

Hell

Introduction

We have been talking about the judgment that is going on in heaven. God entered into the task in 1844 of writing names and removing names from the Book of Life based upon that person's life record.

What happens next? That is the bulk of the Third Angel's Message. When we read it, this is what usually comes to mind:

In Psalm 75: 7-8, the judge of all the Earth is depicted with a cup of red wine and lost at the end, those that have rebelled against God will have to drink it.

But God is the Judge: He puts down one, And exalts another. For in the hand of the Lord there is a cup, And the wine is red; It is fully mixed, and He pours it out; Surely its dregs shall all the wicked of the earth Drain and drink down. Psalm 75:7-8

The metaphor is terrifying.

I can remember my first experience with alcohol. My cousin and I found a case in the barn. We waited until dark and began drinking. Soon I was running around and having a good time. But then I got really sick. My mom found us and the next morning, as a punishment, she poured me a big glass of that alcohol and made me drink it all. I was even sicker!

The truth is that you can drink enough alcohol and it will kill you. This is the metaphor God uses to describe people at the end of time that have refused his grace and provision of salvation. God has already offered the cup of wine.

Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. Matthew 26:27-28

This Communion represents salvation through His blood (symbolized by the red wine). But Babylon has offered a different kind of cup.

And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters: With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication. So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication: And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration. Revelation 17: 1-6

A different way of salvation that we have been studying.

All God is saying is that if you drink of her cup, you will also drink of his wrath.

Tonight, we look at the Third Angel's Message where God calls out and warns those not to drink from that cup.

Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand Revelation 14:9

We have discovered who the Beast is and we will look at his mark in a couple nights. Tonight, we look at the results of following the Beast and drinking from a different cup of salvation.

he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name." Revelation 14:10-11

John is quoting Psalm 75. He is saying that those that follow the Beast rather than the Lamb will have to drink that intoxicating cup of alcohol, which is sin, down to its ultimate end.

For the wages of sin is death Romans 6: 23

The very language of the Third Angel's Message is terrifying. Tormenting, fire and brimstone and the smoke of their torment ascends up forever and ever. This text has struck terror into the imagination of men and is the source of inspiration for the idea of hell.

For the Lord will rise up as at Mount Perazim, He will be angry as in the Valley of Gibeon— That He may do His work, His awesome work, And bring to pass His act, His unusual act. Now therefore, do not be mockers, Lest your bonds be made strong; For I have heard from the Lord God of hosts, A destruction determined even upon the whole earth. Isaiah 28:21-22

Hell is the destruction of the Earth and the lost that remain on it. The death by wicked fire or what the bible refers to simply as Hell.

But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, 2 Peter 3:10-11

This is why the warning was given about getting caught up in the world today. Everything in it will pass away.

Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever. 1 John 2:15-17

Two Cups: One for Destruction and One for Salvation

Jesus spoke on several occasions about the cup of God's wrath.

Another parable He put forth to them, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field; but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way. But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared. So the servants of the owner came and said to him, 'Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?' He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' The servants said to him, 'Do you want us then to go and gather them up?' But he said, 'No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, "First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them but gather the wheat into my barn." Matthew 13:24-30

The kingdom of Heaven is "like" what? The tares are the lost. When will they be gathered up?

Then Jesus sent the multitude away, and went into the house: and his disciples came unto him, saying, Declare unto us the parable of the tares of the field. He answered and said unto them, He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man; The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked [one]; The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels. As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world. The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear. Matthew 13:36-43

The tares are burned.

As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world. Matthew 13:40

Who are the tares?

And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire. Revelation 20:15

What is left of the tares?

"You defiled your sanctuaries By the multitude of your iniquities, By the iniquity of your trading; Therefore I brought fire from your midst; It devoured you, And I turned you to ashes upon the earth In the sight of all who saw you. All who knew you among the peoples are astonished at you; You have become a horror, And shall be no more forever." ' ' Ezekiel 28: 18-19

Another lie is who is in charge of Hell.

And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming 2 Thessalonians 2:8

You shall trample the wicked, For they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet On the day that I do this," Says the Lord of hosts. Malachi 4:3

It is simple: God does what any good farmer would do. He burns the tares so that this precious wheat will never again be subjected to the tyranny of the tares.

When are the tares gathered and burned? At the end of the age.

As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world. Matthew 13:40

The farmer does not pull out tares and burn them one at a time. He doesn't have a perpetual fire either. Likewise, God is not burning sinners in hell right now. Despite all the fancy theology that some try to use to justify that hell is burning right now, they must leap this high tower of a simple parable that clearly teaches hell is at the end of time, not going on right now.

*Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead **shall hear** the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live. Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves **shall hear** his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation. John 5:25,28-29*

But there is good news: for most of us that have lost a loved one and even though we cannot know for certain, we may be sure they went into a Christless grave. It is good news because I would much rather accept the truth that they are asleep in the grave awaiting the resurrection and not burning in hell in misery forever.

This burning of the tares happens on Earth. Not in the center of the Earth in Hades (Greek Mythology).

But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. 2 Peter 3: 10

But why will they be burned at all? They refused the plan of salvation. They chose the cup of wrath rather than the cup of life.

And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire. Revelation 20: 15

This is where the confusion sets in. Everything you have heard is biblical. But what you may have been taught was something very different. Many were taught that devil is in charge of Hell and people are writhing in agony in fire. But Hell is death. A death achieved by fire at the end of time. A death that ends of life of the wicked.

Defining the Words of Hell

First word is Gehenna: the valley of Hinnom. It was a city garbage dump. Before paper products, metal scrap and plastic, there was the leftover parts from the butchering process of food and sacrifices. The Dung Gate became a place of dead flesh.

Gehenna becomes an idiom. It means that anything that goes into Gehenna (Hell) is dead.

*And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast [it] from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not [that] thy whole body should be cast into hell And if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and cast [it] from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should **perish**, and not [that] thy whole body should be cast **into hell**. Matthew 5:29-30*

The next two words are taken from the same place.

