

Hell

Theology 2
Moody Bible Institute
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False Views of Man's Destiny

- Nirvana
 - Absorption back into the “nothingness” of existence
 - Refutation: Matthew 17:3, 1 Corinthians 15
- Restorationism or Second Chance
 - Man will be given a second chance after death
 - Refuted by Hebrews 9:27, John 3:16-18

False Views of Man's Destiny

- Materialism or Naturalism
 - Man ceases to exist at the time of death
 - Refutation: 1 Corinthians 15
- Annihilationism
 - All ungodly cease to exist at death, perhaps after suffering only a little while
 - Refutation: Revelation 14:9-11

False Views of Man's Destiny

■ Soul Sleep

- After death, men "sleep" until the time of resurrection and final judgment
- Refutation: Luke 19, Philippians 1:23-24

■ Purgatory

- Man is punished until he has paid for all his individual sins, after which he can enter heaven
- Refutation: Hebrews 9:11-14, 24-28

False Views of Man's Destiny

■ Limbo

- A place for babies who die unbaptized and hence who still have original sin
- Refutation: Matthew 18:10

■ Reincarnation

- Man is reborn into another life
- Refutation: Hebrews 9:27

The Immortality of Man

- The Bible teaches that men live on after death in one of two places, Heaven or Hell
- Men, unlike animals, do not cease to exist at death
- Some clear passages on immortality:
 - Luke 16 - The Rich Man and Lazarus
 - Hebrews 9:27
 - Philippians 1:20-23
 - Revelation 20:11-15

Views of Immortality

- Simple, Immediate Annihilationism
 - Humanistic viewpoint “Saganism”
 - Teaches man ceases to exist at death
- Simple, Immediate Universalism
 - Everyone goes to Heaven
 - Raymond Moody, Kubler-Ross, founded in modern OBE (Out Of Body) or near-death testimonials

Views of Immortality

- Postponed Universalism
 - Soul-sleep until the resurrection at which all receive eternal life in Heaven
- Postponed Annihilationism
 - At the judgment, the unrighteous dead are put out of existence
 - Jehovah Witnesses, John Stott, Seventh Day Adventists
 - Increasingly making inroad into evangelicalism

Views of Immortality

- Possible Annihilationism - Second Chance
 - After death, the unrighteous are given a second chance of salvation
 - Mormons, Clark Pinnock
- Certain, Eternal Existence
 - Orthodox View
 - Heaven for the redeemed, Hell for the lost

Two Possible Destinies

- Seen most clearly in Matthew 7:13-23
 - Two gates - Matthew 7:13
 - Two roads - Matthew 7:13
 - Two groups - the few and the many - Matthew 7:14
 - Two types of prophets - the false and the good - Matthew 7:15-16
 - Two trees - Matthew 7:17-18
 - Two destinies - Matthew 7:19-23

Names For Hell

- Sheol
 - Hebrew word which means “hollow place”
 - A general term referring to the realm of the dead
 - No real distinction is made in the Old Testament between Paradise and Hades
 - Used 65 times in the Old Testament

Names For Hell

■ Hades

- The New Testament term used to refer to the abode of the unrighteous dead
- Used 11 times in the New Testament - Matthew 11:23; 16:18, Luke 10:15; 16:23, Acts 2:27; 2:31, 1 Corinthians 15:55, Revelation 1:18; 6:8; 20:13; 20:14
- A place of fire and torment according to Greek mythology

Names For Hell

- Gehenna
 - Translated hell 12 times in the New Testament, 11 times in the Gospels and once in James 3:6
 - A descriptive term, which alludes to the Valley of Hinnom outside the gates of Jerusalem which served as the city garbage dump
 - Associated with unquenchable fire and worms

The Abyss

- Translated “bottomless pit” from the Greek word *abussos*
- Used exclusively to refer to the abode of bound demons
- Satan will be confined here during the Millennium (Revelation 20), and it is here where there are temporarily bound demons who will be released during the Tribulation - Revelation 9:1-11
- Occurs 9 times in the New Testament

The Abyss

- Whereas abyss is the formal name of the abode of certain, bound demons, the descriptive term is *tartarosos*, or prison - 2 Peter 2:4
- The abyss is currently occupied by a host of demons who were confined there due to their sin prior to the flood - Jude 6

The Abyss and Hades

- Apparently, the Abyss is to demons what Hades is to men
- It is a place of confinement, and of possible punishment where demons are confined during time
- The demons, in the maniac of Gadara, were terrified that Christ would send them there - Luke 8:26-37

