

#14

THE TRUTH ABOUT HELL

From the beginning of sin it has been the work of the devil to misrepresent the character of God. In heaven he injected doubt into the minds of the angels as to the justice and love of God. In this work of deception he finally succeeded so well that one third of the angels followed him into rebellion. (Revelation 12:3, 4, 7-9)

Since his expulsion from heaven it has been the devil's studied purpose to bring havoc and confusion to the earth. He seeks to alienate the affections of God's children by misrepresenting the character of God. He has confused even those who profess to be Christians. They reason that if God is a God of love, how can he permit people to be tormented forever? We'll explore the Bible's teachings on hell.

1. For whom was "hell" prepared? Matthew 25:41 _____

2. When does Christ reward each man according to what he has done?
Matthew 16: 27

3. How will Christ classify those at the time of His coming? Matthew 25:31-34

PLEASE READ Matthew 13:24-30; 36-43.

In this parable Christ outlines the fate of the wicked and the reward of the righteous in detail.

4. In His parable, when did Jesus indicate that the harvest, or the separation of the evil from the good, would take place? Verse 39

5. In the parable, when will the wicked, or the tares, be destroyed? Verse 40

6. When will Christ send forth His angels to separate the good from the evil?
Matthew 24:30, 31

14-2

7. What will not happen to those who believe in God? John 3:16

Note: This text does not say that the sinner will live forever in torment. Life and death are contrasted here, showing that the wicked will cease to live while those who have accepted the gift of God will continue to live forever.

**8. What does God call the death that is the final punishment of the wicked?
Revelation 20:6, 14**

**9. What is the wages (or consequences) of sin according to the Bible?
Romans 6:23**

*Note: The wages of sin is **death** not eternally burning hell. It is the opposite of eternal life.*

10. How complete will the destruction of the wicked be? Malachi 4:1

**11. Do the following verses indicate that the wicked will be continually burning?
Psalms 21:9; 37:10, 20, 36; 145:20**

**12. How does God describe the result of the fire that will be used on the wicked?
Matthew 25:41**

**13. What kind of fire did God use in the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah?
Jude 7**

14. How did God compare what happened to Sodom and Gomorrah with what happens to the ungodly? 2 Peter 2:6

14-3

*Note: Sodom and Gomorrah are not still burning today. They have been burnt to ashes long ago. It is the effect or **result** of the fire that is everlasting or eternal **not** the punishment in itself. Once you are destroyed by fire it is final!*

15. What else will be destroyed or purified by this fire besides the wicked?

2 Peter 3:10

16. How does God feel about the death of those who refuse salvation?

Ezekiel 33:11

Note: God must remove sin once and for all from the universe. If sin were allowed to continue, it would contaminate the entire universe. And that's what got us into this mess to begin with.

17. How many individuals does God want to see perish in hell? 2 Peter 3:9

18. What choice does God offer to every person on this earth?

Deuteronomy 30: 19, 20

Conclusion: God is definitely not in the business of tormenting people. He doesn't enjoy destroying any of the children He created but unfortunately those that reject Him don't give Him any choice. He cannot put the entire universe at risk ever again. He is a God of love.

ANSWER KEY TO LESSON #14

Q. 1- The devil and his angels

Q. 2- At His second coming

Q. 3- Sheep and goats, believers and unbelievers

Q. 4- At the second coming

Q. 5- At the second coming

Q. 6- At the second coming

Q. 7- Perish

Q. 8- Second death

Q. 9- Death

Q. 10- Not a root or a branch will be left

Q. 11- No

Q. 12- Everlasting

Q. 13- Everlasting

Q. 14- It serves as an example to what will happen to the ungodly

Q. 15- The earth also will be destroyed

Q. 16- He takes no pleasure in their death

Q. 17- None

Q. 18- Life or Death