

Eternal Damnation and a Loving God

Matt. 25:41

I. Hell was Not Created for Mankind

1. The rejection of Christ's salvation leads to eternal damnation
 - a. Mark 3:28-29; Jude 7
 - b. If we are to be technically nuanced, people will first go to hell, later they will stand before the white throne judgment, and afterwards they will be sent to the lake of fire where they will be tormented forever and ever along with Satan and his demons.
 - c. Rev. 14:9-11; 20:13-14

2. It is not God's Desire that any human being go there:
 - a. 1 Tim. 2:4; 2 Pet. 3:9
 - b. God derives no pleasure from the fact that people die and separate themselves from Him.
 - c. Ezekiel 18:23-32; 33:11
 - d. Keep in mind that God uses death and hell synonymously (2 Sam. 22:6; Psalm 18:5; 116:3; Prov. 5:5; 7:27; Isa. 28:15-18; Hab. 2:5; John 5:24; Rev. 1:18).
 - e. God basically cries over those who destroys themselves – Matt. 23:37; Luke 7:30; John 5:40; **Hosea 11:5-7**

3. So why Hell
 - a. Hell and, later, the lake of fire is for Satan because he and his followers hated God intensely and chose to separate themselves from Him. Therefore, God prepared a place by which they can have the separation that they wanted so badly.
 - b. Isa. 14:12-15

4. Did God know before He created man that the majority of them would end up in hell?
 - a. Most of the church believes that God knew this. Some even go as far as to believe that God predestined this to happen.
 - b. While the latter thought makes God into a wicked tormentor, the first one unintentionally makes Him negligent.
 - c. Gen. 6:5-7; Jer. 7:31; 19:5; 32:35
 - d. God holds people responsible for knowing what would happen but not doing something about it. Does God hold a double standard?

- e. Matt. 25:24-30; 1 Sam. 3:11-13; 2:30

II. Death and Hell are God's ENEMIES:

1. Acts 2:22-31

- a. Death in this passage is "Hades" which is translated "hell" in other parts of the Bible. Hell attempted to hold on to Jesus. Hell was not the friend of Jesus. Jesus went to war and defeated hell on our behalf.
- b. "...it should be rendered snares of death; the figure being that of escape from the snare of a huntsman." (Marvin Vincent's Word Studies)
- c. "...but the Hebrew original means 'snares' or 'traps' or 'cords' of death where sheol and death are personified as hunters laying snares for prey'Loosing' (lusas) suits better the notion of 'snares' held a prisoner by death" (A.T. Robertson's Word Pictures In The New Testament)
- d. *God raised him up! God freed him from death's dreadful grip, since it was impossible for death to hang on to him.* (Common English Bible)
- e. *Then God released him from the horrors of death and brought him back to life again, for death could not keep this man within its grip.* (The Living Bible)

2. 1 Corinthians 15:25-26, 54-56

- a. The word "Grave" should actually be translated "hell" as it is in most English version.
- b. Because of our Lord's victory over death and hell, Jesus now has the authority (keys) over them and have given them to His church (Rev. 1:18)

3. God is not working hand in hand with the devil, death, or hell. These are enemies that are opposed to Jesus and His church.

- a. Matt. 16:16-18
- b. *Prevail against* - overpower, overcome
- c. This is what hell is attempting to do to Jesus and His church. Hell is not in partnership with God. Death and hell are enemies of God.

4. Although Jesus has defeated these enemies, they will continue to war and do what they possibly can to destroy mankind until Jesus rids us of them forever:

- a. Revelation 6:8
- b. In spite of these enemy forces bringing destruction unrepentant man still runs *from* the Lamb instead of running *to* Him (Rev. 6:15-17; Rev. 16:5-11)

- c. The desire to hide from God is not because God is “scary” but because of their consciences and unwillingness to repent from sin, as is the case with Adam and Eve – Gen. 3:8-14.
- d. God will finally rid the universe of these tormentors - Revelation 20:13-14

III. So why do people go to hell if hell is actually an enemy of God and He does not want them there?

1. People go to hell because they choose to sin
 - a. Gen. 2:15-17; Rom. 6:23; James 1:12-14; Prov. 15:24
 - b. Hell pulls the unrepentant sinner down like a gravitational force upon death – Psalm 116:3; Isa. 5:14; Luke 16:22-23.
 - c. “In its essence’ death is separation from God. All life is the breath of God. Sin is cutting one's self off from God. It is like gripping a man by the throat with tightening clutch until the breath of life > departs. Sin is choosing to leave God out. The very act cuts off the source of life. The grammar of the verb to sin is peculiar to itself. It is this: present tense, to sin; first future tense, following instantly on the present, to suffer; in the second future tense the verb changes its form, it becomes a noun—hell. That hateful, ugly word hell, which the lips utter only by compulsion when they must, for the sheer pain of it, is simply the name given to the place where death reigns; where God has been excluded. They who prefer to leave God out will gather together at some time **by a natural moral affinity, or gravitation**. The name used for such meeting-place in this old Book is that hurting word hell. Hell- is death's abode. God shut out, no life, death, death regnant—that is hell.” (S. D. Gordon, *Quiet Talks on Personal Problems*, pp. 28-29. Emphasis are mine).
2. When we sin we are following the one already destined for eternal damnation
 - a. Eph. 2:1-5; 1 John 3:8; John 8:34; Rom. 6:16
 - b. This is the real meaning of predestination. One chooses their own destiny. Satan’s predestination took place only after he rebelled against God. Those who follow Satan follow His destiny.
3. God cannot arbitrarily deliver people from hell because they make COVENANTS with it
 - a. Isa. 28:15, 18
 - b. Some have become “children of hell” before they ever get there (Matt. 23:15).
4. God has made every provision available to keep us from having to go there:
 - a. John 3:16-21

- b. God does not condemn anyone to hell. We were destined to go there because we chose to follow Satan. However, Jesus came to give us another choice. We choose Him and our destiny changes. We choose against Him and we will continue on the course that we have chosen.
- c. Matt. 7:13-14