

Eternal Judgment

- **Hebrews 6:2**, “... and eternal judgment.”
- Judgment: for those who are condemned in a court of law- resulting in punishment
 - o **Romans 1:32; 5:16; 1 Peter 4:17-18; Revelation 14:6-7**
 - o Gr: to go to law, decision for/or against based on a crime- to avenge, condemn
- Heb. 9:27, “*Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment*”
- **Please Read: 2 Thessalonians 1:5-10**

Acts 24:25

As Paul discoursed on righteousness, self-control and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid

Matthew 12:36-37

“But I tell you that men will have to give account on the Day of Judgment for every careless word they have spoken. For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned.”

- The more knowledge, the more accountable- **Mt. 10:15, 11:20-24; 12:41-42**
- No one can plead ignorance of God- **John 15:22**
 - o Wicked who forget God and make excuses- **Job 8:13; Ps. 9:17; Lk. 14:16-24**
- What about those who never heard God’s Word- **Ro. 1:18-27; 2:5-16**
 - o God’s creation and their conscience bear witness to God’s existence
- Our God is a Holy God- **Ex. 15:11; Isa. 35:8; Heb. 7:26; 1 Pet. 1:16**
- At the core of God’s holiness is love- upholds righteousness and truth- **Ro. 13:10**
- What kind of love would allow the devil and evil persist and ravage on forever
- As a Holy God, He must judge sin to protect the innocent and uphold His justice

Isaiah 6:1-4

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him were seraphs, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. And they were calling to one another: “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory.” At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke.

- God did not sweep our sins under the proverbial rug and pretend it did not happen
- Jesus was pierced for our transgressions and punished; laid our iniquity upon Him

The Penalty of Death

The most disastrous consequence in the Fall of mankind was the introduction of death into the world. God had warned Adam in Genesis 2:17 *“but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die.”*

- What causes death and how does it affect human beings who partake of it
 - o The words “Death, Died, Dying, Die etc.” appears over 1,000 in the Bible
- Sin, breaking God’s commandments is what brings death to an individual
 - o **Ezekiel 18:20**, “The soul who sins is the one who will die.”
 - o **Romans 6:23**, “For the wages of sin is death...”
 - o **Leviticus 5:17**, speaks to sins of omission that we don’t know about
- **Please Read: Romans 5:12-14**- Sin entered the world through Adam’s transgression
 - o Adam and Eve had committed high treason with the devil- **Lk. 4:5-8**
- The word “Death” in the Bible does not mean to cease to exist
 - o Heb. 9:27, *“Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment.”*
- The Bible identifies three forms death takes in the human race
 - o A simple definition for death is “To be Separated From”
 - **Physical:** The separation of our spirit & soul from the physical body
 - **Spiritual:** Mankind separated from God due to taking on a sinful nature
 - **Eternal:** Separation from God in the Lake of Fire for all eternity- 2nd death

Physical Death

Adam did not immediately die physically when ate of the forbidden fruit; in fact, the Bible states that he lived nine hundred and thirty years, but the process of disease and mortality began the moment he sinned. For God said in Genesis 3:19, *“...until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.”*

- Medical science tells us that our physical bodies were engineered to live on indefinitely
- Since cell reproduction and regeneration is a part of the human anatomy
- Our DNA has an aging component built in that prevents immortality from happening
- Our physical bodies right now are mortal due to Adam’s Fall- **Ro. 6:16; 8:11**
- Our bodies are contaminated with a sin nature in the blood- **Lev. 17:11; Ro. 6:6; 7:23-25**

Spiritual Death

Spiritual death is separation from God. Certainly, sin separates and alienates people from God, but there is more. When Adam and Eve sinned, their spiritual natures were changed into the image of Satan himself. Instead of the nature of God to do right, man received the spiritual nature of the devil to do evil- that’s why there is so much bad stuff in the world today.

