

The Reality
Of
Hell



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Preface

This eBook is written to expose the myth that hell does not exist and that there is no judgment or eternal punishment.

I will be using the KJV of the bible most of the time to share scripture on this topic. I will also look for other noted personalities or articles on the web that have opinions on the subject.

My hope is that readers will see the reality of Hell and take Biblical actions to avoid it at all cost.

The end of days is fast approaching and we need to be assured of our salvation and focused on those things that really count. Knowing that there is a Hell and understanding how to escape it, as a destiny, is the most important thing anyone can do.



Introduction

How many times have you told someone to, “*Go To Hell*”? How many times has someone told you the same thing? If we knew the type of place that Hell is, we would not be telling others to go there.

Webster defines Hell as “A place regarded in various religions as a spiritual realm of evil and suffering, often traditionally depicted as a place of perpetual fire beneath the earth where the wicked are punished after death.”

The Bible definition goes like this, “Hell is the future place of eternal punishment of the damned including the devil and his fallen angels. There are several words rendered as Hell:

1. **Hades**--A Greek word. It is the place of the dead--the location of the person between death and resurrection. (See **Matt. 11:23, 16:18, Acts 11:27, 1 Cor. 15:55, Rev. 1:18, 6:8**).
2. **Gehenna**--A Greek word. It was the place where dead bodies were dumped and burned (**2 Kings 23:13-14**). Jesus used the word to designate the place of eternal torment (**Matt. 5:22, 29, 30, Mark 9:43, Luke 12:5**).
3. **Sheol**--A Hebrew word. It is the place of the dead and not necessarily the grave but the place the dead go to. It is used of both the righteous (**Psalms 16:10, 30:3, Isaiah 38:10**) and the wicked (**Num. 16:33, Job. 24:19, Psalm 9:17**).
4. **Hell** is a place of eternal fire (**Matt. 25:41, Rev. 19:20**). It was prepared for the devil and his angels (**Matt. 25:41**) and will be the abode of the wicked (**Rev. 21:8**) and the fallen angels (**2 Pet. 2:4**).”

It’s not a place where the average folks would want to go, visit or live. But, according to Jesus, many will go there. “Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide *is* the gate, and broad *is* the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat.” **Matthew 7:13**

The Horror of Hell

Ton Ascol of Ligonier Ministries shares four truths about hell that Jesus taught in **Matthew 25:41-46**. These truths should cause us to grieve over the prospect of anyone experiencing its horrors.

First, hell is a state of separation from God. On the day of judgment, Jesus will say to all unbelievers, “Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire” (v. 41). This is the same sort of language that Jesus uses elsewhere to describe the final judgment of unbelievers (**see 7:23**).

To be separated from God is to be separated from anything and everything good. That is hard to conceive because even the most miserable person enjoys some of God’s blessings. We breathe His air, are nourished by food that He supplies, and experience many other aspects of His common grace.

On earth even atheists enjoy the benefits of God’s goodness. But in hell, these blessings will be nonexistent. Those consigned there will remember God’s goodness, and will even have some awareness of the unending pleasures of heaven, but they will have no access to them.

This does not mean that God will be completely absent from hell. He is and will remain omnipresent (**Ps. 139:7–8**). To be separated from the Lord and cast into hell does not mean that a person will finally be free of God. That person will remain eternally accountable to Him. He will remain Lord over the person’s existence. But in hell, a person will be forever separated from God in His kindness, mercy, grace, and goodness. He will be consigned to deal with Him in His holy wrath.

Secondly, hell is a state of association. Jesus says that the eternal fire of hell was “prepared for the devil and his angels” (**Matt. 25:41**). People were made for God. Hell was made for the Devil. Yet people who die in their sin, without Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, will spend eternity in hell with the one being who is most unlike God. It is a tragic irony that many who do not believe in the devil in this life will wind up spending eternity being tormented with him in hell.

The third truth is that **it is a state of punishment**. Jesus describes it as “fire” (v. 41) and a place of “punishment” (v. 46). Hell is a place of retribution where justice is served through the payment for crimes.

