

HELL

A Place Beyond Your Worst Nightmare

Then he will say to those on his left, "Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels." (Matthew 25:41)

God never created hell for people. He never intended it to be a place of torment for man and woman. It was originally prepared as the place of eternal punishment for the devil and his angels. But people too, are now assigned to hell - for in sin, we have all turned away from God. It began in the Garden of Eden and it continues to the present.

Most of the world today mocks hell. Many make it an object of ridicule and laughter. In fact, they even challenge God to cast them into hell. Others imagine hell to be something in this life. They say that their life is a living hell, referring to all the suffering and misery they've experienced in life.

Most people choose not to believe in hell. They say that death is the end, or the great unknown (we don't know what happens after death). So they try to push death and hell out of their mind. There are even many who call themselves Christians who do not believe in hell. They say, "My God would never send anyone to eternal torment." Hardly anyone believes that he or she is going to go to hell.

Yet God's Word speaks of hell. The Bible says that hell is a bottomless pit (Rev. 9:1), it is a lake of fire, burning with brimstone (Rev. 19:20). It is the place where men and women are tormented, held in chains of darkness, where the smoke of their torment ascends up for ever and they have no rest day or night (Rev. 14:11).

One person tries to picture for us the eternal nature of hell:

How dismal it will be, when you are under these racking torments, to know assuredly that you never, never shall be delivered from them; to have no hope; when you shall wish that you might be turned into nothing, but shall have no hope of it; when you would rejoice if you might but have any relief, after you shall have endured these torments for millions of ages, but shall have no hope of it ...when after you shall have worn out a thousand more ages, yet you shall have no hope but shall know that you are not one whit nearer to the end of your torments but that still there are the same groans, the same shrieks, the same doleful cries, incessantly to be made by you and that the smoke of your torment shall still ascend up forever and ever!

Jonathan Edwards

How can you escape eternal punishment and receive eternal life? By fleeing to the One who came into the world for the very purpose of saving you from eternal torment. Flee to the One who suffered in your place and paid the price for your sin. In Jesus you shall be safe from the eternal torments of hell. And through Him you shall inherit - for all eternity - inconceivable blessedness and glory - prepared for you since the creation of the world!

God has been working for your salvation since the foundation of the cosmos was laid. He made His promise to Adam and Eve in the garden for you and your salvation. For you He called Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. For you He guided Israel out of Egypt and through the wilderness in the Promised Land.

For you He caused His Son to be born of the Virgin Mary, the Son who suffered, died, and rose again, for you. ... He brought you here today to hear His Word. Everything has been worked out so that Christ could hand you the kingdom on the Last Day and say, "Here, it's all yours. Your Father's been working on this for a long time."

William Cwirla

Jesus came once in grace - in a stable in Bethlehem, on a donkey into Jerusalem, to a hill with a cross. Today He graciously comes in His Word. But there will be a day - unknown to all but God the Father - when He will come again - as the one divinely appointed Judge.

Until that day arrives, be watching, believing, trusting, praying, being involved in the Master's work. Live your life in view of the Master's return - for many continue in their unbelief, thinking they have done enough to be accepted into heaven - thinking there are many ways to heaven - thinking "there's no such thing as hell - and if there is, it won't be so bad." Be ready yourself for the Master's return - and sound the alarm, so that others might believe, and be saved, and receive the inheritance prepared for them since the creation of the world.