

16 - WHEN THE SMOKE CLEARS.



1

Hell - The Real Truth About a Hot Topic.



2

Do you know that this very morning, people just like you got up in Paradise and took showers, ate breakfast,



3

**and drove to work?
And do you know that people in Hell did the very same thing?**



4

Of course, we're talking about Paradise, California and



5

**Hell, Michigan.
And yes, there IS a Hell, Michigan, in case that's hard to believe!**



6

It even snows in Hell!



7

**But today we want to talk about the hell most of us have grown up hearing about-the place where supposedly, really bad people go when they die.
The place where sinners burn in eternal flames that never quite consume them.**

A place presided over by the devil himself.

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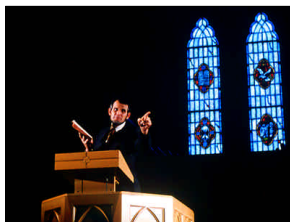
A recent issue of U.S. News & World Report revealed some very interesting things about the topic of hell.

The lead article focused on what the American people thought or speculated about the place where no one will ever get cold.



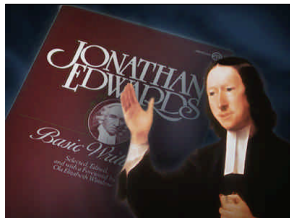
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Hell was a subject that received much attention during the 19th and the first part of 20th century.



10

Preachers used to vie with each other to see who could preach the hottest hell-and they thought that the hotter their hell, the more converts to Christianity they could count on. The devil must have listened with glee to those discourses!



11

The famous Puritan preacher, Jonathan Edwards, had this to say during one of his lectures:



12

**"The pit is prepared.
The fire is made ready.
The furnace is now hot, ready to receive them.**



13

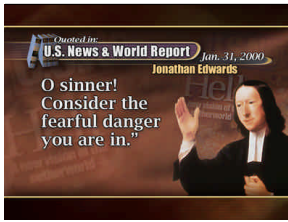
**The flames do now rage and glow.
The glittering sword is whet, and held over them,**



14

and the pit has opened her mouth under them....

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15

O sinner!

Consider the fearful danger you are in." U.S. News & World Report, January 31, 2000.



16

No doubt Edwards struck fear into the hearts of the New Englanders.

The threat of hell has served as a potent incentive to refrain from evil and to cling to faith.

The stakes were made clear by Edwards and the others:



17

There was a hell to shun and a heaven to gain.

Hell and its flaming torments were made ever so real!



18

In a poll taken by U.S. New & World Report,



19

it was discovered that 64 percent of those polled believed that there was a hell.



20

Twenty-five percent said that they did not believe in hell,



21

and, 9 percent said that they did not know.

Where do you stand on this subject?

Scores of people have turned away from Christianity because of a false understanding of God and hell.



22

Ingersoll, the famous skeptic, is supposed to have said that he hated God because of his false understanding of what hell was all about.

He had been told by his father that infants not over a span long would burn forever in hell.

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23

(Video: 3 sec) There are three things we need to know at the beginning of this subject:

1. God is not a destroyer-SATAN IS!



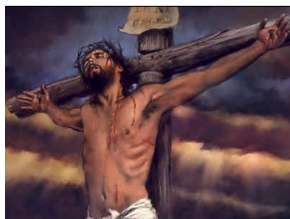
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(Video: 2 sec) 2. God is not to blame for sin and suffering-SATAN IS!



25

(Video: 3 sec) 3. God does not burn people in hell forever and ever!

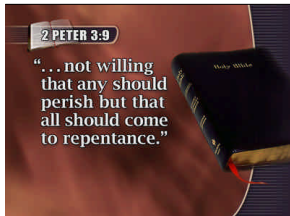


26

Does that shock you?

Please listen carefully and prayerfully before you reach a conclusion.

Would a God who gave His only begotten Son to die on the cross, a God who said



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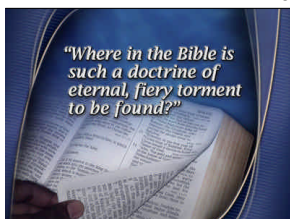
(Text: 2 Peter 3:9) He was "...not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance..." (2 Peter 3:9) burn sinners forever in the fires of hell because they failed to accept His salvation?

That's a good question!



28

(Video: 12 sec) Many sincere people have turned from Christianity because they could not harmonize these two contrasting pictures of God's character and justice so commonly taught.

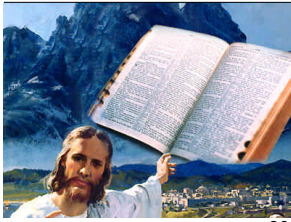


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However, the real question to be answered is, "Where in the Bible is such a doctrine of eternal, fiery torment to be found? And the amazing answer is that it simply isn't there!

As you turn the pages of the Bible, you will discover that, yes, it talks about hell-a literal, burning hell-but not the kind pictured to frighten people into becoming Christians.

