

# Bible Study and Notes

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## ONE HOT TIME (LESSON 17)

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### ***Bible Study***

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1. When does hell burn?  
**Matthew 13:36-42, Matthew 13:49-50**
2. When will all receive their reward? **2 Timothy 4:1**
3. Where will hell burn?  
**Revelation 20:9, Deuteronomy 32:22**
4. What will happen to the lost?  
**Psalms 37:20, Psalms 68:2, Psalms 104:35, Malachi 4:1-3**
5. What does the fire that comes down from heaven do? **Revelation 20:9**
6. Where is a second place that fire comes from?  
**Ezekiel 28:14-15, 18-19**
7. How long does the word FOREVER cover in comparing **1 Samuel 1:22** to **1 Samuel 1:28**?
8. How long does the word FOREVER cover in comparing **Jonah 2:16** to **Jonah 1:17**?
9. How does unquenchable fire burn? **Isaiah 34:8-10, Jeremiah 17:27, Ezekiel 20:47-48**
10. What will happen to a lost soul? **Matthew 10:28, Ezekiel 18:20**

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### ***What Is the Destiny of the Vast Majority of the World?***

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Jesus does not want to see people end up in hell. We were never created for that destiny.

So, before the second coming (Revelation 14:14), Jesus sends a worldwide message (Revelation 14:6) represented by angels. The third angel's message, includes a warning. Revelation 14:10-11 warns us, "The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name." The "fire and brimstone" is typically in reference to hell fire. Regardless of the direct reference, hell is the future fall for those that suffer these things. So, before we get a "Thus Saith the Lord..." on this subject, let us investigate the topic of hell.

Today, the world has a perverted concept of what hell is, bringing us to the point of asking, "What kind of God do we serve?" Is God one that gets His thrills in torturing people? Is He one who is in cahoots with Satan? Is there love in assigning people to hell? John 3:16 tells us, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." How can God be loving and merciful, yet allow sinners to roast and toast in hell throughout eternity. There is a great conflict here.

To get a good understanding of hell fire, let us answer three basic questions of "when,"

"where," and "how" hellfire will burn.

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### When Does Hellfire Burn?

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Matthew 13:36-42 tells us, "Then Jesus sent the multitude away, and went into the house: and his disciples came unto him, saying, Declare unto us the parable of the tares of the field. He answered and said unto them, He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man; The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked [one]; The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels. As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; 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: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth." Clearly Jesus taught that hell would burn at the end of time, which matches exactly with our previous lesson where we found that death is a condition of sleeping unconsciously in the grave until resurrected.

Matthew 13:49-50 states, "So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just, And shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth." Again, Jesus tells us that it will occur at the end of the world.

In fact, God tells us that He has

a specific day when the lost will be punished. According to 2 Peter 2:9, it says, "The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished." When is the verdict portion of the judgment handed out? Revelation 22:12 tells us, "And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward [is] with me, to give every man according as his work shall be." And 2 Timothy 4:1 says, "I charge [thee] therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom." It will occur at His appearing.

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### Where Will Hell Be?

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Revelation 20:9 says, "And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them." Hell will be on earth – fire comes down from heaven. Basically, God is going to look over the whole host of wicked in sadness because they would not be happy in heaven, and will have to resort to burning them with fire.

This matches the Old Testament in Deuteronomy 32:22, which says, "For a fire is kindled in mine anger, and shall burn unto the lowest hell, and shall consume the earth with her increase, and set on fire the foundations of the mountains." Hell fire is clearly going to burn on the earth's surface.

In addition to the earth being burned, Peter gives us a greater scope of hell fire. 2 Peter 3:7

tells us, "*But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.*" Now we can understand why God will burn the earth. It is because the earth is so marked by sin. But why does God destroy the heavens? It is only in our lifetime that we can understand this. God must destroy sin wherever it has touched, and in our lifetime, it has now reached outer space with nuclear warheads and satellites and more.

This concept is repeated in 2 Peter 3:10, which says, "*But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.*" Again, fire will destroy the heavens and the earth.

