

Searching the Scriptures / 23 / Hell Is Abandonment / Part 3

Our topic for today is Hell is abandonment. We want to consider the following:

1. Why is One Abandoned in Hell?
2. Only the Lord Jesus has Experienced Hell.
3. Who Will be Abandoned in Hell?
4. How Long is the Abandonment in Hell?
5. Is There Any Hope?

Why is One Abandoned in Hell?

The question of why one is abandoned in Hell has to do with the justice of God. Man by nature is evil and is accountable to God for his sin. The Bible says in Eze 18:4, *“Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sinneth, it shall die.”* Because God is a righteous Judge, He must uphold the law of God – which is the Bible. Thus, God is obligated to administer the proper punishment for sin – since sin is the transgression of the Law. The proof of this is found in 1 John 3:4 *“Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.”* Sin, by definition, necessitates punishment. *“Isn’t abandonment in Hell forever a little extreme?”* one might ask, *“After all, I only told a white lie.”* Any sin – no matter how inconsequential it might appear – is deadly serious to God and to the offender because the consequences are eternal. Psa 75:8 reveals: *“For in the hand of the LORD there is a cup, and the wine is red; it is full of mixture; and he poureth out of the same: but the dregs thereof, all the wicked of the earth shall wring them out, and drink them.”*

Only the Lord Jesus has Experienced Hell

Because Hell is presently a condition and not a place, nobody except Christ has ever had to experience its gruesome reality to this point in time. John 3:36 tells us about the present condition of unsaved man, *“He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.”*

The future nature of a place called Hell is explained in Rev 14:10, *“The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb.”* On the Last Day – Judgment Day at the End of the World – it will most certainly be a place prepared for the Devil and his angels, and all who are unsaved. Mat 25:41 is very clear: *“Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels.”*

The only person that has known or experienced the rigors of Hell is the Lord Jesus Christ – Who is God Almighty. In fact, he came to drink the cup of the wrath of God, as we see in John 18:11, *“Then said Jesus unto Peter, Put up thy sword into the sheath: the cup which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink it?”* Eph 4:9 makes the point: *“Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth?”* Jeremiah in the dungeon is a picture of Christ in Hell in Jer 38:6, *“Then took they Jeremiah, and cast him into the dungeon of Malchiah the son of Hammelech, that was in the court of the prison: and they let down Jeremiah with cords. And in the dungeon there was no*

water, but mire: so Jeremiah sunk in the mire.”

The apex of what Christ had to suffer was on the cross as Psa 22:1 so vividly predicted, *“My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? why art thou so far from helping me, and from the words of my roaring?”* Its New Testament counterpart in Mark 15:34 states, *“And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani? which is, being interpreted, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?”* Wonderfully for the elect, the Lord Jesus was given the two-fold promise by the Father that His soul would not be left in Hell, and His physical body would not decay. We read about this promise in Acts 2:31 (which quotes Psa 16:10), *“He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption.”*

Who Will be Abandoned in Hell?

In Psa 9:17 it says, *“The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God.”* Pro 16:4 reveals this astounding fact: *“The LORD hath made all things for himself: yea, even the wicked for the day of evil.”*

The harsh truth is that if one is not in the kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ, then he is in the kingdom of Satan. We saw earlier in Rev 20: 10 and 15 that Satan and the fallen angels as well as *“whosoever was not found written in the book of life”* will be cast into the lake of fire.

How Long is the Abandonment in Hell?

How can one understand the concept of eternity? We live in a time/space dimension, and our puny minds cannot comprehend even what the word everlasting implies, regardless if we are talking about eternal life or eternal death. 2 The 1:9 speaking of all who do not have a Savior warns, *“Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power.”*

Dan 12:2 delineates what will happen to those individuals who have died – Christian and non-Christian alike – and are resurrected on the Last Day (Judgment Day): *“And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.”* Jer 23:40 states this same message: *“And I will bring an everlasting reproach upon you, and a perpetual shame, which shall not be forgotten.”*

Is There Any Hope?

Jer 17:17 declares, *“Be not a terror unto me: thou art my hope in the day of evil.”* The “day of evil” is actually Judgment Day. Only those who have been given eternal life will not have to face abandonment in Hell. Mat 25:46 says, *“And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.”* Those who are “righteous”, or good, are not that way because they have done something. They have been made righteous by God Himself. This righteousness has been given to them when they were given eternal life, and eternal life is likewise a gift from God. Psa 130:5 states, *“I wait for the LORD, my soul doth wait, and in his word do I hope.”*

Could it be that we too might be among those who hope in his word and who can exclaim along with Peter, who under divine inspiration of God wrote in 1 Pet 1:3, *“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again [made us spiritually alive] unto a lively [living] hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.”*