The Lake of Fire

- The Lake of Fire, Revelation 19 and 20, refers to the final, eternal abode of all the fallen demons, Satan, and unredeemed men
- It was originally created for Satan and his angels - Matthew 25:41
- It's first two occupants will be the Antichrist and False Prophet - Revelation 19:20

The Nature of Hell

- A place of unquenchable fire - Matthew 3:12, 13:41-42, Mark 9:43
- A place of memory and remorse - Luke 16:19-31
- A place of thirst (deprivation) - Luke 16:24

The Nature of Hell

- A place of misery and pain - Revelation 14:10-11
- A place of frustration and anger - Matthew 13:42; 24:51
- A place of separation - Revelation 2:11; 20:6
- A place of undiluted Divine wrath - Habakkuk 3:2, Revelation 14:10

The Nature of Hell

- A place originally prepared for Satan and his angels - Matthew 25:41
- A place for all of eternity - Daniel 12:2, Jude 7
- A place of differing degrees of punishment - Matthew 11:20-24, Luke 12:47-48; 20:45-47

The Occupants of Hell

- Satan - Romans 16:20, Revelation 20:10
- The Antichrist - 2 Thessalonians 2:8
- The False Prophet - Revelation 19:20
- Fallen Angels - 2 Peter 2:4, Jude 6
- Judas Iscariot - Acts 1:25
- All the unredeemed of all ages - Revelation 21:8

The Eternality of Hell

- Annihilationism, or Postponed Annihilationism is making significant inroads into evangelical circles today
 - John R. Stott
 - Clark Pinnock
- This is in direct opposition to the orthodox view of the eternality of hell and eternal punishment

The Eternality of Hell

- Some Arguments against Eternality
 - God is a God of Love and would not condemn any of His creation to eternal punishment
 - God would never allow an “eternal chamber of horrors” to exist
 - “Eternal death” in the case of an unbeliever refers to the finality of judgment, not the duration

The Eternality of Hell

- How could the righteous enjoy Heaven knowing that Hell exists and many of their loved ones are occupants there?
- How can a sin against God in time deserve eternal and unending punishment in the next life?

The Eternality of Hell

- Arguments for Eternality
 - Revelation 14:10-11
 - Smoke of torment ascends forever
 - Torment implies consciousness
 - No rest “day or night” implies endless duration
 - Revelation 20:10
 - Satan, after 1000 years, is cast into the Lake of Fire where the Beast and False Prophet are still there in conscious torment

The Eternality of Hell

- Revelation 21:8, 27
 - Note that the people excluded from Heaven still are spoken of as being in conscious existence
- Revelation 22:11
 - The “eternal fixation of state” refers to both the righteous and unrighteous - if the righteous will be righteous for eternity, then the unrighteous will be unrighteous for eternity

The Eternality of Hell

- Daniel 12:2
 - “Everlasting” is used to refer to both the righteous and unrighteous - if the righteous have eternal, conscious existence, then so do the unrighteous
- Luke 16:19-30
 - There is no indication that the rich man was about to be eliminated from existence - rather we are led to believe he was not only conscious - but would be so forever as he was concerned his family would come and be where he was

The Eternality of Hell

- Matthew 25:41
 - Christ's use of the term "everlasting fire" refers to the unending duration of the fire - if all the inmates are eliminated from existence - then the need of the fire lasting forever does not make sense
- Mark 9:42-50
 - Christ says that in Hell, the worm will never die - worms die when the food is consumed - so since the worm will never die - the food source is never consumed

The Eternality of Hell

- Revelation 20:11-15
 - The Great White Throne judgment is unnecessary and unneeded if there is no eternal punishment
 - There is no need for the unrighteous to go to Hades until the time of the Great White Throne - why not just eliminate them from existence

Degrees of Punishment?

- Arguments for degrees of punishment
 - Why keep books with deeds if everyone gets the same punishment?
 - Luke 10:13-15 indicates that it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon than the cities of Galilee because they sinned against great light
 - Why have a final judgment if everyone gets the same degree of torment?

Degrees of Punishment?

- Why do the unrighteous dead go to Hades prior to final judgment - if all receive the same punishment - then they could be sent immediately to the Lake of Fire.
- If the believers are rewarded according to their faithfulness - it would make sense the unbelievers are punished according to their sin.

Why A Final Judgment?

- Why are not the unrighteous dead immediately judged at death and sentenced to their eternal place of torment?
 - A man's sin does not end at death - his evil influence may live on.
 - For God to be totally just - He must judge one's evil influence after death as well as prior to death.