

Searching the Scriptures / 88 / What Is The Damnation Of Hell? / Part 3

Once again, we want to look at the question Jesus posed in three of the gospels, “*How can ye escape the damnation of Hell?*” Today we will consider two points to learn what eternal damnation actually is:

1. Torment, Darkness and Fire

2. The Winepress of God

1. Torment, Darkness and Fire

The Bible has much to say about the damnation of Hell. First and foremost, it is being under God’s eternal anger for our sin, and it will be more horrible than anyone can possibly imagine. We find in Rev 20:15 this warning: “*And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.*” The Bible tells us that Hell is a place of everlasting torment. Luke 13:28 says, “*There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God, and you yourselves thrust out.*” Rev 14:11 also pictures the horror that awaits those who remain in their sins: “*And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night...*”

Hell is also a place of darkness, as we read in Job 10:22, “*A land of darkness, as darkness itself; and of the shadow of death, without any order, and where the light is as darkness.*” The fate of those who do not have a Savior is revealed in Jude 1:13, “*Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever.*” Fire is most commonly associated with even unsaved people’s ideas about Hell, and that is biblically accurate, as we understand from Deu 4:24, “*For the LORD thy God is a consuming fire, even a jealous God.*”

Thus, Hell is a place of “*fire*”. In Deu 32:22 we find this awesome description of God’s eternal wrath: “*For a fire is kindled in mine anger, and shall burn unto the lowest hell, and shall consume the earth with her increase, and set on fire the foundations of the mountains.*”

2. The Winepress of God

The Bible is full of references to God’s anger or judgment as Nah 1:2 and 6 depict: “*God is jealous, and the LORD revengeth; the LORD revengeth, and is furious; the LORD will take vengeance on his adversaries, and he reserveth wrath for his enemies... Who can stand before his indignation? and who can abide in the fierceness of his anger? his fury is poured out like fire, and the rocks are thrown down by him.*” The greatest illustration of the damnation of Hell is found in the sufferings of the Lord Jesus Christ. He is the only human being who has experienced first hand the punishment of Hell, as we discover in a passage such as Psa 88:7, “*Thy wrath lieth hard upon me, and thou hast afflicted me with all thy waves. Selah.*”

Luke 22:44 serves to highlight the unspeakable agony that Christ had to undergo in order to accomplish the salvation of His people (the elect): “*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 26:39 continues, “*And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.*” Psa 75:8

reveals what that “cup” contained and what was transpiring spiritually: *“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.”* This refers to the “cup” of the eternal wrath of God. Christ’s sufferings commenced in the Garden of Gethsemane, which means “winepress”, where he drank that cup for each Christian. Isa 63:1–5 helps us to gain a deeper appreciation of what this means: *“Who is this that cometh from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah? this that is glorious in his apparel, travelling in the greatness of his strength? I that speak in righteousness, mighty to save. Wherefore art thou red in thine apparel, and thy garments like him that treadeth in the winefat? I have trodden the winepress alone; and of the people there was none with me: for I will tread them in mine anger, and trample them in my fury; and their blood shall be sprinkled upon my garments, and I will stain all my raiment. For the day of vengeance is in mine heart, and the year of my redeemed is come. And I looked, and there was none to help; and I wondered that there was none to uphold: therefore mine own arm brought salvation unto me; and my fury, it upheld me.”*

Grapes being crushed in a winepress symbolizes “shedding of blood”, or “death”. It is a vivid picture of the incomprehensible anguish associated with the “second death” that awaits everyone who has not become a child of God. It is vital to recognize that because God Almighty poured out His eternal vengeance on His own dear Son, whom He loves with an everlasting love, we can know with absolute assurance that Rev 14:10 applies to each unsaved human being on Judgment Day: *“... 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.”*

Again, we are confronted by Jesus’ words, *“How can ye escape the damnation of Hell?”*