

## **Hell: Fact or Fiction?** Part 2

Lesson 5

"And now, who is responsible for this God-dishonoring doctrine? And what is his purpose? The promulgator of it is Satan himself; and his purpose in introducing it has been to frighten the people away from studying the Bible and to make them hate God."

~Joseph Franklin Rutherford, Jehovah Witnesses' Watchtower Society's Second President

"How can Christians possibly project a deity of such cruelty and vindictiveness whose ways include inflicting everlasting torture upon his creatures, however sinful they may have been? Surely a God who would do such a thing is more nearly like Satan than like God, at least by any ordinary moral standards, and by the gospel itself."

~Clark Pinnock, Professor and Noted Evangelical Author

• What Is This Series All About? Three Questions in One: Is Jesus the only way to salvation?

Q 1 Will **ANYONE** experience eternal, conscious torment under God's wrath in hell?

Universalism says: NO! Everyone (including the Devil and his legions of demons) will one day be saved. DOOMED to BE SAVED!

Annihilationism says: NO! Immortality is a conditional gift given to only those who are saved. The unbelievers will be annihilated,

destroyed, cease to exist on the day of judgment.

Popular Belief says: MAYBE, but I am not going there, nor are any of my friends or family.

**Jesus** says: YES, and I love people enough to come to earth, warn them about it with conviction and compassion, and offer

Myself as the only Way out of it. Matthew 25:31-46

"Then [Jesus] will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels"

Matthew 25:41

## **O** Seven Facts about the Reality of Hell

Fact #1 Hell is REAL. Matthew 10:28

"Then [Jesus] will also say to those on the left hand..."

**Fact #2** Hell is <u>SEPARATION</u> from God and everyone of His good gifts. 2 Thessalonians 1:9; Luke 13:24–28; Matthew 7:21–23; Hebrews 10:31; Revelation 14:9
"Depart from Me..."

Fact #3 Hell is for those <u>CURSED</u> by God. Mark 11:13-15, 20-21; Galatians 3:10; 2 Corinthians 5:21; John 8:24; 3:36 "you cursed..."

Fact #4 Hell is ETERNAL. Daniel 12:2; Matthew 25:46; 2 Thessalonians 1:6-9; Revelation 14:9

"into the everlasting (or eternal)..."

**Human Reason Asks:** "Why must I receive eternal punishment for a limited amount of sin? If I live 70 years, no matter how much I sin, it stops the day that I die. Why punish me forever? Why must a person get eternal punishment for only 70 years of

sin?"

## God's Revelation Answers:

- 1) We must understand the **GREATNESS** of the Person against whom they have sinned. Psalm 51:4
- Sin <u>NEVER</u> stops. It doesn't stop at death: You never read of repentance in hell. Psalm 51:5-7; Romans 3:10-18

Therefore, God is holy and just and right in repaying sinners in hell with eternal torment!

**Fact #5** Hell is an unquenchable fire, undying worms, unrelenting gnashing, unyielding darkness, and unending **TORMENT**. Daniel 12:2; Revelation 20:4-6; Luke 16:23-25, 28

"into the everlasting fire..."

#### **Five Basic Views:**

- 1) Literal: What you read is exactly what it will be like.
- 2) Metaphorical: What you read is merely symbolic or worse than mere humans can even imagine.

Unbiblical View: Sees it nothing more than a vague picture of separation.

Biblical View: Sees it as much worse than the images used

- 3) Annihilational: The fire consumes those who are cursed and it is the consequences of extinction that is eternal.
- 4) Purgatorial: The fire purifies those who are cursed so they can eventually enter into God's presence in heaven.
- **5) Literal-Metaphorical:** What you read is what it will be like in terms we can relate to, but the reality will be much, much, much worse (just as heaven will be much, much, much better).

"...when metaphors are used in Scripture about spiritual things...they fall short of the literal truth." 
~Jonathan Edwards, from "The Torments of Hell are Exceeding Great"

### **Eternal Suffering Involves:**

➤ <u>TORMENT</u>: Unrelenting suffering due to being rightly judged for one's sins and paying back what is owed to a

holy God. (Luke 16: 23, 28)

➤ AGONY/ANGUISH: Unrelenting misery due to being forever separated from God and suffering the consequences of all

that means. (Luke 16:24-25)

Fact #6 Hell is a PREPARED place. Matthew 25:34; John 14:2; 1 Corinthians 2:9

"prepared for the devil and his angels."

Fact #7 Hell is ruled by God for His GLORY. Matthew 25:31-32; Revelation 14:9; Philippians 2:8-11; Rev 11:17-18

"Then [King Jesus ruling from His Throne of Glory] will also say to those on the left hand..."

# It's a FACT: HELL IS REAL!

Everyone who does not receive Christ will suffer, conscious, eternal torment under the wrath of God in hell and eventually the Lake of Fire.

- 1. Hell is Inevitable If You Never Receive Jesus Christ as Your Lord and Savior.
- 2. Hell is inescapable Once You Are There.
- 3. Hell is Avoidable if You Will Repent and Believe in Jesus Christ.