

Study QUESTIONS

Ep.1341: What Did Jesus Mean When He Talked About Hellfire?

<https://christianquestions.com/doctrine/1341-gehenna/>

See:  CQ Rewind
SHOW NOTES

1. What is the traditional view of the location and purpose of Gehenna? What was the awful ancient history of the original Valley of the Son of Hinnom? Why would this destruction and treatment of the dead be shameful to the Hebrews? (Nelson's Dictionary quotes, Barnes Notes Mark 9:43-48, Matthew 10:28, Matthew 23:29-33, Jeremiah 19:2-7)
2. How do we know this is not talking about a place of eternal torment of conscious human beings?
3. What does "unquenchable" mean? Is the fire that "will not be quenched night and day; its smoke will go up forever," of Isaiah 34:10 still burning today? This prophecy in verse 8 includes "the Lord has a day of vengeance" refer to when? How does a fire that is unquenchable with its smoke going up forever fit into "a day of vengeance"?
4. Ezekiel 20:47, Isaiah 1:31, Jeremiah 4:4 and Amos 5:6 all include unquenchable fire—are any of these fires still burning? In what condition does a hot wildfire fire leave an area? What is the only thing that stops an unquenchable fire?
5. What did John the Baptist say Jesus would baptize with? What is the fate of the "chaff?" Who are represented by the chaff, and what did they do to deserve this fate? Did this happen? Did this picture include anything burning or being tormented while still alive? How does the Valley of Dry Bones (Ezekiel 37) fit into this picture? Has the prophecy of Ezekiel 37 been accomplished? Explain.
6. What is similar between the unusual worms and determined fire in Mark 9:48? How does Jesus use Isaiah 66:23-24 to tie these phrases into a future vision? Are there any indications in these verses of live people being burned eternally? What will these undying worms and unquenchable fire actually do for mankind in the future?
7. Matthew 7:13, 10:28, Revelation 20:14, Acts 3:23 and Philippians 3:19 in the New Testament all refer to destruction. Are people or nations still alive after this destruction? What is the second function of fire? How does Zephaniah 3:8 describe both the destruction of the earth, yet the growing of men?
8. How does removing the concept of a burning hell weaken or strengthen your appreciation of God?
9. What do you think is the purpose of God's kingdom in the future—to bring mankind back into a relationship with God, or to punish them for eternity in hell? What is in God's character and in His dealing with us that would lead to either conclusion?