

Hellfire

1. How many views on Hell are there?

John 3:16

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Answer: There are 2 views: either souls will burn forever, or they will burn up and cease to exist.

2. How can we be sure that souls will not suffer for all eternity?

Matthew 10:28

And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

Ezekiel 18:20

The soul that sinneth, it shall die.

1 John 5:12

He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.

Answer: There is NO LIFE for the wicked in hell.

3. What does the word "hell" mean in Psalm 9:17?

Psalm 9:17 (KJV)

The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God.

NOTE: The word 'hell' here is from the Hebrew word *sheol*, which refers simply to the grave; a pit in the ground, or the abode of the dead. Notice the translation in the New International Version of the same verse:

Psalm 9:17 (NIV)

The wicked go down to the grave, all the nations that forget God.

4. How else is the word 'hell' translated in the Bible?

Mark 9:43 - 48

And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched. And if thy foot offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter halt into life, than having two feet to be cast into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched. And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it

out: it is better for thee to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire: Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.

NOTE: The original Greek word for hell here is *Gehenna*. It referred to the Valley of Hinnom by Jerusalem. It was once a place of horrible idolatry, later as a place used for burning trash. Jesus used this garbage dump as an illustration of hell where the wicked will be burned up with unquenchable fire.

5. But what does the Bible mean that hell will burn with unquenchable fire?

Jeremiah 17:27

But if ye will not hearken unto me to hallow the sabbath day, and not to bear a burden, even entering in at the gates of Jerusalem on the sabbath day; then will I kindle a fire in the gates thereof, and it shall devour the palaces of Jerusalem, and it shall not be quenched.

Answer: Unquenchable fire does not mean it burns forever, it merely means that it is a fire that cannot be put out until it completely consumes that which it is burning and it is no more.

6. What does the Bible say about literal hell fire?

Revelation 14:10-11

The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.

NOTE: Throughout the Dark Ages, when papal domination dictated to the world how they should believe, one of their many errors, born of a compromise between truth and paganism, was that souls will burn for all eternity for the sins of a short lifetime on earth. This doctrine of devils has been the cause of more people leaving the church than any other, as it misrepresents the true, merciful character of God, making Him out to be an unjust and sadistic tyrant.

7. Then what does 'eternal fire' of hell mean in the Bible?

Jude 1:7

Even as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities about

them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.

Answer: To answer this question in light of Jude, we merely have to ask a second question: Are Sodom and Gomorrah still burning today? The answer is obviously no! The only thing it can mean is that the *effects* of the fire are *eternal*. Likewise, the fires of hell that will be rained down upon the wicked at the judgment (at the end of the Millennium) will not burn forever, but it will not be quenched until all are consumed, the effects of which will last forever.

8. What proof from the Bible do we have that the wicked will be burned up?

Malachi 4:3

And ye shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, saith the Lord of hosts.

Ezekiel 28:18-19

Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffick; therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it shall devour thee, and I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee. All they that know thee among the people shall be astonished at thee: thou shalt be a terror, and never shalt thou be any more.

Answer: All the wicked, even Satan and his fallen angels will be “ashes under the soles of your feet.” They will “be no more”; a state of non-existence.

9. How were the days of Noah and Sodom compared to our day, the time just before Jesus coming?

Luke 17:26

And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all. Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed.

Answer: In the days of Noah the sinful world was judged by water. Sodom and Gomorrah were an example of the judgment to come of the world by fire.

10. What is the spiritual application for the cleansing of the soul of our sins?

Matthew 3:11

I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance. But he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire:

Answer: Just as we are cleansed of our sins through water (baptism) and fire (The Holy Spirit), so the world, and the earth itself, is cleansed with water (the Flood) and fire (Hell).

11. What will be the end result of this cleansing?

Revelation 21:1

And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

Isaiah 66:22

For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before me, saith the Lord, so shall your seed and your name remain.

Answer: God will make all things new. The destruction of the wicked will be followed by a re-creation, a world and a universe that will never know sin again. If the fires of hell never go out, then the earth cannot be made new. “He will make an utter end: affliction shall not rise up the second time.” Nahum 1:9.