What council is given? 2 Peter 3:11-13 tells us, "*[Seeing] then [that] all these things shall be dissolved, what manner [of persons] ought ye to be in [all] holy conversation and godliness, Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.*" All of the closing events of earth's history are well underway. It is only a matter of time until God declares enough is enough. We need to realize our sinful selves and plead the

blood of Jesus to wash away our sins and have earnestness in our hearts to not want to sin even in the slightest degree.

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### **How Long Will It Burn?**

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Revelation 21:1 tells us, "*And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.*" Since hell is on this earth and God is going to make a new heavens and a new earth, that means the old heavens and the old earth need to stop burning. The conclusion then is that hell will not burn throughout all the ceaseless ages of eternity. Now this may be a new concept, but let us continue to allow the Bible to interpret itself.

What happens to the lost through hell fire? Matthew 7:13 says, "*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.*" Notice the lost go to destruction. They are destroyed. And when something is destroyed, it does not exist anymore.

This is also brought out in Psalms 37:9-11, which says, "*For evildoers shall be cut off: but those that wait upon the LORD, they shall inherit the earth. 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 meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace." Notice that the saved inherit the earth while the wicked are cut off and shall not be. They will not exist at all.*

This theme is repeated in Psalms 37:20, which says, "*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.*" Again, the wicked perish and consume away.

Those words are stated again in Psalms 68:2, which says, "*As smoke is driven away, [so] drive [them] away: as wax melteth before the fire, [so] let the wicked perish at the presence of God.*" Again, the wicked perish.

Looking at just one more of the many verses in Psalms on this subject, Psalms 104:35 states, "*Let the sinners be consumed out of the earth, and let the wicked be no more. Bless thou the LORD, O my soul. Praise ye the LORD.*" The wicked are consumed and will be no more.

Now for the clearest teaching on the subject: Malachi 4:1-3 clearly says, "*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. But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall. 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." Notice that they are reduced to stubble, will be burned up, have no root or branch, and will be ashes. That is clear.*

The New Testament reiterates

this in Revelation 20:9, by saying, “And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.” The wicked are devoured.

And notice something significant in Ezekiel 28:14-15, which says, “*Thou [art] the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee [so]: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. Thou [wast] perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee.*” Who does this describe? Who was the angel that God later found iniquity in? Lucifer of course. What happens to him? Ezekiel 28:18-19 tells us, “*Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffick; therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it shall devour thee, and I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee. All they that know thee among the people shall be astonished at thee: thou shalt be a terror, and never [shalt] thou [be] any more.*” Since the beginning of earth, Satan has caused so much suffering and heartache. Sinners do not go to hell to roast and toast for eternity with Satan as the warden. God tells us what He will do to Satan, and let us trust a “*Thus Saith the Lord*” over a human teaching any day.

And now a verse that many probably have memorized and yet do not understand the full meaning. Romans 6:23 clearly

teaches, “*For the wages of sin [is] death; but the gift of God [is] eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*” Wait! Both Christians and heathens die. What does this mean? This death clearly is not talking about the first or natural (sometimes not so natural) death, rather it is referring to a second death, of which God’s people will escape because Jesus paid the price. And notice the stark contrast. Only true followers of Christ receive the gift of eternal life.

Where does the Bible teach another death? Revelation 20:14 says, “*And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.*” We all deserve to die two deaths. The second death is the death that Jesus took in our place. If Jesus did not die, we would not be able to escape the second death. Not all though will escape – only those who follow Jesus.

Let us look at another verse that again many have probably memorized but do not see the full application. John 3:16 clearly says, “*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*” Notice that if we do not accept Christ, we perish. If we do accept Christ, we receive everlasting life. This is the teaching throughout the Bible. If the wicked burn throughout the ceaseless ages of eternity, would they not have eternal life also? Sure they would, which would negate the promise to only the saved and also do away with the word “perish” for the lost.

