

WHAT ABOUT HELL #1

BIBLE STUDY BY JAMIE MCNAB

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As mentioned last week, The Resurrection is a key truth ... and yet rarely mentioned in the average church. It is absolutely essential.

Hebrews 6:1-2

Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of **resurrection of the dead**, and of eternal judgment.

Philippians 3:10-12

that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, **if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.** (The Resurrection of those In Christ ... the first resurrection).

Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me.

Jesus is The Resurrection and The Life. The Resurrection is my hope, your hope.

The idea of going instantly to heaven diminishes from the truth. There is another doctrine wildly held ... that the good people go to heaven ... and the bad people go to an ever-burning hell fire ... suffering without let-up. Many preachers use scare tactics to save people ... if you die tonight, you'll burn in hell fire forever.

Jonathan Edwards in America, who preached in the early 1700s ... wrote a book called, "Sinners in The Hands of An Angry God" ... designed to "scare the pants off you!!" And it did to a degree.

But ... many other preachers prefer to focus on the kind God, a patient God ... they prefer to focus on the nice side of God and The Bible. But they do believe you are going to hell if you don't believe in God. But ... what does the Bible teach? Many preachers are lying and misrepresenting God.

What do the scriptures teach about the fate of the wicked?

Does the Old Testament speak about Hell? Yes and No. The KJV refers to hell 31 times. If you read the NKJV, it is there 19 times. We have lost hell 12 times. The RSV doesn't refer to Hell ... neither does the NASB, the Amplified, The NIV.

You can't "scare the pants off people" if there is no mention of it in your Bible ... that's one of the reasons some of the preachers prefer the KJV.

The Hebrew word is Sheol ... the grave.

Psalms 1:3-6

He shall be like a tree
Planted by the rivers of water,
That brings forth its fruit in its season,
Whose leaf also shall not wither;
And whatever he does shall prosper.

The ungodly are not so,

But are like the chaff which the wind drives away.

Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment,
Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.

For the Lord knows the way of the righteous,

But the way of the ungodly shall perish. (vanish, perished, destroyed ... no mention of living on for ever in agony or hell fire).

Psalms 37:18-20

The Lord knows the days of the upright,
And their inheritance shall be forever.
They shall not be ashamed in the evil time,

And in the days of famine they shall be satisfied.

But the wicked shall perish;

And the enemies of the Lord,

Like the splendour of the meadows, shall vanish.

Into smoke they shall vanish away.

The Psalmist implies that the wicked shall be no more.

Psalms 145:17-20

The Lord is righteous in all His ways,

Gracious in all His works.

The Lord is near to all who call upon Him,

To all who call upon Him in truth.

He will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him;

He also will hear their cry and save them.

The Lord preserves all who love Him,

But all the wicked He will destroy. (God WILL destroy the wicked ...
their fate IS DESTRUCTION)

Malachi 4:1-3

"For behold, the day is coming,

Burning like an oven,

And **all the proud, yes, all who do wickedly will be stubble.**

And the day which is coming shall burn them up," (Wicked people in The Church??)

Says the Lord of hosts,

"That will leave them neither root nor branch. (Gone, finished,
destroyed!!)

But to you who fear My name

The Sun of Righteousness shall arise

With healing in His wings;

And you shall go out

And grow fat like stall-fed calves.

You shall trample the wicked,

For they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet (Dead, gone)

On the day that I do this,"

Says the Lord of hosts.

The story from the Old Testament is the wicked are to be no more ... vanished, destroyed.

What about the New Testament? KJV refers to Hell ... 23 times. However ... The NKJV only 13 times.. The NASB 13 times. Young's Literal Translation appears zero times ... not once. The Weymouth ... zero times.

In the KJV ... Hades mentioned 11 times ... and the Greek equivalent of the Hebrew Sheol ... the grave ... 12 times
Gehenna ... sometimes translated as hell fire.

With the exception of James 3:6 ... only Jesus Christ spoke about Gehenna, hell fire.

Matthew 7:13-14

"Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to **destruction**, (Greek: Apoleia ... utter destruction and ruin) and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.

The narrow way leads to life. The wide way leads to destruction.

Matthew 10:28

And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him (Be in reverential fear of Him) who is **able to destroy** (Greek: Apollumi ... verb: to destroy) **both soul and body in hell.** (Gehenna)

John 3:16

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that **whoever believes in Him should not perish** (Greek: Apollumi ... perish, destroy) **but have everlasting life.**

If you don't believe ...you will be destroyed ... you will perish ... you will be gone. That's fairly consistent.

John 10:28-29

And I give them eternal life, and they shall never **perish**; (Greek: Appolumi) neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand. (If you are not a sheep ... you will perish ... you will not have everlasting life!)

1 Corinthians 15:17-19

And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins! Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ **have perished**. (Greek: Appolumi ... perished, have been destroyed ... are no more) If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable.

2 Peter 3:7-9

But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and **perdition** (Greek: Apoleia ... **destruction**) of ungodly men.

But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should **perish** (Greek: Apollumi ... destroyed) but that all should come to repentance.

What does Apollumi mean ordinarily? Let's have a look at a few other verses.

Matthew 2:13

Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child **to destroy** Him."

Matthew 12:13-14

Then He said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." And he stretched it out, and it was restored as whole as the other. Then the Pharisees went out and plotted against Him, how they might **destroy** Him.

When you die, you sleep. If there's no resurrection ... you have vanished away.

Acts 3:19-23

Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before, ... For Moses truly said to the fathers, 'The Lord your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your brethren. Him you shall hear in all things, whatever He says to you. And it shall be that **every soul who will not hear that Prophet shall be utterly destroyed** (Greek: Exolothreuo ... utter, complete destruction ... total ... complete destruction) from among the people.'

Matthew 3:10-12

And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit **is cut down and thrown into the fire.** I indeed baptise you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather His wheat into the barn; **but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.**" (fire that you can't quench ... a fire that will burn and burn until its finished its job)

So ... at face value ... JESUS will burn up the wicked with unquenchable fire ... destroy them. If they are not in the resurrection, they are dead indeed.

Where does this idea come from of ever burning hell fire where you are tormented forever and ever and ever? Here is one verse for this week. Is this the torment of hell fire forever?

Revelation 14:9-11

Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand, he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. **He shall 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 ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name.**"

How does this compare with the other verses we have read today? Listen in next week for part two!! :)