

The Resurrection

- *the hour is coming in which all who are in the tombs (graves) will hear His voice and come forth – those who have done good, to **the resurrection of life**, and those who have done evil, to **the resurrection of judgment** (condemnation). Jn. 5:28-29*

The Righteous Judgment of God

- *"will render to each one according to his deeds":*
7 eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality;
- *8 but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness — indignation and wrath, 9 tribulation and anguish, on every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek;*
- **10 but glory, honor, and peace to everyone who works what is good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.**
- *11 For there is no partiality with God. Rom 2:5-11*

Preparations for the Faithful

- *Precious and exceeding great promises.* 2Pet. 1:4
- 1. Amazing abilities of resurrected body with *glory* *incorruption, power, honor,* and *immortality,*”.
- 2. “*according to His promise,*” are “*looking for* *new heavens and a new earth,* *in which righteousness dwells.*” 1Cor. 15; 2Pet. 3:13
- 3. “*the* *city* *which has foundations, whose* *builder and maker is God,*” “*for* *He has prepared a city* *for them*” Heb. 11:10, 16
- 4. “*Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit* *the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:* (Mt. 25:34-35).

Preparations for the Wicked

- Punishment will be just and exactly fit the crime of sin. Nothing reveals the terrible nature of sin more than the recompense that awaits those who rejected God's gracious offer of mercy and forgiveness in the gospel.
- the cost of forgiveness was the death of Jesus on the cross, the cost of sin, for those who choose to pay it themselves is dire and grievous, rising up above our comprehension.

Preparations for the Wicked

- Sinners be placed in the midst of the most evil of all God's enemies.
- *“Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels.”* Mt. 25:41-42
- This everlasting fire is the punishment that fits the crime, even for the devil and his angels.
- Reveals that sins men commit here are far more evil and corrosive than we can understand.

Fire Removes Trees and Chaff

- *Even the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is **cut down and thrown into the fire** Lk. 3:9*
- *One mightier than I is coming, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather the wheat into His barn; but **the chaff He will burn with unquenchable fire.**” Lk. 3:16-17*

Left to Jesus to Expand or Narrow

- Jesus explained the meaning of fire.
- There is no doubt Jesus intended us to see the dual use of fire as the end for the wicked.
- “Therefore **as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire**, so it will be at the end of this age,” “will **cast them into the furnace of fire**, with “**wailing and gnashing of teeth**” (Mt. 13:40-42).
- Jesus did not narrow what John said. He expanded it. This is not figurative language, it is the explanation of the parable.

Left to Jesus to Expand or Narrow

- Jesus sternly warned all His disciples of the dangers facing them.,
- *“If your hand or foot causes you to sin, cut it off and cast it from you. It is better to enter into life lame or maimed, than having two hands or two feet, to be **cast into the everlasting fire**”* Mt. 18:8
- In his “parable” of the vine and the branches Jesus warned: *“If anyone does not abide in Me, he is **cast out as a branch and is withered**; and they gather them and **throw them into the fire, and they are burned.**”* Jn. 15:6-7

Jesus is Revealing the Unseen

- *while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal. 2Cor 4:18*
- It is an **everlasting fire** prepared for the devil and his angels. Mt. 25:41-42
- It is **unquenchable fire** Lk. 3:16;
- It is the **furnace of fire**,
- **wailing and gnashing of teeth** ” Mt. 13:40-42
- Jesus portrayed His description of the fate of the righteous and wicked as eternal realities tied together.
- *These will go away into **everlasting punishment**, but the righteous into **eternal life**.” Mt. 25:46*

Jesus Chose "Gehenna"

- Before Jesus came, The details of the fate of the wicked were obscure. Jesus sought the best way to help open our eyes to see the unseen.
- Jesus detailed knowledge needed the clearest means to be revealed.
- He chose the term "*gehenna*," which is translated "*hell*," but unless we know the background and reason for choosing it, we can't fully see it.

