

ESCHATOLOGY (108)
(The Eternal State of Man in Hell)

6) Those who are in hell will be constantly gnashing their teeth. Matthew 13:42b; 22:13

The word “gnashing” is one that means biting. There will be a constant biting of teeth for one who is in hell.

7) Those who are in hell will experience a terrible loneliness. II Thessalonians 1:9a

We cannot even begin to imagine what a moment would actually be like away from the presence of God. But certainly there will be a scary sense of extreme abandonment.

8) Those who are in hell will forever miss the glory of God’s power. II Thessalonians 1:9b

Anything God has done or designed which displays His strength, power and glory will be eliminated from one in hell. One in hell will never again see anything that displays God’s glory.

9) Those in hell exist with an everlasting disgrace. Daniel 12:2a

For all eternity one in hell will feel the weight of shame for sin, living forever with the knowledge they are held in contempt by God without any chance of forgiveness (Gesenius, *Hebrew Lexicon*, p. 307).

10) Those in hell will exist in everlasting contempt. Daniel 12:2b

For all eternity, one will live with the thought that he/she is an abomination to God (Gesenius, p. 206).

11) Those in hell will burn in complete, black darkness. Jude 13; Matthew 22:13

Black darkness does not just make one feel alone, but afraid. One will live in constant terror without ever any chance of light shining.

12) Those in hell will know they are experiencing the wrath of God.
Romans 9:22; Revelation 14:10-11

There will be no atheists or agnostics in hell—all know they are experiencing God’s wrath.

13) Those in hell are in hell forever.

The fact that destruction in hell is “eternal” (II Thessalonians 1:9; Matthew 25:46) and the fact that it is “forever and ever” (Revelation 14:10-11) is proof concrete that there is no chance of one in hell ever changing their status. This will be the eternal existence forever for one who is in hell. There is no chance of them getting out, being released, being paroled or being restored to God. Once there it is forever.

14) Those in hell have a type of body that will not burn up.

No one will be able to die and escape the torturous pain of the fire. They will not burn up. The nature of the eternal body of the person in hell will be structured in such a way that one is able to experience eternal punishment without cessation (Matthew 25:46). There will be no meaningful existence, just constant eternal pain.

ESCHATOLOGY (109)

QUESTION #45 – What are some key questions people have about hell?

Q-1 - How do we reconcile the fact that God is a loving God and yet still sends people to hell?

There are at least two answers to this question: 1) Every one of God's attributes have their own areas of expression. God's love cannot override His righteousness, holiness or justice, which demands that a person pay the penalty for his sin; 2) Every expression of God's love is supremely demonstrated in the cross -work of Jesus Christ. The love of God is specific love which provided His own Son, Jesus Christ, as a payment for sins (John 3:16). All who reject Christ are under God's wrath and are heading to condemnation, justly deserved.

Q-2 - Will a person in hell eventually be completely burned up and destroyed?

The answer is No ! Those in hell burn and suffer forever and ever with a real consciousness.

Q-3 - Will a person in hell ever have an opportunity to be saved and get out of hell?

The answer is No ! When people are challenged to be reconciled to God, they are challenged in this life. Once they are out of this life, the eternal destiny has been forever established. People can light all of the candles they want and be baptized as often as they want, but they will not affect one person who is already in hell. There is no escape. Now is the accepted time for a person to believe on Jesus Christ. In Luke 16, the rich man knew he was there and not getting out (Luke 16:26).

Q-4 - How will it be possible for those who are saved to be happy in eternity, when they know there are family and friends who are burning in hell?

Scriptures say that we will be like Christ in eternity (I John 3:2). What this partially means is that we will think more like Him then, than we do now. We will think about things the way He thinks about things. We will view humanity as He views it. We will understand the magnitude of sin and the price He paid for it and we will fully embrace the justice of God that punishes sin.

Q-5 - Will people who never heard about Jesus Christ still go to hell?

The answer is Yes ! God has put within every human being enough general knowledge of Himself to lead one to Himself so that any person, regardless of who he is or where he lives is without excuse (Romans 1:18-20). Furthermore, there is something about the name of Jesus Christ that generates a reaction as no other name. All have received some sense of the grace of God (John 1:16). Unsaved people are already condemned by their sins and when one first sins, the conscience bears witness to the wrong. When a person admits this and responds to the knowledge God has put within the human, this turns out to be all part of the elective grace that brings one to salvation. It also needs to be realized that Jesus said, "All that the Father gives Me shall come to Me" (John 6:37). What this means is that regardless of who the person is or where they live, if they are to be part of the family of God, they will end up being part of that flock and not one will be lost.

