

# Damned!

## A Study on the Doctrine of Hell

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As of 9/20/20

### Part 1- What is “Hell”?

**Beginning Note:** In all my Bible Studies and Sermons, I am operating on one basic, fundamental Assumption:

**“The 66 Books of the Holy Bible (in their original Autographs<sup>1</sup>) are the Inspired; Inerrant; Infallible “Word of the living God”. And as the “Word of God”- all of Scripture is reliable; trustworthy; and true in part and in whole.”**

Every Bible Study or Sermon from me *assumes* that what we have in our English Bibles, is a trustworthy and reliable copy; of “Original Autographs”; written by 40 men; over a 1500- year time-frame- as they were “moved” by God the Holy Spirit. And because these copies are reliable and trustworthy- we can say that what we have in the Bible, is “Inspired” by God. And because the Words of Scripture are Inspired- they are also:

- Inerrant (without Error)
- Infallible (not having the ability to be in Error)
- Relevant (useful for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century)
- Authoritative (able to “bind the conscience”)
- Sufficient (all we need for a godly life)

... and because that is true- all that we need to do- is to find out the Answers to three Questions

1. What does that Verse or Passage say?
2. What does that Verse or Passage mean by what it says?
3. What does belief in that Verse or Passage look like?

I honestly attempt to conduct my efforts at comprehending the Bible under the Reformed Concept of “Sola Scriptura” (Latin: *from the Scriptures alone*). And so, I employ things like: diagramming sentences; conjugating verbs; finding the correct context of the Text; researching the customs and lifestyles of the time- frame in question; etc., to arrive at what is my very best effort to comprehend what we are studying. My efforts are honest and sincere. I seek only to know God more fully; love Him more deeply; and obey Him with Joy. I pray that my feeble efforts are honoring to God and helpful to His people. May God have Mercy on me- the sinner.

Hell is the final abode of the “damned”. Hell is where unsaved people will spend all of Eternity. The Bible teaches several unpleasant- even terrifying aspects about Hell that believers should know. Among them are:

### **Hell is a Literal “Place”**

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<sup>1</sup> The “Original Autographs” refer to the actual, physical document on which the biblical writers recorded their words. As of this date- none of those Autographs exist. But by using the Science of “textual criticism” or “higher criticism” we may verify that the copies that we do have- are accurate representations of the Original Autographs.

Every time Hell is mentioned in the Bible- it describes a real, literal “Place” that exists; in which real people spend all of Eternity. So, Hell is NOT a “State of Mind”; nor an “Attitude” nor a spiritual (or natural) “Condition”. So, people actually “go” to Hell; they are forcefully “cast” or “thrown” into it.

#### **Matthew 8:12**

**but the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into the outer darkness; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.**"

#### **Matt 18:8&9**

**8 "If your hand or your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it from you; it is better for you to enter life crippled or lame, than to have two hands or two feet and be cast into the eternal fire.**

**9 If your eye causes you to stumble, pluck it out and throw it from you. It is better for you to enter life with one eye, than to have two eyes and be cast into the fiery hell.**

#### **The Revelation 20:15**

**And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.**

### **Hell is Eternal**

The English word, “Eternal” comes from a Greek word, (*aionios*) that means: *eternal; everlasting; or without end.* So, every correct theology about Hell MUST include the fact that it never ends.

Now even though the Bible describes Hell as both “Death” and “Destruction” it *further* defines the particular *kind* of Death and Destruction by saying, **“they will be tormented day and night forever” (The Revelation 20:10).** So, Hell is an *everlasting* Death; and an *eternal* Destruction- that never stops; it never ends. So, Hell is “eternal” in every sense of that word.

And that means there is no “time limit” for those in Hell; no “time off” for good behavior; no holidays; no vacations- just endless Suffering- forever. People in Hell will NEVER stop suffering; they will NEVER cease to be punished; their “dying” and “destruction” will never end.

#### **Matthew 18:8**

**If your hand or your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it from you; it is better for you to enter life crippled or lame, than to have two hands or two feet and be cast into the eternal fire.**

#### **Jude 7**

**just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities around them, since they in the same way as these indulged in gross immorality and went after strange flesh, are exhibited as an example in undergoing the punishment of eternal fire.**

Now, some argue that, while it is true that the Fire of Hell *itself* is eternal- the time that the ungodly will spend in that eternal Fire- is either “limited” (Ultimate Reconciliation) or that the eternal Fire simply *consumes* those people (Annihilationism). And if **Matthew 18:8** and **Jude 7** were our only verses- they might have a point. But it is much harder to accept that interpretation when we read other- equally inspired texts like:

### **2Thessalonians 1:9**

**These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,**

... and ...