Hades and Tarturos. In Greek Mythology, Hades is the place of the dead. Tarturos was the place where the really bad went. But both are mythological places where the Greek God Hades presided over them.

*Therefore did my heart rejoice, and my tongue was glad; moreover also my flesh shall rest in hope: Because thou wilt not leave my soul in **hell**, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. Acts 2:26-27*

Luke is making a statement that the Greek God Hades is legitimate. Does he have the power to keep Jesus in the grave? It's a Greek word with a Hebrew meaning.

Sheol is the only word in the Old Testament ever used for death. In Hebrew it means place of non-being, grave.

*For thou wilt not leave my soul in **hell; (Sheol)** neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see **corruption**. Psalm 16:10*

That the wicked is reserved to the day of destruction? they shall be brought forth to the day of wrath. Who shall declare his way to his face? and who shall repay him [what] he hath done? Yet shall he be brought to the grave, and shall remain in the tomb. Job 21:30-32

Hell is a transliteration: like a catch-all term that was invented to capture the concept of the various words which all mean death.

This is becoming a debate again in the Christian church. Is Hell eternal or temporary? Annihilation, or unending eternal Hell – is a great misunderstanding of the topic.

For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished: But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. 2 Peter 3:5-7

But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? 2 Peter 3:10-12

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

Is Sodom still burning today? Obviously not. But the effects are eternal. You can't bring back from ashes what once was.

"For behold, the day is coming, Burning like an oven, And all the proud, yes, all who do wickedly will be stubble. And the day which is coming shall burn them up," Says the LORD of hosts, "That will leave them neither root nor branch. Malachi 4: 1

You shall trample the wicked, For they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet On the day that I do this," Says the LORD of hosts. Malachi 4: 3

But the wicked shall perish; And the enemies of the LORD, Like the splendor of the meadows, shall vanish. Into smoke they shall vanish away. Psalm 37: 20

Punishment or Punishing?

And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life." Matthew 25: 46

Some people want Hell to be eternal. And for some, it keeps people from the truth because of the word "forever."

But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband, "Not until the child is weaned; then I will take him, that he may appear before the Lord and remain there forever." Exodus 21: 6

Therefore I also have lent him to the Lord; as long as he lives he shall be lent to the Lord." So they worshiped the Lord there. 1 Samuel 1: 22,28

I went down to the ^[a]moorings of the mountains; The earth with its bars closed behind me forever; Yet You have brought up my life from the pit, O LORD, my God. Jonah 2: 6

Now the LORD had prepared a great fish to swallow Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights. Jonah 1: 17

Forever means as long as one lives. Not eternity. It is used to denote uncertainty about the length of time. Forever and ever is a biblical expression which means "until the end of the age," not necessarily an infinite unending length of time. The word forever in the bible is Aiwn. It is translated as forever but has several meanings such as perpetuity, unidentified space of time.

Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched. Mark 9:44

This means that what the fire does not destroy, the worm will. There is no escaping eternal death. You will be gone. Consumed forever.

Jerusalem was destroyed with unquenchable fire. Jeremiah 17: 27

An unquenchable fire is one that cannot be put out. It is something that someone cannot escape from. So hellfire is something a person cannot put out or escape from. But when it has accomplished its purpose, it will go out just like the unquenchable fire that destroyed Jerusalem eventually went out.

The idea of eternal burning comes from Greek Mythology. It was adopted by the medieval church to scare people. And it worked.

Dante's Inferno, widely hailed as one of the great classics of Western literature, details Dante's journey through the nine circles of Hell. The voyage begins during Easter week in the year 1300, the descent through Hell starting on Good Friday. After meeting his guide, the eminent Roman poet Virgil, in a mythical dark wood, the two poets begin their descent through a baleful world of doleful shades, horrifying tortures, and unending lamentation.

How repugnant to every emotion of love and mercy, and even to our sense of justice, is the doctrine that the wicked dead are tormented with fire and brimstone in an eternally burning hell; that for the sins of a brief earthly life they are to suffer torture as long as God shall live.

During the time of Jesus, Jesus uses a parable to teach the truth.

“There was a certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and ^[a]lived sumptuously every day. But there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, full of sores, who was laid at his gate, desiring to be fed with ^[b]the crumbs which fell from the rich man’s table. Moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. So it was that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham’s bosom. The rich man also died and was buried. And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.

“Then he cried and said, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.’ But Abraham said, ‘Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are tormented. And besides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot, nor can those from there pass to us.’

“Then he said, ‘I beg you therefore, father, that you would send him to my father’s house, for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them, lest they also come to this place of torment.’ Abraham said to him, ‘They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.’ And he said, ‘No, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’ But he said to him, ‘If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.’ ” Luke 16: 19-31

It is a mixture of Jewish teaching and Greek philosophy. We learn from Josephus and in his historical work he tells the story of the afterlife and we can see it is clearly from Greek Pagan philosophy. He tells us that all people go to a holding place called Hades when they die. It is a dark underworld and there the wicked are gathered into one place as they await the fire judgment of God on the last day. The righteous are there too but they are in a different place called Abraham’s bosom and they are also waiting for God’s judgment on the last day.

But the bible tells us this is exactly what God does.

“The wages of sin is DEATH.” Romans 6:23

In Texas, when a prisoner receives the death penalty, the punishment is death. Not lethal injection. That is the mechanism by which the death penalty is achieved.

Likewise with God. The penalty for sin is death. Hellfire is the mechanism used to achieve the penalty of death.

Conclusion

The truth is this:

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, Romans 1: 18

*And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, **God gave them over** to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; Romans 1:28*

The wrath of God is abandonment of mankind to himself. God giving mankind over to what he has insisted God do. That is to leave him alone, let him live his own life and finally at the end of time, God is forced to finally let go of the creation that he loves so much, that he was willing to die for.

For since the creation of the world His invisible *attributes* are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* His eternal power and ^[a]Godhead, so that they are without excuse, Romans 1: 20

God is saying that people can reject the pastors, ignore their pleas for bible study, ignore the cars in the parking lot, throw the fliers in the trash. The human heart can reject the pleas of other humans but what they cannot ever do is shut out the Holy Spirit. He penetrates, speaks, convicts and so they are without excuse!

