

Does Hell exist?

If so, in what form?

Who goes there?

Who wants to know?

What does God say about it?

Roy Ingbre 24.9.2013

Personally, I have never been inclined to study what Hell is all about. Mainly because I am not going there. The only thing I have known is that it is punishment for sin and God tells us that all those who are not redeemed by the Atonement of Jesus Christ will end up in Hell. God does not send anybody to Hell. People make that choice themselves, by rejecting the one who took the punishment for them. God is love, yes - but He is also just. God cannot look upon sin and only through the Atonement of Jesus Christ is He able to see us as righteous.

I received an email last year about seeing the movie "Hellbound" and after checking it out online, there were people like Bob Larson that warned against it. So, I decided not to see it. However, I believe the Lord prodded me to go anyway - to a particular showing at the Colossus theatre in Langley. My wife and I did and when we entered the theatre it was packed with standing room only. Looking over the crowd, I did not see a single person that I knew and thought..."my friends don't care about this subject because they know where they are going".

Here is my take on the movie and what happened at the showing....

The movie "HELLBOUND?"

Review - Roy Ingbre
13 Oct 2012

The movie "Hellbound?" is a Deja Vu of the Garden of Eden where the devil says to Eve: "*Has God said?*". It is basically a biased view and promotional for universalism - in short, everybody will be loved by God and hell does not exist.

The caption on the Hellbound? website reads;

"Does hell exist? If so, who ends up there, and why? Featuring an eclectic group of authors, theologians, pastors, social commentators and musicians, "Hellbound?" is a provocative, feature-length documentary that will ensure you never look at hell the same way again!"

If it "*will ensure you never to look at hell the same way again*", don't go and see it, if you believe what God says! However, that is exactly what the devil wants you to do - believe hell does not exist and that God loves everybody and would never punish people in the hell that the Bible describes.

The devil is not so much interested in tempting you to sin as he wants to **change your point of view**. He did not tempt Eve to eat the apple - rather in his conversation with her he was able to change her point of view - that the consequences of eating the apple was not like God had told her. That is exactly what he achieved, when he asked her: *"has God said?"*, sowing doubt about what God said and the devil has not stopped asking that question ever since. Nor have people. They "interpret" scripture to fit their lifestyle. The film *Hellbound?* is just about that - changing your point of view.

The Vancouver Sun says; *"As director and narrator, Miller generally advances a "universalist" theology of hell, which has long maintained that everyone, Christian or not, can ultimately be redeemed through God's love"*. No need to accept Christ's substitutional death for your sins here.

This Movie is an excellent choice to see - IF....you don't want to believe the message of God's Word - eliminate the need for the Atonement because there is no hell as God describes it - everybody will be saved etc.

After this particular showing they had a Q&A and questions were directed to a panel of people involved in the making of it as well as the producer, Kevin Miller. It was an eye opener of what is happening in the religious world of changing people's point of view from the word of God to human "wisdom", opinion and interpretation. We heard that Heaven and Hell is the same place. Sounds wonderful doesn't it? Kevin Miller said: *"After I die, I'm pretty certain I'll decompose. What happens after that, honestly...who knows?"*.

When hell is not real there is no fear of God and no consequences for sin. There is no need for the fear of God, because God is love and a loving God will not let people burn in hell, will He?

I was able to question the panel and when I asked where the Atonement was in all of this, because it was strangely absent, I received no answer, and when I asked where is the solid rock, the foundation that we could depend on instead of a myriad of human opinions, I was told that we all read the Bible differently, and when I questioned them on *"not open to human interpretation"*, they said it depended on what translation I was reading. I said the movie was incredibly biased toward universalism and Kevin Miller vehemently opposed that. However, it seems several reviews agree with my assessment.

The devil must absolutely be beside himself in utter celebration, because if he can convince people there is no ultimate punishment and justice from God, then the substitute death of Christ is unnecessary.

Bob Larson's, who is in the movie warns against it; *"Do not go to see the new movie "Hellbound?"..."I was misled by the writer/director, Kevin Miller. When he was in Phoenix and interviewed me and filmed an exorcism, he told me the movie would be a balanced analysis of the differing views of Hell. That isn't anywhere close to the truth"*.

To a born again Christian this discussion on hell has really not that much interest except to rescue people from it, because unless you are not concerned or worried about going there, it would not take up a lot of your time. However, for those that are not sure about their standing in Christ I can understand why they would try to eliminate Hell in its Biblical form and the effects of it, because it then eliminates the fear of God and the need for the atonement of Christ.

In a review by Aline Le, she says: *"The controversial book, "Love Wins", by Pastor Rob Bell provides the frame for this debate. More so, Bell outlines a number of views of hell including universalism which seems to have the strongest voice in the documentary."*

Brian McLaren, a primary figure in the emerging church movement, said there is no evidence of hell in the Old Testament. Frank Schaeffer basically gave no credence to the Word of God in this regard at all. Robert McKee, a self proclaimed atheist was interviewed in the beginning of the movie actually said that if you take out hell then God must go also. He was more right than most of the others. They ridiculed John Hagee, Jerry Falwell and evangelicals and tried to underpin that by showing sayings and actions of two fanatical Christians from the Westboro Baptist Church, Jonathan and Margie Phelps, whom believe that "99.999999...%" of the people on earth are going to hell, displaying placards and slogans like "Thank God For 9/11" and "God Hates Fags" However, mainstream evangelicals and people that could argue the true Biblical stance on Hell was conveniently missing.