- There are two families, camps, kingdoms or groups in the world since Adam's Fall
 - o Either one is part of God's Family or of the devil's- there is no middle ground
- The sin nature of "I and Selfishness" – Satan embodies the word "Narcissism"
 - o **Isaiah 14:12-15; Ezekiel 28:11-19; Gal. 5:19-21; Col. 3:5-6; 1 Jn. 2:15-17; 4:5-6**
- That statement of truth may be offensive to people, but we are not all God's children
 - o Yes every human being is created in the image of God- **Gen. 1:26-27**
- The most religious or moral person can be a child of the devil- **Jn. 8:44-45; Acts 13:10**

This is why Jesus had said in John 3:3 that men and women must experience a spiritual re-birth, be born again in order to go to heaven. To become new creations in Christ Jesus as it's stated in **2 Corinthians 5:17**. The old satanic sinful nature must die and a rebirth take place.

1 John 3:9-10

No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in him; he cannot go on sinning, because he has been born of God. This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are: Anyone who does not do what is right is not a child of God; nor is anyone who does not love his brother.

- Eternal life "ZOE" is receiving the life and nature of God in our spirit- God's love nature
- Being recreated spiritually into the image of God as we were before our first sin
 - o We were once alive unto God before the age of accountability- **Ro. 7:9**
- The reason Jesus came to earth was to destroy the devil's work- **1 John 3:8**
 - o **2 Tim. 1:10; Heb. 2:9, 14-15; Rev. 1:18**

Eternal Death

Eternal death is the condition of those who have the spiritual nature of Satan, and depart this earthly life without repentance of sin and without faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Being cast in the Lake of Fire and eternally separated from God and all that is good- **Rev. 20:14-15**.

- While people are alive physically, their spiritual nature can be born again in Christ
- For those who die in their sins, their spiritual nature becomes a permanent reality
- Same goes for those who leave this earth as a Christian- permanent righteousness
- As a result they will have to pay the eternal penalty for sinning against a Holy God
 - o **Matthew 25:41-42; John 3:36; Gen. 19:15, 24-26**

John 8:23-24

"But Jesus continued, 'You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. I told you that you would die in your sins; if you do not believe that I am [the one I claim to be], you will indeed die in your sins.'"

Our God is a Consuming Fire

Hebrews 10:27

“...fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God.”

- Fire has come out from God on more than one occasion in the Bible
 - o **Lev. 9:24; 10:1-2; Num. 11:1; 16:35; 1 Kings 18:24; 2 Kings 1:1-15; 2 Chron. 7:1**
- Remember what God had done to Sodom and Gomorrah- **Jude 7**

Hebrews 12:28-29

Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our “God is a consuming fire.”

Why Sin must be judged

Let’s look at the natural judicial system, when we commit a crime we go to jail. A date for a court appearance is set in the future where we will stand before the judge. Upon sentencing we are transferred from the county jail to the state or federal penitentiary for the remainder of our time. God will not be complicit or condone sin by not judging it- He’s not unjust!

When a person dies in their sins, they are escorted to the heart of the earth, into hell for that appointed time to stand before God Almighty, the Judge of the universe. Hell is likened to a county jail, merely a temporary holding place- not their final destination.

Isaiah 14:9 (NKJV), “Hell from beneath is excited about you, to meet you at your coming; It stirs up the dead for you.”

2 Peter 2:9

If this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue godly men from trials and to hold the unrighteous for the Day of Judgment, while continuing their punishment.

- Sin is like a cancer, if left unchecked it would consume and destroy everything
- In **Genesis 1:1-2**- the Pre-Adamic flood (Satan’s rebellion) destroyed- **Lk. 10:18**
- Noah’s flood in Genesis chapter 6 and Sodom and Gomorrah in **Gen. 18:16-33**
- God waited for the people of Canaan and Nineveh to repent- **Gen. 15:16; Jonah 3**
- God takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked- **Ezekiel 18:30-32; 33:10-11**
- God did not create hell for mankind- people go there by choice by rejecting Jesus

Matthew 25:41

Then he will say to those on his left, “Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.”

The greatest act of love (God is love), is to judge and quarantine all sinful beings, death and hell in one place so they cannot destroy God's creation- that will ultimately be the Lake of Fire.

