

Revelation's Truth about Hell Fire

Preview:

A misunderstanding, on the subject of Hell Fire, has turned more people against God than any other topic. Today, as we go through this study, we will see God's love and mercy. The Bible shows us when Hell Fire will take place and how long it will burn. Earlier in our studies, we covered the Millennium--the 1000 year period that begins when Jesus comes. It helped us know when Hell Fire is going to take place; so, as we begin, let's review Revelation 20.

Revelation 20:2-10

*“And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and **bound him a thousand years**. And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should **deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled**: and after that he must be **loosed** a little season. And I saw thrones, and **they** sat upon them, and **judgment** was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and **they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years**. **But the rest of the dead** lived not again until the thousand years were finished. **This is the first resurrection**. **Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection**: on such the **second death** hath no power, **but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years**. And when the thousand years are **expired**, Satan shall be **loosed** out of his prison, **And shall go out to deceive the nations** which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. And they went up on the breadth 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**. **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 for ever and ever.**”*

The first thing we see is at the second coming of Jesus, Satan is **“Bound”** to this earth by circumstance. The earth is dark and desolate. The saints go to heaven with Jesus, while the wicked are slain by His glory at His coming. Satan and his angels are stuck here for 1000 years with no-one to deceive. At the end of the 1000 years Satan is **“Loosed.”** The second resurrection takes place, the wicked are raised and Satan goes out to deceive them one last time. When they encircle the New Jerusalem, fire comes down from God out of heaven and devours them, this is Hell Fire! So Hell Fire occurs at the end of the 1000 years, after the resurrection of the wicked. Look at the events in the diagram below.

Review 1000 year diagram

1st Resurrection

2nd Coming of Jesus

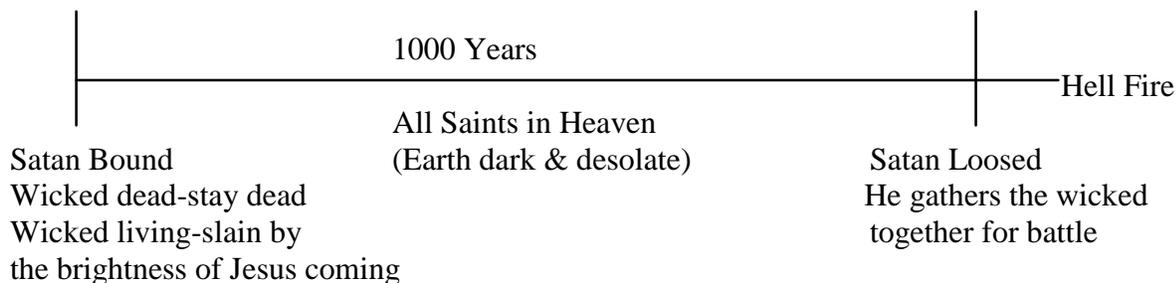
Righteous Dead Raised

Righteous Living caught up with those just raised

2nd Resurrection

Wicked Raised

New Jerusalem comes down



Now, let's see what the Bible says about this fire. Satan wants us to believe that we will burn forever; but, the Bible is our rule of authority. What it says, we can believe!

Psalms 11:5-6

*“The LORD **trieth** the righteous: but the wicked and him that loveth violence his soul hateth. Upon the **wicked** he shall **rain snares, fire and brimstone**, and an horrible tempest: this shall be the portion of their cup.”*

Malachi 4:1

*“For, behold, the day **cometh**, that shall **burn** as an **oven**; and **all the proud**, yea, and **all that do wickedly**, shall be **stubble**: and the day that **cometh** shall **burn them up**, saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall **leave them neither root nor branch**.”*

This verse says the fire will “**Burn them up**” and that it will leave, “**Neither root nor branch**.” The root of all sin is Satan, and his branches are all the people that follow after him. The Bible says the fire will destroy them all! Now, look at verse 3...

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.”*

The wicked will be ashes. Ashes only come when the fire has consumed the fuel.

Isaiah 47:14

*“Behold, they shall be as **stubble**; the **fire** shall **burn** them; they shall **not** deliver themselves from the **power** of the **flame**: there shall **not** be a **coal** to warm at, nor **fire** to sit before it.”*

Isaiah, under Inspiration, tells us when this fire is done, there won't “**Be a coal to warm at, nor fire to sit before it**.” Have you ever gone camping and sat by the camp fire at night, just enjoying the warmth? You go to bed that night and in the morning you get up and go out by the camp fire, and what is left? Nothing but ashes! The fire has burned itself out! There is neither, a fire or a warm coal left, just ashes. The Bible says that Hell Fire is going to be the same way. It will accomplish its work and when its done, so will the fire be done. Are you beginning to see our God is powerful, and what He starts, He will complete? In Psalms, David adds to what will happen to the wicked.