Scriptural History of “Gehenna”

- From the time of Joshua, there was a valley near Jerusalem called “*the valley of the son of Hinnom.*” (Josh. 15:8).
- For centuries, the Hebrew “*gê-Hinnōm*” conveyed nothing more than this valley.
- King Ahaz used this valley to set up idols and offer infants in sacrifice:
- “*Ahaz was twenty years old when he became king, and reigned sixteen years ... He burned incense in the Valley (gê) of the Son of Hinnom (“hinnōm”), and burned his children in the fire.*” 2Chr. 28:1-3
- Ahaz’ son Hezekiah stopped it in his reforms, but Ahaz’ grandson Manasseh started it again 2Chr. 33:6

The Eternal Stigma of “Gehenna”

● *"Go and get a potter's earthen flask, and take some of the elders of the people and some of the elders of the priests. 2 And **go out to the Valley (gê) of the Son of Hinnom, (Hinnōm)** which is by the entry of the Potsherd Gate; and proclaim there the words that I will tell you, 3 and say, 'Hear the word of the Lord, O kings of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem. Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: "Behold, **I will bring such a catastrophe on this place, that whoever hears of it, his ears will tingle.** Jer 19:1-3*

● *“gê-Hinnōm / ge-henna” will make ears tingle.*

The Eternal Stigma of “Gehenna”

- *"Because **they have forsaken Me and made this an alien place**, because they have burned incense in it to other gods whom neither they, their fathers, nor the kings of Judah have known, and **have filled this place with the blood of the innocents** 5 (they have also built the high places of Baal, **to burn their sons with fire for burnt offerings to Baal**, 6 therefore behold, the days are coming," says the Lord, "that **this place shall no more be called Tophet or the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, but the Valley of Slaughter.** Jer 19:4-6*
- The connotation of **“gê-Hinnōm / ge-henna”** now a valley of slaughter

The Eternal Stigma of “*Gehenna*”

- The term “*gê-Hinnōm / gehenna*” became synonymous with the wrath of God poured out as the final fate of the wicked in Jerusalem .
- Though some have contended it was also a dump for refuse in the days of Jesus, the evidence is sketchy and nothing in the Scriptures can verify it.
- All we can conclude with certainty is that this valley never lost it’s sinister reputation of death, slaughter, defilement, and judgment.
- It was an “alien place” where they burned the innocents, their sons and daughters in the fire.

“gê-Hinnōm” / “ge-henna”

- Jesus made all the stigma, disgust and revulsion attached to this place as a “parable” or material reality to describe the eternal spiritual fate of the wicked.
- “*gehenna*” is this foundation, Jesus created as the vista of eternal punishment for the wicked.
- He then added the details that would make it as clear as possible for His servants.

The Details Jesus added

- Jesus made this “*gehenna*” the place of destruction for the soul and the newly resurrected body of the wicked:
- “*fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell (gehenna).* (Mt. 10:28).
- Those who are evil or who do not put forth enough effort to remove sin will be “*cast into the fiery gehenna, of “unquenchable fire.”* Mt. 18:9, 12; Mk. 9:43-49
- In this fire, “*the worm will not die,*” “*everyone will be salted with fire,*” and it will be a place of “*outer darkness.*”
- Jesus also made the “*weeping and gnashing of teeth*” a part of our vision and understanding of “*gehenna.*”

The Picture is Reaffirmed

● *And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. ... And death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire. Rev. 20:10,14-15*

● *“But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.” Rev. 21:8*

What Conclusions can we Draw?

- Jesus intended we be left with this understanding.
- Although these things leave many questions, Deut. 29:29 must be respected.
- *“The secret things belong to God”*
- God has given us all the information He wanted us to have on the subject of the eternal fate of the wicked.
- Obviously the same difficulty we have understanding the spiritual body of the resurrection and the spiritual nature of heaven, will create the same problem with the true nature of *“gehenna.”*

Conclusions

- Jesus would never exaggerate or mislead.
- There will be the spiritual equivalent of unquenchable fire, darkness, and an undying worm.
- There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, and the smoke of torment arising forever.
- The everlasting nature of the punishment is directly tied to the eternal reward of the righteous:
- *“These will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”* (Mt. 25:46). *D*