

“The Truth about Hell (2): ‘The Smoke of Their Torment’”

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□ Logical conclusions from “The Story of Hell” (Revelation 20)

- #1— There are _____ resurrections (v 6—see also Dan 12:2, John 5:28, 29).
 - Daniel 12:2
 - John 5:28, 29
- #2—There are _____ deaths (v 6—see also 2:11, 20:14, 21:8).
 - The first death is one from which you can be _____ —“For the Lord himself will descend from heaven . . . and the dead in Christ will _____” (I Thes 4:16-18).
 - The second death is one from which you will never be _____ —“They will sleep forever and not _____” (Jeremiah 51:57 TNIV).
- #3—_____ is called the “second death” (v 14, 15—see also 2:11, 20:6, 21:8).
- #4—_____ takes place on earth (v 9, 10).
- #5—_____ is terminated when God _____ a “new heaven and a new earth” (21:1, 4, 5—see also II Peter 3:7, 10-13).
- #6—Hell cannot be _____, because it takes place on _____ in the _____.
- #7—Hell cannot be _____, because it takes place on _____, and is followed by God’s _____.

□ “Eternal fire/everlasting fire”

- Mark 9:47, 48
 - Isaiah 66:22-24.
 - Note: the bodies are already _____, the _____ of decomposition are already at work and the refuse-burning _____ are already in progress.
 - Q: Does “unquenchable fire” mean a fire that burns forever?
 - A: No, it means a _____ fire-judgment that cannot be _____ quenched or reversed (see also Isa 34:8-11, Jer 17:27, Eze 20:47, 48).
 - “Worms” and “unquenchable fire” are not a metaphor of _____ but of _____.
- Matthew 18:8, 9
- Matthew 25:41, 46
 - Jude 7/II Peter 2:6
 - Sodom and Gomorrah suffered “the punishment of _____ fire,” “burning them to _____.”
 - “Eternal fire” is a momentary fire whose source is the _____ and whose results are _____.
 - It is a graphic depiction of the _____ of the results, not the _____ of the event.
 - It is no accident that the Bible uses the “burning sulfur” and “ascending smoke of their torment” imagery from the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah (Gen 19:23-28) to describe the “day and night” “forever and ever” _____ of hell (Rev 14:10, 11).

- How the Bible portrays hell’s destruction of the wicked:
 - Psalm 37:1, 2, 10, 20, 38 — _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____.
 - Malachi 4:1, 3 — _____, _____, _____, _____.
 - See Ezekiel 28:18, 19 for Satan’s destruction
 - The Bible describes the destruction of the wicked—both human and angelic—as total _____.
 - Hence the words “forever/eternal/everlasting” must describe the _____ of judgment rather than the _____ of judgment.
 - “The wages of sin is [eternal] death,” not eternal _____ (Rom 6:23).
 - “They will go away to eternal punishment,” not to eternal _____ (Matt 25:46).
 - William Temple: “If men had not imported the Greek and unbiblical notion of the natural indestructibility of the individual soul, and then read the New Testament with that already in their minds, they would have drawn from the New Testament a belief, not in everlasting torment, but in annihilation. It is the fire that is called *aeonian* [everlasting], not the life cast into it.” (quoted in Bacchiocchi *Popular Beliefs* 156)
- **“Our Father who art in heaven . . .”**
- Jesus: “If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, _____ will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him?” (Matthew 7:11)
 - Clark Pinnock: “There is a powerful moral revulsion against the traditional doctrine of the nature of hell. Everlasting torture is intolerable from a moral point of view because it pictures God acting like a bloodthirsty monster who maintains an everlasting Auschwitz for His enemies whom He does not even allow to die. How can one love a God like that? I suppose one might be afraid of Him, but could we love and respect Him? Would we want to strive to be like Him in this mercilessness? Surely the idea of everlasting, conscious torment raises the problem of evil to impossible heights.” (quoted in Bacchiocchi *Popular Beliefs* 150)

“For God so loved the world . . .”

Two, two, awakened, rise, awakened, awake, Hell, Hell, Hell, recreates, now, earth, future, forever, earth, new creation, dead, worms/maggots, fires, divine, humanly, pain, permanence, eternal, ashes, Eternal, eternal, permanence, pain, destruction, wither, die away, no more, consumed, go up in smoke, destroyed, stubble, burn them up, leave neither root nor branch, ashes under your feet, annihilation, permanence, progression dying, punishing, how much more