

A BIBLE PROPHECY ADVENTURE **REVELATION SEMINARS**



Revelation, in most graphic language, repeatedly refers to the lake of fire, hell and the punishment of the unsaved. Fifteen times Jesus pointedly mentions the lake of fire so John will know that the fire is not a fable but rather a very necessary part of God's plan to abolish sin and make the righteous safe for eternity.

However, grave problems confront many when they study the subject of hell in Revelation. Thinking people have been shocked to read that the unsaved will be "tormented day and night forever and ever" = Revelation 20:10, because such words fill the mind with serious questions about God's mercy and justice.

Are all the wicked punished forever regardless of the degree and number of their sins? Does a sinner who died three thousand years ago receive three thousand years more punishment than one who dies today and is lost for the same sin? How can God get rid of sin if sinners are kept alive forever in a fire? In light of these questions, this subject becomes one of exceeding great importance.

Millions have turned their back on Jesus because of such teachings and others have said, "If God is like that, I hate Him!" At stake here is the character and reputation of the great God of heaven. Let us examine carefully the Bible evidence.

GOD'S FINAL JUDGMENT

1. When will the wicked be punished in the fire? 2 Peter 2:9

Ans: "The Lord knoweth how to . . . _____ the _____
unto the _____ of _____ to be _____."

~ NOTES ~

Ans: "The _____ that _____, it shall _____."

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PARABLE OF RICH MAN AND LAZARUS Luke 16:19-31

A parable is a story to illustrate a point. It may be a true story or simply a fabricated illustration.

Parables cannot always be taken literally, Judges 9:8-15.

Read Luke 16:19-31. This parable cannot be accepted literally because:

- A. Abraham's bosom is **NOT** the home of the saved, Hebrews 11:10, 16. Abraham's bosom is a **FIGURATIVE** representation of heaven. The representation of hell is also **FIGURATIVE**. **BOTH MUST BE LITERAL OR BOTH FIGURATIVE.**
- B. Those in heaven will **NOT** be able to talk with those in hell. Isaiah 65:17 says the former things will not even be remembered, and Revelation 21:4 says the former things are passed away, which includes hell.
- C. The Bible indicates that the dead, (good and bad), are in their graves, Job 17:13; Job 21:30-32; and that they will hear Jesus' voice **FROM THEIR GRAVES**, John 5:28, 29, and not from Heaven or hell.
- D. The Bible teaches that men will receive their reward at the second coming, and not at death, Revelation 22:11, 12; Matthew 16:27.
- E. It would make Jesus contradict Himself, Matthew 13:38-42; Matthew 16:27.

Note that even if taken literally, this parable would refute the idea of disembodied souls going to hell, for it describes the rich man with eyes, tongue, and lips. If taken literally, this parable would prove that men are cast into hell, soul and **BODY**, at death.

Bodies of the dead have been exhumed after having been dead for months. It is a well-known fact that the eyes are still in the body even then; hence the absurdity of taking the parable literally is further seen. The "eyes" are in the grave, not in hell-fire.

In this parable, Christ was simply using a common belief of the day to illustrate the truth of Luke 16:31: namely, if a man refuses to be guided by the scripture, there is no hope for him.

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NOTE: So on God's own authority souls that sin will receive death, and not everlasting torment, in the fire.



GOD'S FIRE DESTROYS

At the end of the 1000 years (Rev. 20), the Holy City with all the saints comes down from heaven, and settles on the Mount of Olives. The wicked of all ages are resurrected and Satan leads them in a dramatic attempt to capture the City. At this time fire comes down from God out of heaven, This is the "hell fire" spoken of in the Bible.

8. What does this fire do to the wicked? Rev. 28:9

Ans: "Fire came down from God out of heaven and _____ them."

NOTE: When a child devours a bar of candy, how much is left? Likewise, when sinners are devoured in the fire they are put out of existence. Please note also that Revelation 20:9 teaches that the fire will be set here on the earth. Proverbs 11:31 also says that the wicked will receive their reward on the earth.

9. How big will the fire be and what will it do to the earth and the elements? 2 Peter 3:10

Ans: "The elements shall _____ with fervent heat, the _____ also and the works that are therein shall be _____."

NOTE: The fire will be the exact size of the earth because it will be the earth on fire. The elements and the earth will melt from the heat and everything on the face of the earth will be burned up.

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10. How did Malachi describe the fire and what it will accomplish? Malachi 4:1

Ans: a. The day will burn as an _____; b. all that do wickedly shall be _____; c. It will burn them _____; d. leave them neither _____ nor branch.

NOTE: The wicked will burn like stubble or dry tinder, not asbestos as many believe, The fire will burn them "up". The little word "up" denotes completion,

11. Will the fire go out? Isaiah 47:14

Ans: "There shall _____ be a _____ to _____ at, nor _____ to _____ before it".

NOTE: The fire burns them as stubble. There is no escaping the flames, But when the stubble is burned up the fire goes out and not even a coal is left glowing. Isaiah 47 uses symbols and language very similar to that of Revelation, chapters 16 to 19, and for very good reason: both refer to the punishment and destruction of Babylon, or the unfaithful. Lesson 21 takes up a full study of spiritual Babylon.