How shall I give thee up, Ephraim? [how] shall I deliver thee, Israel? how shall I make thee as Admah? [how] shall I set thee as Zeboim? mine heart is turned within me, my repentings are kindled together. Hosea 11:8

These words should cause us to shirk with heartache at the thought of that day.

Hell is for real. It is a coming event. But it is not going on now. It is not eternal. It is not an angry, vengeful God that is burning humans forever.

Rather, it is a God that is coming to rid the world of the misery of sin by purifying the earth, destroying death, Satan, demons and everything they have created in this world.

Hell is God with a wrenching heart finally giving the lost what they want: a life without Him.

When God gives them the desire of their heart, lets them go, they find out too late that nothing exists without God. He holds all things together by his word and when he withdraws his word, the creation explodes.

Christ was before all things. All things are held together by Him. Colossians 1:17

Which cup will you choose?

You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; you cannot partake of the Lord's table and of the table of demons. 1 Corinthians 10: 21

The Third Angel has an alternative. Rather than a cup of wrath, (not because of unbridled anger but because death is fierce and allowing his creation to die is the ultimate act of God's wrath), you can choose the cup of salvation. The one that has the faith in Jesus and obedience to God and his way.

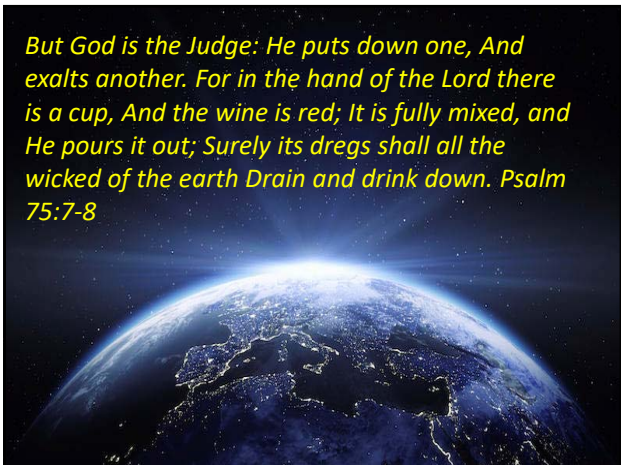
Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. Revelation 14: 12



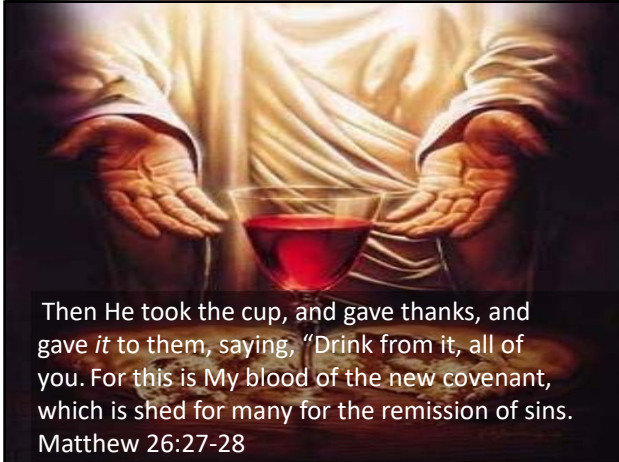
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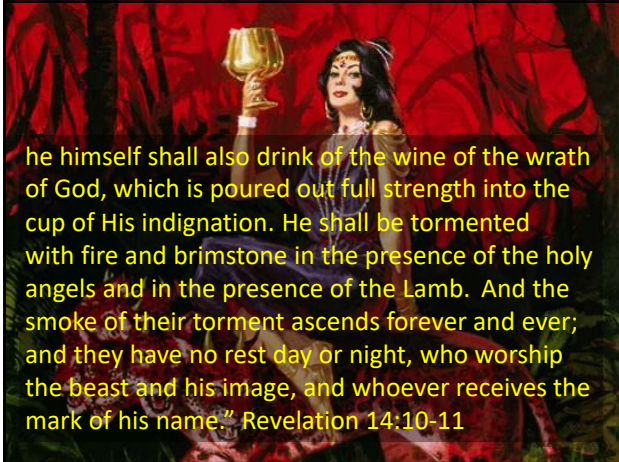
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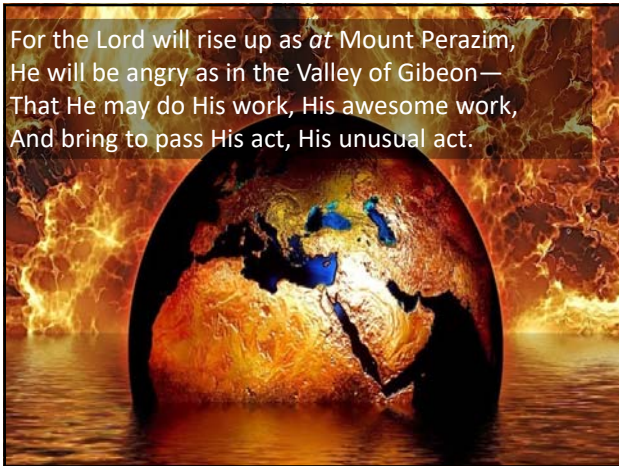
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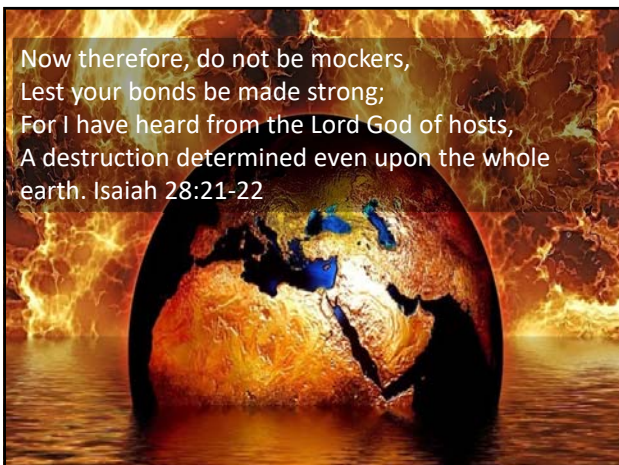
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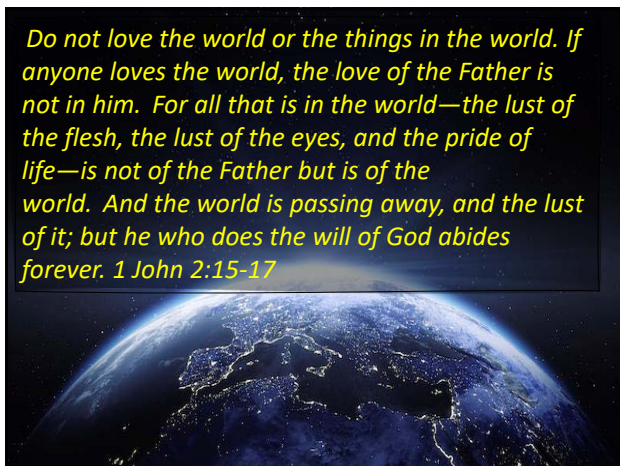
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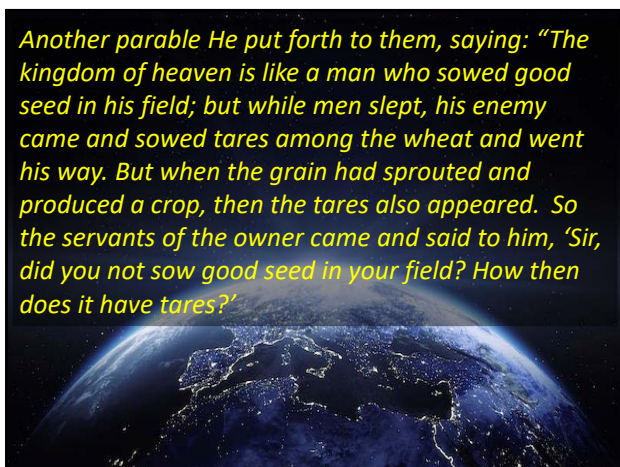
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He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' The servants said to him, 'Do you want us then to go and gather them up?' But he said, 'No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, "First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them but gather the wheat into my barn."'
 Matthew 13:24-30