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Let's turn to the New Testament and discover what Jesus taught about the fate of the unsaved, or the wicked. One day while He was teaching by the Sea of Galilee, a crowd pressed in to listen to Him.



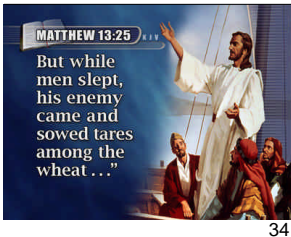
Seeking a spot where everyone could see and hear Him, Jesus got into a boat and pushed out a little from the shore.



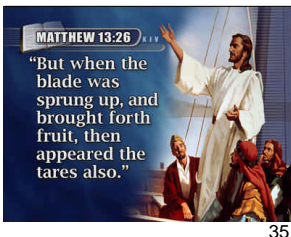
Nearby, men were sowing in their fields. Jesus could watch them as they worked. Directing the attention of the people to the fields, He spoke several parables. One concerned the fate of the unsaved:



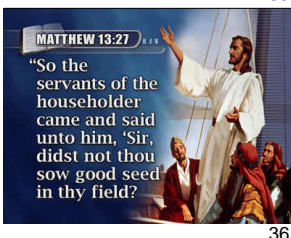
(Text: Matthew 13:24-28) "The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field:



But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat...



But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also.

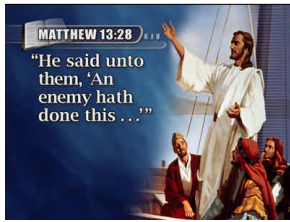


So the servants of the house-holder came and said unto him, 'Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in they field?



From whence then hath it tares?'

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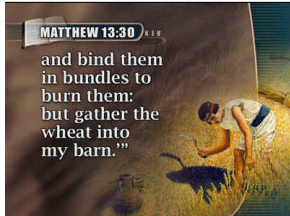
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He said unto them, 'An enemy hath done this.'" Matthew 13:24-28.



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(Text: Matthew 13:30) The servants wanted to pull out the tares, but the master said, "In time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares,



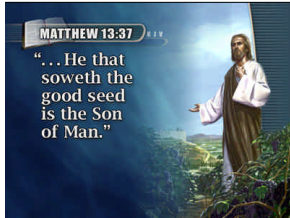
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and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn." Verse 30.



41

Later, the disciples came and asked Jesus to explain the parable to them.



42

(Text: Matthew 13:37-39) So Jesus said: "...He that soweth the good seed is the Son of Man;



43

the field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one;



44

the enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels." Verses 37-39.



45

(Text: Matthew 13:40) Now notice what Jesus said: "As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world." Verse 40.
According to Jesus, punishment will come at the end of the world.

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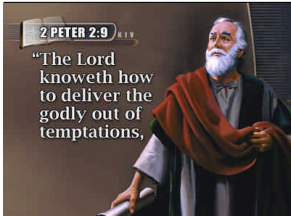
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That is when the tares, or the wicked, will be gathered and burned.
This is a future date.



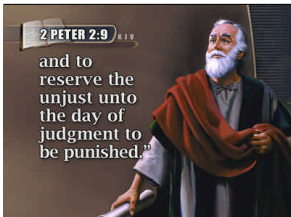
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The fires of hell are not burning now; the wicked who have died certainly are not being punished in the fires of hell now. Peter wrote:



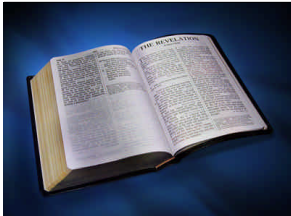
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(Text: 2 Peter 2:9) "The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations,



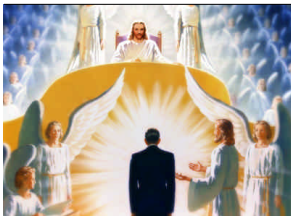
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and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished." 2 Peter 2:9.



50

So you see that according to the Bible, when a man dies, he does not go immediately to his reward.



51

He must first be judged and sentenced.
Doesn't that make sense?
Isn't that the only fair way?
Think for a moment:



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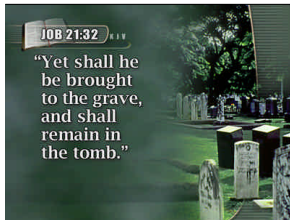
(Video: 7 sec) Would a just God send a person to suffer in hell and then centuries later call him up to stand trial to see if he deserved that punishment?



53

Would that be justice?
Hardly!
The teaching that a man goes immediately to heaven or hell at death undermines God's love and justice.
Small wonder that God is so misunderstood and feared!

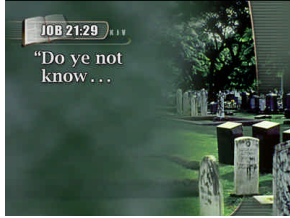
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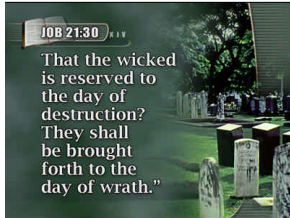
(Text: Job 21:32) Job tells us what happens when a man dies: “Yet shall he be brought to the grave, and shall remain in the tomb.” Job 21:32.

