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God's Love in the Fires of Hell

Triumph in the 21st Century



If you were God, would you delight in tormenting sinners in hell for millions and millions of years? Could you be truly happy in heaven if you knew an unsaved relative or friend was intensely suffering in the fires of hell at that very moment? How could a loving God burn sinners in hell for eternity? If God knows everything, wouldn't these suffering sinners be continually on His mind? Most of us would not want to torment our worst enemy that way. Is it logical that a loving God would keep His enemies in a continual state of suffering for eternity? Is hell a hot spot in the center of the earth, some burning, fiery chasm with millions crying out for deliverance right now? This is no small matter. The concept of an eternally burning hell has led many to reject God altogether. The Bible presents a clear answer for the question of God's love in the fires of hell.

If you were God, would you delight in tormenting sinners in hell?

1. What does the prophet Isaiah call the destruction of the wicked? Isaiah 28:21

The Bible answer: _____

_____

When ancient Israel rebelled against God, He allowed their enemies to destroy them. God withdrew His protecting power and allowed them to experience the result of their own choices. The destruction of Israel was God's "strange act" or "an unusual thing" (Isaiah 28:21). God's final destruction of the wicked is not the result of God's anger. It is the result of the sinners' rebellion. It is called "strange" or "unusual" because the heart of a loving God longs to save.

2. Where do the fires of hell originate? Hebrews 12:29

The Bible answer: _____

_____

Since our God is a consuming fire, the fires of hell that destroy the wicked originate in His righteous character. God is a consuming fire to sin. When a sinner clings to his sin, God becomes a consuming fire to him.

3. Where are both the righteous and the wicked rewarded? Matthew 5:5; Proverbs 11:31

The Bible answer: _____

_____

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12. Will the flames of hell consume this planet forever? What will God finally do with sorrow, suffering, and pain? Revelation 21:4, 5

The Bible answer: _____

_____

13. Will sin ever rise up again? Nahum 1:9

The Bible answer: _____

_____

14. What is the fate of Satan and his followers? Obadiah 16; Isaiah 47:14; Ezekiel 28:17, 18

The Bible answer: _____

_____

15. Does God desire to destroy wicked men and women? Ezekiel 18:32

The Bible answer: _____

_____

A loving God longs for His children to turn to Him for salvation. He does not want one person to be lost. He reaches out in tender mercy to save you today. The choice is yours! Where will you spend eternity? Every man, woman, and child must decide. There is only one sensible choice. Choose today to spend eternity with Christ, rejoicing in the new earth.

My Decision

☐ *I choose to place my life in the hands of my loving Creator. It is clear to me that sin destroys, and I long to be delivered from hell's complete destruction by my Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.*

4. When do the wicked and the righteous receive their final rewards? Is hell a hot spot burning in the center of the earth now with the devil in charge? 2 Peter 2:4, 9

The Bible answer: _____

_____

5. How completely will the fires of hell destroy the wicked? Will they burn through millions of years? (Summarize the Bible passages listed below.)

The Bible Says:

a. Malachi 4:1-3 _____

_____

b. Psalm 37:10 _____

_____

c. Job 20:5-9 _____

_____

d. Proverbs 10:25 _____

_____

e. Isaiah 47:14 _____

_____

6. What does God call the destruction of the wicked? Matthew 25:46

The Bible answer: _____

The destruction of the wicked is everlasting. Sinners do not remain alive in the fires of hell forever. God, in one act, destroys them forever. This destruction never needs to be repeated. An everlasting punishment is not an everlasting punishing. An everlasting punishment completely destroys. The wicked are not in a state of everlasting "punishing" forever.

7. According to the Bible, how long does an "eternal fire" burn? What example does God give of two cities burned with eternal fire? Jude 7

The Bible answer: _____

Sodom and Gomorrah are not burning now! In fact, they were completely destroyed and, some believe, are under the Dead Sea. The eternal fire of the Bible is one that destroys so completely that it fully consumes.

8. How completely did the eternal fire that came from heaven destroy Sodom and Gomorrah? 2 Peter 2:6

The Bible answer: _____

As Sodom and Gomorrah were turned to ashes and destroyed forever, the wicked will be completely destroyed, never to live again.

9. How does the prophet Jeremiah describe the fire which consumed Jerusalem? Jeremiah 17:19-27

The Bible answer: _____

Jerusalem was destroyed by an unquenchable fire that human hands could not put out. It totally destroyed Jerusalem. It was unquenchable, yet Jerusalem is not burning today. An unquenchable fire is one that totally destroys.

10. What happens to the wicked who are consumed in the fires of hell? Revelation 20:9

The Bible answer: _____

Some Christians misunderstand the expression "for ever and ever" in Revelation 20:10. In the Bible the expression "for ever and ever" does not mean endless existence; it literally means until the end of the age or the end of a given period. Here are some biblical examples of "for ever." The slave was to serve his master "for ever" (Exodus 21:6), or as long as he lived. Samuel was to serve in the Temple forever (1 Samuel 1:22, 28), or as long as he lived. Jonah was in the belly of the whale forever (Jonah 2:6). The Bible does not contradict itself. The wicked are consumed or totally devoured. They exist in the flames "as long as they can live." A new age dawns when suffering and sorrow are no more.

11. What is the ultimate fate of the earth? 2 Peter 3:13

The Bible answer: _____