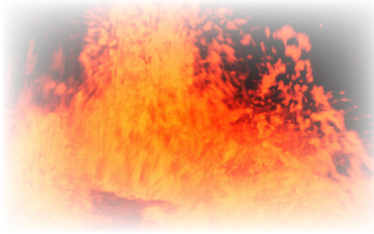


A BIBLE PROPHECY ADVENTURE

Revelation

Promises Hope

The Good News About Hell

Notes

If you were God, would you delight in tormenting sinners in hell for millions and millions of years? Could you be truly happy in heaven if you knew an unsaved relative or friend was intensely suffering in the fires of hell at that very moment? How could a loving God burn sinners in hell for eternity? If God knows every-

thing, wouldn't these suffering sinners be continually on His mind? Most of us would not want to torment our worst enemy that way. Is it logical that a loving God would keep His enemies in a continual state of suffering for eternity? Is hell a hot spot in the center of the earth, some burning, fiery chasm with millions crying out for deliverance right now? This is no small matter. The concept of an eternally burning hell has led many to reject God altogether. The Bible presents a clear answer for the question of God's love in the fires of hell!

- I. **God is a God of love.**
 - A. "God is love." I John 4:8
 - B. God does not take pleasure in the death of the wicked. Ezekiel 33:11
 - C. What we believe about this subject is vital to my relationship with Jesus Christ.
- II. **God is going to make this earth as it was in the beginning.**
 - A. He will make restitution of all things. Acts 3:20,21
 - B. "And God shall wipe away all tears...no more death, sorrow or pain, the former things are passed away." Rev. 21:4
 - C. "The meek shall inherit the earth." Matthew 5:5
 - D. If the righteous could see the wicked in hell there would be sorrow, tears, and pain.
 - E. If there is a hell going on while the righteous are here on the earth, then God did not restore it as it was in the beginning.
 - F. Hell is prepared for the devil and his angels, so that he will not be a part of the restored world. Matthew 25:41
- III. **The wicked will be destroyed.**
 - A. "Devoured as stubble full dry." Nahum 1:9,10
 - B. "Consume away into smoke." Psalm 37:20
 - C. "Devoured" Revelation 20:9

Notes

- D. "Burn them up" Malachi 4:1
 - E. They shall be ashes. Malachi 4:3
 - F. The Devil will be destroyed. Ezekiel 28:17,18
 - G. The fire will burn them up, then go out. Isaiah 47:14
- IV. What about the texts that talk about: “everlasting” and “forever” in terms of hell fire?**
- A. The smoke ascends up for ever and ever. Rev. 14:10,11
 - 1. In Exodus 21:6 “Forever means as long as he lives.
 - 2. Samuel was to serve the Lord forever—as long as he lived. I Samuel 1:22,28
 - 3. Jonah was in the belly of the fish for 3 days—seemed like forever. Jonah 2:6
 - 4. Forever can mean - "until the end of the age" or as long as life shall last.
 - B. Eternal damnation. Mark 3:29
 - C. Understood in the light of the texts we read in section III above, we see that the punishment is eternal (they are never coming back), but not the punishing.
 - D. Sodom and Gomorrah are set forth as examples of what “eternal fire” is and does. Jude 7 Sodom and Gomorrah are not burning today, but they were destroyed forever—eternally.
 - E. Sodom and Gomorrah were turned into ashes as an example of what would happen to the wicked. 2 Peter 2:6 Re-read Malachi 4:1,3
 - F. The destruction of the wicked is “everlasting,” final, never coming back.
2 Thessalonians 1:7-9
 - G. Luke 3:16,17 talks about “fire unquenchable.”
 - 1. Jerusalem was burned with unquenchable fire. Jeremiah 17:27, but Jerusalem is not burning still today.
 - 2. Unquenchable fire is a fire that no man can put out. It does its God-appointed task and then goes out. Isaiah 47:14
- V. What about the story of the Rich Man and Lazarus?**
- A. This story of Luke 16:19-31 is a PARABLE, not a literal happening.
 - 1. A parable is told to illustrate a point.
 - 2. We must understand the point it is illustrating.
 - 3. Luke 16 is talking about stewardship. This parable teaches that being a rich Jew does not necessarily save you. You must accept Moses and the prophets and walk in their light as they reveal Christ. If you

- don't, then you are lost.
- B. Notice the conditions in the parable that show it cannot be talking about an actual case:
 - 1. Abraham's bosom could not possibly contain all the righteous. Verse 22. No one believes that Abraham's bosom is the final resting place for all the righteous. For one thing, they wouldn't fit there!
 - 2. The rich man in hell lifted up his eyes. He also had a tongue. Verses, 23,24
 - A. The Bible says that at death the body decays and returns to dust. Ecclesiastes 12:7; Psalm 146:4
 - 3. Is hell a place where the righteous can see the wicked and talk with them? No way!
 - C. Jesus ALWAYS used parables in talking to the people in general. Matthew 13:13, 14
 - D. This parable teaches that
 - 1. At death, ones eternal destiny is sealed. There is not a second chance. Luke 16:26
 - 2. People who don't accept, by faith, what the scriptures say will not believe, even if they see a miraculous sign. Luke 16:27-31

VI. Then when and where does hell fire burn, and what are its results?

- A. The end of the world. Matthew 13:34-40
- B. Hell fire falls on the wicked here on earth, at the end of the 1000 years. Revelation 20:9
- C. It burns up the wicked, purifies the earth, and then goes out. 2 Peter 3:10; Isaiah 47:14
- D. The wages of sin is the second death, not eternally burning hell.. Revelation 21:8
 - 1. The destruction is everlasting. 2 Thess. 1:9
 - 2. This is the second death. Revelation 21:1
- E. God creates a new earth, as it was in the beginning. 2 Peter 3:13; Revelation 21:1
- F. If you accept Jesus and trust Him you can have eternal life in the earth made new. John 3:16; John 1:12
 - 1. Turn over your life to Jesus today.

VII. The Good News

- A. Hell is going to go out!
- B. Hell was prepared for the devil and his angels who will be destroyed by it.
- C. We don't have to be a part of hell fire!!!