

The Simple Truth Series #18

What is Hell like?

And why was it created?



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'And expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly.' Acts 18:26.

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1.

Those who are the Plan of God

The Lord's original Plan, when He was alone before creation began, was to create a people for Himself, with whom He could spend all of Eternity, a people who would be His children. He designed each one of them exactly as He wanted them. He chose their hair colour, eye colour, skin colour; their height, build, and looks, individually and lovingly, with more care than a Goldsmith exerts when choosing the jewels for the finest Crown. He named each one of them Himself, and wrote their names in His Book of Life. (*'And they that dwell on earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the Book of Life from the foundation of the world.'* Revelation 17:8). When their names were written in His Book, they became a part of the Plan of God, and the Plan of God would never be complete without them. They were predestined to be a part of everything He had planned for the future, because they were His possession.

He created the earth as the paradise where He would spend Eternity with His children. He clothed it with dense flower-filled forests, and lush grass covered plains. The insects, animals, fish, birds, rivers, lakes, and oceans, were all created specifically for the delight of His children. He looked upon it, and pronounced it all to be, *'very good.'* It was the perfection He wanted to bless them with, as His sons and daughters.

Then He created the first man, Adam, and took a part of Adam's flesh and bone from his side, and from it He made the woman, Eve, as Adam's wife, and placed them in the Garden of Eden.

2.

Those who are outside the Plan of God

But there was another creature in the Garden where they dwelt, the Serpent. *'Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made.'* (Genesis 3:1). Subtil, meaning cunning, or crafty. It doesn't say the Serpent was more subtil than any of the *other* beasts, it says he was more subtle than any *of* the beasts. The Serpent was the missing link between Humans and animals. He was more animal than a Human, but more Human than an animal, he walked on two legs, he talked, and Satan (Lucifer, the Devil), dwelt within him. And the Serpent *'beguiled,'* or seduced, Eve. *'The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.'* (Genesis 3:13). When Solomon described a woman committing adultery in Proverbs 30:20, he said, *'Such is the way of an adulterous woman; she eateth, and wipeth her mouth, and saith, I have done no wickedness.'* Eve, *'gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.'* (Genesis 3:6).

Eve became pregnant, and she had twins within her womb, a child from the Serpent,

and a child from Adam. ***'Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one.'*** (1 John 3:12). Cain was the son of the Serpent, but Abel was the son of Adam. Now there were two different bloodlines on earth, as the LORD Himself said, ***'And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed.'*** (Genesis 3:15).

Whenever the Bible mentions ***'seed,'*** it is always referring to descendants. These bloodlines stayed mostly separate, apart from Cain marrying one of Adam's daughters, until, ***'...it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them, That the sons of God (Adam's descendants) saw the daughters of men (the Serpent's descendants), that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose.'*** (Genesis 6:1-2). Then both bloodlines were all mixed up in the gene pool, and a Godly man like Noah, could sire two Godly children, Shem and Japheth, and an ungodly son, Ham. Every person on earth is born either a descendant of Adam, the son of God, (Luke 3:38); or a descendant of the Serpent, and nothing done can ever change that.

3.

The Serpent's seed

The 'Serpent's seed,' were never meant to be on the earth, which the LORD had created for *His* sons and daughters. They never were a part of the Plan of God, and they could never *become* a part of it, because their names weren't in the Lord's Book of Life. As Paul told us in Romans 9:22, ***'What if God, willing to shew His wrath, and to make His power known, endured with much long-suffering the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction.'***

He endured them. He endured their boasting that there was no God. He endured their worship of everything except Him. He endured their Empires that persecuted His children. He endured them swarming like locusts, over the lands He had created for the blessing of His children, and devouring them. But their day would come.

They will all be judged, ***'according to their works,'*** (Revelation 20:12), according to how they have treated those, ***'whose names were written in the Book of Life.'*** The Lord Jesus spoke of it, when He talked about the separation that would come at the Judgement. He would separate the Serpent's seed one from another, ***'as a shepherd separates his sheep from the goats,'*** and tell them, ***"I was hungry, I was thirsty..."*** and they will reply, ***"But when saw we Thee hungry, or thirsty?"*** And He will reply, ***"Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these My brethren, ye have done it unto Me...Inasmuch as ye did it not unto one of the least of these, ye did it not to Me."*** (Matthew 25:40,45).

That is the only thing that separates commendation from condemnation for the Serpent's seed. He who blesses Israel will be blessed, he who curses Israel will be

cursed. He who blesses the Lord's children will be blessed, he who curses them will be cursed. Their works follow them.

Between their death and the Judgement, the unsaved are kept in Hell, which we will look at now.

4.

What is Hell like?

Hell is not a place where sinners are tormented by Devils with pitchforks. That is a fiction which was created in the writings of Milton, and by cartoonists. The best description of Hell is obviously from someone who has been there, and seen it first-hand. New Zealander, Ian McCormack, is such a person. He died after being stung by box jellyfish, while night diving off the coast of Mauritius, and went to Hell, which he relates in his testimony, *A Glimpse of Eternity*. He describes Hell as being a place of all-encompassing darkness, a cold evil darkness, and it seems that darkness contains everything there within itself. It was much like the, '*darkness which may be felt,*' (Exodus 10:21), which was one of the plagues that Moses called forth on Egypt.

This is also how Peter and Jude described Hell;

'For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down into hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgement.' (2 Peter 2:4).

'And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, He hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgement of the great day.' (Jude 6).

5.

What was Hell created for?

Hell is not a place of torment, but a place of confinement. The Lord is called, '*The righteous Judge.*' (2 Timothy 4:8). He is righteous because He is just in all He does. He is not going to punish anyone until they have been judged fairly. The Lord is no respecter of persons. (Acts 10:34). The rich will not buy their way out, neither will the poor be excused, because of their poverty. Kings, Queens, Presidents, Prime Ministers and Dictators will be there, alongside beggars, housewives, simpletons, Monks, Nuns, Popes, Priests, and Cardinals. Men and women from all walks of life are kept there, awaiting their Judgement. But Hell was not made for Humans. The Lord Jesus said, "*Depart from Me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels.*" (Matthew 25:41).

The Lake of Fire was prepared as punishment for Lucifer, and the angels who rebelled

with him in Heaven. Hell was prepared as a prison to hold them in darkness until the Judgement, and before their destruction in the Lake of Fire. Because the Serpent's seed were not in the Plan of God, but were the result of Eve's fornication with the serpent, they cannot go to Heaven after death, but are kept in Hell also, until their judgement for their works.

6.

The Judgement

The sons and daughters of God will not be judged, because the Lord Jesus bore their judgement on the Cross, at Calvary. But, the Serpent's seed, the fallen angels (demons), and Lucifer, will be taken from Hell, to the Judgement after the Millennium, the thousand years of peace on earth.

'And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.' (Revelation 20:12-14).

The death of the body on earth is the first death. The death of the soul in the lake of fire, and the end of consciousness and existence is the second death. There will be no more deaths after this, nor any need for hell, so, death and hell are both cast into the lake of fire and destroyed.

'And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone...

And whosoever was not found written in the Book of Life, was cast into the Lake of Fire.' (Revelation 20:10,15).

7.

The Plan of God fulfilled in Eternity

After this, the Lord's desire from before creation will be fulfilled, with the new Heavens, the new earth; and those whose names were written in the Lambs Book of Life, dwelling with Him in the holy city, the new Jerusalem, for Eternity.

'And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be with them, and be their God.

And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.' (Revelation 21:1-4).

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Ed.D.