Besides, hell has to stop burning for the fulfillment of Revelation

21:4, which says, “*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.*” If hell existed throughout all eternity, there would be a whole lot of death, sorrow, crying, and especially pain. And if our dear loved one was in hell, how could we enjoy eternal life?

Will God put warning signs around hell, “DO NOT ENTER - HELL AHEAD” keeping us from being sorry for them? Additionally, after a few thousand years of torture, we may want to ask God to let them off because we think they suffered enough.

Another verse that makes an eternal burning hell not make sense is found in Revelation 21:5, which says, “*And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.*” Why would God create a new earth and new heavens and then turn around and punch a dent into it by allowing a place for the wicked to burn?

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### **What About the Wicked Being Tormented Forever?**

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Revelation 14:10-11 says, “*The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: And the smoke of their torment*

*ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.”*

Focusing still on the phrase FOREVER, let us look at Revelation 20:10, which states, *“And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet [are], and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.”* Notice that this is not the wicked, rather it is the devil, the beast, and the false prophet.

And of course if we accept this at face value, it contradicts the verses where Satan is reduced to ashes and not to mention all the texts that say contrary especially Revelation 20:9, which says, *“And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.”* How is this resolved? First, we do not throw out verses. Either the sixty or more verses saying that there is finality to hell are incorrectly understood or this one verse does not mean what it implies.

Does the word FOREVER mean throughout the ceaseless ages of eternity? 1 Samuel 1:22 tells us, *“But Hannah went not up; for she said unto her husband, [I will not go up] until the child be weaned, and [then] I will bring him, that he may appear before the LORD, and there abide for ever.”* According to this, Hannah dedicated Samuel to serve the Lord forever. Is Samuel still serving God today? No of course not. Then, how long is forever? It is stated a couple of verses later in 1 Samuel 1:28,

which says, *“Therefore also I have lent him to the LORD; as long as he liveth he shall be lent to the LORD. And he worshipped the LORD there.”*

The qualifier for the phrase FOREVER is as long as Samuel lived.

Let us be more practical. How long does a spouse love their mate? Forever of course, but actually, it is only until one dies. Remember in a previous lesson we learned that the dead know nothing and their love perishes (Ecclesiastes 9:6).

Let us get another example from the Bible on the use of the word FOREVER. How long was Jonah in the belly of the fish? Jonah 1:17 states, *“Now the LORD had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.”* How long did Jonah think he was there? Jonah 2:6 says, *“I went down to the bottoms of the mountains; the earth with her bars [was] about me for ever: yet hast thou brought up my life from corruption, O LORD my God.”* In this context, FOREVER was just three days.

Again, practically speaking, people use the word FOREVER quite often and it does not mean the ceaseless ages of eternity. For instance, as a child it felt like FOREVER until summer break would finally arrive. It felt like FOREVER sitting in the doctor’s office.

As we see, the term FOREVER is relative to that which it is applied to. It is like the word TALL. Tall for a man may be seven feet. Tall for a tree is definitely not seven feet. In the two Bible examples above, it was finite. When applied to God and His

law, it is the ceaseless ages of eternity because of other verses qualifying such.

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### ***What About the Unquenchable Fire?***

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Luke 3:17 says, *“Whose fan [is] in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and will gather the wheat into his garner; but the chaff he will burn with fire unquenchable.”* Mark 9:43-44 says, *“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: Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.”*

To answer this question, we must ask from the Bible, how does unquenchable fire burn? Isaiah 34:8-10 tells us, *“For [it is] the day of the LORD’S vengeance, [and] the year of recompences for the controversy of Zion. And the streams thereof shall be turned into pitch, and the dust thereof into brimstone, and the land thereof shall become burning pitch. It shall not be quenched night nor day; the smoke thereof shall go up for ever: from generation to generation it shall lie waste; none shall pass through it for ever and ever.”* This is the description of the destruction of Edom. Simple question. Is Edom still burning? No. Therefore, there is a limit to unquenchable fire as far time is concerned.

