

Hell

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As a child in church.. hell was preached. At 14 when I became a Christian .. part of the reason was fire insurance.. I did not want to go to hell.

Not the best reason for becoming a Christian but was part of my journey.

Today hell is not preached much today.

Hell is a reality.. place of eternal punishment.

No mention of a place of eternal punishment in early books of OT, but in latter parts of Old Testament a doctrine of final judgement and permanent punishment is mentioned. (Is 24:21-;66:24:²⁴ "And they will go out and look upon the dead bodies of those who rebelled against me; their worm will not die, nor will their fire be quenched, and they will be loathsome to all mankind."

This was also quoted by Jesus in Mark 9:48 in reference to hell

Dan 12:2 ² Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt.

By the time of Jesus there was a generally accepted doctrine of eternal punishment.

Jesus spoke way more about hell than heaven

What is hell like?

Mark 9:43 hell, where the fire never goes out

Elsewhere hell is referred to as a fiery furnace (Matt 13:42 ⁴²They will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

and a lake of fire

Rev 20:13, 14,15 ¹³The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done.¹⁴Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. ¹⁵If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

Hell is a place of suffering. All references to hell are of suffering. Nothing at all good about it.

It involves exclusion from the presence of God. God is community.. relationship.. thus hell is isolation

Matt 7:23; ²³Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!' Hell is being away from God for ever

2 Thess 1:8,9 ⁸He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. ⁹They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power

God is not there... hell.

All the good in this life comes because of the presence and activity of God. In hell there is a complete and total loss of God's favour and His compassionate heart . We take that for granted today.

Agonies of hell are described in physical terms: weeping, gnashing of teeth, people tied and bound

Matt 22:13 ¹³"Then the king told the attendants, 'Tie him hand and foot, and throw him outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

Hell is described as darkness, no light at all, eternal fire, eternal punishment and the second death.

Get the picture!!

Emotions are still experienced in hell. Hell includes absolute despair, guilt, hopelessness, remorse, loss of meaning, sense of complete failure. No possible consolation or comfort because God has been rejected and is not there

Certainly won't be a party with your mates. Absolute isolation, great pain and torture..

Seems also that Jesus indicates degrees of punishment in hell

Read Matt 11:21-24

²¹"Woe to you, Korazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! If the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. ²²But I tell you, it will be more bearable for Tyre and Sidon on the day of judgment than for you. ²³And you, Capernaum, will you be lifted up to the skies? No, you will go down to the depths.^[a] If the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Sodom, it would have remained to this day. ²⁴But I tell you that it will be more bearable for Sodom on the day of judgment than for you."

More miracles seen, more responsibility

Luke 12:47-48

⁴⁷"That servant who knows his master's will and does not get ready or does not do what his master wants will be beaten with many blows. ⁴⁸But the one who does not know and does things deserving punishment will be beaten with few blows.

Principle is that responsibility is in direct proportion of knowledge. The more a person has heard the gospel and rejected it, the greater the suffering in hell. Still eternal punishment in hell is terrible on all scales.

Origin or purpose of hell

Why would such a place be created by God? When was it created? Not sure.. pre satan fall, post satan fall?

According to Jesus, hell was a place prepared for the devil and his angels

Matt 25:41 ⁴¹"Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.

Satan is an angel who was kicked out of heaven with a third of the angels because he took God on

thus we infer that hell had no place in God's original purpose for humanity. It is not for people but because people choose to believe satan and not God, too many will go to hell with the one they believe

Hell – the greatest doctrine of free will! If we say 'my will be done' then God actually says, 'OK then your will be done!'

We only go there because we do not want to be with God

The problem of God being a God of love and power sending people to a place He (God) created called hell if they do not believe in Jesus, is hard to reconcile. Some issues like this are hard to reconcile, but still both are there.

So what does this mean for me?

You can argue about whether hell exists or not, but in the end what you believe does not change the truth. You can be sincerely wrong. But what you believe and choose can change **where** you will spend eternity

When you die the choices you made in this life about Jesus determine your eternal destiny.

When a person dies who is in Christ, who has received Christ as their Lord and saviour and lived a life for Him, they go into the presence of God.

2 Corinthians 5:8 ⁸We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord.

1 Thessalonians 4:14 ¹⁴We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him.

Do we go to sleep (die) and wake up when Christ returns?

Eg Child and parents go to friends home at night. Child goes to sleep there but wakes up the next day in their own bed. Good experience.

BUT, when a person dies out side of Christ, as a non Christian.. they go to a place of waiting (Hades... see Rev 20:13,14), where God is not present, and wait for the Judgement day when Christ returns (another subject)

2 Pet 2:4... 9. ⁴For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell,^[a] putting them into gloomy dungeons^[b] to be held for judgment; ⁵if he did not spare the ancient world when he brought the flood on its ungodly people, but protected Noah, a preacher of righteousness, and seven others; ⁶if he condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah by burning them to ashes, and made them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly; ⁷and if he rescued Lot, a righteous man, who was distressed by the filthy lives of lawless men ⁸(for that righteous man, living among them day after day, was tormented in his righteous soul by the lawless deeds he saw and heard)— ⁹if this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue godly men from trials and to hold the unrighteous for the day of judgment, while continuing their punishment.^[c]

Compare to a person being charged with a crime, no bail, on remand, awaiting trial and sentencing. On earth with our courts guilty people can get off on a technicality, or with good lawyers etc, but,

Imagine, waiting trial, isolation, torment knowing you are guilty and you have no defense, because you were given many opportunities to choose Jesus, and the judge is God, who knows all... be like hell.

Many verses.. Jesus said.. 'away with you I never knew you'

Question: Is there a second chance when we die? No. Choose well now

Hebrews 9:27 ²⁷Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment,

1 John 5:11-13 ¹¹And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. ¹²He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. ¹³I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.

John 5:24 ²⁴"I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life.

Luke 12:5 ⁵But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear him who, after the killing of the body, has power to throw you into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him.

God has power to save or to cast you in to hell Live for Him not disobey Him

God is God of love, mercy, and power, justice, super fair.. not enter heaven unless perfect

None is perfect except Jesus. When we are in Christ, God sees us as perfect

Respond yes to Jesus Christ