And notice what Job said concerning the wicked who die:



55

(Text: Job 21:29,30) “Do ye not know...



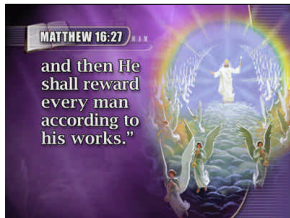
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that the wicked is reserved to the day of destruction? They shall be brought forth to the day of wrath.” Job 21:29, 30.



57

(Text: Matthew 16:27) You see, when Jesus comes back to this earth, He will reward every man. “The Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels;



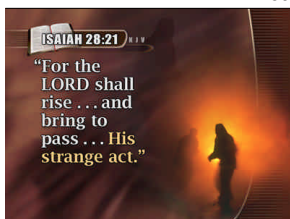
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and then he shall reward every man according to his works.” Matthew 16:27.



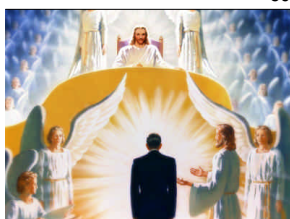
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The Bible teaches that unrepentant sinners will be punished. How could it be otherwise? In courts, justice demands that lawbreakers be punished according to the laws of the land.



60

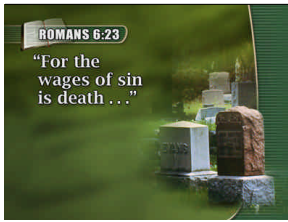
(Text: Isaiah 28:21) Yet God does not enjoy the punishment of the wicked, as some preachers have stated. In fact, Isaiah calls it His “strange act.” See Isaiah 28:21.



61

However, a God of justice has no other choice. The inhabitants of Earth rebelled against God’s government of love.

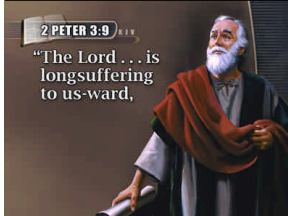
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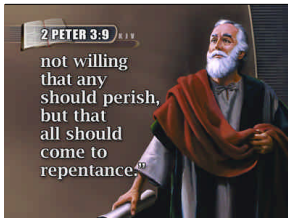
(Text: Romans 6:23) They refused to obey His laws, and sin has its penalty.

"For the wages of sin is death." Romans 6:23.



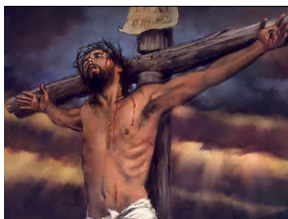
63

(Text: 2 Peter 3:9) Please notice that God's heart of love goes out to mankind, for as Peter wrote, "The Lord...is longsuffering to us-ward,



64

not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." 2 Peter 3:9.



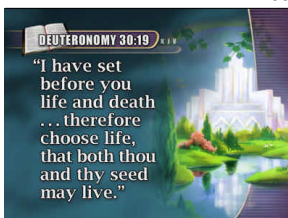
God gave His own Son to die in our place on Calvary's cross to satisfy the claims of a broken law.

For this reason, no one needs to perish!

But in God's government,



everyone has perfect freedom either to accept or to reject the forgiveness and salvation of God.



67

(Text: Deuteronomy 30:19) A loving, compassionate God urges man to choose salvation: "I have set before you life and death,... therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live." Deuteronomy 30:19.



But those who refuse salvation and reject the sacrifice of Christ must one day lose the priceless gift of eternal life that God offers.

They will die for their sins.

God has no choice, for both sin and sinners will be destroyed.

But you may rest assured that no one is suffering in some fiery chasm out on the edge of the universe today!

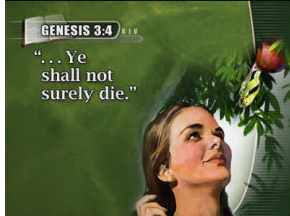
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69

Maybe you wonder where such an idea originated.
It came from the master deceiver, Satan himself!
And it has been passed along from paganism to Christianity.



70

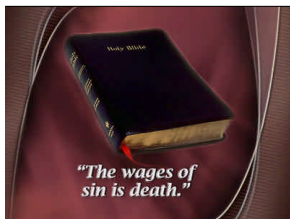
(Text: Genesis 3:4) In the Garden of Eden, Satan told Eve, in contradiction of God's words, "Ye shall not surely die."

Genesis 3:4.

That lie has been passed down through the centuries!

You see, if man does not die, then he is immortal.

Therefore, those who believe this lie of Satan reason that if wicked man is immortal-if he never dies-then he must burn forever in hell for his sins.



71

But God did not say that the wages of sin is continuing life in torment!

Never!

The love and justice of God could never be vindicated if



72

He allowed sinful man to burn forever.

What unspeakable cruelty!

How diabolical!

Even in man's faulty justice, he would never sentence even the vilest criminal to such a fate.

Yet many accuse a loving, merciful God of just such tyranny and cruelty!



73

In July of 1976, Gary Gilmore walked into a gas station and shot the attendant-a student at Brigham Young University.



74

The next evening he forced a young motel clerk at gunpoint to hand over some cash.

Then Gilmore asked his victim to kneel, and Gilmore shot him in the back of the head.

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75

Most Americans thought this was one man who deserved to die for his cold-blooded murders. But when Utah sentenced him to death by firing squad, the whole nation plunged into controversy.



76

Because of a Supreme Court ruling, no one had been executed in the U.S. for almost a decade.



77

The gas chambers and electric chairs had been idle, and the prospect of reactivating them bothered a lot of people. Gilmore said he wanted to die, but lawyers tried desperately to find grounds for a stay of Gilmore's execution.



78

Groups of protesters called it an inhumane and "paganistic ritual." Others demanded the death penalty as a deterrent to others who might also kill in cold blood.



79

A few men actually phoned the Utah state prison warden, asking to join the firing squad.



80

The debate raged on. What was the most humane way of executing condemned criminals? Was Gilmore beyond redemption?



81

But in all this discussion, in all this passionate debate over the death penalty, one option was never considered. Not one person suggested that Gilmore be tortured forever. But many sincere Christians assume that our Heavenly Father will do worse than that!

And what's more, they picture God's execution ground as a place of endless torment-a place where the agonies of the damned continue forever!

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82

(Video: 8 sec) The real punishment sinners will suffer is the loss of eternal life.

It is to realize that they chose a few short years on Earth-often filled with worry, heartache, and tears, instead of life everlasting in a glorious earth made new.

Love, joy and peace for eternity!

The real punishment will be seeing what could have been theirs!



83

Jesus said that the tares, or the wicked, would be gathered and burned at the end of the world.

Isn't that speaking of a burning hell?

Indeed, but the interesting thing is that God's Word says that hell was prepared for the devil and his angels.

As Christ passes sentence upon those who have rejected salvation,



84

(Text: Matthew 25:41) He will say, "...Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels." Matthew 25:41.



85

(Text: John 14:2) Jesus said He was going to prepare a place for man when He returned to heaven.

(See John 14:1- 3).

But if man rejects God and His salvation and chooses to follow Satan, man will also share in the fate of the devil and his angels.

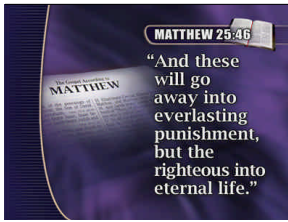


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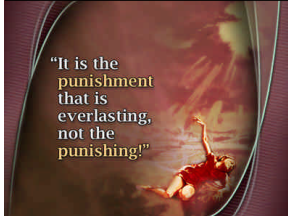
"Wait a minute," you may say.

"Everlasting fire sounds like it will be forever." Let's read verse 46 of the same chapter of Matthew:

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(Text: Matthew 25:46) "These shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal." Matthew 25:46.



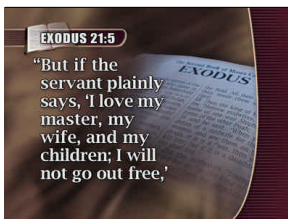
It is the punishment that is everlasting, not the punishing! In several places in the Bible it does use the word "forever" in connection with the punishment of the unsaved.



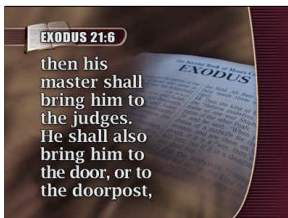
The term "forever" in the Bible can mean a definite period of time.

For instance in the book of Exodus it speaks of the servant bonding himself to his master forever. And this means for the period of his life.

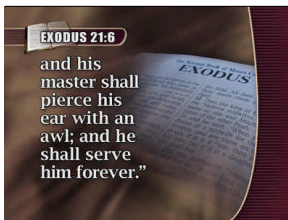
Notice how this word is used in Exodus 21:5, 6:



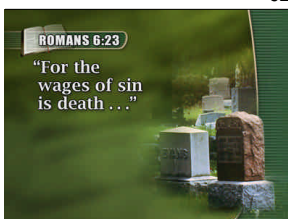
(Text: Exodus 21:5, 6) "But if the servant plainly says, 'I love my master, my wife, and my children; I will not go out free,'



then his master shall bring him to the judges. He shall also bring him to the door, or to the doorpost,

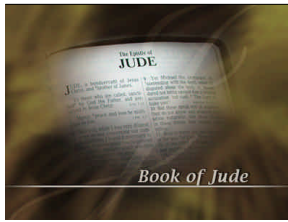


and his master shall pierce his ear with an awl; and he shall serve him forever." The servant is to serve him forever or as long as the servant lives.

