

IS HELL REAL?

1-30-2022 AM

INTRODUCTION:

A. Read text: 1 Peter 3:10-12.

B. Regarding the text:

1. We are living in a world that rejects or disputes God's word.
 - 1) They deny His existence and His plan for salvation.
 - 2) Many do not believe in Heaven or Hell.
2. Even some of our brethren reject the doctrine of Hell.
 - 1) Edward Fudge, an elder states; "I have never been able to be comfortable with the position that a person who rejected God should suffer forever and ever and ever."
 - 2) F. LaGard Smith argued that God "will destroy [the soul]. Not punish it, not torture it but destroy it."
3. Why do some people not believe in eternal punishment?
 - 1) Many think it is foreign to Bible doctrine?
 - 2) Some say it is not realistic.
 - 3) Others believe that God is too good to eternally punish mankind.
4. To believe that Hell is not real is to speak against God and His word.

DISCUSSION: IN THIS STUDY, WE WILL OBSERVE...

I. THE BIBLICAL DOCTRINE OF HELL.

A. Notice just a few verses that teach the existence of Hell.

1. **Matt. 18:7-9.**
2. **Matt. 25:41-46.**
3. **Rev. 20:10; 21:8.**
4. Note this description: **Matt. 13:47-50.**

B. Men may reject the truth about Hell, but denying it will not remove its reality!

II. IS THE BELIEF IN HELL REALISTIC?

A. To some, "eternal" torment seems unreasonable.

1. One man wrote, "The whole scheme of redemption is foolishness to me. Because our parents and forefathers disobeyed God, he would not be on good terms with us until his son was nailed on a cross. This is not reasonable." (Oliphant-Smith Debate, p. 61).
2. Bertrand Russell, Britain's celebrated agnostic, suggested that one of the reasons he could not be a Christian was because Jesus Christ "believed in hell." Russell charged that no person "who is really profoundly humane can believe in everlasting punishment" (1957, 17).
3. God's plan of redemption is foolish and unreasonable to some. Does man's thoughts about redemption change God's word?
 - 1) Faith is found in the gospel, and not in human reasoning.
 - 2) **2 Cor. 5:7**; "(For we walk by faith, not by sight:)" **Heb. 11:27** "By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible."

B. Eternity is an actual time.

1. The idea of a never-ending time is beyond our ability to understand.
 - 1) We are tied to our time system.
 - 2) It is hard to imagine a "never-ending place."
2. The fact that eternal punishment seems unreasonable to some, does not prove that

it does not exist.

- 1) **Psalm 92:5** "O LORD, how great are thy works! and thy thoughts are very deep."
- 2) **Isa. 55:8-9** "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."
- 3) Hell is prepared for "the devil and his angels" (**Matt. 25:41** "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.")
 - a. Satan knows what his ultimate fate will be.
 - b. "... tormented day and night forever and ever" (**Rev 20:10**).
3. The term "forever and ever" means "without end."
 - 1) It is used to state the existence of God (**Rev. 4:9** "... give glory and honor and thanks to him that sat on the throne, who liveth forever and ever.")
 - 2) And also, of the saints reigning in heaven (**Rev. 22:5** "And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign forever and ever.")

III. BECAUSE IT IS CONTRARY TO GOD'S LOVE.

A. Some fail to consider the dual nature of God (**Rom. 11:22**).

1. God's goodness is demonstrated in His promise and deliverance of salvation (**John 3:16; 1 John 3:16; Hebrews 5:9**).
2. God's severity is seen in His punishment of the disobedient (**2 Thess. 1:8**).

B. Man has a tendency to reshape God into his own image (**Psalm 50:21** "... thou thoughtest that I was altogether such an one as thyself...")

1. God punishing those who sin does not display a lack of love on His part, but a lack of love on man's part.
 - 1) We must either repent or perish (**Luke 13:3**).
 - 2) Thayer's: Perish "metaphorically to devote or give over to eternal misery in hell."
2. **Heb. 10:31**.

C. Jehovah's Witnesses believe that Hell is not a place of fiery torment, but rather the "common grave of mankind," a place of unconscious non-existence.

D. We learn from other passages what everlasting destruction is.

1. **Rom. 2:8-9** states that the wicked will be punished with tribulation and anguish.
2. **Rev. 14:11** "And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up forever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name."
3. If the wicked are annihilated (gone) they could not be tormented or have tribulation and anguish.

E. Did God punish Israel of old?

IV. CONCLUSION.

A. We see, therefore, four reasons to believe God will eternally punish or torment those who do not obey Him.

1. It is based on Scripture.
2. It is reasonable, according to God's revealed will.
3. It is in accord with God's love and righteousness.