

# Lesson 18 – Would God Burn Sinners Forever?



**Introduction:** In the last lesson we learned that the dead sleep in their graves until Jesus resurrects them. When the righteous are resurrected they will go to heaven, and when the wicked are resurrected they will go to the lake of “everlasting fire.” Yet, how could a God of LOVE torture sinners forever? It seems inconsistent with His character! In this lesson, as we compare “Scripture with Scripture,” letting the Bible explain itself, we will find the truth of this matter, and you will understand the love of God as never before.





Sin starts out sweet to us.  
Then it becomes a cancer.

**Sin separates  
from God.**

# 1. How does the Bible describe God? 1 John 4:7, 8 [The Further-study verse is Eze. 33:11.]

## 1 John 4:7, 8

- <sup>7</sup> Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.
- <sup>8</sup> He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.

## Ezekiel 33:11

- <sup>11</sup> Say unto them, 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?

**[Note: God is love and He has no pleasure in the death of wicked]**



## 2. Will God's love excuse those who neglect or refuse to let Jesus take away their guilt? Num. 14:18

### Numbers 14:18

- <sup>8</sup> The LORD is longsuffering, and of great mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression, and by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation.

### Ezekiel 18: 20

- <sup>20</sup> The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him.

**[Note: God does not hold the children accountable for their parents' sins (Eze. 18:20), but the results of sin are often passed on. God will forgive the sins of the penitent, but He will not excuse sin in those who try to justify themselves. Ex. 34:6, 7; Luke 12:47, 48; 2 Peter 2:9; 3:7] ]**



### **3. When and how will the wicked be punished for their deeds? Matt. 25:31, 41, 46 [John 5:28, 29; Matt. 16:27; Rev. 22:12]**

#### **Matthew 25:31, 41, 46**

- <sup>31</sup> When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:
- <sup>41</sup> 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:
- <sup>46</sup> And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

#### **Revelation 22:12**

- <sup>12</sup> And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.

**[Answer: Wicked into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into life eternal.]**



# 3A. Where are the unsaved who have already died?



**Answer:** The Bible is specific. Both the unsaved and the saved who have died are in their graves “sleeping” until the resurrection day.



**4. Thus the wicked will be cast into hell after the judgment of the last days. Some people, not comparing Scripture with Scripture, misinterpret the Bible. What is a “soul in prison”? Isa. 42:6, 7 [Luke 4:18; John 8:34, 36; Isa. 61:1]**

**Isaiah 42:6,7**

- <sup>6</sup> I the LORD have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thine hand, and will keep thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, for a light of the Gentiles;
- <sup>7</sup> To open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the prison, and them that sit in darkness out of the prison house.

**John 8:34, 36**

- <sup>34</sup> Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.
- <sup>36</sup> If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.

**Isaiah 61:1** The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound;

**Answer: Being captured by the snares of the enemy into a life of sin**



## 5. When did Jesus preach with the power of the Spirit to the souls who were prisoners of sin in Noah's day? Gen. 6:3 [Rom. 8:11; Matt. 24:38, 39]

### **Genesis 6:3**

- <sup>3</sup> And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years.

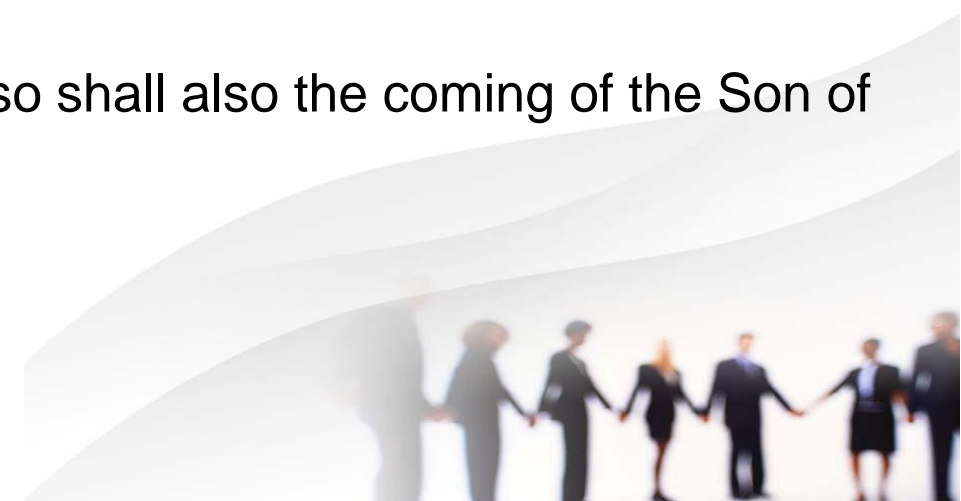
### **Romans 8:11**

<sup>11</sup> But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

### **Matthew 24: 38, 39**

- <sup>38</sup> For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark,
- <sup>39</sup> And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be

**[Answer: In Noah's day]**





## 6. When the wicked are cast into hell, will there be any rest during the time they are burning, and will their smoke or memory or anything about them ever return to earth again? Rev. 14:11 [Rev. 20:10]

### Revelation 14:11

- <sup>11</sup> And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.