1 Corinthians 15:24-26

Then the end will come, when Jesus hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

Hell is a Real Place

Hell, Hades or Sheol is an actual place in the center of the earth. Scientists theorize that the earth's core is hot as it is because it is cooling down from its birth a few billion years ago. Actually, it is the place for the departed dead awaiting judgment. It's hot because that is where hell is located, a place torment in fire.

Deuteronomy 32:22 (KJV)

For a fire is kindled in mine anger, and shall burn unto the lowest hell, and shall consume the earth with her increase, and set on fire the foundations of the mountains.

What is Hell Like?

- I wouldn't wish it upon the worst of enemies; place of unimaginable torment
- Bible gives us a glimpse of the horrors of hell- **Mt. 10:28**
- As wonderful as heaven is; hell is a nightmare that never ends- void of God and all good
- Jesus spoke a lot about hell in the Gospels- **Mt. 5:22, 29-30; 18:9; 23:15,33; Lk. 12:5**
- Darkness, weeping and gnashing of teeth- **Mt. 8:12; 13:49-50; 22:13; 25:30**
- Fiery furnace- **Jas. 3:6** *Absolute intensity and shock to one's entire being*
- Burning Sulfur- **Gen. 19:24; Lk. 17:29; Rev. 19:20; 20:10; 21:8**
- Worms and Maggots- **Isa. 14:11; 66:24; Mk. 9:48**
- Eternal Punishment; shut out from God's presence- **Mt. 25:46**
- Full of hypocrites- **Mt. 24:51** *Many cults deny the existence of hell*

Hebrews 12:28-29

Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our "God is a consuming fire."

Many have said, how could a God of love send people to hell? He sent His Son there for us! Sin is spiritual crime (**Ro. 3:23**) and the penalty is eternal separation from God- death. When people reject God's way of salvation (**John 3:36**), all that is left is wrath. God's wrath for sin is as extreme as His Love for mankind- **Mt. 3:7; Ro. 1:18; 2:5; Eph. 5:6; Col. 3:6; 1 Th. 5:9.**

- During OT times, all people who died went to the center of the earth
 - o **Isaiah 14:9-11**
- Abraham's bosom for the OT Covenant dead, hell for those outside the Covenant

To illustrate the above point, let's look at a real account recorded in the Bible. Jesus shared a real story that happened to two men- The rich man and Lazarus. This is not a parable like some think. A parable of Jesus would always start off with this kind of verbiage, "*What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it?*" **Mark 4:30**. Jesus would use "*Like*" or "*As*" as a comparison, also known in English grammar, as a simile.

In the true story concerning the rich man and Lazarus, **Luke 16:19-31**, Jesus starts out by saying, "*There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores...*" These were people who actually lived, and Jesus narrates the fate of both. Below, I am going to list some points I would like for us to consider:

- The two men died physically but they went to a place in the heart of the earth
- The rich man went into hell, and Lazarus went into Abraham's bosom
- One was in torment, and the other was comforted
- They were even more acutely aware of their surroundings after death
- The rich man could recognize Lazarus, and evidently knew it was Abraham at his side
- The rich man still had his memory, and expressed emotion for his family on earth

Those who were considered righteous in the Old Testament were escorted into Abraham's bosom which was a compartment adjacent to hell. There was no torment or anguish there. The Old Testament saints had a limited salvation or a conditional righteousness based on Abraham's covenant. They were looking for the promised Messiah to come and pay the ransom for their salvation. They could not enter heaven directly yet, because sin was only covered- not yet removed by the blood of Jesus. At the resurrection of Jesus, He preached the Gospel to these men and women and they were born again and raised with Christ to heaven. Abraham's bosom is now empty, unfortunately hell is still being filled with people every day.

Matt 12:40, "For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth."

- Even Jesus Himself was in hell after He gave up His spirit on Calvary- **Luke 23:43; Ro. 5:9**
- Upon Jesus' resurrection, He emptied Abraham's bosom 'paradise'- **Eph. 4:7-10**
- Today's God's Covenant people go straight to heaven- **2 Cor.5:6-8; Php. 1:21-26**

- Fallen angels who cohabited with women were sent to the Abyss- compartment in hell
 - o **Gen. 6:1-4; Lk. 8:31; 2 Pet. 2:4; Jude 6; Rev. 9:1-2; 9:11; 11:7; 17:8; 20:1-3**

Jude 6

And the angels who did not keep their positions of authority but abandoned their own home — these he has kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for judgment on the great Day.

