

Is There a Burning Hell?

I. Shall We Ask?

- A. This question is the most important matter of your life – even much more important than death.
- B. Who cares about death? It is nothing. But what about after death (Luke 12:4-5; Rev 15:4)?
- C. Is hell no longer preached because we have proven it does not exist? Or we want to ignore it?
- D. Some try to deny it exists. And I cannot blame them. But it is only foolish, wishful thinking.
- E. It has become a common swear word; it is used to describe the most insignificant difficulties.
- F. Paul knew the terror of the Lord and therefore persuaded men by it (II Corinthians 5:10-11).
- G. You can ignore me and the question this morning, but I love the Lord Who will show you soon.

II. Who Shall We Ask?

- A. If we ask the rich man (Luke 16:19-31), we hear his anguished and desperate scream, “Yes!”
 - 1. This is no parable: it is not called a parable, it is a certain rich man and a certain beggar.
 - 2. The very next thing he knew after his death was exceeding great torment in fire (16:23).
 - 3. The fire is so hot that a fingertip dipped in water might cool a parched tongue (16:24).
 - 4. The memory of good times in this life are possible but don’t bring any comfort (16:25).
 - 5. A great gulf fixed between heaven and hell eliminates escape or deliverance (16:26).
 - 6. His brothers’ deceitful hearts were so wicked no warning would be of value (16:27-31).
- B. If we ask Sodom and Gomorrha, from eternal fire they say, “Yes!” (Jude 1:6; II Peter 2:4).
- C. If we ask Solomon (Ecclesiastes 12:14), we hear his wise and solemn studied answer, “Yes!”
- D. If we ask devils (Matt 8:28-29), we hear them crying out in fear and dread of torment, “Yes!”
- E. If we ask the Lord Jesus (Matt 23:33), we hear Him denying any escape from hell for sinners.
- F. If we ask Paul (II Thess 1:8), we learn of flaming fire, vengeance, and everlasting destruction.
- G. If we ask Peter (II Peter 2:17; Jude 1:13), he warns of the mist of blackness of darkness forever.
- H. If we ask our consciences (Rom 1:18-20), we know for certain there is a terrible burning hell.

III. Is God Able to Create a Burning Hell?

- A. He made the heaven and the earth by His great power – nothing is too hard for Him (Jer 32:17).
- B. He set the earth’s orbit at 67,000 mph, rotating at 1000 mph, at 93,000,000 miles from the sun.
- C. If the sun created for profit and pleasure can burn your skin off, He can make a burning hell.
- D. He quenched the violence of fire for His saints – He can fan it for His enemies (Heb 11:34).

IV. Is God Willing to Create a Burning Hell?

- A. He wants to show His wrath and power on sinners, fitted to destruction (Rom 9:22; Prov 16:4).
- B. He needed a place to torment the devil and the rebellious angels (II Pet 2:4; Jude 6; Mat 25:41).
- C. There are ungodly men who have been created and predestinated to this punishment (Jude 1:4).
- D. Why did He name it the Lake of Fire (Rev 20:15)? Why not Prison? Or Trouble? Or the End?
- E. Why did He name it the Lake of Fire (Rev 20:15)? Drowning and burning are our worst fears.
- F. God Revenges. He repays His enemies with great anger and wrath (Rom 12:19; Heb 10:30-31).
- G. The LORD will judge hypocrites with devouring fire and everlasting burnings (Is 33:10-14).

V. Is Sin a Sufficient Cause for a Burning Hell?

- A. He drowned the earth with a worldwide flood in the days of Noah (Gen 7:11-24; II Peter 2:5).
 - 1. The suffocation and oxygen starvation of drowning is a very horrible way to die.
 - 2. Knowing you are going to die by drowning for several days adds greatly to its horror.
 - 3. Little babies drowned in the flood! Young married couples! Retirees! The handicapped! Precious little girls! Widows! S.S. teachers! And kind nurses!
- B. Should we ask Sodom? The Canaanites? The Egyptians? Korah? Disobedient Israel?
- C. Disobeying parents brought capital punishment – by painful stoning (Deut 21:18-21; 27:16).
- D. He has brought judgment so great that delicate women will eat their children (Deut 28:56-57).
- E. The devils – much more glorious creatures than you – tremble at the coming torment (Jas 2:19).