### **Revelation 20:10**

- <sup>10</sup> And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

**Answer: No, their love, their hatred, their envy, their memory and everything else about them is gone.**



## 7. Who has already suffered “eternal fire” as an example of the hell fire in the last days? Jude 7

### Jude 7

<sup>7</sup> Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.

### **Ezekiel 20: 47, 49**

- <sup>7</sup> And say to the forest of the south, Hear the word of the LORD; Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will kindle a fire in thee, and it shall devour every green tree in thee, and every dry tree: the flaming flame shall not be quenched, and all faces from the south to the north shall be burned therein.
- <sup>48</sup> And all flesh shall see that I the LORD have kindled it: it shall not be quenched.

**[Note: “Eternal” or “everlasting” fire was a common Hebrew expression for a fire that could not be put out but burned until everything was consumed. Even today, if you say a fire could not be put out, it does not mean that it continues to burn even after everything has been reduced to ashes.**

**2 Peter 2:6; Eze. 20:47, 48; Jer. 17:27]**



## 8. What will be left when the fire is through burning? Mal. 4:1, 3 [Isa. 47:14]

### Malachi 4:1, 3

- <sup>1</sup> For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch.
- <sup>3</sup> And ye shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, saith the LORD of hosts.

### Isaiah 47:14

<sup>14</sup> Behold, they shall be as stubble; the fire shall burn them; they shall not deliver themselves from the power of the flame: there shall not be a coal to warm at, nor fire to sit before it.

**Answer: Nothing, they shall be burned up, and it leaves them neither root not branch.**



## 8A. Will the **fire** eventually go out?

**Answer:** Yes. The Bible specifically teaches that **hellfire** will go out—that there will not be left “a coal to be warmed by, nor a fire to sit before.” The Bible also says that in God’s new kingdom all “former things” will have passed away. **Hell**, being one of the former things, is included, so we have God’s promise that it will be abolished.

If God tortured His enemies in a fiery horror chamber throughout eternity, He would be more vicious and heartless than men have ever been in the worst of war atrocities. An eternal hell of torment would be hell for God also, who loves even the vilest sinner.



## 9. Is man immortal? 1 Tim. 6:15, 16

### 1 Timothy 6:15, 16

- <sup>15</sup> Which in his times he shall shew, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords;
- <sup>16</sup> Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen.

### 1 Cor. 15: 51-55

- <sup>51</sup> Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,
- <sup>52</sup> In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.
- <sup>53</sup> For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.
- <sup>54</sup> So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.
- <sup>55</sup> O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?

**[Note: The Bible never calls man or his soul or his spirit or anything else about him, immortal. It says: God “alone has immortality.”**

**1 Cor. 15:51-55; 2 Tim. 1:9, 10]**



# 10. What will happen to the “soul” of the unrepentant person? Eze. 18:4, 20 [Obadiah 16]

## Ezekiel 18:4, 20

- <sup>4</sup> 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.
- <sup>20</sup> The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him.

**[Note: The soul that sinneth, it shall die]**



## 11. How will the soul be destroyed? Matt. 10:28 [2 Peter 3:9-11]

### **Matthew 10: 28**

- <sup>28</sup> And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

### **2 Peter 3:9-11**

- <sup>9</sup> The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.
- <sup>10</sup> But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.
- <sup>11</sup> Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,

▪ **Answer: In hell fire.**



## 12. What is death in hell called? Rev. 20:12-15

### **Revelation 20:12-15**

- <sup>12</sup> And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.
- <sup>13</sup> And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.
- <sup>14</sup> And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.
- <sup>15</sup> And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

### **Nahum 1:9**

<sup>9</sup> What do ye imagine against the LORD? he will make an utter end: affliction shall not rise up the second time.

**[Answer. The Second Death. ]**





# 13. Will every sinner receive the same punishment? Luke 12:45-48 [Rom. 2:6; Matt. 16:27; Rev. 22:12]

## **Luke 12:45-48**

- <sup>45</sup> But and if that servant say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; and shall begin to beat the menservants and maidens, and to eat and drink, and to be drunken;
- <sup>46</sup> The lord of that servant will come in a day when he looketh not for him, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him in sunder, and will appoint him his portion with the unbelievers.
- <sup>47</sup> And that servant, which knew his lord's will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes.
- <sup>48</sup> But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more.