13

Then Jesus sent the multitude away, and went into the house: and his disciples came unto him, saying, Declare unto us the parable of the tares of the field. He answered and said unto them, He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man; The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked [one];



14

The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels. As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world. The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.
 Matthew 13:36-43

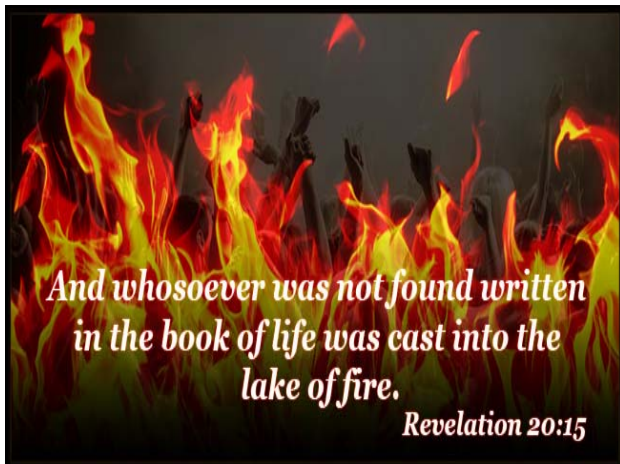


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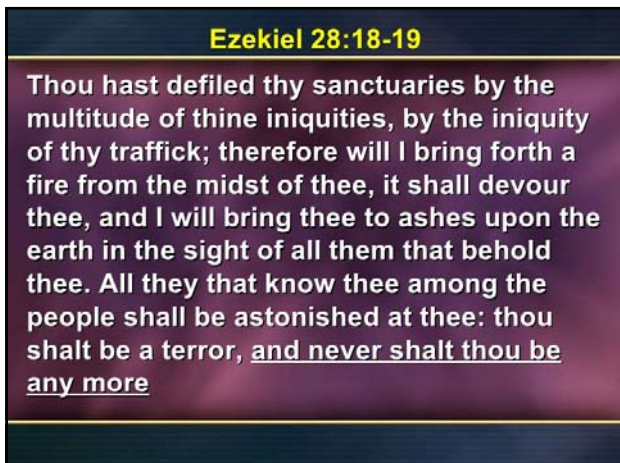
As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world. Matthew 13:40

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And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.
Revelation 20:15

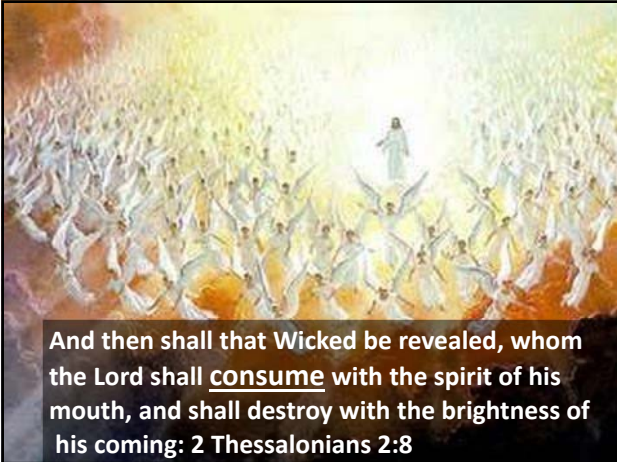
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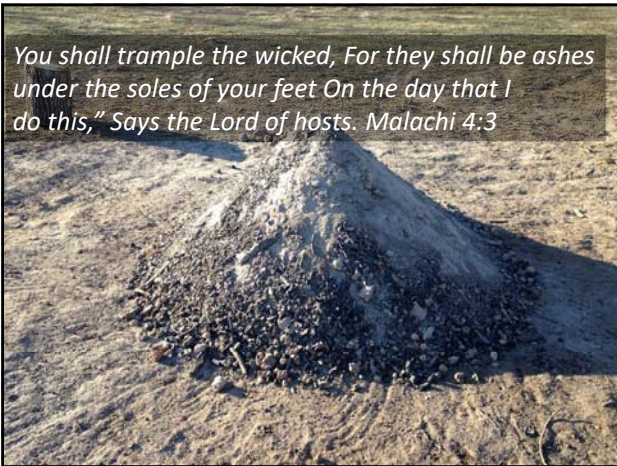
Ezekiel 28:18-19

Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffick; therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it shall devour thee, and I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee. All they that know thee among the people shall be astonished at thee: thou shalt be a terror, and never shalt thou be any more

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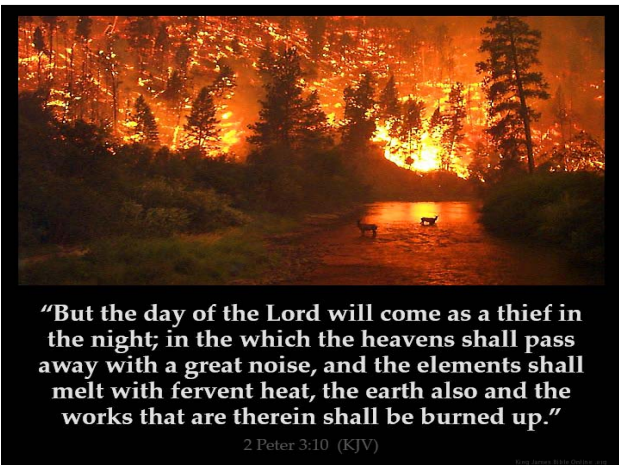
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Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead **shall hear** the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live. Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves **shall hear** his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation. John 5:25,28-29

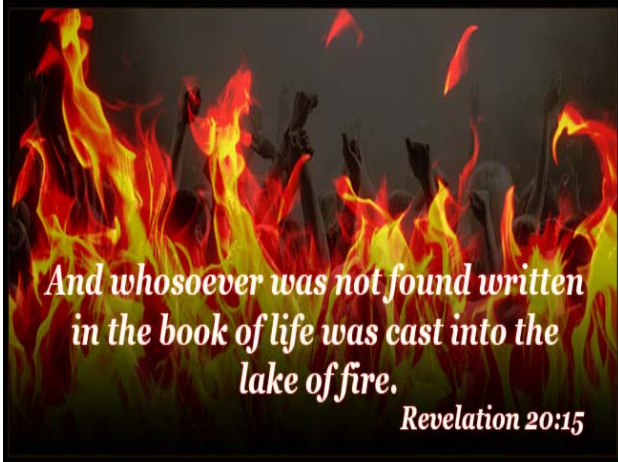
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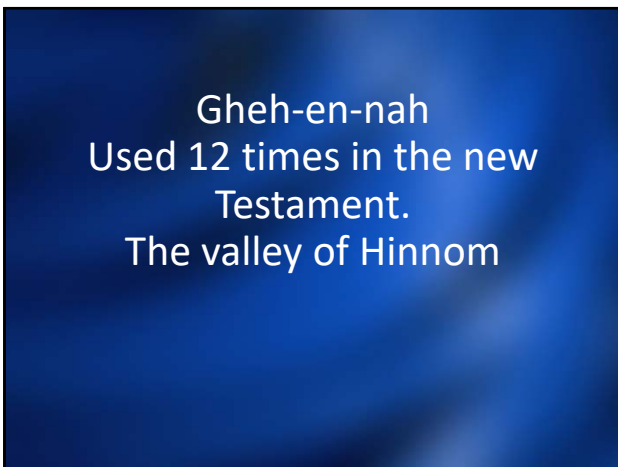
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And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast [it] from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not [that] thy whole body should be cast into hell And if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and cast [it] from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not [that] thy whole body should be cast into hell. Matthew 5:29-30

29

(Hades)
used 10 times
(Tarturos)
used once
Comes from Greek Mythology

30



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Therefore did my heart rejoice, and my tongue was glad; moreover also my flesh shall rest in hope: Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. Acts 2:26-27

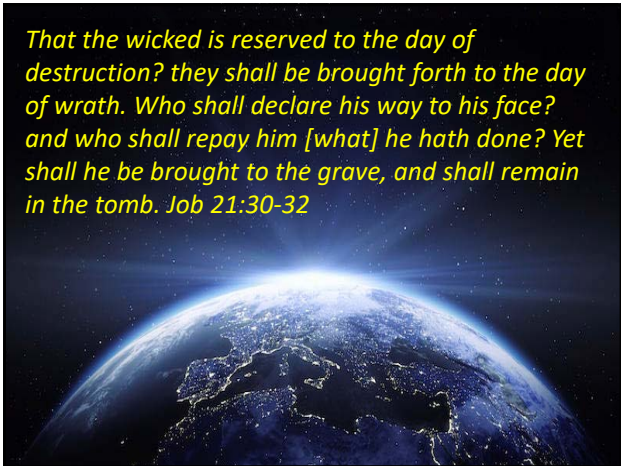
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Sheol- Hebrew
Place of non-being, the grave

33

For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; (Sheol) neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.
Psalm 16:10

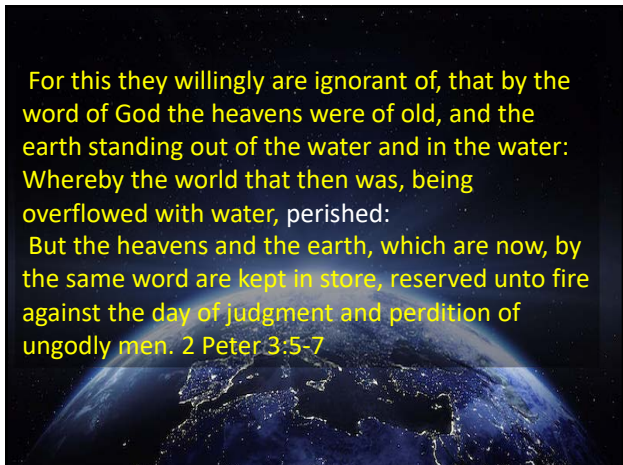
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Gehenna Death
Hades Grave
Tarturos ➤ **Hell** ➤ Non-Being
Sheol Destruction

