

## SLIDE 1 – Hell

Traditional View – soul is immortal and the punishment/suffering is infinite in duration

Terminal View – after a period of torment (corporal punishment) suited to the individual, God destroys him/her (capital punishment). Mortality of the soul. Finite nature of hell.

Hell is eternal in its consequences, but not in its duration

## SLIDE 3 – Considerations

Mark 9:43-49

Worms are the only creatures referred to as immortal. Fire does not go out. Doesn't really teach that people are immortal. Quotes Isaiah 66:23-24, where the description is concerning God's enemies. The scene is one of disgust, loathsome to mankind. They are dead and decaying. Does this passage teach that mankind is tortured forever?



Fire worm – eating soldier fish. The bearded fireworm is a slow creature, and is not considered a threat to humans unless touched by a careless swimmer.



The bristles, when flared, can penetrate human skin, injecting a powerful [neurotoxin](#) and producing intense irritation and a painful burning sensation around the area of contact.

“Woe to the nations that rise up against my people! The Lord Almighty will take vengeance on them in the day of judgment; he will send fire and worms into their flesh; they shall weep in pain forever.”

Judith 16:17 RSV

Other Apocryphal passages on the subject support the view that the wicked will be destroyed, not tormented forever. Some patristic writers or church fathers do follow Judith's view, however, remember that Jesus never quoted from the Apocrypha and it was not included in the original Hebrew Bible. Isaiah's version destroys the enemies of God, whereas Judith's version tortures

## SLIDE 4 – Considerations

Matt 25:46 “Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.” If eternal life lasts forever, then eternal punishment must last equally as long.

Jude 7 “In a similar way, Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding towns gave themselves up to sexual immorality and perversion. They serve as an example of those who suffer the punishment of eternal fire.” Is S&G’s fire still burning?

2 Peter 2:6 “... if he condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah by burning them to ashes, and made them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly;”

Other Scriptures: Gen 19:24-29; Lam 4:6; Deuteronomy 29:22-24; Amos 4:11; Isaiah 1:9, 13:19-22; Jeremiah 49:18, 50:40; Zephaniah 2:9; Luke 17:28-29

Ex 20:5-6 “You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the **third and fourth generation** of those who hate me, but showing love to a **thousand generations** of those who love me and keep my commandments.”

God’s Character - “Why would someone be tortured *forever* in hell for sins committed during a *limited* period of time on earth?”

SLIDE 5 – Can hell be *eternal* without lasting forever?

Hebrews 6:2 Is the process of judging itself eternal, or only the consequence, the sentence? This verse is describing the effects, not the act of judging itself. (Note: Verse 1 calls eternal judgment an “elementary teaching”, so it’s important we get this right)

Hebrew 9:12 Eternal redemption was a once-for-all event, but the results of the redemption is eternal

Mark 3:29 The sin isn’t committed forever and ever, but the results or consequences of the sin are everlasting or eternal

The word eternal can be understood in more than one way

Eternal – continuous action or state (God) or consequence or result (our sin, Sodom and Gomorrah)

SLIDE 6

Examples of Scriptures where the same Hebrew word ‘*Owlam* can be translated and mean different things:

Genesis 6:4, 9:12; Exodus 21:6; Deuteronomy 23:3; Leviticus 25:34; 1 Samuel 1;22 (took Samuel to Shiloh, but Samuel died in Ramah);

1 Chronicles 16:15; Ezra 4:15-19; Psalm 24:7; Proverbs 22:28; Jeremiah 25:12; Jonah 2:6

SLIDE 7 – Old Testament

Wicked destroyed, not tormented

Psalm 9:5; 21:8-9; 37:20,37-38; 59:13; 73:27; 92:6-7; 94:23

Proverbs 12:7; 24:19-20

Soul is not immortal – Genesis 3:21-24

God’s anger runs its course

Psalm 103:8-9; Jeremiah 23:19-20; 2 Samuel 24:11-13

Ezekiel 5:11-15, 16:42-43, 24:13-14

Israelites punishment in desert – 40 years

Israelites exile to Babylon – 70 years

Proportional punishment for sin – A finite quantity of sin doesn’t require an infinite amount of punishment

Psalm 62:11-12; Proverbs 24:12; Isaiah 59:18; Jeremiah 17:10, 25:12-14; Ezekiel 7:3,8; Hosea 12:2

## SLIDE 8 – New Testament

Proportional punishment for sin – A finite quantity of sin doesn't require an infinite amount of punishment

2 Corinthians 5:10; Luke 12:47-48

Punishment ends in destruction, not eternal, conscious torment

2 Peter 2:4-6, 3:3-7; Matthew 7:13, 10:28;

Hebrews 10:26-27 (being consumed requires some time), 39

Galatians 6:8, 2 Thessalonians 1:8-10 (punished means vengeance and is sometimes translated *justice* Luke 18:7 or *avenged* Acts 7:24)

Man is mortal, immortality is a gift.

Romans 2:7, 6:22-23; 2 Corinthians 5:4-5; Acts 13:46-48; John 5:21; Acts 13:46-48; Jude 21; Titus 1:1-3

Eternal life is conditional, a reward for the saved!

## SLIDE 9 – Revelation

Rev 14:9-11 The smoke rises forever and ever, not the torment

Isaiah 34:8-10 For the Lord has a day of vengeance, a year of retribution, to uphold Zion's cause. Edom's streams will be turned into pitch, her dust into burning sulfur; her land will become blazing pitch! It will not be quenched night or day; its smoke will rise forever. From generation to generation it will lie desolate; no one will ever pass through it again.

Smoke cannot be taken literally.

Revelation has 404 verses with over 500 OT references and allusions

Rev 18 It's talking about the city of Rome

Beast – Corporate entity, Rome the civil or political power (Emperor)

False prophet – Corporate entity, Rome the religious power (Emperor worship or his claim as deity)

Can a government or religion be tortured in fire?

Rev 20:10-15 Devil and Rome tormented in the lake of burning sulfur for ever and ever

Death and Hades (lost or unsaved people) were thrown in the lake of fire

Second death – not the first, natural physical death, but a spiritual death or final extinction of the individual

Matthew 10:28 Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell.