

A BIBLE PROPHECY ADVENTURE **REVELATION SEMINARS**

BIBLE PASSAGES ABOUT HELL EXPLAINED

TORMENTED FOREVER AND EVER **Revelation 20:10 (1823)**

FOREVER in the Bible is a period of time, limited or unlimited, depending upon what is being described. The word FOREVER in the Bible is like the word TALL. Tall has different meanings depending on what is being described, such as a dog, or house, or a mountain. The word FOREVER is used 56 times in the Old Testament in connection with things already ended. In the case of man, the Bible teaches that FOREVER means MAN'S LIFETIME or AS LONG AS A MAN LIVES. In the case of Samuel, FOREVER meant "AS LONG AS HE LIVETH", I Samuel 1:22,28 (442). In Psalm 48:14 (892) FOREVER means until death. Burning FOREVER in the fire means that man burns until he dies.

FIRE UNQUENCHABLE **Luke 3:17 (1494)**

Jerusalem was destroyed with unquenchable fire, Jeremiah 17:27 (1134), but it is not still burning today. II Chronicles 36:19,21 (757) says Jerusalem was burnt with fire to fulfill Jeremiah's prophecy. Unquenchable fire cannot be PUT out, but it GOES out when everthing is burned up.

EVERLASTING OR ETERNAL FIRE **Matthew 25:41 (1443)**

Jude 7 (1798) says God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah with everlasting or eternal fire. And Peter says in II Peter 2:6 (1787) that the fire turned those cities into ashes as an example to those who live ungodly. So eternal or everlasting fire turns things to ashes and then goes out. It is everlasting in its EFFECT and not its DURATION.

EVERLASTING PUNISHMENT **Matthew 25:46 (1443)**

Note that it is not everlasting PUNISHING but rather PUNISHMENT. Paul says that the punishment for sin is DEATH, Romans 6:23 (1655). And Revelation calls this death the SECOND DEATH which the wicked die in the fire, Revelation 21:8 (1824). That death or destruction will be eternal because there is no resurrection from it.

PARABLE OF RICH MAN AND LAZARUS

Luke 16:19-31 (1526)

A parable is a story to illustrate a point. It may be a true story or simply a fabricated illustration.

Parables cannot always be taken literally, Judges 9:8-15 (409).

Read Luke 16:19-31 (1526). This parable cannot be accepted literally because:

- A. Abraham's bosom is NOT the home of the saved, Hebrews 11:10,16 (1768). Abraham's bosom is a FIGURATIVE representation of heaven. The representation of hell is also FIGURATIVE. BOTH MUST BE LITERAL OR BOTH FIGURATIVE.
- B. Those in heaven will NOT be able to talk with those in hell. Isaiah 65:17 (1102) says the former things will not even be remembered, and Revelation 21:4 (1823) says the former things are passed away, which includes hell.
- C. The Bible indicates that the dead, (good and bad), are in their graves, Job 17:13 (833); Job 21:30-32 (837); and that they will hear Jesus' voice FROM THEIR GRAVES, John 5:28,29 (1555), and not from Heaven or hell.
- D. The Bible teaches that men will receive their reward at the second coming, and not at death, Revelation 22:11,12 (1825); Matthew 16:27 (1425).
- E. It would make Jesus contradict Himself, Matthew 13:38-42 (1419); Matthew 16:27 (1425).

Note that even if taken literally, this parable would refute the idea of disembodied souls going to hell, for it describes the rich man with eyes, tongue, and lips. If taken literally, this parable would prove that men are cast into hell, soul and BODY, at death.

Bodies of the dead have been exhumed after having been dead for months. It is a well-known fact that the eyes are still in the body even then; hence the absurdity of taking the parable literally is further seen. The "eyes" are in the grave, not in hell-fire.

In this parable, Christ was simply using a common belief of the day to illustrate the truth of Luke 16:31 (1526): namely, if a man refuses to be guided by the scripture, there is no hope for him.