Psalms 37:20

*“But the **wicked** shall **perish**, and the enemies of the LORD shall be as the fat of lambs: they shall **consume**; into **smoke** shall they consume **away**.”*

David says, “**Into smoke shall they consume away**.” Have you ever started a fire and watched the smoke go up? When the fire goes out, where has the smoke gone? **Up in the air!** How long is it gone for? **Forever!** That is the same way the Bible describes Hell Fire. The fire will complete its job, in burning up sinners, the Devil, and his angels, and the effects of sin on this earth. Once the fire has finished burning, the smoke will be forever gone! Let's look at verse 38.

Psalms 37:38

*“But the **transgressors** shall be **destroyed** together: the **end** of the **wicked** shall be **cut off**.”*

As we can see, the Bible teaches that our God is able to destroy sin and sinners - Forever! The next question is what is the fuel that burns? Do fat people burn longer than skinny people? No! The Bible tells in Roman 6:23 that the “**Wages of sins is death**.”

Romans 6:23

*“For the **wages of sin is death**; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”*

The Bible makes it clear, that we burn for our sins.

2 Corinthians 5:10

*“For we must **all appear before the judgment seat of Christ**; that every one may **receive** the things done in his body, **according to that he hath done**, whether it be **good** or **bad**.”*

The wicked are going to pay for what they have done! Remember, Romans 6:23 says, “*The wages of sin is death.*” Hell Fire, or the second death, is the death it is talking about.

Revelation 2:11

*“He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that **overcometh** shall **not** be hurt of the **second death**.”*

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”*

So far, this study may have raised a question for you. You have read, or heard it preached, that the fire is going to burn forever and ever or it’s an eternal or unquenchable fire. The Bible does talk about those terms in reference to Hell Fire. Let’s look at those texts, and, once again, we will let the Bible interpret itself.

Matthew 25:41-46

*“Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into **everlasting fire**, **prepared** for the **devil** and his **angels**: For I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not. Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee? Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me. And these shall go away into **everlasting punishment**: but the **righteous** into **life eternal**.”*

The first thing we need to understand is that Hell Fire is the punishment for the wicked--just like the flood of water destroyed the earth in the time of Noah. The punishment has everlasting results. The second thing is that Hell Fire is prepared for the Devil and his angels. The price has been paid for you! You can choose to accept Jesus and His gift of eternal life; but, those who don’t surrender to Jesus and follow Him, will burn in Hell Fire. So let’s continue to see what the Bible says about this fire.

Mark 9:43-46

*“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.”*

Notice, the Bible uses terms like, “**Not quenched**,” and, “**Everlasting**,” but does the Bible mean that sinners will burn, for the ceaseless ages of eternity, or that the results of the fire will be **EVERLASTING? We will let the Bible interpret itself!**

1 Samuel 1:22

“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 for ever.”

Question, is Samuel still alive? **NO!** Yet the Bible says that he would, “Appear before the Lord...forever.” So, how long is forever? Notice, verse 28 gives us the answer.

1 Samuel 1:28

“Therefore also I have lent him to the LORD; as long as he liveth he shall be lent to the LORD. And he worshipped the LORD there.”

So the Bible definition of “Forever” here means as long as he was alive! Let’s look at another example of an eternal fire.

Jude 1:7

*“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 **eternal fire**.”*

Question, Are Sodom & Gomorrha still burning? **No!** But, they are an example of eternal fire! Meaning, the fire will do its job completely! And **the results will be eternal.** The next passage describes a fire that “*Shall not be quenched.*”

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.**”*

Question, is Jerusalem still burning? **No!** But it says the fire wouldn’t be quenched! Not quenched simply means, no one can stop it! When God brings Hell-Fire down, no one will be able to stop it! The fire will destroy, sin, sinners, and the effects of sin, on this earth. No-one will be able to stop the fire nor save themselves from it.

Another interesting story is that of the Rich Man and Lazarus. Many want to say this is a literal story; yet, Jesus says, in Matthew 13:34 that He didn’t teach without parables. A parable is a story that has a lesson in it! So let’s see what Jesus was trying to say:

Luke 16:19-24

*“There was a certain **rich** man, which was **clothed** in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day: And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores, And desiring to be **fed** with the **crumbs** which **fell** from the rich man's table: moreover the **dogs** came and licked his sores. And it came to pass, that the beggar **died**, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's **bosom**: the rich man also died, and was buried; And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in **torments**, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. 24 And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may **dip** the **tip** of his **finger** in **water**, and cool my **tongue**; for I am **tormented** in this **flame.**”*

If you were on fire, would you want a little water on your tongue? **NO!** To help us understand this, I would like for you to remember some Key Words: (1) **Rich man** (2) **Crumbs** & (3) **Dogs** Keep those three words in mind as we let the Bible explain their meaning.

Romans 9:4-5

*“Who are **Israelites**; to **whom** pertaineth the **adoption**, and the **glory**, and the **covenants**, and the giving of the **law**, and the **service** of God, and the **promises**; 5 Whose are the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came, who is over all, God **blessed** for ever. Amen.”*

The **RICH MAN**, represents the Israelites, who had come to the point that they felt they were blessed, and everyone outside their nation were considered **DOGS**. Remember the three words to remember? (1) **Rich Man**, (2) **Crumbs** and (3) **Dogs**. Let's continue our study.

