

# Christian Views on Hell



## Part 2: Traditional View

# Why Study The Views on Hell?

“The unexamined faith is not worth having.”

- *D. Elton Trueblood*

Christians are commanded to know what they believe, and why they believe it, so we can answer anyone who asks.

- *1 Peter 3:15-16*

Christians are also commanded to demolish arguments that stand against the knowledge of God.

- *2 Cor. 10:4-5*

# Why Study The Views on Hell?

What we believe about hell – and why we believe it – reveals much about what we believe about God, and what we believe Scripture (specifically, the Gospels).

Some have argued that in our great rush to apologize for hell, or to do away with it altogether, we have only succeeded in making sure that a greater number of people will end up there.

# How We Will Study The Views on Hell

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- (1) We would set aside our theological views;
- (2) We would simply read and interpret (exegete) the text correctly, and all agree on the right answer.

# How We Will Study The Views on Hell

Instead . . .

- (1) We will present the different views;
- (2) We will all argue for what we already believe;
- (3) *Hopefully*, the Holy Spirit will surprise us and teach us through openness and deliberation.

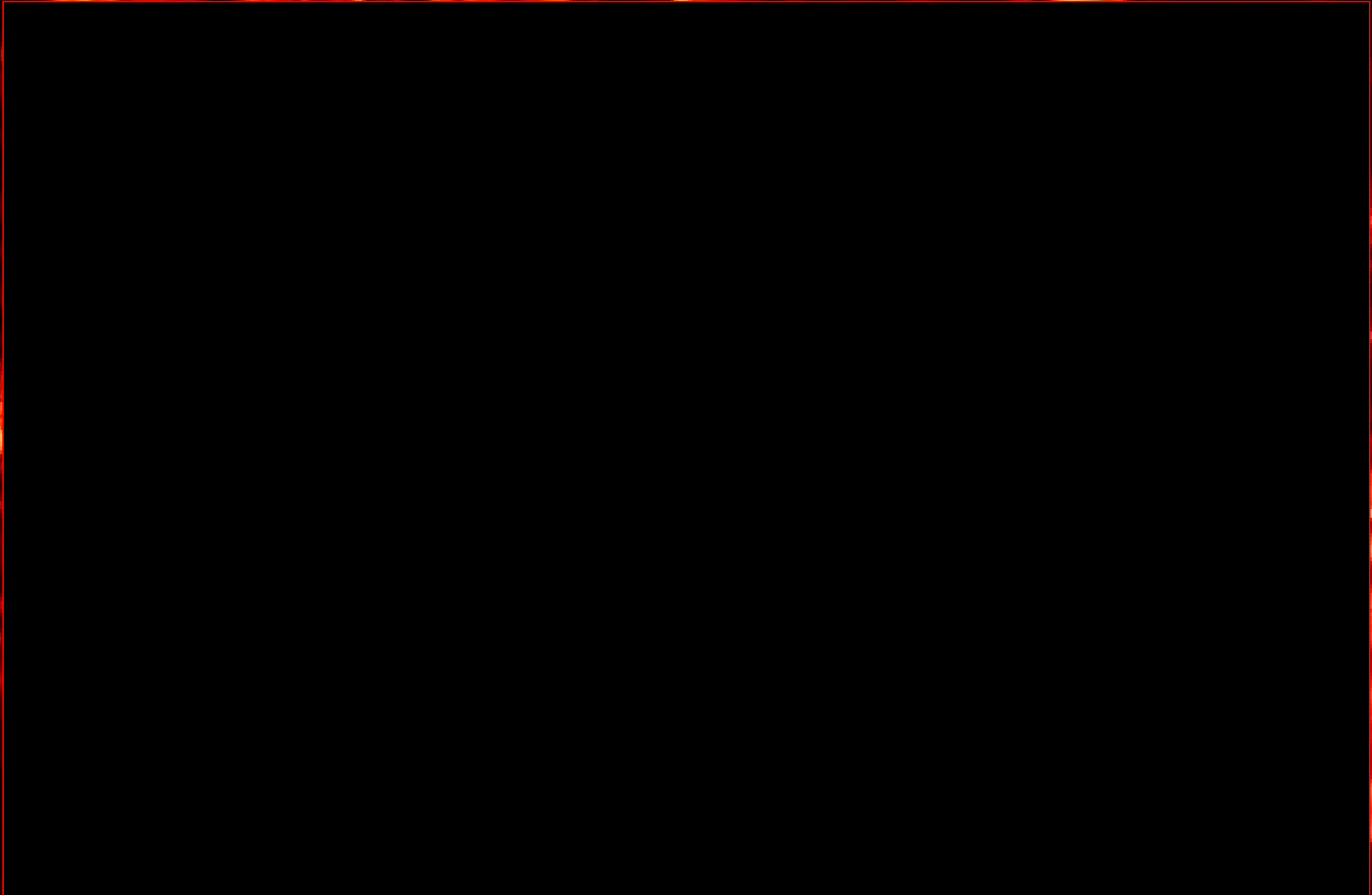
# TONIGHT . . .



