

1. HOW DOES GOD FEEL ABOUT THE DESTRUCTION OF THE WICKED?

Ezekiel 33:11; 2 Peter 3:9; Isaiah 28:21

The Bible says: I have _____ in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. (Eze. 33:11) The Lord is... _____ that any should perish. (2 Pet. 3:9) He may...bring to pass His act, His _____ act. (Isa. 28:21)



Note: While some have used the concept of hell to accuse God of being a tyrant, this could not be further from the truth. Destruction of the wicked is an unusual act to God because “God is love” (1 John 4:8). Everything He does is motivated by love. Still, while love is the motivating factor, true love cannot exist without justice. While there must be a punishment for the evils in the world, God takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked. He does not delight in seeing people perish, but is doing all He can to rescue as many as He can.

2. WHAT WAS GOD’S ORIGINAL PUNISHMENT FOR SIN?

Genesis 3:3; Romans 6:23; Ezekiel 18:4

The Bible says: God has said, “You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you ____.” (Gen. 3:3) For the wages of sin is _____. (Rom. 6:23) The _____ who sins shall _____. (Eze. 18:4)

Note: In the beginning, God told Adam and Eve that if they ate of the fruit of the forbidden tree, they would die. While some suggest that the punishment for sin is burning forever in hell, and in all fairness, at first glance some verses may give that appearance, when we study it out, we find an entirely different picture. The truth is, the Bible consistently says that the punishment of sin is death. If the penalty for sin is death, then the fires of hell are not going to burn forever. They will simply burn the wicked until they die.

3. IS HELL A REAL THING?

Matthew 5:30; 23:33

The Bible says: And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole _____ to be cast into _____. How can you escape the condemnation of hell? (Matt. 5:30; 23:33)

Note: This mythological idea invented by Dante during the Middle Ages, describing hell as a pit in the middle of the earth with multiple levels where the devil tortures dead souls in scorching fire is not real, but the Bible is clear that hell is real. While God does not want to destroy anyone, He is a God of justice, and the horrible injustices in the world that have gone unpunished throughout the ages, and all the secret sins that have caused so much pain and suffering over time must be judged. Hell is the final sentence enacted on the wicked to restore justice to the universe.

4. IS ANYONE BURNING IN HELL RIGHT NOW?

Job 21:30; 2 Peter 3:7

The Bible says: For the wicked are _____ for the day of doom; They shall be brought out on the day of wrath. (Job 21:30) Reserved for fire until the day of _____. (2 Pet. 3:7)



Note: Some say the wicked start burning in hell the minute they die, but the Bible does not suggest that at all. Instead, it says that the wicked are reserved for the day of wrath. When you reserve a table at a restaurant, you are holding it for a future event. If the wicked are reserved for fire to be brought out on the day of wrath, they cannot be burning now. According to the Bible, no one is in hell right now. The wicked are currently resting, reserved in their graves, where they are kept for the coming punishment when all will face the judgment together.

5. HOW WILL THE WICKED FINALLY DIE?

Revelation 20:9; Jude 1:6

The Bible says: And _____ came down from God out of heaven and _____ them. (Rev. 20:9) Sodom and Gomorrah...are set forth as an _____, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire. (Jude 1:6)



Note: Jesus returns, the wicked are raised, and as they surround the city of God for one final attempt to overthrow God’s people, fire comes down from God out of heaven and burns up the wicked. At that time, the entire earth becomes a pool of flames. Both Jude and Peter describe the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah as an example of the final destruction of the wicked (See Jude 1:6; 2 Pet. 2:6). Of course, we know that Sodom and Gomorrah aren’t still burning today, but they turned to ashes, as a symbol of what will happen to the wicked in the judgment (See Mal. 4:1).

6. WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE WICKED IN THE FIRE?

Psalms 37:20; 1:6; 145:20

The Bible says: But the wicked shall _____ ... Into smoke they shall vanish away. (Ps. 37:20) The way of the ungodly shall _____. (Ps. 1:6) These...will _____ in their own corruption (2 Pet. 2:12) All the wicked He will _____. (Ps. 145:20)

Note: The Bible says God will destroy the wicked, they will perish in the fires of hell, and like smoke they will vanish away. Not only will they perish, but the Bible says they will utterly perish! They will “be destroyed together; the future of the wicked shall be cut off” (Ps. 37:38). Notice the decisive language. If the sinner was to live in the fires of hell forever, God would not say that they would utterly perish or be destroyed, but the Bible consistently uses this and similar terminology to describe the final punishment of the wicked.

7. WHAT WILL BECOME OF THE WICKED IN THE END?

Psalm 37:10, 36; Obadiah 1:16; Ezekiel 28:19

The Bible says: For yet a little while and the wicked shall be _____ ... I sought him, but he could not be found. (Ps. 37:10, 36) And they shall be as though they had _____. (Ob. 1:16) And shall be _____ forever. (Eze. 28:19)

Note: While there may be a couple confusing verses that some have twisted to invent the concept of an eternally burning hell, many overlook the verses that say the wicked will be “consumed from the earth,” and will be “no more” (Ps. 104:35). The Bible repeatedly affirms this idea. While each is punished according to their works, and the devil will burn the longest, the Bible even say that Satan will eventually be “no more forever” (See Eze. 28:14-19). The wicked will not be found anywhere. It will be as though they had never been.

8. WHAT WILL BE LEFT WHEN THE FIRES GO OUT?

Malachi 4:1, 3; Isaiah 47:14

The Bible says: All who do wickedly will be stubble. And the day which is coming shall burn them _____ ...That will leave them neither root nor branch...for they shall be _____. (Mal. 4:1, 3) It shall not be a _____ to be warmed by, nor a _____ to sit before! (Isa. 47:14)



Note: First, Malachi starts by saying, “the day is coming, burning like an oven,” which again confirms that hell is not burning now, but is in the future. Second, we are told that the fires of hell will not continue to burn the wicked, but it will “burn them up.” They will be gone. “They shall not deliver themselves from the power of the flame” (Isa. 47:14). Third, this is confirmed by the fact that “You shall trample the wicked, for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet.” After the fire goes out, all that will be left of the wicked are stubble and ashes. There will not even be one coal left to be warmed by!

9. WHAT IS THE DESTRUCTION OF THE WICKED CALLED?

Revelation 20:14; 21:8

The Bible says: Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the _____ ... the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the _____. (Rev. 20:14; 21:8)



Note: The Bible calls the lake of fire the “second death.” That implies it is the second time the wicked die. All of us die at the end of life, sleep in the grave until raised in the resurrection, then the wicked will die again. They will not continue to live in hellfire, but die a second time, thus, the second death. After that, even death and hell are cast into the lake of fire, which means death and hell will finally end, and from that time there will be “no more death” or “pain” (Rev. 20:4). How could there be no more pain if people burn in hell forever?

10. DOESN'T THE BIBLE SAY HELL BURNS FOREVER AND THE WICKED RECEIVE EVERLASTING DESTRUCTION?

2 Thessalonians 1:9; Revelation 14:11; Psalm 9:5; 92:7

The Bible says: These shall be punished with _____ (2 Thes. 1:9) Smoke of their torment ascends forever. (Rev. 14:11) You have _____ the wicked; You have blotted out their name forever. (Ps. 9:5) The wicked...may be _____. (Ps. 92:7)

Note: While the highly symbolic book of Revelation uses the term “forever” in a couple places, the Bible at times uses this word figuratively to mean as long as a person lives (See 1 Sam. 1:22, 28). Forever and everlasting destruction here mean the results are eternal. They are “destroyed forever,” and “no more forever” (Ps. 92:7; Eze. 28:19). They never live again. If you see a confusing text in the Bible, read all the verses on the subject to clarify it. As we do this here, it becomes clear that hell does not burn forever, but the results are forever.

THE DESTRUCTION OF THE WICKED