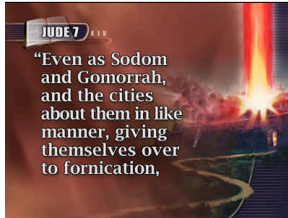


(Text: Romans 6:23) God said that the wages of sin is death. That is final-everlasting. The state of being dead will never end. The punishment is eternal in its results-in its consequences.

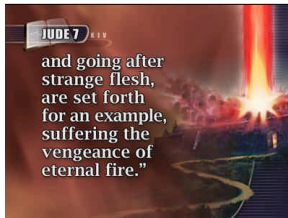
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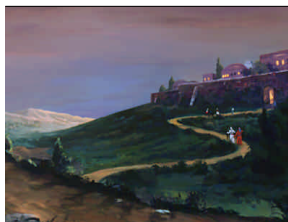
An example is found in the Book of Jude:



(Text: Jude 7) Even as Sodom and Gomorrah, 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." Jude 7.



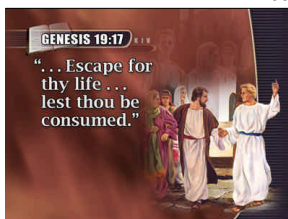
The inhabitants of Sodom and Gomorrah had become so vile that they had to be destroyed.
But Abraham's nephew, Lot, and his family lived in Sodom.



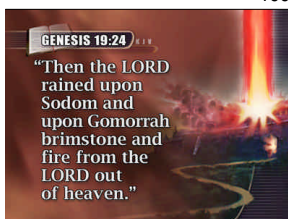
God sent angels to lead Lot and his family out of the city before the fire fell and the cities were destroyed.



No doubt you remember the story: Lot and his wife and two daughters were led out of the city, and the angel said to them,

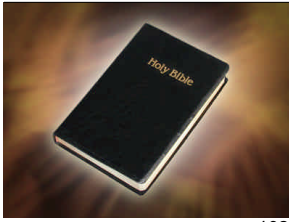


(Text: Genesis 19:17,24) "Escape for thy life ...lest thou be consumed



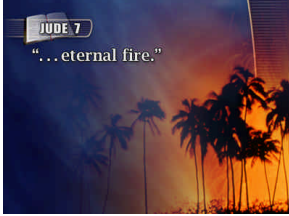
Then the Lord rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the Lord out of heaven." Genesis 19:17, 24.

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102

The Bible tells us that everyone and everything was destroyed, even the grass surrounding those wicked cities. Sounds almost like an atomic explosion, doesn't it?



103

(Text: Jude 7) Jude said those cities would be destroyed by "eternal fire." Jude 7.

But are Sodom and Gomorrah burning now?

Of course not!

Yet the effects have been eternal.

Peter said the destruction of those cities was an example to us of what is in store for those who live ungodly lives.



104

(Text: 2 Peter 2:6) "...Turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes condemned them to destruction,



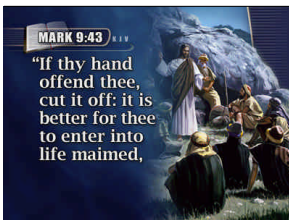
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making them an example to those who afterwards would live ungodly." 2 Peter 2:6.



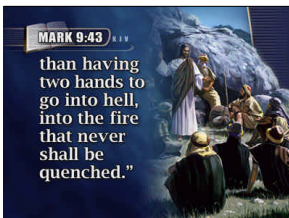
106

One day Jesus called His disciples together to talk with them. He was talking to them about what would happen if someone offended someone.



107

(Text: Mark 9:43) He remarked, "If thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed,



108

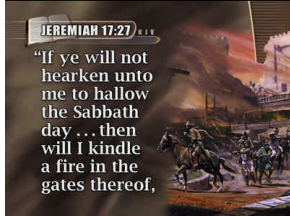
than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched." Mark 9:43.

16 - WHEN THE SMOKE CLEARS.



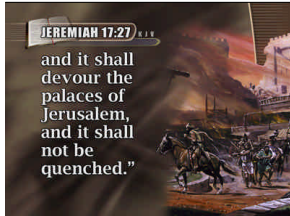
109

Here Jesus pictures the fires of hell, or the fire which shall burn the wicked up, as being unquenchable. The same terminology is used in connection with the destruction of Jerusalem:



110

(Text: Jeremiah 17:27) "If ye will not hearken unto me to hallow the Sabbath day ... then will I kindle a fire in the gates thereof,



111

and it shall devour the palaces of Jerusalem, and it shall not be quenched." Jeremiah 17:27.



112

The fires kindled by the Babylonians when they destroyed Jerusalem were unquenchable.

But that does not mean that they would never go out.

For the fires of Jerusalem are not burning today.

Yet as they burned, no one could put them out!

Only after the flames completely destroyed the city did they go out!