12. What it left when the fire goes out? Malachi 4:3

Ans: _____

13. David, in the Psalms, says that in a little while the wicked will not be found no matter how diligently one may search. What did he say was the reason? Psalm 37:10, 20

Ans: "Into _____ they shall _____."

NOTE: The wicked will not be found, because in hell they went up in smoke. It would be easy to find the wicked if they were screaming for mercy somewhere in hell, but David says that is not so.

GOD'S JUSTICE COMPLETE

14. How long will the wicked suffer in the fire? Revelation 22:12

Ans: "To give every man according as his _____ shall _____."

NOTE: Jesus says He will reward or punish all according to their works or conduct. Some will suffer longer than others, but soon the fire goes out, and

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BIBLE PASSAGES ABOUT HELL EXPLAINED

TORMENTED FOREVER AND EVER

Revelation 20:10

FOREVER in the Bible is a period of time, limited or unlimited, depending upon what is being described. The word FOREVER in the Bible is like the word TALL. Tall has different meanings depending on what is being described, such as a dog, or house, or a mountain. The word FOREVER is used 56 times in the Old Testament in connection with things already ended. In the case of man, the Bible teaches that FOREVER means MAN'S LIFETIME or AS LONG AS A MAN LIVES. In the case of Samuel, FOREVER meant "AS LONG AS HE LIVETH", I Samuel 1:22,28 (442). In Psalm 48:14 (892) FOREVER means until death. Burning FOREVER in the fire means that man burns until he dies.

FIRE UNQUENCHABLE

Luke 3:17

Jerusalem was destroyed with unquenchable fire, Jeremiah 17:27, but it is not still burning today. 2 Chronicles 36:19, 21 says Jerusalem was burnt with fire to fulfill Jeremiah's prophecy. Unquenchable fire cannot be PUT out, but it GOES out when everything is burned up.

EVERLASTING OR ETERNAL FIRE

Matthew 25:41

Jude 7 says God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah with everlasting or eternal fire. And Peter says in II Peter 2:6 that the fire turned those cities into ashes as an example to those who live ungodly. So eternal or everlasting fire turns things to ashes and then goes out. It is everlasting in its EFFECT and not its DURATION.

EVERLASTING PUNISHMENT

Matthew 25:46

Note that it is not everlasting PUNISHING but rather PUNISHMENT. Paul says that the punishment for sin is DEATH, Romans 6:23. And Revelation calls this death the SECOND DEATH which the wicked die in the fire, Revelation 21:8. That death or destruction will be eternal because there is no resurrection from it.

24. Will sin ever rise up again after it is destroyed in hell fire? Nahum 1:9

Ans: "Affliction shall not rise up again the _____ time"

NOTE: Praise God! Never again will sin rear its ugly head.

25. What will God do after sin and sinners are destroyed? Isaiah 65:17; 2 Peter 3:13; Revelation 21:3

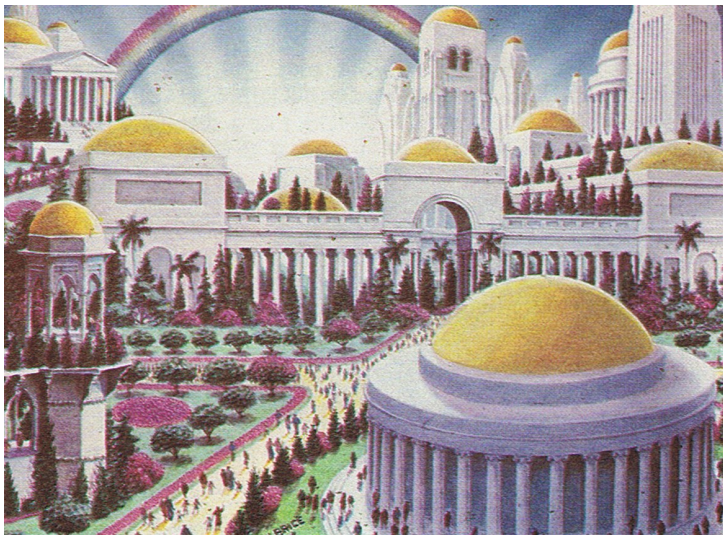
Ans: a. Isaiah 65:17; 2 Peter 3:13 — "Behold I create new _____ and a new _____ . . . wherein dwelleth righteousness."

b. Revelation 21:3 — "God . . . will _____ with _____."

NOTE: Utterly fantastic! God moves in with His people on the new earth to be their loving Father and neighbour. Everything that Adam and Eve lost will be restored, Acts 3:19-21. God's people will, at long last, have found joy unspeakable without end.

26. Jesus invites you to live in His fabulous new kingdom. Will you accept His invitation now and let Him work the miracles which will lake you into His kingdom?

