



## The Existence of Hell

Well? Does God really keep the devil on His payroll - is he the chief superintendent of hell measuring out the punishment of the lost?

There is not one single soul in hellfire today. The Bible says that God reserves, or holds back, the wicked until the day of judgment to be punished. The wicked will not be punished until after the judgment. *"The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished."* **2 Peter 2:9.**

Sinners will be cast into hellfire at the great judgment day at the end of the world--not when they die. God would not punish a person in fire until his case was tried and decided in court at the end of the world. Nor would God burn a murderer who died 5,000 years ago 5,000 years longer than one who dies and deserves punishment for the same sin today. *"So shall it be in the end of this world. The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; And shall cast them into a furnace of fire."* **Matthew 13:40-42.** *"The word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day."* **John 12:48.**

The Bible is specific. Both the wicked and the righteous who have died are in their graves "sleeping" until the resurrection day. *"The hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation."* **John 5:28, 29.** *"The wicked is reserved to the day of destruction."* *"Yet shall he be brought to the grave, and shall remain in the tomb."* **Job 21:30, 32.**

The wages (or punishment) for sin is death, not everlasting life in hellfire. The wicked "perish," or receive "death." The righteous receive "everlasting life". *"The wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."* **Romans 6:23.** *"Sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death."* **James 1:15.** *"God ... gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."* **John 3:16.**

The wicked die the second death in hellfire. *"But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death."* **Revelation 21:8.**

If the wicked lived forever being tortured in hell, they would be immortal. But this is impossible, because the Bible says God *"Who only hath immortality."* **1 Timothy 6:16.** When Adam and Eve were driven from the Garden of Eden, an angel was posted to guard the tree of life so that sinners would not eat of the tree and *"live for ever."* **Genesis 3:22-24.** The teaching that sinners are immortal in hell

originated with Satan and is completely untrue. God prevented this when sin entered this earth by guarding the tree of life.

Ref: **1 Timothy 6:16** “ *Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto ; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting, Amen.* ”

**Gen. 3:22-24** “ *And the Lord God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever: Therefore the Lord God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. 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 Bible does not tell how long the wicked will be punished before receiving death in the fire. God does specifically state, however, that all will be punished according to their deeds. This means some will receive greater punishment than others, based upon their works. “ *And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.* ” **Revelation 22:12**. “ *And then he shall reward every man according to his works.* ” **Matthew 16:27**. “ *That servant, which knew his lord's will, and ... neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes. But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes.* ” **Luke 12:47, 48**. Jesus will insist upon just treatment for the wicked. Their degree of punishment will be fair and according to their works, as He promised.

The Bible specifically teaches that hellfire will go out and that there will not be left “a coal to warm at, nor fire to sit before it.” The Bible also teaches that in God’s new kingdom all “former things” will be passed away. Hell, being one of the former things, is included, so we have God's promise that it will be abolished.

“ *Behold, they shall be as stubble; the fire shall burn them; they shall not deliver themselves from the power of the flame: there shall not be a coal to warm at, nor fire to sit before it.* ” **Isaiah 47:14**. “ *And I saw a new heaven and a new earth.* ” “ *And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.* ” **Revelation 21:1, 4**.

“ *For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the Lord of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch.* ” “ *And ye shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, saith the Lord of hosts.* ” **Malachi 4:1, 3**.

Notice the verse does not say the wicked will burn like asbestos, as many today believe, but rather like stubble, which will be burned up. The little word “up” denotes completion. Nothing but ashes will be left when the fire goes out. In Psalms 37:10, 20, the Bible says the wicked will go up in smoke and be completely destroyed. “ *For yet a little while, and the wicked shall not be: yea, thou shalt diligently consider his place, and it shall not be.* ” “ *But the wicked shall perish and the enemies of the Lord shall be as the fat of lambs: they shall consume; into smoke shall they consume away.* ” **Psalms 37:10,20**.

Our original question was will the devil be in charge of hell? Absolutely not. The devil will be cast into the fire, and it will turn him into ashes. “ *And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire.* ” **Revelation 20:10**. “ *I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee. ... And never shall thou be any more.* ” **Ezekiel 28:18, 19**.

God's purpose is that hell will destroy the devil and all sin and sinners and make the world safe for eternity. One sinner, if left on this planet, would be a deadly virus forever threatening the universe. It is God's plan to isolate sin and blot it out of existence for all time.

*“Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels.” **Matthew 25:41.** “And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.”*

***Revelation 20:15.** “For yet a little while, and the wicked shall not be.” “The enemies of the Lord ... shall consume; into smoke shall they consume away.” **Psalms 37:10, 20.***

The work of destroying sinners is foreign to God's nature. The work of God has always been to save rather than destroy. The work of destroying the wicked in hellfire is so foreign to God's nature that the Bible calls it His "strange act." God's great heart will ache at the destruction of the wicked. Oh, how diligently He works to save every soul! But if one spurns His love and clings to sin, God will have no choice but to destroy the sinner with his sin when He rids the universe of that horrible, malignant growth called "sin" in the fires of the last day.

*“As I live, saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die?” **Ezekiel 33:11.** “For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them.” **Luke 9:56.** “For the Lord shall rise up ... that he may do his work, his strange work; and bring to pass his act, his strange act.” **Isaiah 28:21.***

After hellfire goes out, God will create a new earth and restore it to His people--with all the beauties and glories of Eden before sin entered. The horrors of sin and the past will be forgotten. Pain, death, tragedy, woe, tears, sickness, disappointment, sorrow, and all sin will be banished forever.

*“He will make an utter end: affliction shall not rise up the second time.” **Nahum 1:9.** “For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind.” **Isaiah 65:17.** “Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain.” **Revelation 21:3, 4.***

God promises that sin will never rise again. His people will be filled with perfect peace, love, joy, and contentment. Their lives of complete happiness will be far more glorious and thrilling than mere words could ever describe. The real tragedy of hell is in missing heaven. A person who fails to enter this magnificent kingdom has made the saddest choice of a lifetime.