The punishment must fit the crime. The misery and torment of hell points to the wickedness and seriousness of sin. Those who protest the biblical doctrine of hell as being excessive betray their inadequate comprehension of the sinfulness of sin. For sinners to be consigned to anything less than the horrors of eternal punishment would be a miscarriage of justice.

And that brings us to the **fourth truth** — **hell is an everlasting state**. Though some would like to shorten the duration of this state, Jesus’ words are very clear. He uses the same adjective to describe both punishment and life in verse 46. If hell is not eternal, neither is the new heaven and earth.

How can God exact infinite punishment for a finite sin? First, because the person against whom all sin is committed is infinite. Crimes against the infinitely holy, infinitely kind, infinitely good, and infinitely supreme Ruler of the world deserve unending punishment. In addition to that, those condemned to hell will go on sinning for eternity. *There is no repentance in hell*. So the punishment will continue as long as the sinning does.

The dreadfulness of hell deepens our grateful praise for the salvation we have in Jesus Christ. *Hell is what we deserve*. And hell is what He experienced on the cross in our place.

Believing the truth about hell also motivates us to persuade people to be reconciled to God. By God’s grace, those of us who are trusting Christ have been rescued from this horrible destiny. How can we love people and refuse to speak plainly to them about the realities of eternal damnation and God’s gracious provision of salvation? Clearer visions of hell will give us greater love for both God and people.

How Can A Loving God Condemn So Many To Hell

I have a few friends that tell me, in no uncertain terms, that they cannot understand how a loving God can dam to hell so many people. It is obvious that they do not comprehend the concept of the “Free Will” of man.

God is in full control of His creation. Part of that control is to allow man to have a free will to also be in full control.

When you gather thousands or even a few folks together that are all exercising their free will, things can get ugly. Some will get drunk, others will kill or steal and yet others will exercise good judgment in life. All this interaction of free wills brings on different opinions, different lifestyles and different attitudes.

If God intervenes to stop the flow of our free will decisions, He tampers with the future and denies man his right to be a free moral agent. His actions would contradict His own will and plan for mankind. Man must be free to choose his own way in order to escape a robotic existence that is not what God or man wants.

However, with this gift of “Free Will” comes responsibility. The Bible says that the soul that sins will die...” Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sinneth, it shall die.” **Ezekiel 18:4** (“Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.”) **Galatians 6:7** (“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;”) **Romans 3:23**

It should be obvious by now that **God sends no one to hell**. He does, however, allow mankind to send themselves to hell by their own choices in life. Our life choices do affect our destiny. They take us down the road to destruction or up the road to eternal life.

This concept is not new. We need only to look at a man that drinks a lot and we can conclude that if he does not slack off, he will become a drunk. We can see it coming. The same is true when we look at a person who cares not about their eternal soul, lives for today, denies the existence of God and ignores the truths of the Bible. We can say, if they do not repent, they will ultimately end up in hell. We can see it coming.

Is The Devil In Charge of Hell?

No, the devil is not in charge of anything, but is actually thrown into Hell and ultimately the the lake of fire according to **Revelation 20:10**. There is no party in hell for the lost. There is no reward. There is no pleasure at all.

Where Is Hell?

Your guess is as good as mine. Various theories on the location of hell have been put forward. A traditional view is that hell is in the center of the earth. Others propose that hell is located in outer space in a black hole. In the Old Testament, the word translated “hell” is *Sheol*; in the New Testament, it’s *Hades* (meaning “unseen”) and *Gehenna* (“the Valley of Hinnom”). *Sheol* is also translated as “pit” and “grave.” Both *Sheol* and *Hades* refer to a temporary abode of the dead before judgment (**Psalm 9:17; Revelation 1:18**). *Gehenna* refers to an eternal state of punishment for the wicked dead (**Mark 9:43**).

