

Hell – Part 3

Various Scriptures

A five week study on the realities of Hell

Desert Son Community Church

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Why the Apocrypha was not included in the Bible

<http://carm.org/errors-apocrypha>

<http://carm.org/why-apocrypha-not-in-bible>

<http://www.bibletopics.com/biblestudy/23.htm>

<http://www.biblequery.org/apoc.htm>

I. What Jesus taught about hell

A. Jesus taught that hell was a place of **punishment** (Matthew 25:31-46)

- **Eternal fire**, eternal punishment (verses 41, 46)

B. Jesus taught that hell was a place of darkness and weeping and **gnashing** of teeth (Matthew 25:14-30; Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43; Matthew 8:5-13)

1. Some Christians believe that the Scriptures reveal three different judgments to come.

a. The first is the judgment of the sheep and the goats or a judgment of the **nations** (Matthew 25:31-36).

- This takes place after the **tribulation** period but prior to the millennium;
- Its purpose is to determine who will enter the **millennial** kingdom.

b. The second is a judgment of believers' **works**, often referred to as the "judgment seat [bema] of Christ" (2 Corinthians 5:10).

- At this judgment, Christians will receive degrees of **reward** for their works or service to God.

- c. The third is the great white throne judgment at the end of the millennium (Revelation 20:11-15).
 - This is the judgment of unbelievers in which they are judged according to their **works** and sentenced to everlasting punishment in the lake of fire.
2. Other Christians believe that all three of these judgments speak of the **same** final judgment, not of three separate judgments.
 - a. In other words, the great **white** throne judgment in Revelation 20:11-15 will be the time that believers and unbelievers alike are judged.
 - b. Those whose names are found in the book of life will be judged for their deeds in order to determine the rewards they will receive or lose.
 - c. Those whose names are not in the book of life will be judged according to their **deeds** to determine what their punishment will be - the lake of fire.
 - d. Those who hold this view believe that Matthew 25:31-46 is another description of what takes place at the great white throne judgment. They point to the fact that the **result** of this judgment is the same as what is seen after the great white throne judgment in Revelation 20:11-15.
 - e. The sheep (believers) enter into **eternal** life, while the goats (unbelievers) are cast into “eternal punishment” (Matthew 25:46).
3. The facts concerning the coming judgment(s).
 - a. First, Jesus Christ will be the **judge**, all unbelievers will be judged by Christ, and they will be punished according to the works they have done.
 - b. Second, the Bible is very clear that unbelievers are storing up **wrath** against themselves (Romans 2:5) and that God will “give to each person according to what he has done” (Romans 2:6).

- c. Third, Believers will also be judged by Christ, but since Christ's righteousness has been **credited** to us and our names are written in the book of life, we will be rewarded, but not punished, according to our deeds. Romans 14:10-12 says that we will all stand before the judgment seat of Christ and that each one of us will give an account to God.

- Weeping - suggests sorrow and grief (**emotional** agony)
- Gnashing of teeth or the grinding of teeth suggests pain (**physical** agony)

- C. Jesus taught that Hell involved **never-ending** punishment not annihilation (Matthew 25:31-46)

- The sheep's proof of their belonging to God is the active **demonstration** of their faith through their lives (35-36)
- The goat's proof of their NOT belonging to God is the **lack of** active demonstration of their faith through their lives (35-36)
- Sometimes the Greek word for eternal "aionois" can be translated "a period of time"
- The word punishment "Kolasis" – a term from horticulture can be translated "**pruning** or trimming"

1. Punishment "Kolasis" – punishment or correction?

- a. The word punishment "Kolasis" is only used **three** times in the entire New Testament
- Acts 4:21 and 2 Peter 2:9, 1 John 4:18
 - In all three instances the word clearly means **punishment** and not correction
- b. 1st century **Jewish** literature uses the word "Kolasis" as punishment and not correction.

In 2 Maccabees 4:38 the author recounts how Antiochus, the Seleucid emperor executed Andronicus, his deputy who had murdered Onias, the Jewish high priest. He concludes that “the Lord thus repaid him with the punishment (kolasin) he deserved.”

According to the story in 3 Maccabees 7:10 the Jews, upon their miraculous rescue from attempts to by Ptolemy Philopator to annihilate them, were granted permission “that those from the race of the Judeans who had freely disobeyed the holy God and God’s law should obtain their deserved punishment (kolaseōs) through them,…” The result is that three hundred Jewish men are slain.

The verb and noun of Kolasis were used extensively in Wisdom of Solomon. The consistent theme is that Yahweh punishes those who commit idolatry by using the very animals that they worship in their idolatry as the means of their punishment.

- c. When you read Matthew 25 “eternal punishment” vs. 46 and “eternal fire” verse 41 you realize the place the wicked will be punished is the **same** place that Satan and the demons will be punished. And It appears as if the wicked will suffer the same fate as the Devil and his Demons (Revelation 20:10).
2. Aionois – “eternal” does it mean “a period of time” or “**forever** without end”
 - a. Whenever you are translating scripture and a word is repeated within the same **context** it more than likely means the same thing in both instances
 - b. Other scripture seems to **reinforce** eternal punishment

The punishment of the wicked dead in hell is described throughout Scripture as “eternal fire” (Matthew 25:41), “unquenchable fire” (Matthew 3:12), “shame and everlasting contempt” (Daniel 12:2), a place where “the fire is not quenched” (Mark 9:44-49), a place of “torment” and “fire” (Luke 16:23-24), “everlasting destruction” (2 Thessalonians 1:9), a place where “the smoke of torment rises forever and ever” (Revelation 14:10-11), and a “lake of burning sulfur” where the wicked are “tormented day and night forever and ever” (Revelation 20:10).

II. Application

- A. Ask yourself, “If I were to die today am I sure I would spend eternity in heaven with God?”
- B. If your answer is no, perhaps you need to accept Jesus today as your Lord and Savior.
- C. If your answer is yes, ask yourself to whom will God have me share the truth of Jesus with?