ESCHATOLOGY (110)

Q-6 - Will people continue to sin in hell?

The answer is No! In hell the person will forever suffer the wrath of God for his sin.

QUESTION #46 – What are some key questions people have about God’s eternity?

Q-1 - Will we eat and drink in eternity? Yes! Luke 22:29-30; Revelation 21:6; Revelation 22:2

Q-2 - Will we have a will in eternity? Yes!

We are a partaker of a divine nature—II Peter 1:4

Q-3 - Can we ever be tempted in eternity? No!

There is nothing that will ever exist that could tempt—Revelation 21:27

Q-4 - Will we be able to remember our previous life? Yes, certain things.

Obviously by virtue of I Thessalonians 4:13, 17 we remember our loved ones. When we see Jesus and see the scars in His hands and feet (John 20:24-29), we will remember He was crucified (Revelation 5:9-10). When we see the names of the twelve tribes of Israel or the twelve apostles (Revelation 21:12-14), we will remember the significance. It seems what we won’t remember is our own condemnatory sin (Jeremiah 31:34; Isaiah 65:17).

Q-5 - Will we rest in heaven? Yes! Hebrews 4:1-11

Q-6 - Will we work in heaven? Most likely Yes!

Work will be perfect for you. Work was not a curse until Adam and Eve sinned, and there are certain passages that would seem to indicate we will have various assignments—i.e. Matthew 25:23.

Q-7 - Will we have our own home? Apparently Yes!

Notice what Jesus says in John 14:2-3 and especially notice that “dwelling places” is plural and “place” is singular. It is very possible that, within the context of the New Jerusalem that will feature many dwelling places, you will have your own home designed by Christ, with you in mind. There will be no need of locks on doors or a police department, for this will be a glorious, safe place.

Q-8 - Will we recognize each other in eternity? Yes! I Thessalonians 4:13, 17; Luke 16:23; Luke 9:30, 33

ESCHATOLOGY (111)

Q-9 - Will there be animals in eternity? Yes !

We know there are horses—Revelation 19:11, 19. In Isaiah 11:6-9 we know that in the Millennium there are wolves, lambs, leopards, goats, calves, lions, cows, bears, ox and cobras. We know that every species of animals was originally created by God and that everything in creation groans and is waiting for a time when the curse will be lifted by God (Romans 8:19-22). It would seem we may infer from this that animals will be in eternity to share it with us. Why would God have spared the animals during the flood, if they were not a critical part of His plan? We know from God's sparing of Nineveh that He is concerned for the animals and puts this concern in the same verse as with humans (Jonah 4:11). God claims He owns every beast, cattle, every bird and moving thing in the field (Psalm 50:10-11). Proverbs 12:10 says that a righteous man cares for the life of animals. The final Psalm speaks of a time when everything with breath will praise God (Psalm 150:6). We are specifically told that animals have life given to them by God (Genesis 1:30; 6:17; 7:15, 21-22). Based on all of these biblical observations we must conclude animals will play a wonderful role in God's eternity. When it comes to these animals being in eternity, God could do one of three things: 1) Create brand new animals; 2) Bring back to life some former animals; 3) A combination of creating new ones and bringing back to life some former ones. It is certainly not beyond the realm of possibilities that God could bring back to life some of the groaning creation that longs for God's redemption.

Q-10 - What will we do in eternity?

We will worship, fellowship, learn, rest, play, work and laugh (Luke 6:21). God's eternity will be spectacular. It will be the place where all fulfillment and dreams will come true forever and ever.

Our study of Eschatology has been based on what God has revealed in His Word. Our hope for the future is not based on speculation or imagination, but on God's revelation. All the things we studied in this doctrine are true and accurate and even though most of the things have not yet happened, you can be certain they will in the exact way God has revealed.

A person will be kept out of God's eternity for two reasons: 1) His inability to come up with a way he can get there which is acceptable to God; 2) His liability to God for his sins. But there is a way provided by which any person may escape the horrors of the Great Tribulation and the horrors of Hell and that way of escape is to believe on Jesus Christ.

In the amazing love and grace of God, He made it possible for one's eternal future to be bright. He provided His own Son to pay the full price so that people could be saved. If anyone will believe on Jesus Christ, he/she will have everlasting life and will experience God's wonderful eternity.

For those of us who know the Lord, we can be stable and secure knowing, as the song writer says, "I know who holds the future and I know He holds my hand...!"