In the King James Version, **Ephesians 4:9** says that before Jesus ascended into heaven, “he also descended . . . into the lower parts of the earth.” Some Christians take “the lower parts of the earth” as a reference to hell, where they say Jesus spent the time between His death and resurrection. However, the New International Version gives a better translation: “he also descended to the lower, earthly regions.” This verse simply says that Jesus came to earth. It’s a reference to His incarnation, not to His location after death.

The notion that hell is somewhere in outer space, possibly in a black hole, is based on the knowledge that black holes are places of great heat and pressure from which nothing, not even light, can escape. Surprisingly, this concept of hell is presented in the 1979 Walt Disney film *The Black Hole*.

Another speculation is that the earth itself will be the “lake of fire” spoken of in **Revelation 20:10-15**. When the earth is destroyed by fire (**2 Peter 3:10; Revelation 21:1**), the theory goes, God will use that burning sphere as the everlasting place of torment for the ungodly. Again, this is mere speculation.

To sum up, Scripture does not tell us the geological (or cosmological) location of hell. Hell is a literal place of real torment, but we do not know where it is. Hell may have a physical location in this universe, or it may be in an entirely different “dimension.” Whatever the case, the location of hell is far less important than the need to avoid going there.

What Is Hell Really Like?

The Bible tells us that God is light and that there is no darkness in Him. When a soul is separated from God, there is no light, only total darkness. There is no friendships, only total isolation...all alone forever. It is a place of torment. I believe that the ultimate torment is to see God, feel His love and splendor and have to live with the fact that you can never know such love.

I also see the deep cravings of the flesh being manifested but never fulfilled. Then there is the fire and stench of burning flesh. This type of fire cannot be quenched. It will burn with the wrath of God forever.

I realize that this is a morbid picture and a horrible destiny but that is what Jesus said, "There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God, and you yourselves thrust out". **Luke 13:28**

The Controversy Over Eternal Suffering of The Wicked And Annihilation

There is a controversy over eternal suffering and annihilation. Some folks believe that the souls in hell suffer forever. Others read "And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death." **Revelation 20:14** and conclude that this 2nd death is total annihilation.

The premise for this conclusion is, "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 21:14.**

The thought is that our tears are caused by knowing some of our loved ones are suffering in hell and the fact that we remember them no more is due to the end of their suffering by the 2nd death. As hopeful as this thought process is, it is not Biblical because it goes against what God has spoken about the wicked and their destiny.

Many folks that do not believe in God, say, “Even if there is a God and He sends me to hell, It’s not forever”. “I will end up non-existent, as though I never existed...so, that justifies my so-called sin now, to eat, drink and be merry.” Without an absolute penalty, there is no fear of judgment because the punishment is temporary.

When God wipes away all our tears, I believe that He removes the memory of all the bad stuff, including those that chose against God and ended up in eternal damnation.

Are People Suffering In Hell Right Now?

Jesus related a story about a rich man and a beggar. Here’s what He said as recorder by **Luke 16:20-24**

“And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores, ²¹ And desiring to be fed with the crumbs, which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores.

²² And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; ²³ **And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments,** and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.

²⁴ And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.

I realize this was just a story that Jesus related. However, there are several important points to consider:

1. The wicked die and find themselves in hell in torment. It’s an immediate happening. It is therefore a picture of reality. The Bible also confirms this, “And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment” **Hebrews 9:27**
2. The torment was hell fire.
3. The suffering was of the body and soul.
4. Those assigned to hell cannot leave.
5. They have no way to quench the flames or find any sort of comfort.

They could hear, thirst, feel pain and sorrow, and even communicate with those in paradise. But the one thing that the people in hell could not do was to cease to exist.

After the Resurrection of Christ, things concerning hell changed. Jesus went to hell, took the keys of hell and death (**Rev. 1:18**), and set the captives free—those who were in Abraham’s bosom.

Ephesians 4: 9-10 says,

“Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.”

