

Hell in the Ages to Come

Introduction:

1. We have learned that hell is a real place. Its geographic location is in the heart of the earth.
2. Hell was originally created for the devil and the angels that followed him in his rebellion against God. But when Adam sinned and also joined the rebellion, the danger of hell entered into the human race. Throughout the ages, man has had to decide if he would follow God's Word or join Satan in his plan of rebellion.
3. In time past, hell was composed of two compartments: a paradise side for the saved, and a torment side for the lost. Today, because of Christ's finished work on the cross, saints go straight to the third heaven, and there is no paradise side of hell.
4. But what about when this dispensation of grace ends when the rapture occurs? In the ages to come, will there be changes to hell? The answer is "yes." There **will** be changes, and we will study those tonight in God's Word.
5. Remember, after the rapture, Christ will return seven years later to establish His kingdom on this earth. He will rule and reign as King of kings over the entire earth, and all nations will have to worship and obey Christ. Zechariah 14:9, 16
6. Of course, during Christ's earthly ministry, His focus was preparing Israel for this coming kingdom. Let's read Mark 9:43-47.
 - Notice how Christ uses the word "*life*" and "*kingdom*" interchangeably in verses 43 and 47.
 - For Israel, life was synonymous with a kingdom. For time past saints, what was their hope? It wasn't heaven, but rather life for them had to do with entering a kingdom, and the opportunity to live forever in that kingdom with their Messiah ruling over this earth.
 - Christ said that it is better to enter into the kingdom maimed (coming out of the tribulation) than to be cast into hellfire. This passage links the issue of Christ's coming, His kingdom, and hell, all together.
7. The reason why Jesus had so much to say about hell is because it will be an integral part of His kingdom reign on this earth. There will be a literal, visible lake of fire during Christ's kingdom reign on this earth. Let's answer several questions about this.

Will there be a literal lake of fire during Christ's kingdom?

1. In the passage we read in Mark 9, did you notice that the text reads in a way that it is as if somebody can actually pick you up, take you over, and cast you into hell? cf. Matthew 5:29-30
2. In Matthew 25:41 & 46, we see the same idea. Christ has returned and is sitting on His throne on the earth. He gathers up people from nations and separates the sheep (saved) from the goats (lost). The lost are cast into everlasting fire and the saved go into the kingdom on earth.

3. In Isaiah 66:23-24, the nations are seen coming to Jerusalem to worship Christ. When they come, they will actually be able to look upon this lake of fire where the ungodly, unbelievers were cast. You didn't know Jesus was quoting Isaiah in the Mark 9 passage, did you?
4. In Isaiah 14, when the antichrist is brought down to hell (vs. 15), it says, "*They that **see thee** shall narrowly **look upon thee**, and consider thee, saying, is this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms.*"
 - Hell will be a visible reality for people to look down upon in the kingdom. Again, this is why Jesus had so much to say about it during His earthly ministry to Israel.
5. This is also why Revelation 14:9-11 states that those in the lake of fire are "*tormented with fire and brimstone **in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb,***" and "*the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever.*"
 - The context is Christ's millennial kingdom on earth (there is still day and night). Christ is on the throne in Jerusalem, and the lake of fire is there in close proximity.