## **Romans 2:6**

<sup>6</sup> Who will render to every man according to his deeds:

## **Revelation 22:12**

<sup>12</sup> And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.





How Long will the wicked suffer in the **fire**?

**Answer:** The Bible does not tell us how long the wicked will be punished before receiving death in the **fire**. God does specifically state, however, that all will be punished according to their deeds. This means some will receive longer punishment than others, based upon their works.



# Somebody Said, I Can't See It!



One day he will not only see it, but...



## 14. What will happen to Satan in the fire of hell? Eze. 28:18, 19

### *Ezekiel 28:18, 19*

- <sup>18</sup> Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffick; therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it shall devour thee, and I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee.
- <sup>19</sup> All they that know thee among the people shall be astonished at thee: thou shalt be a terror, and never shalt thou be any more.

**[Note: Though the Hebrew verbs here can technically be translated in either the past or future tense, the King James Version correctly translates this as future, for Satan obviously hasn't died yet!–  
“Therefore WILL I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it SHALL devour thee, and I WILL bring thee to ashes upon the earth” (KJV).  
Rev. 20:9, 10]**



Will **destroy** him that had **the** power of death, that is, the devil.



**Never shall thy be anymore!!!!**

# 15. After the wicked are through burning, where will they be found?

**Ps. 37:9, 10** [Ps. 145:20; Obadiah 16; Prov. 24:20]

## ***Psalms 37:9, 10***

- <sup>9</sup> For evildoers shall be cut off: but those that wait upon the LORD, they shall inherit the earth.
- <sup>10</sup> For yet a little while, and the wicked shall not be: yea, thou shalt diligently consider his place, and it shall not be.

## ***Psalms 145:20***

- <sup>20</sup> The LORD preserveth all them that love him: but all the wicked will he destroy.

## ***Proverbs 24:20***

- <sup>20</sup> For there shall be no reward to the evil man; the candle of the wicked shall be put out.





## **Eternal Hell Would Perpetuate Sin**

An eternal hell of torment would perpetuate sin and make its eradication impossible. An eternal hell of torment is not part of God's great plan at all. Such a theory is slander against the holy name of a loving God. The devil delights to see our loving Creator pictured as a monstrous tyrant.

## **Eternal Hell Is Not Found in the Bible**

The "eternal hell of torment" theory originated not from the Bible, but from misguided people who were, perhaps inadvertently, led of the devil. And while a fear of hell might get our attention, we are not saved by fear but by God's grace.



## 16. What is the wages of sin? Rom. 6:23 [Rom. 5:21]

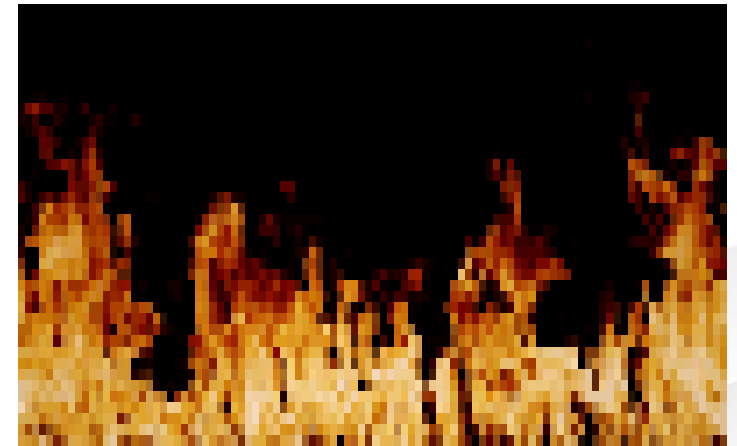
### **Romans 6:23**

- <sup>23</sup> For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### **Romans 5:21**

- <sup>21</sup> That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Answer: The wages of sin is death!!!**





# 17. If we believe in Jesus, from what will we be saved? John

**3:16** [John 17:3; John 4:14; John 6:27, 47]

## **John 3:16**

- <sup>16</sup> For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

## **John 17:3**

- <sup>3</sup> And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.

## • **John 6:27, 47**

- <sup>27</sup> Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed.
- <sup>47</sup> Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.

**Answer: We shall not perish, but have everlasting life.**



- **Commitment:** Isaiah 28:9,10 says that anyone who clings to a preconceived interpretation of an isolated text, without comparing everything else the Bible says on the subject, cannot be taught truth! As we compare ALL that the Bible says on hell, it is evident that a God of love will not burn people forever. Satan has slandered and misrepresented the character of God! Aren't you glad that you can enjoy heaven without worrying about one of your relatives being tortured throughout eternal ages, while you are trying to be happy regardless? Does this wonderful truth help you to understand God's love more? Will you respond to that love by accepting Christ as your Savior?