Ans: _____



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all are turned to ashes. Jesus will handle the destruction of hell fire quickly. Being destroyed in hell is not the great tragedy of sin. The great tragedy of sin is missing heaven and an eternity with Jesus.

15. When the devil is placed in the fire, Revelation 20:10, what happens to him? Ezekiel 28:17-19

Ans: "I will bring thee to _____ upon the _____."

NOTE: He is turned to ashes and his existence ends. Ezekiel 28:19 says of the devil, "never shalt thou be any more".

16. Will people enter the fire in bodily form or as spirits? Matthew 5:30

Ans: "Thy _____ should be _____ into _____."

NOTE: People enter hell "alive" - Revelation 19:20, and in bodily form with eyes, hands and feet. The picture is of real, live human beings being destroyed by fire.

17. Some say that the soul burns forever and only the body is destroyed in hell but what does Jesus say? Matthew 10:29

Ans: "Fear him which is able to destroy both _____ and _____ in hell".

NOTE: The scripture makes it easy to understand. Both soul and body are destroyed in hell. Everything that comprises a person: his intelligence, personality, life and all else that makes him an individual will be destroyed in the fire.



The Father
longs to save
each of us.

SATAN MISREPRESENTS GOD

What a tragedy that God is credited with teaching ETERNAL TORMENT when He taught something ENTIRELY DIFFERENT. Could you stand to

see your child burn for even one hour for a terrible crime? Yet men accuse God of burning His disobedient children for eternity.

18. What is Job's fitting question regarding God's justice? Joh 4:17

Ans: "Shall mortal _____ be more _____ than _____."

NOTE: It is slander on the holy name of God to accuse Him of far crueller and more heartless treatment of people than has occurred in the very worst of war atrocities. Eternal torment is not a part of God's great plan. Such a teaching has made God haters and infidels of many people through the centuries. An eternal hell of torment would be hell for God who loves even His worst enemies with a love that is indescribably deep and heartfelt.

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19. For whom did God plan the fires of hell? Matthew 25:41 (1

Ans: "Prepared for the _____ and his _____."

NOTE: God prepared hell to destroy sin, the devil and his angels. His plan is to isolate sin and then eradicate it from the universe with fire. Like a cancer, sin would jeopardize the universe unless eradicated. The ugly cancer of sin must be destroyed in the fire. If I hang on to sin I will have to be destroyed with it. God cannot permit that ugly thing which deals such misery and woe and which killed His Son to enter His new kingdom. He pleads with me daily to let Him remove sin from my life and bury it under the sea, but He will not force it. The choice is mine. If I choose to go my own way here I would do the same in heaven. Besides, those who refuse to follow Jesus here would be in abject misery in a place where only holiness exists. It would be cruel to force them to live under such conditions.

GOD'S LOVE VINDICATED

20. What is God's act of destroying people in the fire called? Isaiah 28:21

Ans: "His strange _____ ... His _____ act".

NOTE: Jesus came to save people. Destroying even those who hate Him is so contrary to His nature that it is called His strange act. God's great heart will be torn asunder when He is forced to destroy those whom He dearly loves, Ezekiel 33:11. He is not willing that any should perish, 2 Peter 3:9. He will cry out as He did with Ephraim, "How can I give you up?" Hosea 11:8 [Phillips Translation]. And He will with anguish ask, "What more could I have done than I did do to save them?" Isaiah 5:4. It will be the most horrible moment heaven has ever spent when God's disobedient children must be destroyed because they refused His love.

21. When the new kingdom is set up what happens to all former things, including hell? Revelation 21:4

Ans: "The _____ things are _____."

NOTE: ALL former things are passed away. No exception is made to keep hell burning somewhere in God's universe. God's plan is to completely rid the universe of evil. An eternal hell would perpetuate sin and evil and make it impossible to ever forget it.

22. What should be my reason for serving Jesus? John 14:23, 24

Ans: _____

NOTE: No one will be in heaven because they were afraid of hell. People will be in heaven because they loved Jesus first, last and always. And those who love Jesus will have no need to fear hell, 1 John 4:18

23. Earthly governments cannot remain stable without the meting out of justice. But some say God is too loving to ever punish or destroy the wicked. What does the Bible say? Exodus 34:6, 7

Ans: "The Lord. ..will by _____ means _____ the _____."

NOTE: It is because God **IS** loving that justice is a must. God's justice is based upon the choices people make after being fully informed. It would be unfair to impose a life-style upon a person contrary to the one he has chosen. Divine justice is just as essential as divine love. In fact, divine justice **IS** divine love. God loves us enough to permit us freedom to choose the lifestyle we prefer. God's justice simply insists that we receive what we have chosen with all of its consequences. Those who choose sin choose death, Romans 6:23; Proverbs 8:36.

SOME WONDER about Bible passages which speak of being tormented FOREVER and EVER; ETERNAL fire, EVERLASTING punishment, UNQUENCHABLE fire, and THE RICH MAN AND LAZARUS. For a discussion of these points see EXHIBITS # 1 and # 2.



Love, not fear,
prepares us
for Heaven.