- Hell is a temporary jail for the unrighteous dead to await the Great White Throne
 - o 3 compartments: Hades (Wicked), Paradise (OT Saints) & Abyss (non-humans)

1 Peter 3:18-19

For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit, through whom also he went and preached to the spirits in prison.

The Great White Throne Judgment

The wicked dead will have their day in court before God Almighty at the Great White Throne Judgment. Since they rejected God's pardon for their sin, they will be judged by their works.

Acts 24:15-16

I have the same hope in God as these men, that there will be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked. So I strive always to keep my conscience clear before God and man.

Daniel 7:9-10

"As I looked, thrones were set in place, and the Ancient of Days took his seat. His clothing was as white as snow; the hair of his head was white like wool. His throne was flaming with fire, and its wheels were all ablaze. A river of fire was flowing, coming out from before him. Thousands upon thousands attended him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him. The court was seated, and the books were opened."

- God the Father is the Judge of the universe; presiding in heaven's courtroom- **Heb. 4:13**
 - o **Isa. 3:13; Acts 17:31; Ro. 2:16; 3:4-6; 2. Tim. 4:1; Heb. 12:23; Rev. 6:10**
- **Please Read: Revelation 20:11-15**
 - o Notice that books are mentioned, for the lost everything is recorded as evidence
 - o Every thought, action, inaction and motive of the heart- **Pr. 16:12; 1 Cor. 4:5**

Malachi 3:16, "Then those who feared the Lord talked with each other, and the Lord listened and heard. A scroll of remembrance was written in his presence concerning those who feared the Lord and honored his name."

- Every human being who died in their sins will stand before the God of the Universe
- Unrighteous dead are physically resurrected to be judged and sentenced- **Rev. 20:5**
- Since they rejected the perfect righteousness of Jesus; will be judged by their works
- The problem for them is that the standard of God for innocence is absolute perfection
- One standard of judgment is based on how much one knows- **Romans 2:5-16; Lk. 12:48**
 - o This is why there is no salvation for fallen angels- knew too much- so no excuse

In contrast, those who are born again, their names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life. **Exodus 32:32; Psalms 69:28; Philippians 4:3; Revelation 13:8; 17:8; 20:12, 15; 21:27**

Revelation 3:5

He who overcomes will, like them, be dressed in white. I will never blot out his name from the book of life, but will acknowledge his name before my Father and his angels.

- **Please Read: John 12:47-48; Matthew 12:36-37**
 - o God's Word is the standard of judgment for all humanity- to obey or disobey
 - o Words are the most powerful things in the universe- **Pr. 18:21**
- As Paul said in 2 Cor. 5:20, *"I beg you on Christ's behalf. Be reconciled to God."*

Dt. 30:19, "This day I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live."

The Lake of Fire

The lake of fire is not the same place as hell, because death and hell itself will be cast into the lake of fire. God rids the universe of all rebellious spirit beings: human, fallen angels, demons and Satan. The Lake of Fire is their final quarantined destination or penitentiary for all eternity.

Rev. 20:14-15

Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

- It's the eternal abode for the damned, their final resting place- **Rev. 19:20; 20:10; 21:8**
- It's a place of burning sulfur- the smell of rotten eggs- absolute assault on the senses
- The lake of fire has boundaries and can be visited- **Rev. 14:10**
- In Scripture we see a special place for false teachers- those who peddled lies to deceive
 - o Jude 13, *"for whom blackest darkness has been reserved forever"*
 - o 2 Peter 2:17-18, *"Blackest darkness is reserved for them"*
 - o Mark 12:40, *"Such men will be punished most severely."* **Luke 11:52**
- Enter through the narrow gate of Jesus; broad is the way to destruction- **Mt. 7:13-14**