCLUSION

So, my friends, tonight, what have we learned? Yes, there is a place called hell, but God did not create it to torture people. Hell is designed for the devil and his angels. Hell's purpose is to eliminate sin, destroy the old, sinful earth, and usher in the new heavens and new earth. We learned that the fire will go out when it has finished the job and will not burn through the ceaseless ages of eternity. Why? Because God is love. God is merciful.



1. There Is a Place Called Hell
2. Hell Is Designed for the Devil and his Angels
3. Hell's Purpose Is to Eliminate Sin and Usher in the New Heavens and New Earth
4. Hell Fire Will Go Out

157. But, friends, the whole point is that Jesus has prepared a place for you. There are new heavens and a new earth where righteousness dwells, and God wants you and I to be there. If you are not there, if I am not there, God's heart will break.



1. There Is a Place Called Hell
2. Hell Is Designed for the Devil and his Angels
3. Hell's Purpose Is to Eliminate Sin and Usher in the New Heavens and New Earth
4. Hell Fire Will Go Out

158. You see, my friends, on the day when God must kindle the fires of hell—on the day that He must eliminate sin—I believe that God's heart will be utterly broken. He will see people destroyed whom He loves, people He created, people He worked so hard to save. But they chose to reject the way of salvation. They rejected Jesus, the source of eternal life.



159. On that day, God's heart will weep.
God's love is like a mother's love. A mother's love never gives up. Imagine there was a mother who had four children and lost one of them in a tragic accident. And I went to her house to try to comfort her in her time of bereavement. She's weeping. She's crying. She's devastated. I say to her, "Ma'am, I know you're hurting, I know you're sad. You lost one child, but cheer up, you still have three children left. Don't worry about the one lost." What would she say to me?



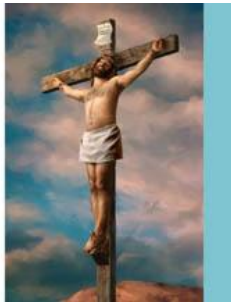
160. She'd throw me out of the house. Why? Because even though she has three children left, no one will ever be able to take the place of the one that she lost. There will forever be a void in her heart. Anyone who has ever lost a child understands that.



161. Friends, if you and I are not in heaven with Jesus, there will forever be a void in His heart. He loves you. He didn't create anyone else like you. No one can take your place. Jesus wants you to have eternal life. He wants you to be in heaven with Him.

JOHN 3:16

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

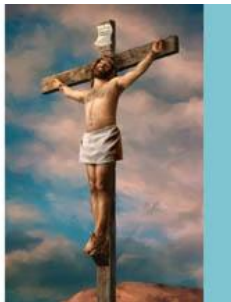


162. *"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."*

My friends, tonight Jesus holds out His Hand to you. Jesus has prepared a place for you in His kingdom. His heart yearns for you.

JOHN 3:16

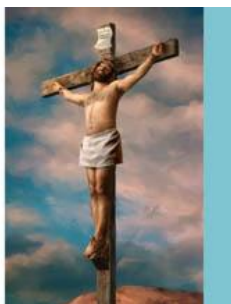
"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."



163. The way is already prepared. The road to heaven goes through Jesus. He wants you to have everlasting life. Won't you choose to give your heart to Jesus and accept His invitation today?

JOHN 3:16

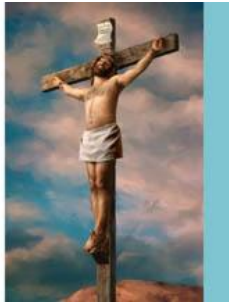
"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."



164. Is it your desire to be in Heaven with Jesus? Is it your desire to be in Heaven with your family? Tonight, If you would like to say, "Lord, please save me. I want to be in Heaven with you. I want to have everlasting life", then I invite you to raise your hand as we pray. Don't worry about what your life is like now. God can change that. But if you want Christ to save you, if you want everlasting life, then I invite you to raise your hand as we pray:

JOHN 3:16

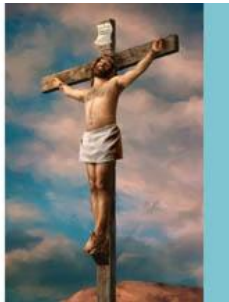
"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."



165. Lord, thank you for the beautiful truth we learned tonight. But thank you most of all that You desire each of us to be saved, that Your desire is for us to be in Heaven with You. Th enemy wants us to believe this is impossible. He wants us to believe we cannot be saved. He wants us to believe we are hopeless.

JOHN 3:16

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."



166. But Your Word has said You have come to give us life, and give it more abundantly. You have made salvation possible for each of us by laying down Your life on the cross. You have opened the door to Heaven. But you are waiting for us to accept the invitation.

JOHN 3:16

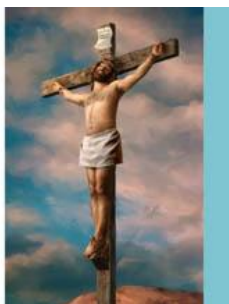
"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."



167. With heads bowed and eyes closed, if you would like to say, *"Lord, please save me. Forgive me of my sins. I want to be in Heaven with You. I want to walk the streets of gold with my family,"* then I invite you to raise your hand just now.

JOHN 3:16

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."



168. Lord, you see every hand that is raised. They are you precious sons and daughters. Thank you for hearing their cry. Fill their hearts with Your love. Give them the assurance of salvation tonight. Let them know how much You love them. We pray in Jesus' name, amen.



169. If your heart has been moved tonight, if you need to talk about your salvation, or you need to talk about something that's going on in your heart, please come and talk to me after the meeting, or write me a note on your response card, and I'll get in touch with you.