### **Hebrews 6:1-3**

**1 Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, 2 of instruction about washings and laying on of hands, and the resurrection of the dead and eternal judgment. 3 And this we will do, if God permits.**

... where Hell is described as both “**destruction**” and “**judgment**” that is “**eternal.**” So, NOT merely the Fire *itself*- but both the “Judgment of God” against the unrepentant sinner; and their “Destruction”- never ends and lasts forever.

Throughout the Centuries, some have taught that the word, “**Destruction**” signifies that the one in Hell is “destroyed” NOT “punished” or “tormented”. This false Teaching is called “Annihilationism” and is propagated throughout the world today by a number of Cults like, “Jehovah’s Witnesses”.

Not only can we defeat this wayward Teaching by simply pointing to other Scriptures- but we can look at the phrase, “**eternal destruction**” (2Thessalonians 1:9) itself. This English phrase comes from a Greek word (*olethros*; Strong’s#3639) which means: *complete ruination with its full, destructive results*. This word does NOT imply “*extinction*”- but a “*consequent loss that goes along with a complete undoing.*”

In the case of the word, “**punishment**”, some would render this as simply being “cut off” as in the case of normal, physical “dying”. But they fail to use this word in connection with the word, “**eternal**” (**Matthew 25:46**). So, being “cut off” *forever*- has to do with “dying”- forever; or “eternal Death”- which has no connection to normal, physical death- which only happens once. “Eternal Punishment” then, is about being “cut off” from the Grace of God- in a *spiritual* Death that is *everlasting* (eternal)- for not repenting and for not trusting in the finished Work of Jesus for Salvation.

### **The Revelation 20:10**

**And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.**

### **Hell is Punishment**

**Matthew 25:35-46**

**35 For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in;**

**36 naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me.'**

**37 Then the righteous will answer Him, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry, and feed You, or thirsty, and give You something to drink?**

**38 And when did we see You a stranger, and invite You in, or naked, and clothe You?**

**39 When did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?'**

**40 The King will answer and say to them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.'**

**41 "Then He will also say to those on His left, 'Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels;**

**42 for I was hungry, and you gave Me nothing to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me nothing to drink;**

**43 I was a stranger, and you did not invite Me in; naked, and you did not clothe Me; sick, and in prison, and you did not visit Me.'**

**44 Then they themselves also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry, or thirsty, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not take care of You?'**

**45 Then He will answer them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.'**

**46 These will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."**

**Hebrews 10:28&29**

**28 Anyone who has set aside the Law of Moses dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses.**

**29 How much severer punishment do you think he will deserve who has trampled under foot the Son of God, and has regarded as unclean the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has insulted the Spirit of grace?**

**1John 4:18**

**There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love.**

Now this particular verse is used out of context all the time (by well-meaning people) to teach that Salvation (perfect Love) supposedly *eliminates* the "spirit of fear" from God's people- *especially* women. So, (their Teaching says), a genuinely saved woman should never fear when she hears noises outside her window at night. So, instead of fearing or worrying (or calling her Husband in a panic)- the saved woman should simply pray- which will remind her of the "perfect Love" that Jesus has for her. And that Love of Jesus will "cast out" the "spirit of fear" in the same

way that demons are "cast out" and she will no longer be afraid.

But what John was "moved" by God the Holy Spirit to write here has nothing to do with any of that. The "**perfect Love**" to which John refers here is the Love of God toward us- *in Salvation*. And the "**fear**" is the "fear of death" and/or the "fear" of "Eternal Damnation". So,

in Salvation, the fear of knowing that the eternal Destination of the individual is the “**punishment**” of Hell- will be cast out- in, by, and through Salvation.

### **Jude 7**

**just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities around them, since they in the same way as these (heretics) indulged in gross immorality and went after strange flesh, are exhibited as an example in undergoing the punishment of eternal fire.**

Here Jude equates the “Punishment” (i.e. Judgment) that both Sodom and Gomorrah experienced (hundreds of years earlier) with that which the ungodly heretics will face (in John’s day or ours). We need to understand that, in the 1<sup>st</sup> Century- there was NO debate about what had happened to Sodom and Gomorrah. Everybody knew that God judged those two cities (and the region around them) with cataclysmic Destruction; and everybody understood that the Judgment was, primarily, due to the Sin of ungodly sexual expression (Homosexuality).