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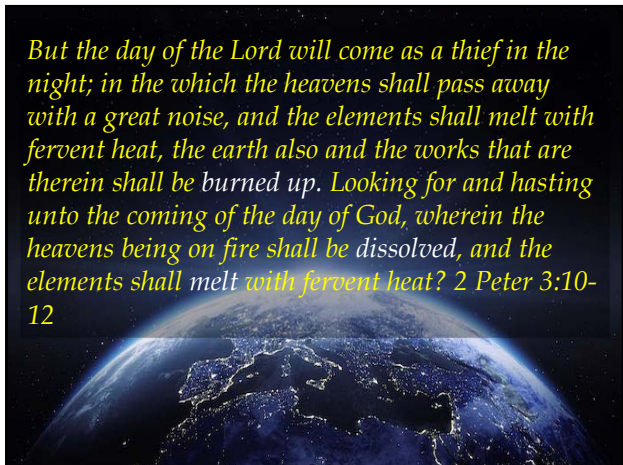


For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished: But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. 2 Peter 3:5-7

37

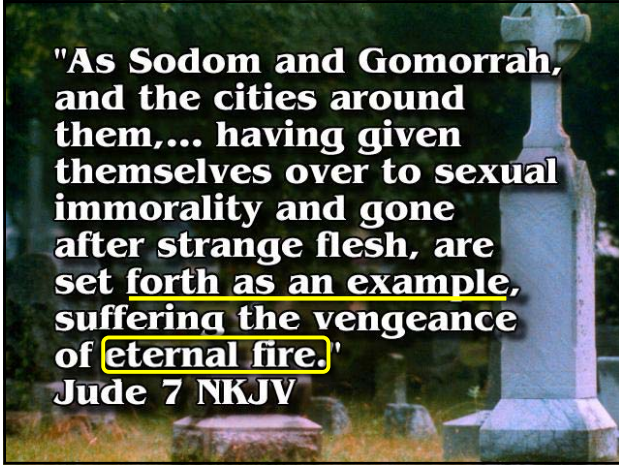


38



But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? 2 Peter 3:10-12

39



40



41



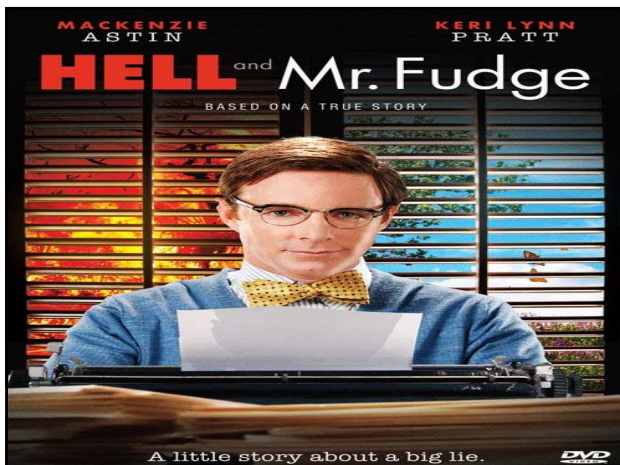
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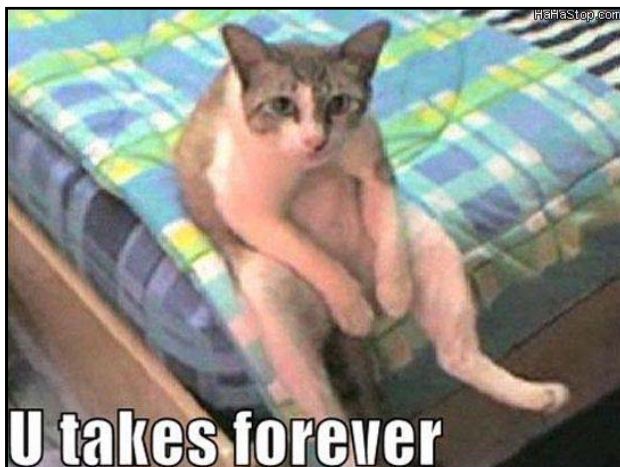
**"I went down to the bottoms of the mountains; the earth with her bars was about me for ever..."
Jonah 2:6**

**"And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights."
Jonah 1:17**

49

"For ever and ever" is a Biblical expression which means "until the end of the age," not necessarily an infinite unending length of time.

50



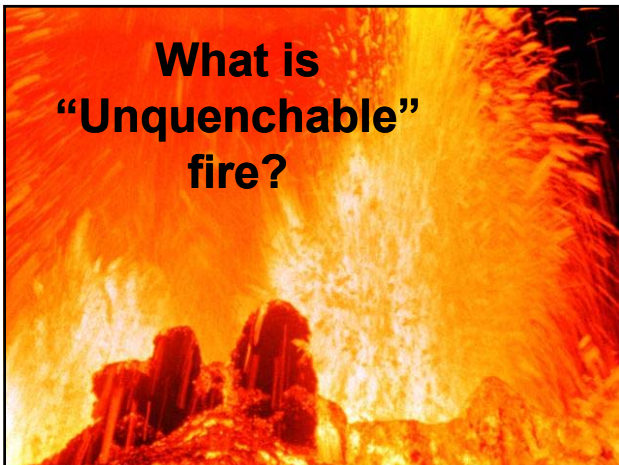
51

Aiwn is translated as Forever, but has several meanings such as: Perpetuity, or an unidentified space of time. Context determines the meaning.

