

Hell and Holiness Revelation 20:10-15

What will hell be like? Is it really a just punishment for human sin? Is it really eternal torment? What kind of God would punish sin this way?

“At some point in the 1960’s, Hell disappeared. No one could say for certain when this happened. First it was there, then it wasn’t. Different people became aware of the disappearance of Hell at different times. Some realized that they had been living for years as though Hell did not exist, without having consciously registered its disappearance. Others realized that they had been behaving, out of habit, as though Hell were still there, though in fact they had ceased to believe in its existence long ago ... On the whole, the disappearance of Hell was a great relief, though it brought new problems.” —David Lodge in *Souls and Bodies*

Hell is Just Punishment ...

- Who Will Experience It?
- Why Is It Necessary?

“When the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power.” – 2 Thess 1:7-9

- What Does It Accomplish?

“The disbelief in the existence of retributive justice ... is now so widely spread ... [that it] causes even men ... to look upon God as vindictive, lawless autocrat, [and] to stigmatize as cruel and heathenish the belief that criminal law is bound to contemplate in punishment other ends beside the improvement of the offender himself and the deterring of others.”

- What God Would Punish For Sin?

Hell is Eternal Torment ...

- It Will Be Unending

“To go into hell, into the unquenchable fire, where their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched”
—Mark 9:43-44

“He also will drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is mixed in full strength in the cup of His anger; and he will 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 goes up forever and ever; they have no rest day and night.”
— Rev 14:9-13

- It Will Be Awful

“Now, do not begin telling me that this is metaphorical fire: who cares for that? If a man were to threaten to give me a metaphorical blow on the head, I should care very little about it; he would be welcome to give me as many as he pleased. And what say the wicked? ‘We do not care about metaphorical fires.’ But they are real, sir ... There is a real fire in hell ... a fire exactly like that which we have on earth in everything except this – that it will not consume, though it will torture you.” —Charles Spurgeon

- What God Would Punish This Way?

“Unending torment speaks to me of sadism, not justice. It is a doctrine which I do not know how to preach without negating the loveliness and glory of God ... it has been the emphasis of fanatics. It is a doctrine that makes the Inquisition look reasonable. It all seems a flight from reality and common sense.”

—Wenham

Hell is Avoidable Reality...

- Choose Life in Jesus

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.” —John 3:16

- Check Your Compassion
- Share Your Faith