

LIGHT ON THE DARK SIDE OF GOD

How The Cross of Christ Illuminates Hell

Thesis: God is just and good in all His ways, even in the manner in which He will finally deal with His unrepentant enemies. The death of Jesus on the cross reveals the final destiny of the wicked. Jesus endured the full penalty of sin, thus bringing to our view the true meaning of hell.

1 John 4:8—God is love.

Psalm 97:2—Clouds and darkness surround Him; righteousness and justice are the foundation of His throne.

1 John 1:5—God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all.

The Wages of Sin is Death, Not Eternal Life in Torment

Romans 6:23—The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ.

Galatians 6:7-8, NIV—**7**A man reaps what he sows. **8**The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.

James 1:15—Sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.

John 3:16—For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Psalm 34:21, NRSV—Evil brings death to the wicked.

Ezekiel 18:20—The soul who sins shall die.

Eternal Fire=Fire That is Unquenchable Until It Utterly Destroys

Matthew 25:46—And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.

Jude 7—Sodom and Gomorrah...are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.

2 Peter 2:6—Turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned them to destruction, making them an example to those who afterward would live ungodly.

Revelation 20:10—The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

Jonah 2:6—I went down to the moorings of the mountains; the earth with its bars closed behind me forever; yet You have brought up my life from the pit.

Exodus 21:6—He shall also bring him to the door, or to the doorpost, and his master shall pierce his ear with an awl; and he shall serve him forever.

Matthew 3:12—He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.

Jeremiah 7:20—Behold, My anger and My fury will be poured out on this place [Jerusalem]... And it will burn and not be quenched.

NOTE: Psalm 97:2 is a style of Hebrew poetry structured as a couplet for the purpose of presenting a contrast: the first line is a perception contradicted by the reality stated in the second line.

NOTE: It is also vital to note that Jesus taught that the just punishment of the wicked is a future event that will occur after the resurrection of all the dead at His second coming, and, therefore, does not occur immediately when a person dies. Compare John 5:28-29; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Revelation 20:6-15.

Isaiah 47:14—Behold, they shall be as stubble, the fire shall burn them; they shall not deliver themselves from the power of the flame; it shall not be a coal to be warmed by, nor a fire to sit before!

Malachi 4:1-3—**1**“For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, and all the proud, yes, all who do wickedly will be stubble. And the day which is coming shall burn them up,” says the LORD of hosts, “that will leave them neither root nor branch. **2**But to you who fear My name the Sun of Righteousness shall arise with healing in His wings... **3**You shall trample the wicked, for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet on the day that I do this,” says the LORD of hosts.

Ezekiel 28:18, KJV—**18**Therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee [Satan], it shall devour thee, and I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee... **19**Thou shalt be a terror, and never shalt thou be anymore.

Obadiah 16—They shall be as though they had not been.

No More Pain

Revelation 21:1, 4—**1**Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away... **4**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.

2 Peter 3:6-13—**6**The world that then existed perished, being flooded with water. **7**But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men... **9**The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. **10**But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. **11**Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, **12**looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? **13**Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

The Wrath of God Was Revealed at The Cross

Romans 1:18, 24, 26, 28—**18**For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men... **24**Therefore God also gave them up... **26**For this reason God gave them up to vile passions... **27**receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due. **28**And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind.

Romans 4:24-25—**24**Jesus our Lord... **25**was delivered up because of our offenses.

Romans 8:31-32—**31**What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? **32**He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?

Matthew 27:46—My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?

Hebrews 2:9—We see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone.

NOTE: On the biblical truth regarding “fire”, See also Isa. 33:10-18, in which both the saved and the lost encounter the fire that is Gods’ very presence and glory; the lost are destroyed by the fire while the saved abide within the fire and are not consumed by it. See also Mal. 4:1-3; Dan. 7:9-11 as examples of the one fire having two different effects on the saved and the lost. For the biblical definition of the fire as God’s glory, see Heb. 12:29; Deut. 33:2-3; Ex. 24:17; SS. 8:6-7.

NOTE: Here is the clearest Biblical definition of “the wrath of God.” Three time Paul says God’s wrath is revealed toward wicked people when He gives them up or over to their sinful behavior and its natural consequences. Then Paul says that when God does this we are witnessing “the penalty” for sin. The next two passages are the only other times in Romans where Paul uses the Greek word here translated “gave them up.” In both instances he uses the word to describe the experience of Jesus at the cross, indicating that Jesus suffered “the wrath of God.” Also compare Acts 2:23-24; 4:24-28.

NOTE: If Jesus suffered the full penalty of sin, it logically follows that His experience reveals the final end of those who are eternally lost.

“Behold Your God”—Isaiah 40:9

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All Scripture References are from the New King James Version unless otherwise noted.