

Hell-p!

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Luke 12:43-48 - Christ showed that there will be different amounts of punishment: more for those who know but reject their Masters will, and less for those who do grievous things but didn't fully understand.

Revelation 14:6-12 - This is God's last message of warning to a dying world. He loves His children enough to warn them from the danger ahead, just as a good parent would. His will is that, "none should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (2Peter 3:9).

But will the people who reject God burn forever? Is this the example of a loving father? If a child is rebellious for a short time would a parent beat the child throughout the ceaseless ages of eternity? Not at all—never! This study will show what the Bible does say about hell.

Revelation 20:9-10 - In hell, are they "**devoured**" or are the "**tormented** day and night forever and ever?" There seems to be a contradiction in terms...What is the Bible really saying?

Revelation 20:14-15 - Death and hell will be cast into the lake of fire to be devoured, along with anyone who has refused God and His message of love. 1 Corinthians 15:26 says, "The **last enemy** that shall be **destroyed** is **death**." People will not burn forever, they will be burnt up like a log in a fire, and then even death itself will be destroyed as the last enemy (all other enemies [including the devil himself] will be destroyed before the 'last' enemy, which is death).

Jude 1:5-7 - Sodom and Gomorrha have suffered the vengeance of "eternal fire." Are they still burning today? No. These cities were **destroyed**. The consequences of eternal fire is eternal. It's a fire that will burn until its job is done.

2 Peter 2:4-6 - The word 'hell' used in verse 4 is the only time used in the Bible. By the verse itself, it is explained as a place of reserve for judgment—this earth. Sodom and Gomorrha were turned into ashes. What about Jerusalem?

Jeremiah 17:27 - "I will kindle a fire in the gates thereof, and it shall **devour** the palaces of Jerusalem, and it shall **not be quenched**." Jerusalem is not still burning or it would not have been the site for our Savior to walk on when He was here on this earth.

Matthew 10:27-28 - "What I tell you in darkness, that **speak** ye in light: and what ye hear in the ear, that **preach** ye upon the housetops. And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but **rather fear Him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell**." (Often times the word "hell" is used to denote the grave. Being used in this verse it refers to everlasting punishment, gehenna, or fire.)

Luke 12:4-5 - "I say unto you My **friends**, be not afraid of them that kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: **Fear Him**, which after He hath killed hath **power** to cast into **hell**; yea, I say unto you **Fear Him**."

Luke (15:11) 16:1 - "There was a certain rich man..." This is one way Jesus would start a parable. It appears again in this same chapter...

Luke 16:14-15, 19-31 - "There was a certain rich man..." Again Christ starts another parable. In the audience of Christ were the Pharisees, the rulers of religion for those days. "The rich man which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day," represented the Jewish nation. The "beggar named Lazarus" represented the Gentiles. Lazarus "desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table" represented the Gentile nation desiring the blessings of the Jewish nation. "The dogs came and licked his sores" (The dogs represent the Gentiles as well, see Matthew 15:26). The beggar goes to heaven, which was contrary to the belief of the Jewish nation. Christ's audience was astonished at His teaching. Christ was very bold and stated that the rich man went into "torments." In verse 24, we now see that the Jewish nation, or rich man, was asking kindness from the Gentiles, Lazarus. Christ used this backward parable to show the standing audience that they understood the gospel in an incorrect light. Verse 25 is the main text to explain Christ's position, "Remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented." Compare verse 26 with Matthew 23:13; the Jews were, with their false and deceptive teachings, keeping people from entering the kingdom of heaven—teaching them to reject Christ. Verse 27-28 had the rich man asking to send Lazarus to the Jewish nation "lest they also come into this place of torment." What is the answer? Verse 29; "They have **Moses** and the **Prophets** [The Bible]; let them hear them." The rich man said, "If one went unto them from the dead, they will repent" and believe in Christ. The final word was, "If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead." Jesus made it clear that if the Jewish nation did not accept Christ strictly on the foundation of the fulfilling of Scripture, then they would not believe even if He were to raise someone from the dead (or if He were to be raised Himself). Isn't it interesting that Jesus chose the name Lazarus, in light of the fact that He would later raise Lazarus from the dead in John 11?

We see clearly that the Rich Man and Lazarus parable has nothing to do with teaching that God keeps people in eternal torments. Could a drop of water on the tip of someone's finger suffice to cool someone there anyway? No. Would a drop of water cool someone in hell? No. Do we go to Abraham's bosom when saved? No. Will we be able to speak with people in hell while in Heaven? No. The story is obviously a parable. Neither will anyone be able to communicate with people in heaven if they were in hell.

Job 3:11, 17-18 - "Why **died** I not from the womb? Why did I not give up the ghost when I came out of the belly?" - "There the wicked **cease from troubling**; and there the **weary be at rest**. There the prisoners **rest** together; they **hear not** the voice of the oppressor." The devil is not in charge of hell, he will be burned just like every other person who chooses to be there.

Malachi 4:1-3 - "Stubble...burn them up...shall leave them neither root or branch...they shall be ashes." These are the results of hell fire. It would be well for all to study this topic thoroughly to see personally the love of God in His act of mercy to those that do not wish to be in Heaven. It is merciful to make people nonexistent rather than make them live in heaven for eternity with people they would not get along with. Another thing the Bible makes clear is that, "affliction shall not rise up the second time" (**Nahum 1:9**). This means it would be dangerous to take someone to heaven who is not in perfect harmony with God's law because they would want

to rebel and start the whole sin problem again! God is not going to put His universe in jeopardy a second time. We can thank God for this, but that means we must act upon His word, and pray earnestly for a change of heart so we will overcome and be like Jesus in everything that we do—by His grace.

Matthew 25:31-41, 46 - The sheep and the goats. Those that used God's grace to bless humanity and those that did not. Notice verse 41; "Everlasting fire, **prepared for the devil** and his angels." We humans were never supposed to be in hell! It was not prepared for us, but God will honor our free choice. If we "**neglect** so great salvation" (**Hebrews 2:3**), than we are proving and choosing by our works (which we will be judged by), that we do not want to be in heaven. May the Lord have mercy on us that we may be received by Christ, and that we may hear, "Come, ye blessed of My Father, inherit **the kingdom prepared for you** from the foundation of the world" (Matthew 25:34).

Ezekiel 33:11 - "As I live, saith the Lord God, I have **no pleasure** in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked **turn** from his way **and live**: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for **why will ye die**, O house of Israel?"

John 3:16 - "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." There are 2 choices, you can either perish, or have everlasting life. Everlasting death, or everlasting life. This most beautiful and famous text brings out the truth that hell does not burn forever. To perish means to perish...or be destroyed or ruined according to Webster. May we choose to be with God and live forever with Him by believing on His Son Jesus Christ. "He that believeth on Me, the works that I do shall He do also" (**John 14:12,6**).

Christ suffered for us the wages of sin, the second death. He gave His all for everyone of us. It is a shame how unwilling people are at times to give Him even a little of what He asks for. May we be willing to spend and be spent for Christ!

Knowing that Jesus suffered the wrath of Almighty God for sin while on the cross, and that He did not burn forever for it, proves that burning in hell for eternity is not the wages of sin. The wages of sin is death!

May God bless us as we study His word, and may we take it seriously.

The BEST news about hell is that you do not have to be there!!!

1 Thessalonians 1:10 - "Wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come."