

# DEATH AND HELL

# Topic: Death and Hell

## Discuss and Summarize the Secular Worldview:

Sample Summary: Hell may be a place of eternal punishment for the wicked after death, presided over by Satan and his demons. It may be an idea made up to foster good behavior. It may be a place where we are reunited with other sinners as in, "I'd rather laugh with the sinners than cry with the saints," sung by Billy Joel. When we die, we may just cease to exist. "Hell" is a favorite cuss word. Confusion and uncertainty about what happens after we die is commonplace.

## Discuss and Summarize the Christian Worldview:

Sample Summary: Sin entered God's perfect creation through Adam and Eve's sin. We are all sinful in this sin-cursed and broken world. Jesus came into this world as true God and true man to be the second Adam. Jesus lived a sinless life, suffered on a cross, died, was buried and rose on the third day. Through His perfect sacrifice, we are offered forgiveness for our sins. By accepting Jesus Christ's forgiveness, we'll spend eternity with Him in heaven. If we do not, we'll face a second death of eternal separation from God in hell.

## Why This is Important:

No one can avoid dying. What happens to us at death is mysterious, permanent, and worthy of great consideration. The time we are alive here on Earth is infinitesimal when compared to eternity.

## Scripture Says:

Genesis 3:15, Genesis 5:23-24, Job 19:25-27, 2 Kings 2:11, Psalm 16:10-11, Psalm 73:24-26, Ecclesiastes 3:11, Isaiah 53:6, Daniel 12:2-3, Matthew 5:30, Matthew 7:13-14, Matthew 13:40-43, Matthew 13:49-50, Matthew 23:33, Matthew 25:31-46, Mark 9:48, Luke 10:15, Luke 16:22-23, Luke 19:10, Luke 23:43, John 3:16-17, John 3:36, John 5:28, John 6:35-40, John 14:1-6, Romans 1:18-32, Romans 2:4, Romans 2:11, Romans 3:22-24, Romans 5:8-9, 1 Corinthians 2:9, 2 Corinthians 5:1-8, 2 Corinthians 5:14-15, Ephesians 6:12-13, Philippians 1:21-23, 1 Thessalonians 4:17, Hebrews 9:26-28, 2 Peter 3:9, Revelation 14:9-11, Revelation 20:4-6, Revelation 20:10-15, Revelation 21:1-8

## Worth Considering:

- God's Word is true. God is holy and just. Our sin is utter ugliness and depravity to a holy God. We deserve eternal condemnation.
- Hell is place of isolation, loneliness and deprivation for eternity. Satan and his demons are inmates in hell, not overseers. They will be thrown permanently into the lake of fire.
- Terms used in scripture about the afterlife:
  - 1) Sheol/Hades - A temporary holding place for the dead, divided into places of blessing and torment
  - 2) "Abraham's Bosom" - A place of eternal comfort and rest
  - 3) "Paradise" - A place of eternal comfort, heaven
  - 4) "With the Lord" - Where the church age believers are after death
  - 5) Gehenna - A repulsive burning dump near Jerusalem that Jesus used to illustrate a place of judgement after death. Likely also to be the same place as the Valley of Hinnom where children were sacrificed to Molech.
  - 6) "New Heaven and New Earth" - Where believers will be after they are resurrected
  - 7) "Lake of Fire" - The final hell and eternal punishment for all unrepentant humans and angelic beings, unrelenting agony
- The residents of hell are defiant and hate God. God's justice is perfect. He doesn't consign someone to hell who doesn't deserve it. Those in hell will know what they've rejected by seeing the presence of the holy angels and Jesus Christ.
- In considering hell, we should feel the urgency and anguish of it and a commitment to share the gospel with the lost.
- We should feel endless gratitude toward our loving God who draws us to Him with mercy. The wrath that should be directed at our sins has been poured out on Jesus who took our sin on Himself at the cross and saves us.

## Questions to Consider:

- Hell, Satan, and demons are a staple of horror movies. While Hollywood claims to not believe in hell as a real place or demons as real beings, its content is dominated by it. Do you think hell's depictions are inspired by actual demonic activity in our world?
- How should Christians view near death experiences (NDE) with pleasurable or horrific experiences while considered dead?
- Who do you know that doesn't know Jesus? Will you tell them how you were introduced to Jesus and what He means to you?
- Has today's discussion made you reconsider any of your views?