

Searching the Scriptures / 24 / Hell Is Torture / Part 4

Our topic today is the Torture of Hell. In our time together I want us to consider the following three points:

- 1. God Must Exact Punishment for Sin.**
- 2. God Does Not Take Delight in the Death of the Wicked.**
- 3. Some Ways That Torture is Inflicted upon the Unsaved.**

God Must Exact Punishment for Sin

It is important to remember that sin has to be punished, and that man is completely accountable to God for his sin, since he was created in the image of God. Rev 1:18 tells us, *“I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive forevermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.”* Simply put, God is indisputably in control of life and death, Heaven and Hell, and is in control of this universe which he brought into existence by His Word.

Deu 32:39-41 paints a terrifying description : *“See now that I, even I, am he, and there is no god with me: I kill, and I make alive; I wound, and I heal: neither is there any that can deliver out of my hand. For I lift up my hand to heaven, and say, I live for ever. If I whet my glittering sword, and mine hand take hold on judgment; I will render vengeance to mine enemies, and will reward them that hate me.”*

As a just Ruler or Judge, God must punish sin, which the Bible defines as *“transgression of the law”* in 1 John 3:4. The first time Christ put in his appearance was as the babe in a manger as the Savior of His people. The second time, Christ will come to execute judgment, as we also read in Jude 1:14-15, *“And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him.”*

Because God is unbelievably patient with mankind, does not in any way diminish the fact that He hates sin and hates sinners. He absolutely will judge and punish all who are not His children in Hell. 2 Pet 2:9 states, *“The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished”* We also read in Psa 7:11 *“God judgeth the righteous, and God is angry with the wicked every day.”*

Rev 19:15 graphically portrays God’s wrath: *“And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.”*

God Does Not Take Delight in the Death of the Wicked

God does not delight in punishing those that are not His people; and yet sin has to be dealt with. We find these words in Eze 33:11, *“As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?”* God is not a “respector” of persons, either. Both unbelievers and those who claim to be Christians (but are not saved) will suffer eternal damnation. We see this from Deu 8:19-20, which speaks about the Jews who wandered for 40 years in the wilderness, *“And it*

shall be, if thou do at all forget the LORD thy God, and walk after other gods, and serve them, and worship them, I testify against you this day that ye shall surely perish. As the nations which the LORD destroyeth before your face, so shall ye perish; because ye would not be obedient unto the voice of the LORD your God.”

In Mat 23:37 the Lord Jesus expressed his grief over the hard-heartedness of many of the leaders and people found within the Old Testament temple, the forerunner of the New Testament congregations: *“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!”*

Some Ways That Torture is Inflicted upon the Unsaved

We can understand a little of the agony, or torture, of Hell by looking at what the Savior experienced in the garden and culminating on the cross. We read in Luke 22:44, *“And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.”* Mat 13:42 further reveals how God will take vengeance: *“And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.”* We can know a number of aspects about how devastating the torture of Hell will be:

- The torture of no water (a picture of the Gospel) – Job 24:19 says, *“Drought and heat consume the snow waters: so doth the grave those which have sinned.”*
- The torture of no light (no Gospel) – Job 18:5 states, *“Yea, the light of the wicked shall be put out, and the spark of his fire shall not shine.”*
- The torture of a pit of destruction – Psa 55:23 *“But thou, O God, shalt bring them down into the pit of destruction: bloody and deceitful men shall not live out half their days; but I will trust in thee.”*
- The torture of fire – Mark 9:48 affirms, *“Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.”*
- The torture of eternal pain – Psa 112:10 maintains, *“The wicked shall see it, and be grieved; he shall gnash with his teeth, and melt away: the desire of the wicked shall perish.”*
- The torture of drinking all of the cup of the wrath of God – 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.”*
- The torture of being forever banished from the presence of God – 2 The 1:8-9 *“In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power.”*

Notice that Rev 14:10 says, “*in the presence of the Lamb*”; and 2 The 1:9 says, “*from the presence of the Lord*”. However, this is not a contradiction. The Greek word translated “*in the presence*” in Rev 14:10 means “*before*”, or “*in the sight of*”. Therefore, Rev 10:14 refers to Judgment Day itself when the unsaved will be cast into the lake of fire in the sight of God and His angels, and 2 The 1:9 speaks of their eternal state of banishment from the presence of God.

May God have mercy on us to rely solely upon the work of the Lord Jesus Christ, Who came to suffer Hell for His people, and to deliver them from the awful punishment we all deserve, as a result of our sinfulness.