

Hell

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purpose: To show that the purpose of hell is to destroy sin forever.

Matthew 25:34, 41

- Hell was prepared for the devil and his angels- not you and I!
- The Kingdom of God was prepared for us!
- **Transition:** So where, what, and how long is hell?

Revelation 20:9

- Where is hell? On the earth
- **Transition:** When is hell?

Revelation 20:7

- When is hell? After the 1,000 year Millennium.
- When does the Millennium begin? At the 2nd coming of Christ.
- So where is hell today? There is no hell right now because the millennium has not yet begun.

2 Peter 3:4-7

- The fires of hell are being reserved until the day of judgment.

Job 21:30

- Wicked are *reserved* to the day of judgment.
- They will be brought out of their tombs for the day of wrath.
- **Transition:** Okay, now we know where and when hell is. But how long is hell?

Revelation 14:9-11

- The smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever.
- Remind student that the book of Revelation is a collection of OT ideas. John is borrowing from an OT prophet.
- **Transition:** Let's look at Isaiah 34:8-10

Isaiah 34:8-10

- It shall lie waste from generation to generation.
- None shall pass through it forever and ever.

Malachi 4:1-3

- The day is coming... (not there yet).
- The wicked will be burned up and leave nothing but ashes.
- The outcome of hell is ashes.

Jude 7

- Uses the language "eternal fire" to describe the burning of Sodom and Gomorrah.
- An example of the destruction that the wicked will experience at the end of time.
- Are Sodom and Gomorrah burning today? No, but the effect of its burning is eternal.

2 Peter 2:6

- The destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah is an example to us.
- They were destroyed into ashes.

Hebrews 12:29

- God is a consuming fire.
- His fire consumes!

Isaiah 33:14-16

- The righteous will dwell with the devouring fire and everlasting burnings.
- Only the righteous can endure God's consuming fire! The wicked will be destroyed by it, but God will carry the righteous through!

Revelation 20:14

- The lake of fire (hell) is the second death.
- What was the first death? The sleep of death.

Matthew 10:28

- 1st death is destruction of the body
- 2nd death is the destruction of the soul and the body (hell)

Matthew 26:36-42

- Jesus said he was exceedingly sorrowful even unto death. But He has had no physical pain on Himself yet!
- Jesus says his soul is dying.
- So which death is Jesus dying? The 2nd death- Jesus is experiencing hell! It is a psychological death.
- **Transition:** Jesus prayed that if it were possible, the Father would take this "cup" from Him.

Revelation 14:9,10

- In Matthew 26, Jesus was about to drink the cup of the wrath of God from Revelation 14.

Ezekiel 33:11

- God has *no* pleasure in the death of the wicked.
- He says, "Why will you die, O house of Israel?"

Hosea 11:8 (optional appeal verse)

- How can I give you up, Israel?
- Tribes of Dan and Ephraim were both lost completely to idolatry.
- Admah and Zeboim were eternally destroyed with fire along with Sodom and Gomorrah.
- God doesn't want to execute wrath upon His children.

appeal: There is no reason for anyone to be in hell! Jesus already experienced it for us! Jesus would rather experience hell for you than be in heaven without you. Is it your desire to drink the forgiveness of God and to allow Christ to drink the cup of God's wrath for you?

- Yes.
- Is there anything that is keeping you from doing that today?

defend it:

- Where are the Devil and his angels now?
 - Jude 6- They are chained to planet earth.
 - Dragon and his angels were cast down to the earth.
- When a person dies, they go immediately to heaven or hell (Luke 16:19-31)
 - Luke 15 and 16 are a series of parables
 - Lost sheep, lost coin, lost son, unjust steward, rich man & Lazarus
 - What good is the dip of the finger in water going to do if this is actually the burning fires of hell?
 - Heaven must be an extremely small place if it is literally Abraham's bosom.
 - Hebrews 11- Abraham himself is not in heaven. He, along with all of the other heroes of faith, is waiting for the promise of Heaven.
 - Why did Jesus use this symbolic story?
 - Jesus was speaking to Pharisees
 - Vs. 14- Pharisees were lovers of money.
 - Viewed poor as lacking God's blessing, rich as being blessed of God.
 - John 8:39- Pharisees call Abraham Father.
 - Lazarus was poor, so Pharisees would have expected him to go to hell.
 - Abraham was wealthy, so the Pharisees would have expected him to go to Heaven.
 - Jesus is using this parable to show the Pharisees that the rich man (representative of the Jewish nation, the Pharisees) didn't get the expected outcome.
 - Matthew 15:23-17- a Gentile woman also begged for crumbs from the Master's table.
 - The rich man represents Israel and the beggar represents the Gentiles. The Israelites were rich with the Word of God, but became spiritually obese and did not share. The Gentiles were craving even crumbs from the Master's table.
 - Jesus is really teaching about the importance of witnessing and evangelism in Luke 16!
- Texts to help with the "forever and ever" idea
 - 1 Samuel 1:22,28
 - Hannah excited about a child, so she dedicates him to the Lord.
 - For ever in verse 21 is explained in verse 28 to mean as long as he lives.
 - Jonah 2:6
 - Says he was in the belly of the fish for ever.
 - He is using the term for ever to describe what felt like a very, very long time.
 - Exodus 21:6
 - Uses the word for ever again to indicate the lifetime of the slave.
- Unquenchable fire?
 - Jeremiah 17:27- kindle a fire that will devour. Common sense says that those fires, though they did burn at the destruction of Jerusalem, are not still burning today. Unquenchable meant that there was no human way to put them out.
- The worm that dies not (Isaiah 66:24)
 - This is poetic imagery, not meant to be taken literally.
 - Psalm 22 was a prophecy about Christ.

- Psalm 22:6- Jesus says He is a worm!
- Jesus is the worm that dies not.
- So in Isaiah 66:24 It is talking about the righteous walking around and seeing the corpses of the lost. They are able to do that because Jesus did not die.
- The altar of burnt offerings:
 - Altar represents the cross
 - Jesus died the 2nd death on the cross
 - Jesus died the death of hell on the cross.
 - Burnt is past tense!
 - After the Millennium, planet earth is going to be like the altar of burnt offerings.
 - Everyone who dies in the lake of fire will die only because they did not accept the Lamb of God in their place.