## Depictions of Hell in Scripture:

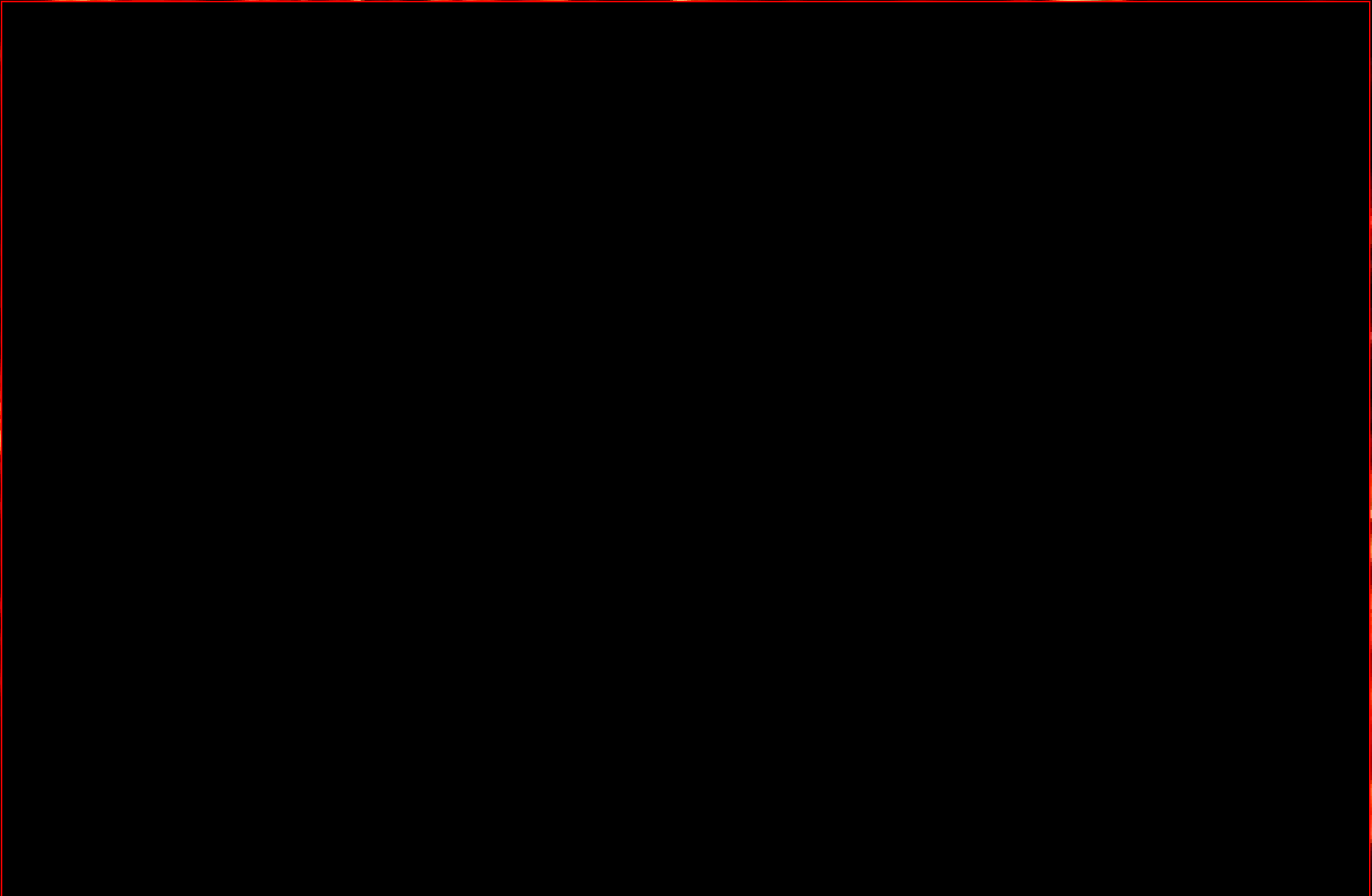
- Do the scriptures describe hell, and if so, where?
- How is hell described (hot? cold? dark? distant?)
- Who goes to hell?
- How long are people in hell?