After defeating the devil and setting the captives free, Jesus took those in Abraham’s bosom to heaven with Him, where all believers go now. But we will not live in heaven forever. We only live in heaven until the end of the age. Then God is going to make a new heaven and a new earth, and all the believers will live there with Jesus in the new Jerusalem. (**Rev. 21:1-4**)

When you die in your sins, you go straight to hell. You do not pass go or collect \$200. The game is over and you lost big-time. You experience death physically, torment until the end of all things and then a 2nd death of your eternal soul as it is cast into the lake of fire.

“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.”
Matthew 10:28

Although it was never intended for man, hell is an awful place where those who reject so great a sacrifice will join the devil and his angels for eternity. (**Rev. 20:10**)

The Unpardonable Sin

The Bible makes it clear that the Holy Spirit convicts us of one sin, and ***it’s the only sin that will cause people to go to hell***. That is the sin of rejecting the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

“And when he [the Holy Spirit] is come, he will reprove the world of sin [singular], and of righteousness, and of judgment: Of sin, because they

believe not on me.” (John 16:8-9) Excerpts taken from Andrew Womack Ministries article “Hell, A Reality or Metaphor?”

The Punishment of The Wicked

There is a punishment for sinners who refuse to repent. In **Revelation 20:13-15** we read of a resurrection of the dead where people will be judged, *“And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.”* (These are the folks that willingly rejected Jesus, God’s only begotten Son, as the sacrifice for their sin.)

When you are, “Born Again” your name is written in the Book of Life. If your name is not there, you are counted with the wicked, no matter what good you may have done while alive.

Being a Saint and being “Born Again” is not determined by what you do or don’t do. It is determined on what Jesus did. He lived a perfect life in accordance to God’s law and as the perfect Lamb of God, without blemish, became the sacrificed, on the cross of Calvary, as the penalty for sin. This is the essence of the Gospel or Good News. Paul, the apostle put it this way, “For by grace (Unmerited Favor) are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God.” **Ephesians 2:8**

The punishment of the wicked dead in hell is described throughout Scripture as **“eternal fire”** (Matthew 25:41), **“unquenchable fire”** (Matthew 3:12), **“shame and everlasting contempt”** (Daniel 12:2), **a place where “the fire is not quenched”** (Mark 9:44-49), **a place of “torment” and “fire”** (Luke 16:23-24), **“everlasting destruction”** (2 Thessalonians 1:9), **a place where “the smoke of torment rises forever and ever”** (Revelation 14:10-11), and **a “lake of burning sulfur”** where the wicked are “tormented day and night forever and ever” (Revelation 20:10).

The punishment of the wicked in hell is as never ending as is the bliss of the righteous in heaven. Jesus Himself indicates that punishment in hell is just as everlasting as life in heaven (Matthew 25:46). The wicked are forever subject to the fury and the wrath of God. Those in hell will acknowledge the perfect justice of God (Psalm 76:10). Those who are in hell will know that their punishment is just and that they alone are to blame (Deuteronomy 32:3-5). Yes, hell is real. Yes, hell is a place of torment and punishment that lasts forever and ever, with no end. Praise God that, through Jesus, we can

escape this eternal fate. (John 3:16, 18, 36) Excerpts from GotQuestions.org

Who Are The Wicked?

Here's what the dictionary says about the word, "Wicked"
(Highly offensive; obnoxious: a wicked stench.)

Adj. wicked - morally bad in principle or practice

evil - morally bad or wrong; "evil purposes"; "an evil influence"; "evil deeds"

immoral - deliberately violating accepted principles of right and wrong

impious - lacking piety or reverence for a god

wrong - contrary to conscience or morality or law; "it is wrong for the rich to take advantage of the poor"; "cheating is wrong"; "it is wrong to lie"

unrighteous - not righteous; "an unrighteous man"; "an unrighteous law"

The wicked are people that live in this lifestyle and practice it every day. They violate the laws of God and rebel against His sovereign rule. They are their own god, doing what they want, not what God created they to be.

Here are a few scriptures related to the wicked and their wickedness.