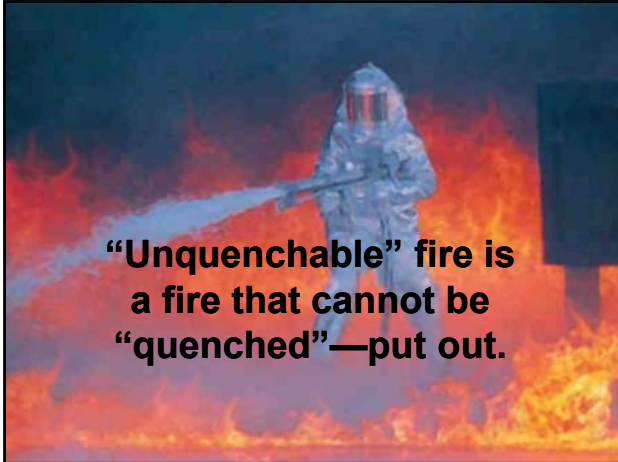
52

Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched. Mark 9:44

53



54



“Unquenchable” fire is a fire that cannot be “quenched”—put out.

55



**Jerusalem was destroyed with unquenchable fire.
(Jer. 17:27)**

56



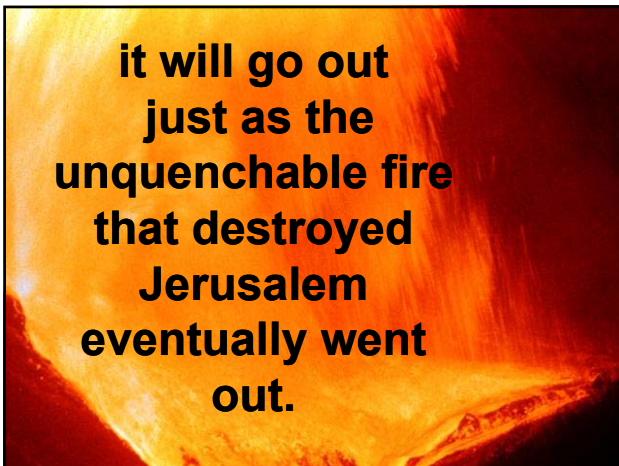
Hellfire will be “Unquenchable” because no one will be able to put it out or escape from it.