113

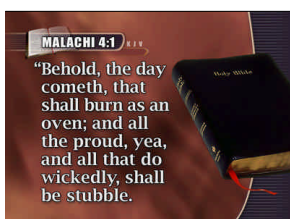
We use the same terminology today.

If a fire breaks out in a building and cannot be contained, or put out, we say that it is unquenchable.

We do not mean it will never go out!

We simply mean it will burn until there is nothing left.

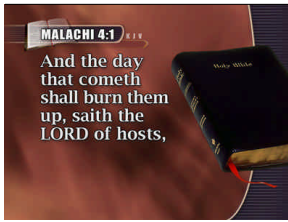
The wicked will be burned up very quickly-like stubble.



114

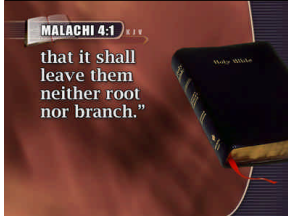
(Text: Malachi 4:1) Malachi says: "Behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble;

16 - WHEN THE SMOKE CLEARS.



115

and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the Lord of hosts,



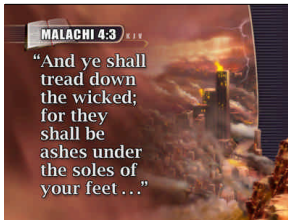
116

that it shall leave them neither root nor branch." Malachi 4:1.



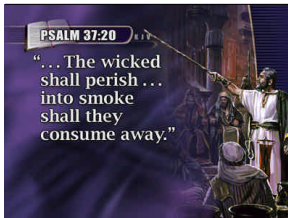
117

The fire will be unquenchable.
The wicked will cease to be.
The effects of the fire will be eternal-everlasting.
There will be nothing left of the wicked.



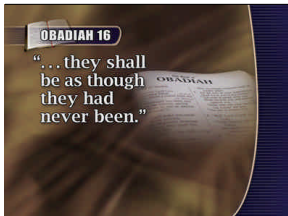
118

(Text: Malachi 4:3) In fact, Malachi says, "And ye shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet..." Malachi 4:3.



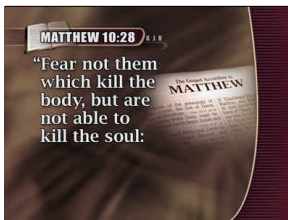
119

(Text: Psalm 37:20) David wrote: "...the wicked shall perish ... into smoke shall they consume away." Psalm: 37:20.



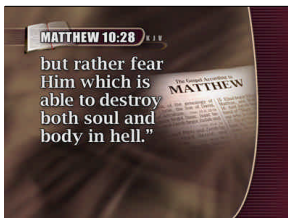
120

(Text: Obadiah 16) Obadiah says, "They shall be as though they had not been." Obadiah 16.
But, you say, "That is just man's body that will be destroyed. His soul will live forever." Is that what the Bible teaches?



121

(Text: Matthew 10:28) Jesus said, "Fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul:



122

but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell." Matthew 10:28.
And doesn't that make sense?

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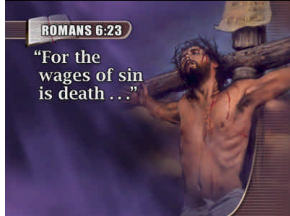


123

Think for a moment.

Christ came to be our substitute, to die for our sins, to take our punishment.

Did Christ suffer on the cross forever and ever?



124

(Text: Romans 6:23) No, He died!

That was man's punishment-death.

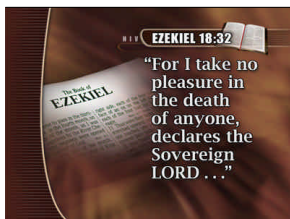
"For the wages of sin is death." Romans 6:23.



125

(Video: 9 sec) No doubt you are thankful to know that the teaching of eternal hellfire is not biblical and that no one is burning in hell now.

However, some people cannot understand how a God of love could permit anyone to be destroyed, regardless of how wicked he or she has been.



126

(Text: Ezekiel 18:32) It is not a pleasant experience for the Lord.

"For I take no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Sovereign Lord." Ezekiel 18:32.



127

But God has no choice if He is to preserve life on Earth! God's dealing with the problem of sin is somewhat like the outbreak of scrapies among the sheep in Oklahoma:



128

(Video: 10 sec) "Four years before the first known case of mad cow disease surfaced in England, the state of Oklahoma saw a perplexing outbreak of a rare but troubling disease in sheep. Known as Scrapies, the disease was only reported in 12

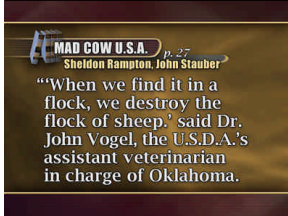
flocks in the entire United States that year, but eight of them occurred in Oklahoma,

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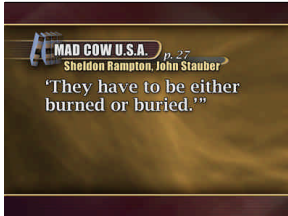
129

and as a precautionary measure the U.S. Department of Agriculture ordered the destruction of some 3,300 animals, valued at almost \$1 million.