Genesis 6:5 ...And GOD saw that the wickedness of man *was* great in the earth, and *that* every imagination of the thoughts of his heart *was* only evil continually.

Genesis 38:7...And Er, Judah's firstborn, was wicked in the sight of the LORD; and the LORD slew him.

1 Chronicles 17:9..._Also I will ordain a place for my people Israel, and will plant them, and they shall dwell in their place, and shall be moved no more; neither shall the children of wickedness waste them any more, as at the beginning,

Habakkuk 1:4 ...Therefore the law is slacked, and judgment doth never go forth: for the wicked doth compass about the righteous; therefore wrong judgment proceedeth.

Malachi 3:18 ...Then shall ye return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not.

Psalms 101:8 ...I will early destroy all the wicked of the land; that I may cut off all wicked doers from the city of the LORD.

Proverbs 21:12 ...The righteous man wisely considereth the house of the wicked: but God overthroweth the wicked for their wickedness.

Proverbs 21:27 ...The sacrifice of the wicked is abomination: how much more, when he bringeth it with a wicked mind?

Why Are The Fires of Hell Necessary?

The cleansing fire brings about a complete eradication of sin. **Ezekiel 28:18-19** speaks the following about Satan, "Therefore I brought fire from your midst; it devoured you, and I turned you to ashes upon the earth...And [you] shall be no more forever." With Satan and all wickedness burned up the Bible says that sin and affliction will not ever arise a second time. (**Nahum 1:9**)

2 Peter 3:10-14 explains that earth being on fire will melt, but that we should look forward to a new heaven and a new earth where righteousness dwells. The fire purifies the earth and establishes a place of righteousness for the saved to live. **Isaiah 65:17** adds, "For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; and the former shall not be remembered or come to mind."

This righteous place is described in **Revelation 21:1-5** in the following way: "Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away...And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away...Then *He who sat on the throne said, 'Behold, I make all things new.'*"

The Reason Hell Was Created

In a relativistic culture, the very concept of sin must be elucidated and defended vigorously. If morality is relative to each person, then there is no higher moral standard one can meet or break.

But as C. S. Lewis argued in *Mere Christianity* and *The Abolition of Man*, the idea of an objective moral law is inescapable. When we are snubbed or exploited, we call out for justice. When we encounter people of grit and grace, we praise them as moral examples. Our conscience is more than mere instinct or social conditioning. Yet because there is often a great gap between our ideals and actions, we suffer guilt and regret. Despite our denials and excuses, our consciences dog us throughout our days.

Christianity explains the global stain of human guilt by placing it in a theological framework that both sharpens its sting and makes relief possible. Sin is a moral condition that offends the holy God and removes us from His approval.

While much modern psychology assures us that guilt can be gutted through humanistic methods, the Gospel faces the problem head-on. Guilt is real because we have violated the standards of goodness. Left to ourselves, we can do nothing to undo our wrongs. Forgiving ourselves is never sufficient because we are in no position to exonerate the guilty party — anymore than a murderer can grant himself or herself a stay of execution.

Lawbreakers deserve punishment. But is hell too extreme? The great American theologian Jonathan Edwards took this question up in his essay, “The Justice of God in the Damnation of Sinners.” Edwards argued that because God is “a Being of infinite greatness, majesty, and glory,” He is therefore “infinitely honorable” and worthy of absolute obedience. “Sin against God, being a violation of infinite obligations, must be a crime infinitely heinous, and deserving of infinite punishment.”

Edwards’s much maligned but solidly biblical sermon, “Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God,” presses home the point that without Christ we have no grounds for confidence and every reason to fear hell. God, who is angry with sin, could justifiably send the unrepentant sinner to hell at any moment. Jesus Himself warned, “*Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the one who can destroy both soul and body in hell*” (**Matt. 10:28**).

To fathom the horror of sin and the holiness of God we must kneel before the cross of Christ. While the Scriptures command us to be like Christ, this is never presented as the basis of our salvation. Christ’s sinless perfection is impossible for us to attain, “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of

God” (**Rom. 3:23**). Because Jesus flawlessly obeyed God’s moral law in our place, He is uniquely qualified to be our Savior. On the cross, Christ offered Himself to the Father as a spotless sacrifice for our sin.