Matthew 15:22-28

*“And, behold, a woman of **Canaan** came out of the same coasts, and cried unto him, saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou Son of David; my **daughter** is grievously **vexed** with a **devil**. But he answered her not a word. And his **disciples** came and besought him, saying, **Send her away**; for she **crieth** after us. But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the **lost sheep** of the house of **Israel**. Then came she and **worshipped** him, saying, Lord, **help** me. But he answered and said, It is not meet to take the children's **bread**, and to cast it to **dogs**. And she said, Truth, Lord: yet the **dogs** eat of the **crumbs** which fall from their **masters'** table. Then Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman, **great** is thy **faith**: be it unto thee even as thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour.”*

Question, did the lady want Dog Food? **No!** She wanted her daughter to be made well! Did you notice verses 26, 27 - Jesus says, *“It is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it to dogs.”* She answers; *“Truth, Lord; yet **the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table.**”* She recognized how the Jews look at the Gentiles, as dogs and unclean, did she understand what Jesus was saying? **YES!** So, let's go back to the parable of the rich man and Lazarus and see what Jesus was trying to tell us.

Luke 16:19-24

*“There was a certain **rich** man, which was **clothed** in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day: And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores, And desiring to be **fed** with the **crumbs** which **fell** from the rich man's table: moreover the **dogs** came and licked his sores. And it came to pass, that the beggar **died**, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's **bosom**: the rich man also died, and was buried; And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in **torments**, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may **dip** the **tip** of his **finger** in **water**, and cool my **tongue**; for I am **tormented** in this **flame.**”*

Jesus was trying to tell the **Jews (rich man)** that they would lose out on eternal life by not sharing what they had! **The Gospel, or blessings (the crumbs)** which they had received from God, would go to the **Gentiles (the dogs)**. But, there is more, let's continue on.

Luke 16:26

“And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence.”

Luke 16:28-31

*“For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment. Abraham saith unto him, They have **Moses** and the **prophets**; let them **hear** them. And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. And he said unto him, If they hear **not** Moses and the prophets, neither will they be **persuaded**, though one rose from the **dead.**”*

The reference, to Moses and the prophets, is to the Old Testament Scriptures. Moses wrote the first five

books, along with the book of Job, and the rest are from the major and minor prophets. Jesus is saying, ***“If you don’t believe the Word of God, you won’t believe even if you see a miracle.”***

2 Peter 3:10-13

*“But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the **heavens** shall **pass** away with a **great** noise, and the elements shall **melt** with **fervent** heat, the **earth** also and the works that are therein shall be **burned up**. Seeing then that all these things shall be **dissolved**, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, **Looking** for and **hasting** unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on **fire** shall be **dissolved**, and the elements shall **melt** with **fervent** heat? Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for **new** heavens and a **new** earth, wherein dwelleth **righteousness**.”*

As you can see, Hell Fire will complete its job and destroy sin and sinners forever! It is not the fire that lasts forever, but the results that are forever gone. As the Bible puts it, ***“Consumed into smoke...”***

The Bible says that Hell Fire will be the **“SECOND DEATH.”** This death is the final death where sin will not rise again.

Revelation 20:6

*“Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath **no power**, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.”*

Revelation 20:14

“And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.”

Revelation 21:8

*“But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have **their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.**”*

Revelation 2:11

*“He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; **He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.**”*

The Bible is in harmony that Hell Fire will be God’s way of cleansing the earth from sin and its harmful effects. Satan, his angels, sinners and the effects of sin on this earth will all be burned up in the fire, thus cleansing it. It will not burn forever, but will complete its work and be done forever! Then Jesus tells us in Revelation 21:1 that He will create a New Heaven and a New Earth.

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.”

When Jesus creates the New Earth, then Matthew 5:5 will be accomplished, where it says, *“The meek shall inherit the earth.”*

Matthew 5:5

“Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.”

This is a special place for His people to live forever with Him. The New Jerusalem will become the capital city, where every Sabbath we will come before Him, to **“Worship Him.”** Jesus will have shown through the judgment that He has done everything possible to save mankind. It then becomes our choice as to where we want to spend eternity!

1 John 4:7-10

*“Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. **Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.**”*

In Hell Fire we see God’s love and justice! He loved us so much that He was willing to let Jesus come down and be cruelly mistreated and crucified on the cross to take our “Second Death-Hell Fire.” He pleads for us to surrender our lives to Him, allowing Him to guide us through. He loves us so much that He is willing to let us make our own choice as to who our master is, then He does what only a loving and just God can do. He saves those that love and obey Him, and forever destroys those who wouldn’t be happy living in heaven with Him.

Think about it, Jesus died on the cross to pay for everyone’s sins. Satan’s deception is that God is cruel and will make you burn forever instead of burning and paying for your sins, which the final outcome is death.