



EVANGELISM

PART 4: A Terrible Reality

MATTHEW 9:37





MATTHEW 9:37

“Then he said to his disciples, **“The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few;”**





Why is the harvest plentiful?

MAN IS BROKEN AND SINFUL...

Romans 3:9-12, 23 - "9 ...all, both Jews and Greeks, are under sin, 10 as it is written: "None is righteous, no, not one; 11 no one understands; no one seeks for God. 12 All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (see also **Psalm 14:1-3**)



MAN IS BROKEN AND SINFUL...

Psalm 51:5 "Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me." (see also Psalm 58:3)

Ecclesiastes 7:20 "Surely there is not a righteous man on earth who does good and never sins."



MANY PEOPLE NEED JESUS...

Matthew 7:13-14 "Enter by the narrow gate.

For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few."



MANY PEOPLE NEED JESUS...

Matthew 7:21-23 21 "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. 22 On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' 23 And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'"



A man wearing a light-colored cap, a denim shirt, and dark boots is kneeling in a field of young plants. He is holding a small amount of soil or seeds in his hands, and some are falling to the ground. The background shows a farm with several large metal silos under a sunset sky.

What is Hell?

An eternal state of conscious, punishment and separation from God for those who have not put their faith and trust in Jesus.

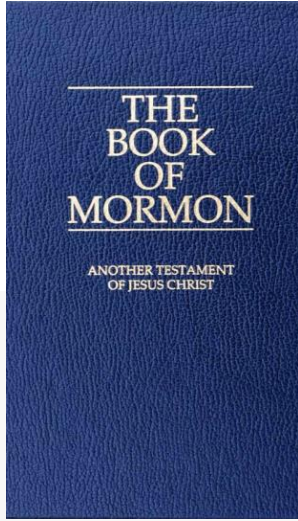
CONFUSION OVER HELL: MANY COMPETING VOICES



JUDAISM

Form of
purgatory,
not physical

CONFUSION OVER HELL: MANY COMPETING VOICES



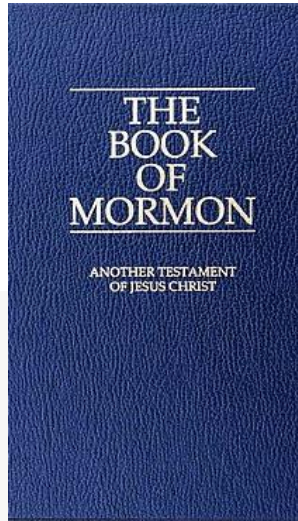
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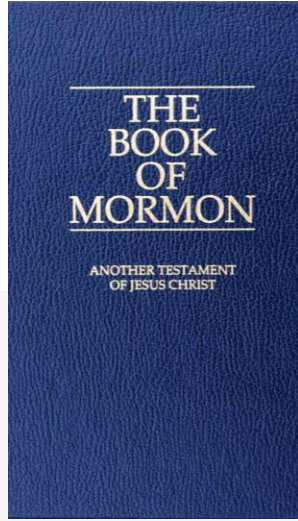
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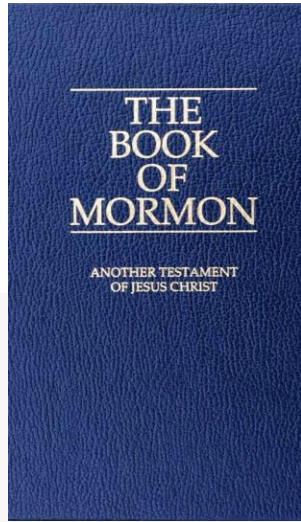
JW

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WICCAN

No hell,
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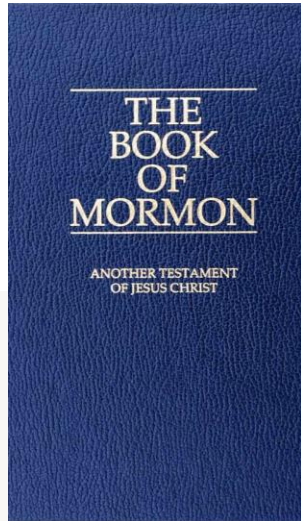
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No
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HINDUISM &
BUDDHISM

Cycles of
rebirth

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ISLAM

Eternal
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and
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Theology of Judgment & Hell

THOSE WHO DO NOT BELIEVE IN CHRIST STAND CONDEMNED

John 3:18 "Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God."

John 3:36 "Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him."

Hebrews 10:26-27 "For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries."



ONE, FINAL JUDGMENT OCCURS AFTER THIS LIFE IS DONE BASED ON DEEDS THAT CONFIRM OUR FAITH DURING THIS LIFE HERE ON EARTH. THERE IS NO SECOND CHANCE.

Hebrews 9:27 "And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment"

See also: Revelation 20:11-15, Acts 17:30-31, Romans 2:5, Matthew 10:15; 11:22, 24; 12:36; 25:31-46; 1 Corinthians 4:5; Hebrews 6:2; 2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6





WAYNE GRUDEM

“This final judgment is the culmination of many precursors in which God rewarded righteousness or punished unrighteousness throughout history.”