130

'When we find it in a flock, we destroy the flock of sheep.' said Dr. John Vogel, the USDA's assistant veterinarian in charge of Oklahoma.



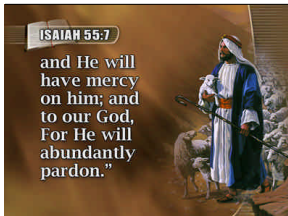
131

'They have to be either burned or buried.' "
-MAD COW U.S.A., Sheldon Rampton, John Stauber., p.27.
Just as the shepherds in Oklahoma care for their sheep, God loves the sinner.
He wants to help him.



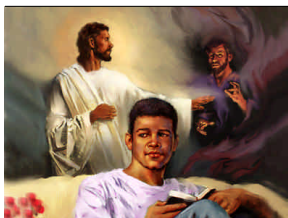
132

(Text: Isaiah 55:7) He urges every man to choose to be saved:
"Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return unto the Lord,



133

and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon." Isaiah 55:7.



134

Man has a choice, and God honors that choice.
He wants to help.
But the choice is not His to make.
It is the only loving thing He can do.

For you see, heaven would be a miserable place for those who have chosen a lifestyle contrary to God's Word.
Think for a moment!



135

(Video: 12 sec) In heaven there will be:
• No casinos for the gamblers
• No saloons for the alcoholic
• No heroin for the addict
• No places of sinful pleasure

16 - WHEN THE SMOKE CLEARS

- No money for the greedy to hoard



136

Don't you suppose that heaven would actually seem like hell to these people?

And if they refuse to accept God's salvation or refuse to be cleansed by the Blood of Christ, the deadly virus of sin spreads,



137

**just like Mad Cow disease.
Sin would reign again.**



138

(Video: 11 sec) It wouldn't be heaven before long-it would be hell.

So sin and sinner must be destroyed.

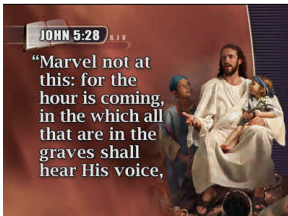
It is the only safe and merciful thing to do.



139

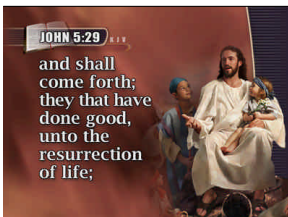
"But when will this take place?" you may ask.

The Bible tells us that the righteous dwell with Christ during the millennial period, and at the end of that time, the wicked dead will be raised.



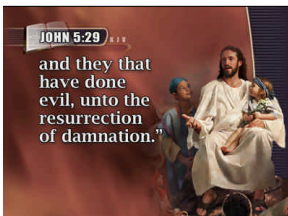
140

(Text: John 5:28,29) This is the "resurrection of damnation" spoken of by Jesus when He said, "Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear His voice



141

and come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life;



142

and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation." John 5:28, 29.

16 - WHEN THE SMOKE CLEARS



143

The wicked will be raised just as they went into the grave.



144

(Text: Revelation 21:2) Then, John says, “And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven,



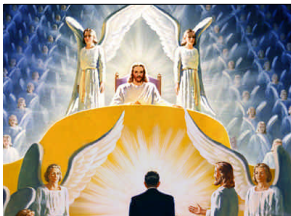
145

prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.” Revelation 21:2. What a sight!



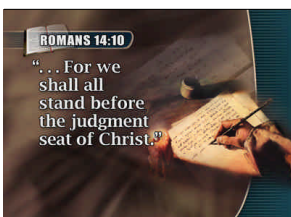
146

What a contrast will be seen as the magnificent city descends from heaven with all the saved, glorified and youthful. And what a sense of loss must sweep over the multitudes of the unsaved as they see what might have been theirs. The devil has robbed them of the dearest possession they might have had-eternal life!



147

Now they stand arraigned before God on the charge of treason against His government. Their destiny is fixed by their own choices. They hear the sentence of death passed upon them. And they fall to their knees and acknowledge that God is just. God’s wisdom, justice, and goodness stand fully vindicated.



148

(Text: Romans 14:10,11) “...For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.

16 - WHEN THE SMOKE CLEARS



149

...Every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue confess to God.” Romans 14:10, 11.