Another example of unquenchable fire is in Jeremiah 17:27, which says, *“But if ye will not hearken unto me to hallow the sabbath day, and not to bear*

a burden, even entering in at the gates of Jerusalem on the sabbath day; then will I kindle a fire in the gates thereof, and it shall devour the palaces of Jerusalem, and it shall not be quenched." This was fulfilled during the Babylonian captivity. Is Jerusalem still burning? No, of course not. Again, unquenchable fire has a limit when it comes to the length of burning.

A third example of unquenchable fire shows how such a fire burns. Ezekiel 20:47-48 tells us, "And say to the forest of the south, Hear the word of the LORD; Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will kindle a fire in thee, and it shall devour every green tree in thee, and every dry tree: the flaming flame shall not be quenched, and all faces from the south to the north shall be burned therein." Notice how it burns: "it shall devour every green tree in thee, and every dry tree. And all flesh shall see that I the LORD have kindled it: it shall not be quenched." It is a devouring, consuming fire.

Plainly put, once God begins hell fire, it will not go out even if a whole ocean were dumped on it, but it will devour everything in its path. Once the purpose is accomplished, to put away sin permanently, and it has nothing more to devour, it will then go out by itself.

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### **What About the Everlasting Fire or Eternal Fire?**

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Matthew 25:41 says, "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." This again would be contrary to what we read about Satan's future -- he has none.

But, how does everlasting fire burn? Jude 1:7 says, "Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, 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."

Notice that the same eternal fire burned Sodom and Gomorrah. Are Sodom and Gomorrah still burning? No. In fact, notice the purpose of these cities. 2 Peter 2:6 states, "And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes condemned [them] with an overthrow, making [them] an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly." Sodom and Gomorrah are examples for the end of time. Since they are not burning today, neither will the earth burn through all eternity.

This is reinforced in Luke 17:28-30, which says, "Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed [them] all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed." God will destroy Satan and the wicked as well.

What then is everlasting fire or eternal fire? The recording of the event will last throughout all eternity. That means that the events of burning Sodom and Gomorrah as well as the burning of the wicked at the end of time will stand eternally and

everlastingly. They will have been permanently recorded in history and never be undone.

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### **What About Everlasting Punishment?**

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Matthew 25:46 says, "And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal." Note that this is not everlasting punishing.

Punishment is the event while punishing is the act. What punishment do the wicked receive? Death according to a "Thus Saith the Lord".

Rereading the verse then, it says, "And these shall go away into everlasting death: but the righteous into life eternal."

Remember, if the wicked burn in an everlasting hell, would they not have life eternal as well? Sure they would, which is only promised to the saved.

Is there a "Thus Saith the Lord"? 2 Thessalonians 1:7-10 says, "And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power; When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed ) in that day."

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## **What Will God Do with the Soul?**

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Matthew 10:28 “*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.*” What happens to the soul if God casts that person into hell? Ezekiel 18:20 says, “The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him.”

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## **How Powerful Is God?**

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Nahum 1:9-10 tells us, “*What do ye imagine against the LORD? he will make an utter end: affliction shall not rise up the second time. For while [they be] folden together [as] thorns, and while they are drunken [as] drunkards, they shall be devoured as stubble fully dry.*”

The Bible teaches a hell fire a whole lot hotter than most Christians think it is. The Bible teaches that the fire is so hot that it consumes and devours.

Will God enjoy this act? Ezekiel 33:11 says, “*Say unto them, [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, O house of Israel?*” God is not going to be thrilled to burn up the wicked. His hope is for all to repent, but God cannot allow everyone to enter the kingdom. If people are not on fire for the Lord here,

spending eternity with God would be hell for them. God is only going take those who will be happy there.

Now God is Love (1 John 4:8), but He is also balanced. Numbers 14:18 says, “*The LORD [is] longsuffering, and of great mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression, and by no means clearing [the guilty], visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth [generation].*” Nahum 1:3 tells us, “*The LORD [is] slow to anger, and great in power, and will not at all acquit [the wicked]: the LORD hath his way in the whirlwind and in the storm, and the clouds [are] the dust of his feet.*”

May you be “on fire” for God now so that your reward will be eternal life rather than hell fire.