57



**But when it has
accomplished
its purpose of
consuming the
wicked,**

58

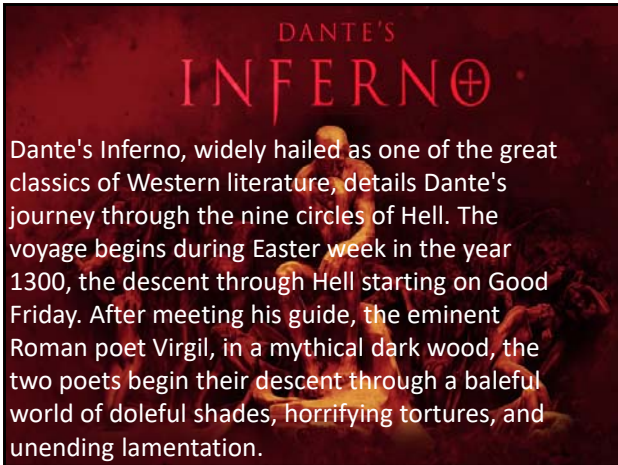


**it will go out
just as the
unquenchable fire
that destroyed
Jerusalem
eventually went
out.**

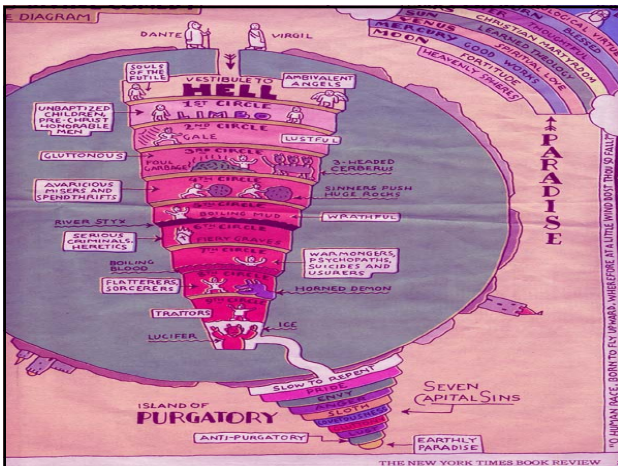
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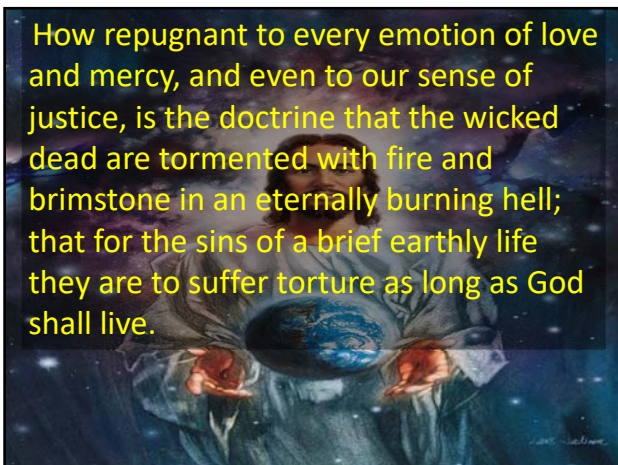
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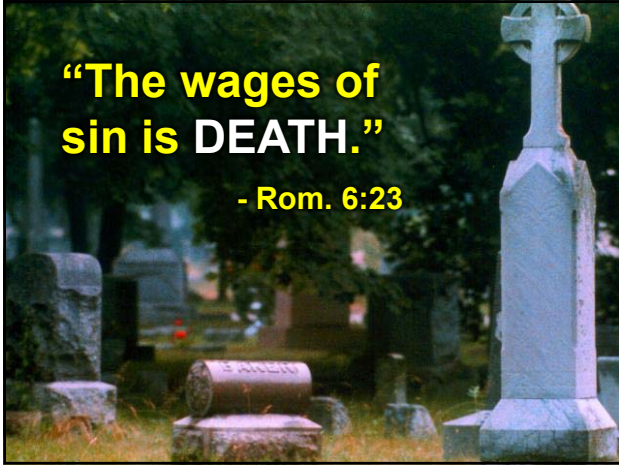
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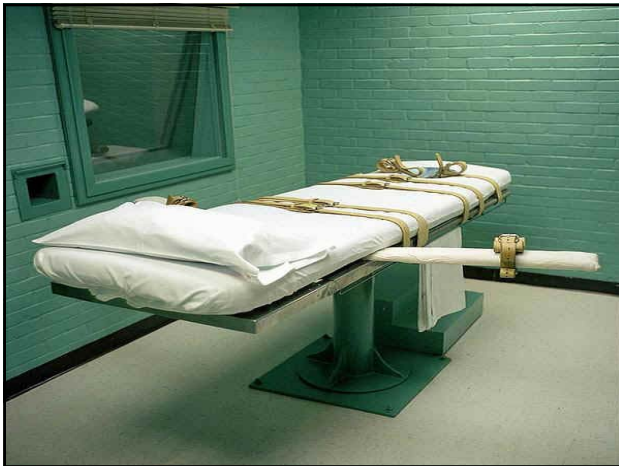
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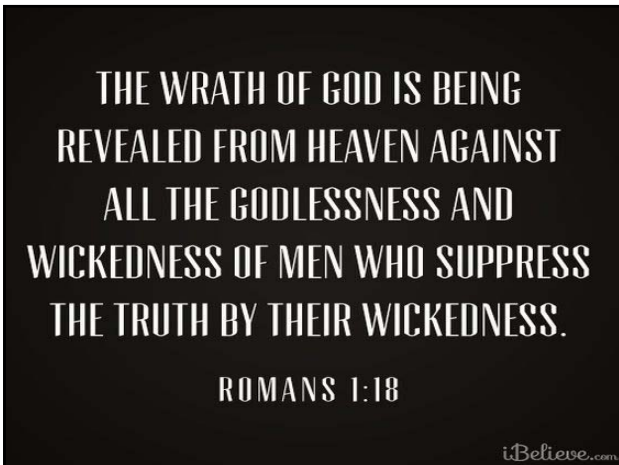
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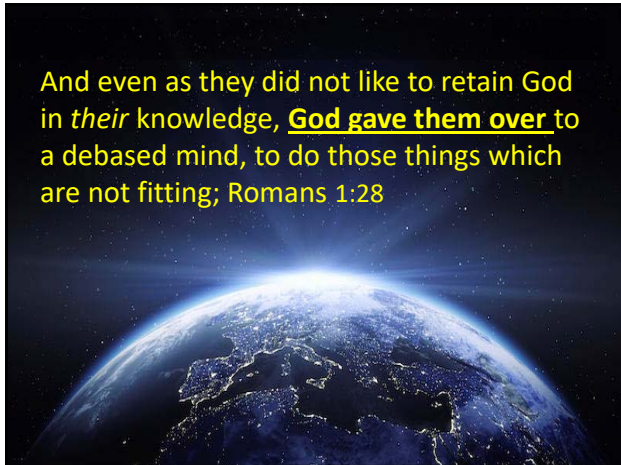
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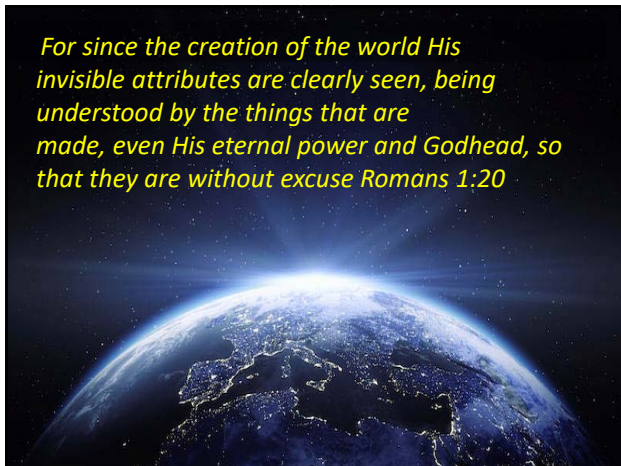
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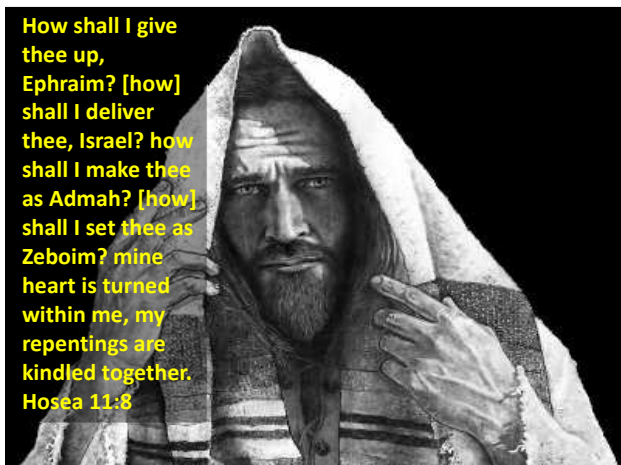
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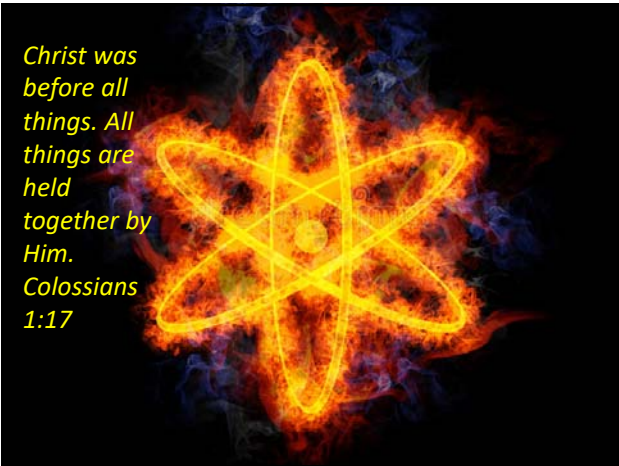
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71



72



73
