

Hell: A Guide

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An Infernal Itinerary: Why Would Anyone Want a Guide to Hell?

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Christ spoke about hell eleven times in the Gospels, and he described it in the strongest possible terms.

Chapter 1. The Starting Point of Our Trip: The Enemy Within

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Between 1900 and 2020, more than 150 million people were brutally butchered by totalitarian dictators and their regimes.

Chapter 2. The Origin of Hell: The Story of the Demons

Page 14 · Location 521

The idea that somewhere, somehow justice might be carried out by an almighty, all-knowing, all-good God is not at all unpleasant.

Page 16 · Location 553

The main thing that distinguishes angels from the rest of creation is that they are pure spirits.

Page 19 · Location 601

Angels are pure spirits, so any battles they have between each other must primarily be battles of intellect and will. Their weapons are essentially arguments.

Page 20 · Location 609

They knew who God was and knew they owed their existence to him. And yet they still made a conscious, purposeful, and free choice to reject him.

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Follow this closely now! Because angels are pure spirits, their decision was one of pure spiritual pride, not influenced in any way by environment or circumstances or physical imperfections or upbringing or genetics or biases or passions or incomplete information. Because they are pure spirits, their choice was irrevocable.

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they have made their choice with complete conviction and in full possession of all possible data.

Page 23 · Location 655

Though angels are not omniscient, their knowledge about God, completely unhampered by the limits of physical senses, is incomparably deeper and richer than ours.

Page 24 · Location 673

As long as you have free will, it's possible to will evil. It's possible to prefer suffering to joy. The difference between human beings and fallen angels is that we have the power to acknowledge that we made a mistake, that we were ignorant of the facts, that we didn't truly understand what we were doing, that we were flat-out wrong. The demons can't do that because they did know what they were doing. They were sure of their actions. They don't think they were wrong.

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Hell exists because there are creatures there who made a permanent decision to get as far away from God as possible, no matter the consequences. Hell exists not because God wanted it, but because the rebellious angels did. In a very real sense they invented hell, and now that they have, they have no desire to leave.

Chapter 3. Halfway to Hell: The Moment of Death

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According to Christian theology, death has always been defined in a very simple and straightforward way. It is the separation of the soul from the body.

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The critical point to note is that since the substance of the soul is spiritual and not material, it does not die when it leaves the body. Rather it stays alive. Spirits never die.

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The human soul is created by God, it is immortal.

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The upshot is that when an angel decides to reject God, that decision is irrevocable, because there's nothing for the angel to ever reconsider. He intuitively considers all possible reasons and consequences at the very start.

Page 34 · Location 807

At the moment of death, the soul's will becomes immobile and fixes itself forever in its final choice—either for or against God.

Page 34 · Location 811

(People going to hell) knowingly made a series of free choices in his life to reject the grace of God and the gift of faith.

Page 36 · Location 835

The only thing Christianity teaches with absolute certitude is that if a person is lost, it is not through any lack of mercy on God's part.

Page 36 · Location 839

Once the moment of death arrives, however, three things automatically happen. The first is that all grace from God stops.

Page 37 · Location 842

Finally left alone by God, left alone with the result of their own free choice . . .

Page 37 · Location 844

Second, that choice—whatever it is—becomes fixed.

Page 37 · Location 850

And that is the third thing that happens to an impenitent soul upon separation from its body. It falls.

Chapter 4. Falling Like Lightning: What Judgment Really Means

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The Bible clearly implies the souls of human beings are judged the very moment they are separated from their bodies.

Page 42 · Location 895

Once a soul is freed from its body, it is still very much alive. It doesn't die.

Page 43 · Location 915

The instant a person dies, he or she has an encounter with the living God and,

Page 45 · Location 947

Judgment should never be conceived of as a form of vengeance inflicted by God from the outside. Rather, it is something that results from the very nature of sin and our own awareness of our free-will decision to embrace it.

Page 46 · Location 953

The sentencing of a soul to hell does not come from any kind of booming voice that can be heard by the ear. Judgment is purely a matter of intellectual illumination,

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In other words, the decision of the soul is in complete conformity, harmony, and agreement with the judgment of God.

Page 46 · Location 956

A soul that has rejected God wants to remove itself from God's presence. The soul thus falls into hell of its own volition.

Page 50 · Location 1011

You're going to dive straight into hell. That's going to be your natural, instantaneous reaction—and God won't have to lift one of his divine fingers to point the way.

