

IT MATTERS HOW IT ENDS

The ending of the Bible is not about **evacuation**—how God will rescue us from this world and take us somewhere else.

The ending of the Bible is about **restoration**—how God will restore goodness to this Earth and make all things new.

How does God reunite Heaven and Earth? Through **judgment**.
(Judgment isn't about punishment or reward, but setting things right.)

Let's explore what hell is and why God needs to judge this way.

THE "WHAT"

If God is love, then torturing the wicked forever with eternally-burning fire is incompatible with His character.

Fortunately, this view of hell is **NOT** biblical.

Hell is real; its consequences irreversible—but it's not a place of torture.

Read **Romans 6:23** and **John 3:16**. What are the two options?

LIFE ...or... **DEATH**

Okay, but what about "eternal fire"?

Is the fire burning eternally, or are its effects eternal? (see Jude 7)

Okay, but what about "eternal punishment"? (Matthew 25:46)

The punish-*ment* is eternal (death), not the punish-*ing*.

Only two Bible passages talk about the fate of the wicked in ways that sound like eternal conscious torment (both in Revelation). These have explanations, but they also stand against **dozens and dozens** of passages that talk about the fate of the wicked as perishing, destruction, and death.

If the evidence is so lopsided, where did eternal torment come from?

It comes from the Greek belief in an immortal, indestructible soul. However, immortality is a gift given only by God to the resurrected righteous (1 Cor. 15:50-55). God never grants this to the wicked.

SUMMARY: Hell is more an event than a place;
a permanent consequence, not an ongoing condition.

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THE “WHY”

Why can't God just save everyone? Why does He kill the wicked?

God's love and **God's justice** are not in contradiction. They are two sides of the same coin. Because God is love, He will justly deal with evil.

Though we might hate the idea of an ultimate authority judging the world, if we stop to think about it, deep down we want what God is offering. We want a world free of evil. And the good news is that God will one day invade our world of violence and abuse and say, **“Enough is enough!”**

“The opposite of love is not hate, but indifference.” (Elie Wiesel)

God's eyes are wide open to the hurt of this world, and true love is angered by things that are wrong. And so one day, God will judge.

His judgment is not meant as a threat to the non-believer. It is a promise to the believer—God will set things right. His love is too great to let sin keep destroying His children and this world.

LOVE & JUSTICE

How can God deal with sin in wrath, but deal with sinners in love?

The answer is **the cross**.

Romans 3:25-26 - God is just, and He is the justifier.

God gets angry, but He takes the anger out on Himself.

When we talk about the judgment of God, don't be scared by fire.

Be drawn to the cross.

Jesus offers to lift the wages of sin (Romans 6:23) and bring you into life eternal. But in His love, He must allow choice. Those who reject this grace will be left to bear the wages of sin on their own.

Having said all that...

The end of all things is **not** primarily about the destruction of sin and evil. It's about renewal and deliverance. Jesus is returning to make all things new. The end of the story is actually a whole new beginning

*And He who was seated on the throne said,
“Behold, I am making all things new.” (Revelation 21:5)*

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