Sin against God is so severe that only the death of the sinless Son of God could atone for it. We see the reality of hell when the crucified Christ calls out, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” (**Mark 15:34**). Paul explained, “God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God” (**2 Cor. 5:21**).

In the cross of Christ, the sinfulness of sin, the holiness of God, and the reality of hell are all writ large with the blood of the Lamb. Only through Christ taking on our hell through His death could sinners be reconciled to a holy God. Once this is understood, hell takes on a clarity not otherwise perceived. Apart from the cross, there is no hope for forgiveness or reconciliation. Hell is the only alternative.

Only by understanding hell can we grasp the immensity of God’s love. God’s love took His Son to the hell of the cross for our sake. This is a costly love, a bloody love that has no parallel in any of the world’s religions. Although other religions (particularly Islam) threaten hell, none offer the sure deliverance from it that Christianity offers through the sacrificial love of God Himself.

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Eternal Separation From God What Does It mean?

The Bible is clear that there are two possible destinations for every human soul following physical death: *Heaven or Hell* (**Matthew 25:34, 41, 46; Luke 16:22–23**) Only the righteous inherit eternal life, and the only way to be declared righteous before God is through faith in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ (**John 3:16–18; Romans 10:9**). The souls of the righteous go directly into the presence of God (**Luke 23:43; 2 Corinthians 5:8; Philippians 1:23**).

For those who do not receive Jesus Christ as Savior, death means everlasting punishment (**2 Thessalonians 1:8–9**). This punishment is described in a

variety of ways: a lake of fire (**Luke 16:24; Revelation 20:14–15**), outer darkness (**Matthew 8:12**), and a prison (**1 Peter 3:19**), for example. This place of punishment is eternal (**Jude 1:13; Matthew 25:46**). There is no biblical support for the notion that after death people get another chance to repent. **Hebrews 9:27** makes it clear that everyone dies physically and, after that, comes the judgment. Christians have already been judged and sentenced. Jesus took that sentence upon Himself. Our sin becomes His and His righteousness becomes ours when we believe in Him. Because He took our just punishment, we need not fear ever being separated from Him again (**Romans 8:29–30**). The judgment for unbelievers is still to come.

“He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might.” **II Thessalonians. 1:8-9**. The misery of hell will consist of not only physical torture, but also the agony of being cut off from every avenue of happiness.

God is the source of all good things (**James 1:17**). To be cut off from God is to forfeit all exposure to anything good. Hell will be a state of perpetual sin; yet those suffering there will possess full understanding of sin’s horrors. Remorse, guilt, and shame will be unending, yet accompanied by the conviction that the punishment is just.

There will no longer be any deception about the “goodness of man.” To be separated from God is to be forever shut off from light (**1 John 1:5**), love (**1 John 4:8**), joy (**Matthew 25:23**), and peace (**Ephesians 2:14**) because God is the source of all those good things. Any good we observe in humanity is merely a reflection of the character of God, in whose image we were created (**Genesis 1:27**).

While the spirits of those regenerated by God’s Holy Spirit will abide forever with God in a perfected state (**1 John 3:2**), the opposite is true of those in hell. None of the goodness of God will exist in them. Whatever good they may have thought they represented on earth will be shown for the selfish, lustful, idolatrous thing it was (**Isaiah 64:6**). Man’s ideas of goodness will be measured against the perfection of God’s holiness and be found severely lacking. Those in hell have forever lost the chance to see God’s face, hear His voice, experience His forgiveness, or enjoy His fellowship. To be forever separated from God is the ultimate punishment. (Taken from GotQuestions.com)

What About Those That Never Heard About Jesus, The Christ? What Happens To Them?