# Old Testament Verses on Hell





# Old Testament Verses on Judgment After Death



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Isaiah 66:22-24 – *As the new heavens and the new earth that I make will endure before me,” declares the LORD, “so will your name and descendants endure. From one New Moon to another and from one Sabbath to another, all mankind will come and bow down before me,” says the LORD. “And they will go out and look on the dead bodies of those who rebelled against me; the worms that eat them will not die, the fire that burns them will not be quenched, and they will be loathsome to all mankind.”*

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*Daniel 12:1-3 – At that [end] time Michael, the great prince who protects your people, will arise. There will be a time of distress such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then. But at that time your people— everyone whose name is found written in the book—will be delivered. Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt. Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever.*

# Jesus on Hell

Matthew 5:22 – *But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to a brother or sister, 'Raca,' is answerable to the court. And anyone who says, 'You fool!' will be in danger of the fire of hell.*

# Jesus on Hell



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Matthew 5:29-30 – *If your right eye causes you to stumble, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell.*

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Matthew 18:8-9 – *If your hand or your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life maimed or crippled than to have two hands or two feet and be thrown into eternal fire. And if your eye causes you to stumble, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into the fire of hell.*

# Jesus on Hell

2

Matthew 10:28 – *Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell.*

Matthew 23:15 – *Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You travel over land and sea to win a single convert, and when you have succeeded, you make them twice as much a child of hell as you are!*

Matthew 23:33 – *You snakes! You brood of vipers! How will you escape being condemned to hell?*

Luke 12:5 – *But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear him who, after your body has been killed, has authority to throw you into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him.*

Luke 16:19-27 – The Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus



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# Jesus on Hell

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Mark 9:43-49 – *“If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life maimed than with two hands to go into hell, where the fire never goes out. And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life crippled than to have two feet and be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to stumble, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell, where*

*“‘the worms that eat them do not die,  
and the fire is not quenched.’ (cit. Isaiah 66:24)*

*Everyone will be salted with fire.*

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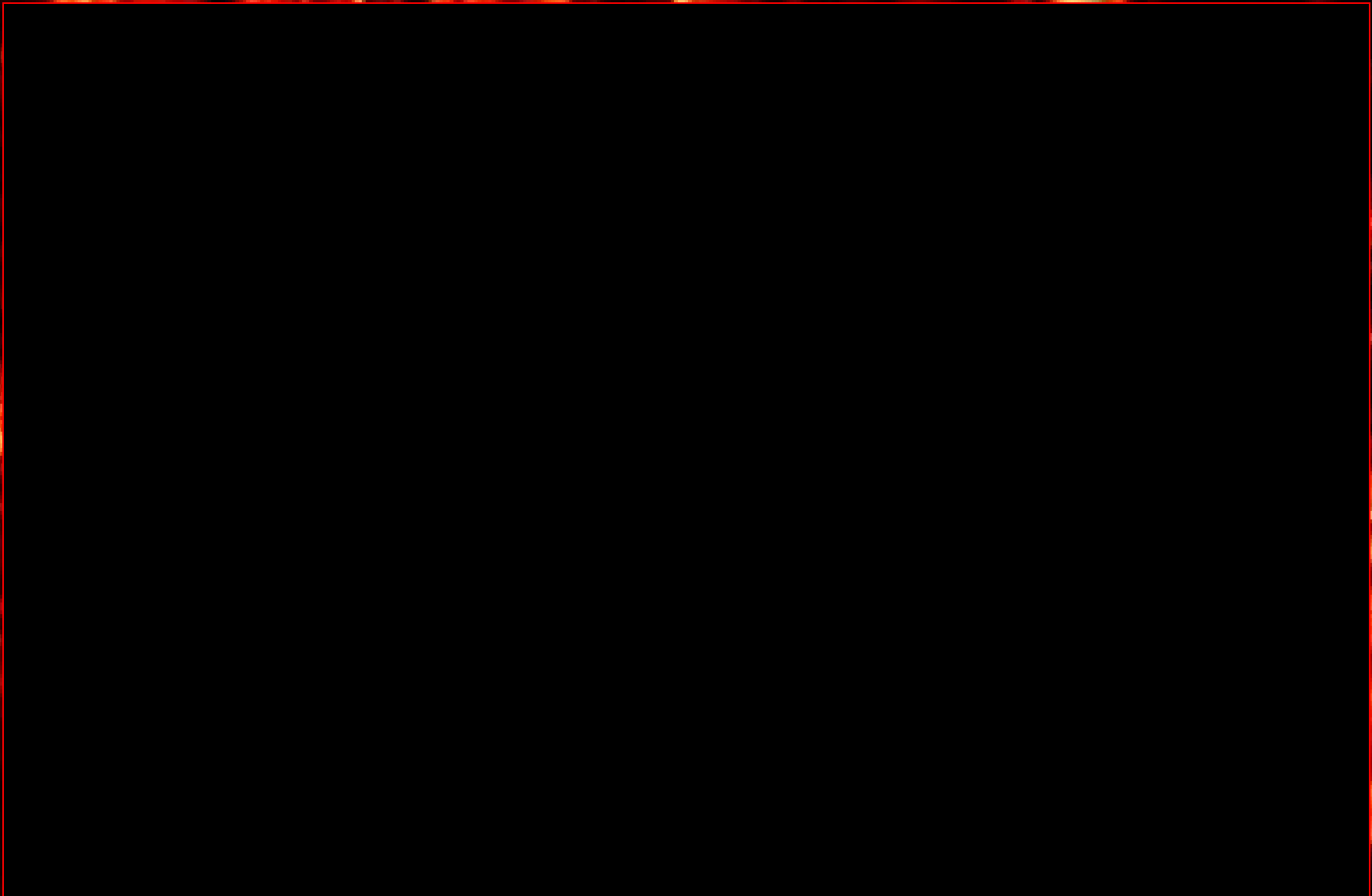
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John 5:29 – *“Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and come out—those who have done what is good will rise to live, and those who have done what is evil will rise to be condemned.*