PUNISHMENT IS EVERLASTING

Heresies:

- Universalism
- Annihilationism
- Conditional immortality



"None of us, of course, knows what will happen when we pass from this world of transience. But [Socrates's] two options are still the most viable. On one hand, we may lose our consciousness with no longer a worry in this world. Jesus saw this as permanent annihilation; Socrates as a pleasant deep sleep. In either scenario, there will be no more pain. On the other hand, there may be more yet to come, a happier place, a good place. And so, in this, the greatest teacher of the Greeks and the founder of Christianity agreed to this extent: when, in the end, we pass from this earthly realm, we may indeed have something to hope for, but we have absolutely nothing to fear."

From Bart Ehrman's Time article "What Jesus Really Said about Heaven and Hell" 5/8/2020



PUNISHMENT IS EVERLASTING

Revelation 14:11 "And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever, and they have no rest, day or night, these worshipers of the beast and its image, and whoever receives the mark of its name."

Revelation 20:10 "...and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever."

Matthew 25:41, 46 "Then he will say to those on his left 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels...And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.'

Mark 9:43, 48 "And if your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life crippled than with two hands to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire...!where their worm does not die and the fire is not quenched.'"



THERE IS SCRIPTURAL EVIDENCE THAT THERE WILL BE DEGREES OF PUNISHMENT IN HELL, JUST AS THERE ARE DEGREES OF REWARDS FOR BELIEVERS.

Matthew 11:22 "But I tell you, it will be more bearable on the day of judgment for Tyre and Sidon than for you [Chorazin and Bethsaida]."

Luke 20:47 "[The Pharisees] who devour widows' houses and for a pretense make long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation."

Luke 12:47-48 "And that servant who knew his master's will but did not get ready or act according to his will, will receive a severe beating. But the one who did not know, and did what deserved a beating, will receive a light beating. Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required, and from him to whom they entrusted much, they will demand the more."



“The chief variable appears to be knowledge. Those who sin against greater knowledge will be subject to the greatest condemnation. Nevertheless, even a relatively lighter beating from God, lasting through eternity, is a terrible thing to contemplate. No one should try by some exegetical or theological trick to mitigate the harshness of this doctrine. That harshness is the whole point. To be separate from God, from his inheritance, from his people, and to be under his wrath forever is terrible to contemplate.” -John W. Frame





WAYNE GRUDEM'S PERSONAL APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- How does the awareness of the fact that we will all stand before the judgment seat of Christ affect your life today?
- What do you think it will feel like to have all your words and deeds made public on that last day?
 - Is there an element of fear as you contemplate that day?





1 JOHN 4:16-18

“So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. 17 By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. 18 There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love.”





WAYNE GRUDEM'S PERSONAL APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- Have you previously thought very much about laying up treasures in heaven (see Matt 6:19-21), or about earning greater heavenly reward?
- If you really believe this doctrine, what kind of effect do you think it should have on your life?





WAYNE GRUDEM'S PERSONAL APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- How do you think it will feel to participate with Christ in the judging of angels, and indeed in the judging of the whole world (see 1 Cor. 6:2-3)?
- What does the fact that God allows us to participate in this final judgment say about our creation in the image of God and his purposes for us in the universe?
 - How does that make you feel about yourself and your eternal relationship to God?





WAYNE GRUDEM'S PERSONAL APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- Think of some of your Christian friends in your church. How do you think you will feel when you watch them stand before Christ at the final judgment?
 - How will they feel about you at the time?
- Does the contemplation of this future judgment affect the way you think of your fellowship with each other as brothers and sisters in Christ today? [Ed. Note: it should lead us to seek unity!]





WAYNE GRUDEM'S PERSONAL APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- Are you glad that there will be a final judgment of both believers and unbelievers?
- Does it make you feel a sense of God's justice, or do you sense some unfairness and injustice in the whole idea?





WAYNE GRUDEM'S PERSONAL APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- Are you convinced that Scripture teaches that there will be eternal, conscious, punishment of the wicked?
 - When you think of that idea in relationship to Satan and demons, do you feel that it is right?
 - Is there anyone who has wronged you in the past, and whom you have had difficulty forgiving?
 - Does the doctrine of final judgment help you to be more able to forgive that person?





God's Compassion for the Lost

THE TERRIBLE REALITY OF HELL INFORMS JESUS' COMPASSION AND MERCY.

2 Peter 3:9 "The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance."

1 Timothy 2:3-4 "This [prayer for all] is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth."



JESUS WEEPS OVER JERUSALEM AT THEIR PERSISTENCE IN NOT RECEIVING HIM

Luke 13:34 (see also Mt. 23:37) "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!"

Luke 19:41-44 "And when he drew near and saw the city, he wept over it, 42 saying, "Would that you, even you, had known on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. 43 For the days will come upon you, when your enemies will set up a barricade around you and surround you and hem you in on every side 44 and tear you down to the ground, you and your children within you. And they will not leave one stone upon another in you, because you did not know the time of your visitation.""



JESUS DIED SO THAT WE MAY LIVE

2 Cor. 5:21 "For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."

1 Peter 2:24 "He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed."



JESUS DIED SO THAT WE MAY LIVE

Romans 3:21-26 "21 But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— 22 the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. 26 It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus."





Share this truth, Church!