Chapter 5. Avoiding a Wrong Turn: How to Make Sense of Spiritual Suffering

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Christians believe that human beings undergo two judgments.

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The first occurs at the moment we die, and it is specific to the individual human being.

Page 53 · Location 1041

After the particular judgment, the damned soul immediately experiences some of the pains of hell.

Page 53 · Location 1043

At the Last Judgment, the soul is not really judged again. No reevaluation or reconsideration of the past ever takes place. The judgment we undergo at the moment of death is permanent and irrevocable. At the Last Judgment, what mainly happens is our souls are reunited with our bodies and then publicly confirmed in whatever judgment has already been

Page 54 · Location 1060

A soul is the immortal, immaterial part of a human being. It's what gives a human being life. It's the animating principle of the body. It is also the seat of the intellect and the will. In other words, the soul gives human beings the ability to reason and to choose.

Page 55 · Location 1080

Human beings do not get their ability to reason from their brains; they get it from their souls.

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The brain acts as a kind of processor for the soul's rationality.

Chapter 6. A Preview of Pain: Suffering in Hell Before the Resurrection

Page 64 · Location 1180

God made the human soul in his image, and only in union with God can humans possess the kind of happiness they truly desire.

Page 67 · Location 1229

A person turns away from God himself, that person is not just turning away from a mere reflection; he is turning away from the very source of life.

Chapter 8. A Monstrous Makeover: The Human Body in Hell

Page 92 · Location 1551

You carry within you the greatest source of potential suffering.

Page 98 · Location 1636

The body in hell will mirror the soul in a strikingly appropriate way.

Page 100 · Location 1664

the further away he will be from beauty, order, health, happiness, and vibrancy in the next.

Chapter 10. Activities in Hell Part I: Enslavement to the Demons

Chapter 11. Activities in Hell Part II: Punishments to Fit the Crime

Page 132 · Location 2061

Punishment in hell is not exactly the same thing as punishment in this life. When we talk about earthly punishment, we mean the infliction of some kind of penalty in retribution for an offense. The penalty can serve the purpose of reforming the offender or simply taking revenge on him.

Page 134 · Location 2082

People in hell spent their whole lives on earth asking for something, seeking something, and knocking at a particular door. In hell, they finally achieve their objective. They get what they were asking for.

Page 134 · Location 2092

What his perfect justice actually means is that the reprobates remain captive to their sins. Only now, these sins have been stripped of all their pleasure. God.

Page 140 · Location 2169

The reason for this kind of proportional punishment is not the ancient notion of an eye for an eye. Rather, the punishing activities of those in hell arise from the nature of the sins themselves.

Chapter 12. Activities in Hell Part III: Relationships in the City of the Damned

Page 151 · Location 2305

He doesn't have to lift one finger to torture those in hell. All the suffering in hell is self-inflicted and comes as a natural result of loving evil and leaving God behind.

Chapter 13. A Day in Hell: On the Question of Infernal Time

Page 160 · Location 2394

Yes, God leaves those in hell alone to the fate they really, truly want.

Page 160 · Location 2401

It's not due to any lack of God's mercy that they continue to experience pain. Their sinful rebelliousness never stops, so their punishment never stops. It's that simple.

Page 160 · Location 2405

They hate it. But they prefer it to that which they hate even more—namely, God and his kingdom of light.

Page 164 · Location 2456

Time is very easy to understand: it is simply the measurement of change.

Chapter 14. Hell on Earth: Front-Row Seats to Immortal Combat

Page 179 · Location 2648

Human beings lose their freedom by abusing their freedom.

Page 179 · Location 2648

In forfeiting God's laws and adopting the rebellious attitude of the devil, we've consequently become a race of slaves.

Page 181 · Location 2685

If the devil can get you to keep on rebelling without repenting, to keep on despairing without hoping, to keep on disbelieving without trusting—right up till the end—then your final choice against God will be fixed forever the second your soul leaves your body. You will have made your decision to be permanently enslaved in prideful impenitence.

Chapter 15. Ticket to Hell? Deciding Whether or Not to Make the Trip

Page 183 · Location 2698

There is absolutely no sin in the world that can't be forgiven, except final impenitence, that is, the sin of not wanting to be forgiven. That is the unpardonable sin against the Holy Spirit that Christ spoke about in the Gospels.

Page 184 · Location 2715

God has set the bar extremely low when it comes to getting into heaven.

Page 188 · Location 2763

The whole point of Christianity is that we get to choose our fate, that we get to choose for or against God.