150

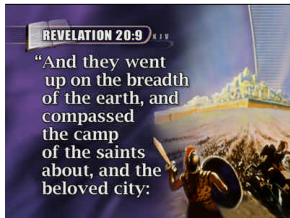
**The wicked do not repent.
They only regret the fearful results of sin-the sentence of death, the second death.
No doubt Satan and his angels must also tremble at the thought of their sentence of doom.**

However, the Bible tells us that in the last desperate effort to overthrow God and take the city,



151

**Satan marshals all the millions of the wicked into one vast army and sets out to surround it.
John, the beloved disciple, gives an account of what will happen as they come to take the city.**



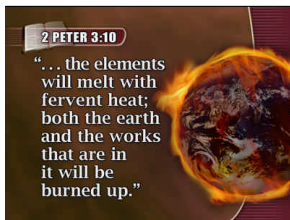
152

(Text: Revelation 20:9) “They went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city:



153

and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.” Revelation 20:9.



154

(Text: 2 Peter 3:10) Peter described that day: “The elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.” 2 Peter 3:10.



155

**(Video: 10 sec) Many of you will remember the fires that were set in the Kuwait oil fields during the Gulf War.
Hundreds of oil wells were set on fire by the retreating armies.
The fires raged for days.**

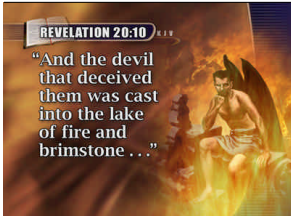
16 - WHEN THE SMOKE CLEARS

This was just a little sample of what will happen when the fire does come down from heaven to



156

finally purify this earth from every trace of sin.



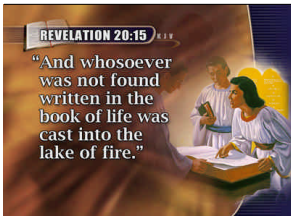
157

**(Text: Revelation 20:10,14,15) And what about the devil?
“And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone.”**



158

“This is the second death.



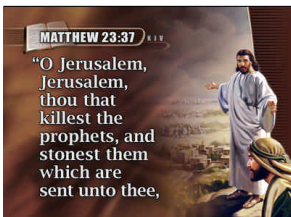
159

And whosoever was not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.” Revelation 20:10, 14, 15.



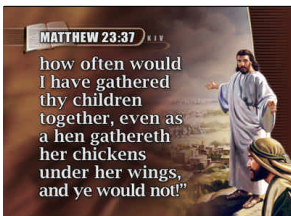
160

(Video: 8 sec) As the flames envelop the earth, a God of love must weep-weep just as Jesus wept that sad day as He looked at Jerusalem and cried out from the depth of



161

(Text: Matthew 23:37) His heart, “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee,



162

how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not.” Matthew 23:37.

16 – WHEN THE SMOKE CLEARS



163

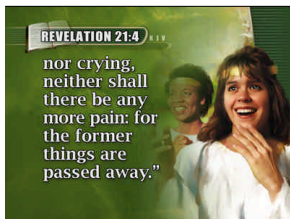
**Friends, that will be earth's saddest day.
It will also be the saddest day for God, for His Son, for the
holy angels, for the saved, and for the lost.
Tears of sadness and farewell will flow.
How could it be otherwise?**

**But as always, a God of love shows His unfailing kindness
and concern,**



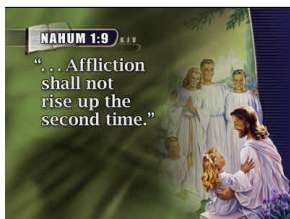
164

**(Text: Revelation 21:4) for we read that “God shall wipe away
all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, nei-
ther sorrow,**



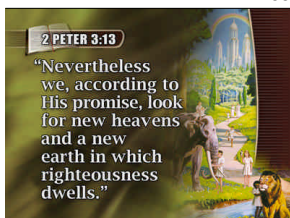
165

**nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the for-
mer things are passed away.” Revelation 21:4.
Isn't that good news?**



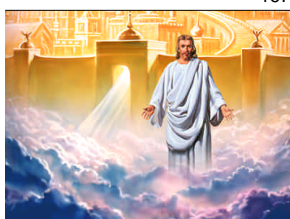
166

**(Text: Nahum 1:9) And best of all, God promises, “Affliction
shall not rise up the second time.” Nahum 1:9.
Never again will Planet Earth be contaminated with the virus
of sin.
But there is more good news.**



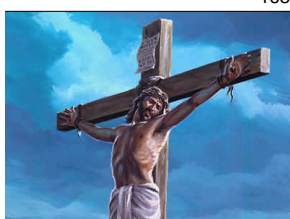
167

**(Text: 2 Peter 3:13) Peter wrote: “Nevertheless we, according to
his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which
righteousness dwells.” 2 Peter 3:13.**



168

**Friend, Jesus wants to share eternity with you.
He wants to share the beauty and pleasures of the earth made
new with you.**



169

**He has paid the price for your redemption on Calvary, and He
invites you to accept that sacrifice.
But the choice is yours.**

16 - WHEN THE SMOKE CLEARS



170

And friend, when you make that decision, Christ will be there to help you.

Whatever the problem, whatever the difficulty, He is always there.

Won't you reach out to Jesus right now?

He is reaching out to you!