

Behold...The Severity of God

Rom. 11:17-23

Introduction

- ***We will appear before God in judgment:***
 - 13 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole [duty] of man. 14 For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether [it be] good, or whether [it be] evil. (Eccl. 12:13-14)

Introduction

- ***We will appear before God in judgment.***
 - Acts 24:25 → And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, Felix trembled, and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee.
 - Act 17:30-31 → 30 And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: 31 Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by [that] man whom he hath ordained; [whereof] he hath given assurance unto all [men], in that he hath raised him from the dead.
 - Matt. 25:46 → And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

Introduction

- The gospel is the good news. But to be appreciated, we must come to grips with the awfulness of sin.
 - **Rom. 1:16-18** → 16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. 17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith. 18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;
 - **Matt. 1:21** → 21 And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins. (Jn. 3:16;36)

God's View of Sin and Righteousness...

- Prov. 6:16-19 → 16 These six [things] doth the LORD hate: yea, seven [are] an abomination unto him: 17 A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, 18 An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, 19 A false witness [that] speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.
- Heb 1:9 → Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, even thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows.
- Mic 6:8 → 8 He hath shewed thee, O man, what [is] good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?

Adam and Eve Driven Out Of Eden

- Gen. 2:17 → But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.



Gen 3:24 →24 So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.

The Flood

- Gen. 7:23 → And every living substance was destroyed which was upon the face of the ground, both man, and cattle, and the creeping things, and the fowl of the heaven; and they were destroyed from the earth: and Noah only remained [alive], and they that [were] with him in the ark.



2Pe 2:5 → 5 And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth [person], a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly;

Destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah

- Gen. 19:24-25 → 24 Then the LORD rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the LORD out of heaven; 25 And he overthrew those cities, and all the plain, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and that which grew upon the ground.



Jude 7 → 7 Even as Sodom and Gomorrah, 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.

Israel In The Wilderness...

- 32 And they brought up an evil report of the land which they had searched unto the children of Israel, saying, The land, through which we have gone to search it, [is] a land that eateth up the inhabitants thereof; and all the people that we saw in it [are] men of a great stature. 33 And there we saw the giants, the sons of Anak, [which come] of the giants: and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight.



[Num . 14:29-30 → 29 Your carcasses shall fall in this wilderness; and all that were numbered of you, according to your whole number, from twenty years old and upward, which have murmured against me, 30 ...save Caleb the son of Jephunneh, and Joshua the son of Nun.

Deaths of Nadab and Abihu

- 1 And Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took either of them his censer, and put fire therein, and put incense thereon, and offered strange fire before the LORD, which he commanded them not. 2 And there went out fire from the LORD, and devoured them, and they died before the LORD.



3 Then Moses said unto Aaron, This [is it] that the LORD spake, saying, I will be sanctified in them that come nigh me, and before all the people I will be glorified. And Aaron held his peace.

Death of Korah, Dathan and Abiram

- Num. 16:31-35 → 31 And it came to pass, as he had made an end of speaking all these words, that the ground clave asunder that [was] under them: 32 And the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed them up, and their houses, and all the men that [appertained] unto Korah, and all [their] goods. 33 They, and all that [appertained] to them, went down alive into the pit, and the earth closed upon them: and they perished from among the congregation. 34 And all Israel that [were] round about them fled at the cry of them: for they said, Lest the earth swallow us up [also].



35 And there came out a fire from the LORD, and consumed the two hundred and fifty men that offered incense.

Judgment On Nations...

- Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Rome, City of Jerusalem, etc.
- Prov. 14:34 → 34 Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin [is] a reproach to any people.



Ananias and Sapphira

- Acts 5:3-5 → 3 But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back [part] of the price of the land? 4 Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God. 5 And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost: and great fear came on all them that heard these things



Herod Agrippa I

- Acts 12:21-23 → 21 And upon a set day Herod, arrayed in royal apparel, sat upon his throne, and made an oration unto them. 22 And the people gave a shout, [saying, It is] the voice of a god, and not of a man. 23 And immediately the angel of the Lord smote him, because he gave not God the glory: and he was eaten of worms, and gave up the ghost.



Those Who Deny Eternal Punishment...

- “I was led to question the traditional belief in everlasting conscious torment because of moral revulsion and broader theological considerations, not first of all on scriptural grounds. It just does not make any sense to say that a God of love will torture people forever for sins done in the context of a finite life . . . It's time for evangelicals to come out and say that the biblical and morally appropriate doctrine of hell is annihilation, not everlasting torment.” (Clark Pinnock, 1990)

The Denial of Eternal Punishment

- “Emotionally, I find the concept [of eternal conscious torment] intolerable and do not understand how people can live with it without either cauterizing their feelings or cracking under the strain . . . Scripture points in the direction of annihilation.” (John Stott)
- Edward Fudge, “The Fire That Consumes”
- F. Larard Smith → Sooner or later those cast into hell will cease to exist...(cf. also Homer Hailey)

What Did Jesus Say About Hell?

- But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, **shall be in danger of hell fire.** (Matt. 5:22)
- And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast *it* from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, **and not *that thy whole body should be cast into hell.*** (Matt. 5:29)
- And if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and cast *it* from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, **and not *that thy whole body should be cast into hell.*** (Matt. 5:30)
- 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.** (Matt. 10:28)

What Did Jesus Say About Hell?

- And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast *it* from thee: **it is better for thee to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire.** (Matt. 18:9)
- Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the **child of hell than yourselves.** (Matt. 23:15)
- Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, **how can ye escape the damnation of hell?** (Matt. 23:33)
- And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into **hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched:** (Mk. 9:43)

What Did Jesus Say About Hell?

- And if thy foot offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter halt into life, than having two feet to be cast into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched. (Mk. 9:45-46)
- And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out: it is better for thee to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire: (Mk. 9:47)
- But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell; yea, I say unto you, Fear him. (Lk. 12:5)

What Did Jesus Say About Hell?

- Matt. 25:30,41,46 → And cast ye the unprofitable servant **into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth**...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**...And these shall go away into **everlasting punishment**: but the righteous into **life eternal**.

What Did Jesus Say About Hell?

- **Everlasting punishment**
- **Everlasting fire**
- **Weeping and gnashing of teeth**
- **Outer darkness**
- **If thine eye offend thee, pluck it out**
- **If thy foot offend thee, cut it off**
- **If thy hand offend thee, cut it off**
- **Their worm dies not**
- **The fire that never shall be quenched**