

11. What did Jesus say was the punishment for sin? John 3:16

Note: Jesus said that the penalty for sin was to perish not to burn eternally!

The reason Hell is assumed to burn forever is because man is assumed to be immortal and therefore indestructible. This idea comes from paganism not scripture. Since man is mortal, when a man is burned up in the lake of fire he is “devoured.” It will be as if they never existed. They are gone forever.

****If the cross is not enough win the love of man then fear of burning forever isn't enough either. God is not trying to scare us into heaven.****

12. Is the Devil in Charge of hell? Matthew 25:41, Ezekiel 28:18-19

Note: Hell was created for Satan/his angels it was never meant for people.

13. What about everlasting/eternal fire? Matthew 25:41

Note: An eternal fire is a fire whose effects are eternal. This idea is demonstrated by the following texts. (See also Matt 25:46. Eternal punishment is not eternal punishing. Huge difference!)

*Jude 7 “As Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of **eternal fire**.”*

*2Peter 2:6 “And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into **ashes**, condemned them to destruction, making them an example to those who afterward would live ungodly.”*

14. Does God have pleasure in the death of the wicked? Ezekiel 33:11

MY CHOICE: Even in the judgment of the wicked God is merciful. I want to escape hell's eternal destruction by giving my life to Jesus.

Journey With Jesus



Lesson #15 Revelation's Hot Topic

Would a God of love burn sinners forever for the sins of a relatively short lifetime? What kind of picture does it paint of God that He would cast someone in the flames of hell forever simply because they rejected Him? Could it be that the Bible portrays a different picture of how God deals with the destruction of the wicked than is commonly understood? What does the Bible say about this “hot” topic?

1. Who has the keys of death? Revelation 1:18

Note: Whatever, whenever, and wherever hell is Jesus is in charge of it. In order to understand hell or the lake of fire we have to understand hell in its chronological context in relation to the millennium.

2. What happens to Satan during the millennium? Revelation 20:1-3

Note: This isn't a literal chain. He is chained by the circumstance of God's word. Mark 5 contains a story about a demon possessed man. He was bound by chains and broke them with ease. The chain = circumstance. Satan is bound to the earth during the millennium by God. The bottomless pit = the mangled earth. Prison = confinement to the earth with no one to tempt.

3. When does the millennium begin? Revelation 20:5-6, John 5:28-29

Note: There is a resurrection of the righteous at the beginning of the millennium and a resurrection of the wicked at the end of the millennium (see also Dan 12:1-2).

Events at the beginning of the millennium:

1. Second Coming 1Thessalonians 4:15-17
2. Resurrection of the righteous. 1 Thessalonians 4:17
3. Translation of living righteous. 1 Corinthians 15:51-53
4. Wicked living slain. 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9
5. Earth is greatly damaged, but not destroyed. Jeremiah 4:23-27
6. Satan is bound on earth for 1,000 years. Revelation 20:2

4. What is the condition of the earth during the millennium?

Revelation 20:3, Jeremiah 4:23

Note: John uses the same language that Jeremiah used to describe the earth's condition during the millennium. "Without form and void" Gk. OT = "Abussos" or "Bottomless pit". This is also the same language as Genesis 1:2. These texts combined paints a picture that the earth is greatly damaged, but not completely destroyed at the second coming of Jesus.

5. What are the righteous doing in heaven during the Millennium?

Revelation 20:4, 1Corinthian 6:2-3

Note: Psalm 56:8 speaks of a book that is written about people's lives. God writes down every thought, motive, and action. During the millennium God will give His people the opportunity to see why people are saved/lost. This tells us that God wants His people to trust his decisions. By the end of the millennium God's people will have every question answered and will know that God did everything that He could to save the lost.

6. What happens at the end of the millennium? Revelation 20:5, 7-8

Note: Satan let out of prison = wicked resurrected. Now Satan can tempt.

Events at the end of the millennium:

1. Wicked resurrected. Rev 20:5
2. Satan released from prison. Rev 20:7
3. Wicked are judged (great white throne judgment). Rev 20:11-13
4. New Jerusalem descends. Rev 21:1-2
5. Earth, wicked, and Satan and his angels destroyed. Rev 20:7-10
6. Earth is recreated. Rev 21:1-2
7. Saints possess the New Earth & live there forever. Rev 21:1-2, 7

7. What happens to Satan, his angels, and the wicked at the end of the millennium? Revelation 20:9-10, 14-15

8. How do we balance "devour" and "forever" biblically?

There are several times in the Bible where the word "forever" is used speaking of events that have already ended. Here are several:
Jonah- Jonah 2:6 "closed behind me forever." Jonah 1:17 "3 days and nights"
Samuel- 1Sam 1:22 "Remain in temple forever." 1Samuel 1:28 "long as lives"
Passover- Exodus 12:24 "forever" 1Corinthians 5:7 "Jesus, our Passover."

When John uses the word forever he is pointing out the fact that whoever goes into the lake of fire will burn day and night until they are consumed. Both the Devil and the wicked will be turned into ashes. The wicked will burn day and night or as long as it takes them to be destroyed forever.

9. Will the wicked up burn eternally? Malachi 4:1-3

Note: Phrases like: "is coming" and "will be" tell us that hell or the lake of fire is in the future (see 2Pet 3:7, Jude 1:6). Question: If hell was not burning in Malachi's day then when did it begin to burn? This verse clearly shows that hell or the lake of fire is a future event. (see also Psalm 37:9, 20, 34, 38).

10. What happens after the earth is destroyed? Revelation 21:1-3

Note: Notice that the text says there is a "new heaven and a new earth." If the lake of fire takes place on the earth (see Rev 20:5) and there is a new earth, guess what you know for sure? HELL CANNOT BURN FOREVER! Think about it. If the earth is recreated how can hell burn forever? Easy, it can't!