Jude taught that one of the most *common* attributes of those who *purposefully* twist the Scriptures (for the express Goal of deceiving others) is that they are also sexually perverted (immoral). So, here in verse 7- Jude teaches that, like the homosexuals of Lot’s day (**Genesis 19**), the heretics of his day (and ours) “**indulge in gross immorality**”. Jude did NOT teach that all heretics are homosexuals. Neither does the Bible teach that all homosexuals are heretics. But the Bible does teach that Homosexuality is sinful; and that heretics are sexually immoral- in any number of ways.

In **Genesis 19:24**, Moses was “moved” by God the Holy Spirit to write that the Lord, “**rained on Sodom and Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the Lord out of Heaven**”. But because we know that Homosexuality is NOT compatible with Salvation- those who perished in that Divine Judgment- *also* entered into the Punishment of the eternal Fires of Hell. And that is why Jude said that the people of Sodom and Gomorrah, who “**indulged in gross immorality and went after strange flesh**” are the same ones, who “**are exhibited as an example in undergoing the punishment of eternal fire.**”

There is no record anywhere in either the Old or the New Testaments where Hell is described as being either “redemptive” or “corrective” in nature. Hell is NOT about “learning from our mistakes”; or even “purified from our Sins.” No, in every case- the Scriptures declare that Hell is “punitive” in nature. So, those in Hell have sinned against God; they were completely unrepentant during their lives on earth; and now, they are being *punished* for those Sins- forever.

## **Hell is Conscious Torment**

### **Matthew 8:5-13**

**5 And when Jesus entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, imploring Him, 6 and saying, "Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, fearfully tormented."**

**7 Jesus said to him, "I will come and heal him."**

**8 But the centurion said, "Lord, I am not worthy for You to come under my roof, but just say the word, and my servant will be healed.**

**9 For I also am a man under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to this one, 'Go!' and he goes, and to another, 'Come!' and he comes, and to my slave, 'Do this!' and he does it."**

**10 Now when Jesus heard this, He marveled and said to those who were following, "Truly I say to you, I have not found such great faith with anyone in Israel.**

**11 I say to you that many will come from east and west, and recline at the table with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven;**

**12 but the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into the outer darkness; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."**

**13 And Jesus said to the centurion, "Go; it shall be done for you as you have believed." And the servant was healed that very moment.**

Now the phrase, "**gnashing of teeth**" appears seven different times in the New Testament<sup>2</sup> as a description of the Fate of unrighteous people at the end of this Age. "Gnashing of teeth" is when a person grinds his teeth together in pain; anguish; or anger. All three of these conditions will exist in Hell.

This teaches us that the individual in Hell is alert and cognizant of his surroundings and condition. So, those in Hell don't sleep; they are not unconscious; they aren't in a coma; and they're not in a state of "suspended animation". They are conscious and fully aware that they are being punished for their Sins.

Now there is a *similar* phrase found three times in the Old Testament<sup>3</sup>, that says,

**"The Fathers have eaten sour grapes and the children's teeth are set on edge"**

... which has to do with Children suffering the Consequences of their Parent's sinful Actions- and is NOT speaking of Hell.

#### **The Revelation 14:9-11**

**9 Then another angel, a third one, followed them, saying with a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand, 10 he also will drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is mixed in full strength in the cup of His anger; and he will be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb.**

**11 "And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever; they have no rest day and night, those who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name."**

Again, some have argued that it is merely the "**smoke**" that is forever- NOT the Torment itself. Yet those who teach and believe this- are hard pressed to explain several other things:

1. What kind of "smoke" does Divine Torment produce?
2. How does smoke continue to rise without the fire continuing to burn?
3. How does the Judgment described in verse 10 (in context with the rest of the Passage) be understood any other way than being eternal?
4. How does the fact that they "**have no rest day and night**" be understood as temporary?

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<sup>2</sup> Matthew 8:12; 13:42; 13:50; 22:13; 24:51; 25:30; Luke 13:28. The phrase, "gnashing their teeth" is found in The Acts 7:54

<sup>3</sup> Jeremiah 31:29&230; Ezekiel 18:2

Others teach that this type of Judgment is reserved *specifically* for those who take the “mark”; and has NOTHING to do with the average ungodly person. And I agree that this Passage seems to zero in on ONLY those who sin by taking the “mark”. However, their Judgment is almost identical to all the others in Hell.

Another Issue that would have to be reconciled from this view is why would the Sin of taking the mark justify a *greater* Damnation than blasphemy; murder; or other egregious transgressions?

... to be continued