Old And New Testament Saints

The Old Testament saints put their trust in, "*The Coming One*" **Matt 11:2-7** And when John had heard in prison about the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples and said to Him, "Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?" Jesus answered and said to them, "Go and tell John the things which you hear and see: The blind see and the lame walk; the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear; the dead are raised up and the poor have the gospel preached to them. And blessed is he who is not offended because of Me." **Isa 29:18-19** *"In that day the deaf shall hear the words of the book, And the eyes of the blind shall see out of obscurity and out of darkness. The humble also shall increase their joy in the LORD, And the poor among men shall rejoice In the Holy One of Israel. "*

Gentiles... (Everyone Else)

"For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves: Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and *their* thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another" **Romans 2:14-15**

The Coming One

Many times Jesus would make one statement and be quoting or hinting at four or five different verses in the Old Testament, especially when He was being attacked by the religious leaders, he would answer their questions with another question or statement that would allude to the Scriptures that they were presuming to know so much about and following so closely. There are numerous examples but for now we will examine John's question and Jesus' response.

If we examine the Old Testament we would find a multiplicity of statements about the Messiah being regarded as "the coming One" in Hebrew its "haba" which means "to come." One of the most popular Messianic Scriptures where

this word is used is in one of the Psalms: **Ps 118:26** *"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD!"*

Another Scripture in the Psalms that was regarded in Judaism as Messianic is in Psalm 40 where it contains the word "haba" spoken by Christ Himself through David before Jesus was born: **Ps 40:6-8** *Sacrifice and offering You did not desire; My ears You have opened; Burnt offering and sin offering You did not require. Then I said, "Behold, I come; In the scroll of the book it is written of me. I delight to do Your will, O my God, And Your law is within my heart."*

Another example is found in the last book of our English Bible: **Mal 3:1** *"Behold, I send My messenger, And he will prepare the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, Will suddenly come to His temple, Even the Messenger of the covenant, In whom you delight. Behold, He is coming," Says the LORD of hosts.*

The knowledge and expectation of the "Coming One" was prevalent during the time of Christ as we can see from a couple of examples:

John 6:14 *"Then those men, when they had seen the sign that Jesus did, said, "This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world."*

John 11:25-27 *Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?" She said to Him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, who is to come into the world."*

Old Testament saints looked ahead to the "coming one". Their faith and hope was in Him. The New Testament saints looked back to the cross, put their faith in the, "One who came." Messiah is a Hebrew term. It means, "Anointed." and Christ is a greek term also meaning Anointed. Thus both Old and New Testament saints put their trust and faith in the same Anointed One, sent from God. **John 3:16** *His Name is Jesus, the Anointed One of God.*

Now all the folks that never heard of this Anointed One, which Jesus proved that He was, fall into the **Romans 2:14-15** Salvation Net that is stated above. All babies and children under the age of accountability are automatically saved because they have not willfully denied God's plan of salvation.

Conclusion

God does not want anyone to go to hell (**2 Peter 3:9**). That is why God made the ultimate, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice on our behalf. So, how can we not go to hell? Since only an infinite and eternal penalty is sufficient, an infinite and eternal price must be paid.

God became a human being in the Person of Jesus Christ (**John 1:1, 14**). In Jesus Christ, God lived among us, taught us, and healed us—but those things were not His ultimate mission. God became a human being so that He could die for us. Jesus, God in human form, died on the cross.

As God, His death was infinite and eternal in value, paying the full price for sin (**1 John 2:2**). God invites us to receive Jesus Christ as Savior, accepting His death as the full and just payment for our sins. God promises that anyone who believes in Jesus (**John 3:16**), trusting Him alone as the Savior (**John 14:6**), will be saved, i.e., *not go to hell*.

God's Plan of Salvation

If you want this salvation, repent of your sin and receive Jesus as your Savior. It is as simple as that. Tell God that you recognize that you are a sinner and that you deserve to go to hell. Declare to God that you are trusting in Jesus Christ as your Savior. Thank God for providing for your salvation and deliverance from hell. Simple faith, trusting in Jesus Christ as the Savior, is how you can avoid going to hell!

