

Lesson 24 – God’s Love Revealed: in Hellfire?

- 1) What is God’s Character really like?

Jeremiah 31:3 “The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, *saying* , Yea, I have _____ thee with an everlasting _____ : therefore with _____ have I drawn thee.”

NOTE: God’s character is one of love and compassion. He loved the world so much that He sent His son here on a mission to die to save us. This is a very important fact to keep in our minds as we begin to study this subject.

- 2) How many people does God want to perish?

2 Peter 3:9 “The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that ___ should _____, but that ___ should come to repentance.”

NOTE: God does not want anyone to perish! In fact, He wants all to come to repentance.

- 3) How is our God described?

Hebrews 12:29 “For our God is a consuming _____.”

NOTE: Although Our God loves, He also is a consuming fire. Sin cannot exist in the presence of God.

- 4) What will ultimately happen to sinners?

Psalm 37:10 “For yet a little while, and the wicked _____ : yea, thou shalt diligently consider his place, and it *shall not be* .”

Psalm 37:20 “But the wicked shall _____, and the enemies of the LORD *shall be* as the fat of lambs: they shall _____; into _____ shall they _____.”

Malachi 4:1-3 “For, behold, the day cometh, that shall _____ as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be _____: and the day that cometh shall _____, saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch. But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall. And ye shall _____ the wicked; for they shall be _____ under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do *this* , saith the LORD of hosts.”

NOTE: One day sinners will be burnt to ashes. They will be completely destroyed. They will cease to exist.

- 5) But, I thought the Bible taught “everlasting punishing?”

Matthew 25:46 “And these shall go away into everlasting _____: but the righteous into life eternal.”

NOTE: There is a big difference between the words punishing and punishment. Punishing is something that is ongoing. It is taking place in the present tense. Punishment is punishing that comes to an end. Jesus is speaking of “everlasting punishment.” In other words, the results of that particular punishment will be eternal. The punishment itself isn’t ongoing for eternity. This is very important because it influences how we see who God is. If you think that God will burn people for billions and billions of years, then you will serve God so that you will not be tortured for eternity. But if you understand that the punishment of the wicked reaches an end, then you begin to serve God out of heartfelt love toward Him.

- 6) What is the result of eternal fire?

Jude 7 “Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, 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 _____.”

2 Peter 2:6 “And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into _____ condemned *them* with an overthrow, making *them* an _____ unto those that after should live ungodly;”

NOTE: What is the result of eternal fire? Simply put, the result of eternal fire is ashes. Today Sodom and Gomorrha are not burning. Rather, they were turned to ashes. Eternal fire results in everlasting punishment, not everlasting punishing. (Mal. 4:3)

- 7) What does the term, “unquenchable fire” mean?

Matthew 3:11-12 “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: Whose fan *is* in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with _____ fire.”

NOTE: Again, in harmony with what the Bible says in other places, the term “unquenchable fire” means a fire that cannot be quenched. Is this the first time the Bible uses this term? Let’s see how the phrase “unquenchable fire” is used in the next question.

- 8) How is the phrase “unquenchable fire” used in other places of the Bible?

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 _____ in the gates thereof, and it shall devour the palaces of Jerusalem, and it shall not be _____.”

NOTE: This fire in Jerusalem was not quenched, but this fire has burnt out. That is precisely the point. An “unquenchable fire” is a fire that cannot be put out. What eventually happens to a fire that is not put out? It stops burning. In this case, it turns to ashes.

- 9) What about the verse that speaks of the wicked burning forever?

Revelation 20:10 “And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet *are*, and shall be tormented day and night _____ and _____.”

Exodus 21:6 “Then his master shall bring him unto the judges; he shall also bring him to the door, or unto the door post; and his master shall bore his ear through with an aul; and he shall serve him _____.”

1 Samuel 1:22, 28 “But Hannah went not up; for she said unto her husband, *I will not go up* until the child be weaned, and *then* I will bring him, that he may appear before the LORD, and there abide _____... Therefore also I have lent him to the LORD; as _____ as he _____ he shall be lent to the LORD. And he worshipped the LORD there.”

Jonah 2:6 “I went down to the bottoms of the mountains; the earth with her bars *was* about me _____: yet hast thou brought up my life from corruption, O LORD my God.”

NOTE: The word or phrase “for ever” many times in the Bibles refers to something that has already ended. In the case of Jonah, he was in the belly of the whale for three days, and yet he said it was, “for ever.” It may have seemed like to him it was forever. Likewise for the wicked when hellfire occurs it will seem like forever, because they refused the free gift of life that was offered to them.

- 10) Who is hell fire prepared for?

Matthew 25:41 “Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the _____ and his _____:”

NOTE: Hellfire was not prepared for us. God does not desire to destroy human beings. Hellfire was prepared for the devil and his angels. But, sadly, many

people will partake in that fire because they followed the evil one instead of Jesus Christ.

11) Where will hellfire take place?

Psalm 11:6 “Upon the wicked he shall ____ snares, ____ and _____, and an horrible tempest: *this shall be* the portion of their cup.”

Revelation 20:9 “And they went up on the _____ of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.”

NOTE: Many people today believe that hellfire is burning right now, and it is burning at the center of the earth. But this is not correct. The fires of hell will burn on the surface of the earth. At the end of the millennium after the Holy City, the New Jerusalem, descends from heaven to earth.

12) What does the Bible call God’s act in destroying the wicked?

Isaiah 28:21 “For the LORD shall rise up as *in* mount Perazim, he shall be wroth as *in* the valley of Gibeon, that he may do his work, his strange work; and bring to pass his act, his _____ act.”

NOTE: Indeed, it is a strange act for God to destroy the wicked. He is a being of pure love that only wants the best for His creatures. One day it will be better for those that He loves to be destroyed than to be in heaven. If they would be allowed to enter there they would not enjoy it. In fact, they would welcome destruction. This is why the strange act of God, in destroying the wicked, is actually a loving act. If the wicked were forced to live in heaven it would not be love.

IS IT YOUR DESIRE...

Do you see God’s love portrayed in the biblical teaching of hell fire? Yes or No

