

# THE END OF EVIL

## See With New Eyes, Session 9

GOD IS MERCIFUL AND JUST in all His ways, even in the manner in which He will finally deal with His enemies. There is no doctrine that more terribly runs contrary to our sense of justice than the doctrine of eternal torment. The idea that God will sustain people in conscious torment for all eternity is the most horrendous misrepresentation of God's character that has even been believed by human minds. The vital question is, Does the Bible actually teach this picture of God?

### THE INCOMPATIBILITY OF LOVE AND TORTURE

*The Bible consistently informs us that God is love, and that His love is a coherent reality that we can comprehend, because it is composed of a perfect blend of justice and mercy. God does not operate outside of the realm of the moral standards that our sense of justice understands, because, in fact, we were made in God's image. Therefore, our sense of justice at its best derives from the character of God.*

**Deuteronomy 32:4**—He is the Rock, His work is perfect; for all His ways are justice a God of truth and without injustice; righteous and upright is He.

**1 John 4:8**—God is love.

**1 John 1:5**—God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all.

**Jeremiah 19:5**—They have also built the high places of Baal, to burn their sons with fire for burnt offerings to Baal, which I did not command or speak, nor did it come into My mind.

### THE WAGES OF SIN IS DEATH, NOT ETERNAL LIFE IN TORMENT

*The Bible consistently teaches that the final demise of the wicked is death, eternal destruction, cessation of life, not eternal life in a place of torment.*

**Genesis 2:17**— . . . of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”

**Galatians 6:7-8, NIV**—<sup>7</sup>A man reaps what he sows. <sup>8</sup>The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.

**James 1:15**—Sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.

**Psalms 34:21, NRSV**—Evil brings death to the wicked.

**Romans 6:23**—The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**John 3:16**—For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

**Ezekiel 18:20**—The soul who sins shall die.

**Obadiah 16**—They shall be as though they had not been.

~NOTES~

Here is the clearest Biblical definition of the wrath of God:

“For *the wrath of God is revealed from heaven* against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men... Therefore *God also gave them up...* For this reason *God gave them up to* vile passions...receiving in themselves *the penalty* of their error which was due. And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, *God gave them over* to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting” (Romans 1:18, 24, 26, 28).

“Jesus our Lord... was *delivered up* because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification” (Romans 4:24-25).

“What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but *delivered Him up* for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?” (Romans 8:31-32).

Notice that three times Paul says God's wrath is revealed toward wicked people when He gives them up or over to their sinful behavior and its natural consequences. Then He says that when God does this we are witnessing “the penalty” for sin. The next two passages are the only other times in Romans where Paul uses the Greek word here translated “gave them up.” In both instances he uses the word to describe the experience of Jesus at the cross, indicating that Jesus suffered “the wrath of God.”

## ETERNAL DESTRUCTION

*The wicked will be eternally destroyed by fire, not eternally sustained in it.*

**Matthew 25:46**—And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.

**Jude 7**—Sodom and Gomorrah . . . are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.

**2 Peter 2:6**—Turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned them to destruction . . .

**Revelation 20:10**—And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

**Jonah 2:6**—I went down to the moorings of the mountains; the earth with its bars closed behind me forever; yet You have brought up my life from the pit.

**Exodus 21:6**—He shall also bring him to the door, or to the doorpost, and his master shall pierce his ear with an awl; and he shall serve him forever.

**Matthew 3:12**—He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.

**Jeremiah 7:20**—Behold, My anger and My fury will be poured out on this place (Jerusalem)—on man and on beast, on the trees of the field and on the fruit of the ground. And it will burn and not be quenched.

**Isaiah 47:14**—Behold, they shall be as stubble, the fire shall burn them; they shall not deliver themselves from the power of the flame; it shall not be a coal to be warmed by, nor a fire to sit before!

**Ezekiel 28:18, KJV**—Therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee (Satan), it shall devour thee, and I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee.

## ETERNAL FIRE

*According to the Bible, and there is an eternal fire, but it is the righteous who live there for all eternity, and not the wicked.*

**Deuteronomy 33:2-3**— . . .from His right hand came a fiery law for them.

**Exodus 24:17**—The sight of the glory of the LORD was like a consuming fire on the top of the mountain in the eyes of the children of Israel.

**Song of Solomon 8:6-7, NASB**—<sup>6</sup>For love is as strong as death, jealousy is as severe as Sheol; its flashes are flashes of fire, the very flame of the LORD. <sup>7</sup>Many waters cannot quench love, nor will rivers overflow it; if a man were to give all the riches of his house for love, it would be utterly despised,

**Hebrews 12:29**—Our God is a consuming fire.

Now compare **Isaiah 33:10-18**, **Malachi 4:1-3**, and **Daniel 7:9-11** to discover that the righteous will live forever in the fire of God's presence while that same fire will destroy the wicked.

According to Jesus, the wicked are not suffering in hell presently, but rather face their final demise after the resurrection at the end of the world. See John 5:28-29.

According to the Bible, once the new heavens and the new earth are made, there will be "no more pain" in God's universe, which could not be said if the wicked are somewhere in God's universe experiencing excruciating pain. See Revelation 21:1, 4.