That was my "movie review".

Now, having said all that, maybe we should look at what God says about this.

Before we go further, let me just reiterate a truth that I continually refer to, that what God says through His Word has been the same throughout generations and... is not open to private interpretation. He's big enough to be able to protect and preserve His Word to all people at all times. He means exactly what He says and it is not up to us to interpret that any which way to suit our preferences:

Isaiah 55:11: So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

II Peter 1:20: Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.

II Timothy 3:16: All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

Revelation of John 22:18:

For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book:

Do you believe the first ten words in the Bible? - *"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth"*.

Those are ten profound words that, if you believe them, has certain connotations attached to it. For example that God is very big and beyond our human understanding. How can we understand "eternity" or that there is no end to the universe? Or that God is everywhere and that

He pays personal attention to every human being that wants Him at any time - multiple millions of us? Also that what God says in His Word is indisputably true, because He is able to watch over His Word so that it will speak the same message throughout all generations of mankind.

That's why He says in His Word that we are not to add or take away from His Word (Rev.22:18,19). Have some people done that? Absolutely. "Translations" both from groups and individuals have produced "bibles" that are not the complete Word of God, but according to how they see it. However, there are the original manuscripts which do not change.

If you do not believe that, you have a very small god and probably do not believe the first ten words in the Bible either when it comes right down to it. You just think you do, but when it comes to actually obeying His Word, you rationalize, interpret and reason and come up with your own "translation", which so many have done according to their own opinions and circumstances.

So, let's proceed and see what God says about Hell etc. In the Old Testament there are some thirty plus references to Hell. Here are just a sampling...

Psalms 9:17: The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God.

Proverbs 15:24: The way of life is above to the wise, that he may depart from hell beneath.

In the New Testament there are twenty plus references to hell and Jesus describes Hell more specifically and in terms of who goes there, the condition of it and the time (eternal) element etc. Let's see what God says....

Jesus describes Hell as....

Everlasting Fire:

*Matthew 25:41: Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, **into everlasting fire**, prepared for the devil and his angels:*

Everlasting Punishment:

*Matthew 25:46: And these shall go away into **everlasting punishment**: but the righteous into life eternal.*

Outer Darkness:

*Matthew 8:12: But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be **weeping and gnashing of teeth**.*

Everlasting Destruction:

*II Thessalonians 1:9: Who shall be punished with **everlasting destruction** from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;*

Lake of fire:

*Revelation of John 19:20: And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a **lake of fire burning with brimstone.***

*Mark 9:43: And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into **hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched:***

*Mark 9:44: Where their **worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.***

Separated from the Kingdom of God:

*Luke 13:27: But he shall say, I tell you, I know you not whence ye are; **depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity.***

*28: There shall be **weeping and gnashing of teeth**, when ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God, and **you yourselves thrust out.***

Who hell is prepared for and who goes there:

the Devil and his Angels:

*Matthew 25:41: Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, **into everlasting fire**, prepared for the devil and his angels:*

The wicked:

*Revelation of John 21:8: But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in **the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone:** which is the second death.*

The Disobedient:

Romans 2:8: But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath,

*Romans 2:9: **Tribulation and anguish**, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentiles;*

The Fallen Angels:

*II Peter 2:4: For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into **chains of darkness**, to be reserved unto judgment;*

The beast and the fallen prophet:

*Revelation of John 19:20: And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a **lake of fire burning with brimstone**.*

The worshippers of the beast:

*Revelation of John 14:11: And the smoke of their **torment** ascendeth up **for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night**, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.*

The rejectors of the Gospel:

*Matthew 10:15: Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrha in the **day of judgment**, than for that city.*

From the scriptures above it should be pretty clear what Hell is and who goes there. The headlines can be summed up in a few points that Hell is;

1. Separation from God
2. Torment
3. The torment is everlasting
 - ie: "everlasting punishment", "and they have no rest day or night"

Hell is not just a place where one receives a one time punishment, but it is very clear that it is an ongoing experience - eternal.

God is righteous and sin cannot exist in His presence, so man was separated from God. But He provided a way for man to be restored to that lost fellowship, by Jesus Christ taking the punishment for our sin. All who believed and receives Jesus Christ and His Atonement will be restored to fellowship with the Father as it was in the beginning before the fall. To accept or reject that provision is a choice every human being will face.

Maybe we ought to pay attention to these truths so that we will be more burdened with sharing the Gospel of the Atonement with people we come in contact with. Someone took the punishment of Hell for all of us and that was Jesus Christ who died on the cross and paid it all so that we could go free;

John 3:16: ¶For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that

whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

17: For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

18: ¶He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

John 1:12: But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

Instead of discussing Hell, let's get more excited about where we are headed - Heaven and an eternity of Glory with our God - The Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

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