

Sunday, April 25, 2010—Clear and Present Danger: Hell Dispensationally Considered

Review and Introduction

- In last week’s message we looked at the following aspects of eternal punishment:
 - Existence of Hell
 - Biblical definition of death—soul and spirit departing the body.
 - Difference between Hell and the Lake of Fire
 - Nature of suffering in Hell
 - Location of Hell in the heart of center of the Earth
 - Duration of Suffering as eternal
- One of the problems people have about the doctrine of eternal punishment are the seemingly contradictory verses.
 - Revelation 14:10—“in the presence of the Lamb”
 - II Thessalonians 1:9—“from the presence of the Lord”
- We already know that the Bible contradicts itself when not understood dispensationally.
- The doctrine of Hell changes throughout the Bible which means it needs to be approached and understood dispensationally.

Hell in Time Past

- Hell in the Old Testament is described as a place where both the wicked and righteous go upon physical death.
 - Number 16:30—the wicked go to Hell when they died in the O.T.
 - Psalm 16:10—David a saved person also went to Hell when he died.
 - Jonah 2:2—Jonah went to Hell when he died.
 - Matthew 12:40—the same thing that happened to Jonah happened to Christ upon his death. He went to Hell and spent three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.
- If Hell is a place of Torment as we saw last week, why did David, Jonah, and Christ go there?
- Last week we saw that Jesus had more to say about Hell than anyone else in Scripture. Why don’t we let Jesus answer this question for us?
- Luke 16:19-21—Jesus tells the true story of two men: the rich man and Lazarus.
 - The Rich Man—lived a life of luxury and feasted sumptuously.
 - Lazarus—was a beggar who had to eat the crumbs which fell from the rich man’s table.
- Luke 16:22-23—both men die physically but their souls go to two different compartments of the same place, Hell:

- Lazarus—is carried by the angels into a place called Abraham’s bosom.
- Rich Man—finds himself in torments and sees Lazarus Abraham afar off and Lazarus in his bosom
- Notice that both men are said to be in hell.
- Luke 16:24—the rich man is being torment in flames. This matches the nature of suffering in Hell that we studied last week.
- Luke 16:25—notice how in Hell the rich man receives the discomfort in the torments of flame while Lazarus in Abraham’s bosom is comforted.
- Luke 16:26—Hell is time past contained two chambers that were separated by a great gulf between them making it impossible for those in torments to access those in Abraham’s bosom (comfort).
- Luke 23:43—after Christ died on the cross he and the repentant thief went to hell. But not to the flames of torment but to the comforts of paradise.
- Before the shedding of Christ’s blood on the cross Israel’s sins were only covered through the system of animal sacrifices contained in the Law.
 - Hebrews 10:4
 - Romans 3:25
- Many believe that when Christ rose from the dead the Old Testament saints were immediately transported to heaven.
- Acts 2:34—as of Acts 2 after the ascension of Christ into heaven Peter speaks of Dave as still having not ascended into heaven.
- This not a problem because in Acts 2 we are still in time past. The offer of the kingdom was still on the table. The hope of everyone in paradise at this time was to be resurrected at the first resurrection and enter the kingdom.

Hell During the Dispensation of Grace

- Israel did not repent for their part of the death of Christ and consequently they were set aside and rendered in unbelief along with the Gentiles.
- II Corinthians 12:2-4—Paul was caught up into the third heaven or paradise.
- At some point subsequent to Israel being rendered in unbelief the paradise section of Hell was cleared out a move into the third heaven.
- II Corinthians 5:1-8—when believers die physically and depart our earthly bodies we are present with the Lord in paradise.

- Hell right now during the dispensation of Grace contains only one compartment. The lost when they die are still taken to the flames of torment while the saved will be present with the Lord in the third heaven.

Hell in the Ages to Come

- In the Ages to Come Hell is going to change yet again.
- Revelation 14:10—here the torment in fire and brimstone is described as being in the presence of the Lamb.
- Mark 9:43-49—this passage describes Hell in the Ages to Come. These verses imply that Hell is going to be a present reality on earth during the kingdom where people are going to receive swift instantaneous justice for their sin.
 - Verse 43—“enter into life”
 - Verse 45—“enter into life”
 - Verse 47—“enter into the kingdom of God”
- Israel’s entire hope as a nation was wrapped up in the establishment of the kingdom of God on earth. Eternal life was synonymous with entrance into a kingdom.
- Matthew 5:29-30—here you have a situation where some people will not have to die before being thrown into Hell.
- Matthew 25:46—Hell is going to be a present reality on the Earth during Christ’s millennial reign as a monument against sin.
- In that kingdom Jesus Christ is going to govern in total and absolute perfect righteousness. Consequently, there will be instance justice executed for those who rebel against the rule of Christ.
- In the Old Testament capital punishment (stoning) was not concerned with the comfort of the criminal. Rather it served as a picture of society’s attitude toward the crime. Hell will be visible and present on earth as a monument against sin.
- Isaiah 66:22-24—people will be able to see what happens when you rebel against the righteous rule of the king.
- II Thessalonians 1:7-8—the fire associated with Christ’s second coming is going to unlock the gates to death and Hell (Revelation 1:8) and create a visible passage way into Hell.
 - II Thessalonians 2:7-8
 - Psalm 50:1-3
 - Psalm 97:1-5—this fire is going to produce great topographical effects.
 - Isaiah 30:27-33
 - Joel 2:2-3
 - Micah 1:3-4
 - Deuteronomy 32:22

- Isaiah 34:1-10
- After the second coming when Jesus Christ comes to establish his kingdom Hell is going to be a living reality on earth.
- Revelation 20:14—the ultimate end of Hell in the Ages to Come is to be thrown into the Lake of Fire.

Conclusion

- Hell in every age is avoidable by believing God message to you.
- Jesus Christ came and died for sin so that you and I would not have to suffer the torments of Hell.
- If you are going to understand Hell you need to rightly divide the word of Truth.