

Treasures of the Sanctuary—Lesson 22—“The Fire of God’s Sanctuary (Hell)”

OPENING DISCUSSION QUESTIONS/TALK:

1. If someone kills a person, should they be punished more severely than someone who steals something? What do you think?
2. What is more merciful: a quick death or endless torture? Explain.

READING AND STUDY QUESTIONS:

1. After the Scapegoat was dealt with, what was the Final act on the Day of Atonement? (Leviticus 16:27,28) (*hint: leftover parts of the Sacrifice were burned up*)
 - a. Where were the leftover portions of the Sacrifice destroyed at? And, how was this done?
 - b. *Jesus’ sacrifice was to cover the sins of the whole world (1 John 2:2)...sadly, many do not take advantage of the sacrifice that was made for them. There is a left-over portion. The wicked are burned outside the camp.*
2. Does the fire of God come out from His Sanctuary to destroy all sin? (Daniel 7:9-11; Lev.10:1,2)
3. When does the Bible say this great fire of Hell will start? (Revelation 20:9,10)
 - a. *Some will get a taste of this Hell fire just before the 1000 years start (at Jesus’ coming) (2 Peter 3:10; Rev. 19:20)*
4. Is it possible for anyone to be suffering in Hell fire right now?
 - a. *No, the dead are sleeping in the graves (Ecclesiastes 9:5,6,10)*
 - b. *Jesus said they must resurrect to be condemned (John 5:29)*
5. Who was the fire prepared for? (Matthew 25:41)_____ *Isn’t it sad that some “thinking” people would choose to abandon God’s mercy and burn in that fire too?*
6. What will the fire do to those who are burned in it? (Ezekiel 28:18; Malachi 4:1,3)
 - a. According to these Bible verses, does Hell fire burn endlessly (for all eternity) as some have said?
7. What was the perfect example of Hell fire in ancient times? (Jude 1:7)
 - a. Did the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah continue to burn forever (even until today)? (see also 2 Peter 2:6)
 - b. This was called “eternal fire”. It is “eternal” in its consequences, because there is no coming back from it, ever!
8. What verses do some people misunderstand about hell fire? (Mark 9:43, 47,48)

- a. If you look at the Greek words translated as Hell you will find **3 different ones.**
 - i. **Gehennah:** a place of burning fire and garbage just outside the city of Jerusalem. (Jesus used the word “Gehennah” in these verses.) He used the burning garbage dump outside the city as an illustration of what would happen after the **1000 years** (those fires will burn outside New Jerusalem)
 - ii. **Tartarus:** a place of burning fire.
 - iii. **Hades:** translated over and over again as the “grave”.
9. What is the punishment of sin?
- a. “The wages of sin is _____.” (Romans 6:23) If it was eternally burning in Hell then Jesus did not pay the price on Calvary.
 - b. The Bible clearly calls Hell fire the “second _____.” (Rev. 20:15)
10. What does Jesus say are the two rewards for all mankind?
- a. “For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him, should not _____, but have everlasting _____.” (John 3:16)
 - b. Only the saved get eternal life! The wicked *perish!*
11. Is it in God’s character to burn people for all eternity (keeping them alive to always suffer)? (Micah 7:18)
- a. What would we say about a parent who beat their child with a stick everyday for 25 years?
 - b. God says we are Judged “according to what we have done” (Rev. 22:12) God will not torture people for all eternity who sinned for one lifetime of 70 years.
12. Revelation 20:10 said the Devil and his followers would be “tormented day and night forever and ever.” How does the Bible use the term “forever and ever”?
- a. Jonah 2:6 –Jonah said he was barred in “forever” when he was in the belly of the great fish. But, literally, it was only “*three days and three nights*” (Jonah 1:17)
 - b. 1 Samuel 1:22—Hannah gave her son Samuel to live with the Lord “always” (“forever”). But, actually he stayed there for his “whole life”—as long as he lived (not literally “forever”)
13. Where exactly does Hell fire burn again?
- a. On “the _____ of the _____” (Rev. 20:9)
 - b. Is it even possible for the fire to burn forever outside God’s holy city? (Rev. 21:1)
 - c. The fire of Heaven comes down and mercifully burns up those who do not want to serve the Creator God. This was their choice. They rebelled against the Life-giver himself until life was taken away from them. This is the “Second Death” from which none return!

HEART QUESTION(S):

1. Is it clear to you that Hell fire will not continue burning for all eternity? _____
 2. Can you see God’s Mercy in the fire? _____ Would you like to serve Jesus forever? _____
-

NOTES:

Q and A: Some people say the **Parable of the Rich man and Lazarus** (Luke 16) was a real story, teaching that people will go to an eternally burning Hell fire. Is that right? No. It was a parable teaching that just because you are rich, does not automatically mean that you have God’s special favor (and are guaranteed Heaven). In the parable the rich man called out from the fire for Lazarus to “dip the tip of his finger in water and cool” his “tongue, because he was in agony...” (Luke 16:25) Obviously, a person who is being tortured cannot have a logical conversation. Secondly, no drop of water will cool your tongue if you’re burning in hell fire.