- F. Just when we think He overlooks our sins, He is ready to tear us in pieces (Psalm 50:16-22).
- G. Anger against a brother without just cause – murder to God – can bring it (Matthew 5:22).
- H. Annihilation? It has no fear. It doesn't match sin. It is relief or reward for sin. It is Satan's lie.

VI. *Is God So Just and Angry that He Cannot Acquit?*

- A. He cannot by any means clear the guilty or acquit the wicked (Ex 34:7; Nu 14:18; Nahum 1:3).
- B. He will not clear or acquit, for He wishes to see His vengeance over His enemies (Nahum 1:2).
- C. God in fierce indignation and furious vengeance pours out fury like fire (Na 1:1-6; Re 6:16-17).

VII. *But the God of the New Testament Is Different?*

- A. God does not change. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Stop playing games.
- B. The New Testament declares, "Our God is a consuming fire" (Hebrews 12:29; 10:27; 6:8).
- C. The glorified Jesus Christ in appearance only can cause old friends to fall as dead (Rev 1:17).
- D. Rejecting Christ will exceed any Old Testament sin (Hebrews 2:2-4; 10:27-29; 12:25).
- E. Jesus described it as a furnace of fire with wailing and gnashing of teeth (Matt 13:30,42,50).
- F. Jesus told Israel's religious leaders, "How can ye escape the damnation of hell?" (Matt 23:33).
- G. The judgment of wicked men is not lingering and the damnation is not slumbering (II Pet 2:3).

VIII. *How Else Does the Bible Describe It?*

- A. As everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord – horrible enough (II Thess 1:9).
- B. The fire is not quenched – it burns continually – there is no end – no hope of relief (Mark 9:43).
- C. The worm does not die – you will live on – you will feel – no death to bring relief (Mark 9:44).
- D. It is everlasting punishment – it does not end and it does not comfort or relieve (Matt 25:46).
- E. It is everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels – fire without relief (Matthew 25:41).
- F. It is outer darkness where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth (Matthew 22:13; 25:30).
- G. There shall be torment without rest forever and ever and ever and ever (Revelation 14:10-11).
- H. It is a lake of fire burning with brimstone and eternal smoke (Rev 19:10,15,20; 21:11; 19:3).
- I. The great God is storing up indignation, wrath, tribulation, anguish for you (Romans 2:8-9).
- J. An official day of judgment is coming for sentencing (Ro 2:5; I Th 5:9; Mark 6:11; II Pet 2:9).

IX. *But Don't I Have Time?*

- A. "There is nothing that keeps wicked men at any one moment out of hell, but the mere pleasure of God" (Jonathan Edwards, 1741).
 - 1. God does not lack the power to cast you into hell, as human enemies may lack power.
 - 2. You surely deserve to go there, so there is no question about whether you should or not.
 - 3. You are already under a sentence of condemnation to this judgment and punishment.
 - 4. At the present time God is as angry with you as He is with those already in hell.
 - 5. The Devil stands ready to seize any soul turned over to him to take it to hell with him.
 - 6. You have hell in your very soul that would spring forth into flames but for God's grace.
 - 7. Your inability to see any visible means of your death is no security at all against it.
 - 8. Prudence in matters of health and safety will not stop or defer the inevitable fact of it.
 - 9. Flattery or self-deception that you shall escape it is sheer folly and wishful thinking.
 - 10. God has not placed Himself under any obligation or promise to deliver you from hell.
- B. A horrible disaster as the eternal torment of your soul doesn't allow for more time or delays.

X. *What Shall I Do?*

- A. A certain appointment has been made for you already (Heb 9:27). Just make sure you don't die.
- B. Fear God and keep His commandments - this is our whole duty before judgment (Ec 12:13-14).
- C. Jesus Christ has been appointed Judge, you had better repent and worship Him (Acts 17:30-31).
- D. Felix trembled when he heard about it, but he didn't repent and beg for mercy (Acts 24:24-27).
- E. It is better to pluck out an eye or cut off a hand that tempts you to sin (Matthew 5:29-30; 18:8).
- F. What if you were to gain the whole world, but lose your own soul (Matt 16:26)? Forsake sin!
- G. "Because I will do this unto thee, prepare to meet thy God" (Amos 4:12).
- H. "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved" (Acts 16:31).