# Paul on Hell



# Paul on Destruction / Death

2 Thessalonians 1:5-10 – *All this is evidence that God's judgment is right, and as a result you will be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are suffering. God is just: He will pay back trouble to those who trouble you and give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might on the day he comes to be glorified in his holy people and to be marveled at among all those who have believed. This includes you, because you believed our testimony to you.*

# Hell Elsewhere in the N.T.

5

James 3:6 – *The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one's life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.*

2 Peter 2:9-10 – *For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them in chains of darkness to be held for judgment; . . . if this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials and to hold the unrighteous for punishment on the day of judgment. This is especially true of those who follow the corrupt desire of the flesh and despise authority.*

Revelation 14:9-12 – *A third angel followed them and said in a loud voice: 'If anyone worships the beast and its image and receives its mark on their forehead or on their hand, they, too, will drink the wine of God's fury, which has been poured full strength into the cup of his wrath. They will be tormented with burning sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment will rise for ever and ever. There will be no rest day or night for those who worship the beast and its image, or for anyone who receives the mark of its name.*

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Revelation 20:14 – *Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. The earth and the heavens fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. The 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 they had done. Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.*

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Hebrews 10:26-27 – *If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left, but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God.*

# Parallel Passages in the N.T.

10

Matthew 3:10, 12 – *The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. . . . His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire. (parallel: Luke 3:9, 3:17)*

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Matthew 13:39-41 – *[A]nd the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels. As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. They will throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Whoever has ears, let them hear.*

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Matthew 25:41, 46 – *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. . . . Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.'*

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Matthew 8:11-12 – *I say to you that many will come from the east and the west, and will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. But the subjects of the kingdom will be thrown outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.*

Matthew 24:51 – *He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.*

Matthew 25:30 – *And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.*

Luke 13:23 – *Someone asked Him, ‘Lord, are only a few people going to be saved?’ He said to them, ‘Make every effort to enter through the narrow door, because many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able to. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, but you yourselves are thrown out.’*

# Parallel Passages in the N.T.

14

Jude 5-7 – *Though you already know all this, I want to remind you that the Lord at one time delivered his people out of Egypt, but later destroyed those who did not believe. And the angels who did not keep their positions of authority but abandoned their proper dwelling — these he has kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for judgment on the great Day. In a similar way, Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding towns gave themselves up to sexual immorality and perversion. They serve as an example of those who suffer the punishment of eternal fire.*



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Jude 22-23a – *Be merciful to those who doubt; save others by snatching them from the fire.*



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