

What Adventists and Atheists have in common

*The damnation
of damnation*

The Great
Controversy and
Apologetics

1 PETER 3:15

“Sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear”



C.S LEWIS

*“...the question of being an apologist is not so much whether you use an apologetic in answering someone’s question, but whether the **apologetic you already use is a good one**”*



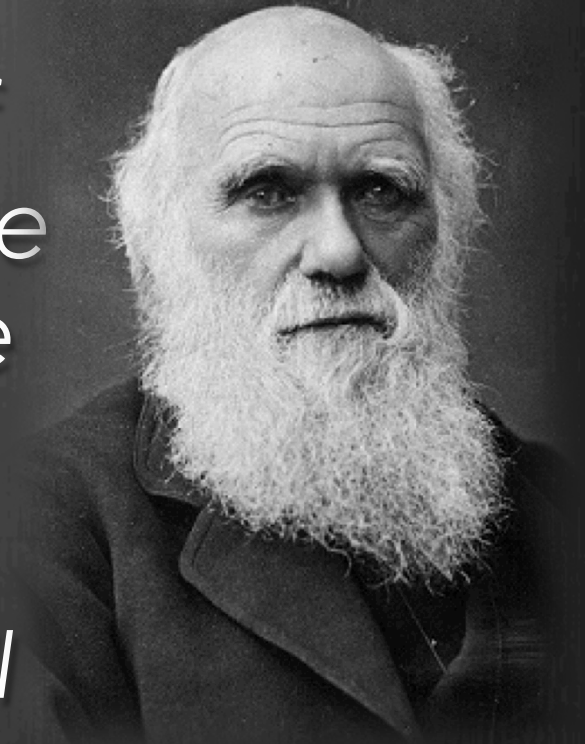
Common sense is not so common anymore. There abounds in our world today, some of the most wicked and diabolical ideas concerning God's dealings with mankind. One particular concept that is being debated amongst thinkers and scholars alike is the subject of Hell. It has been maintained for centuries that for the wicked, a supposed deserved afterlife of endless, eternal torment awaits them where there is no mercy, no cessation, and only an infinity of progressive agony. The righteous will spend eternity happy and enjoy the bliss of heaven while the unrighteous are ever suffering miserably for one lifetime for sins. Those who propose such a view believe that it is entirely consistent scripturally and that it is philosophically harmonious with the revealed character of God.

As of more recently, this widely accepted perspective has been challenged. But traditionally, two groups have always rejected the doctrine of a divine eternal punishing. One school of thought being Atheism and the other, Seventh-day Adventism. Both see the fallacious misuse of philosophy and/or scripture to defend these medieval views. Such a belief is viewed as entirely evil, heinous, maniacal, disgusting, revolting, poignant, inconsistent, illogical, inhumane, inharmonious, incompatible, irreconcilable, and above all, damnable.

CHARLES DARWIN

" 'I can hardly see how anyone ought to wish Christianity to be true; for if so, the plain language of the text seems to show that the men who do not believe, and this would include my Father, Brother, & almost all my best friends, will be **everlastingly punished**. And this is a damnable doctrine'."

[The Autobiography of Charles Darwin 1809–1882.](#)

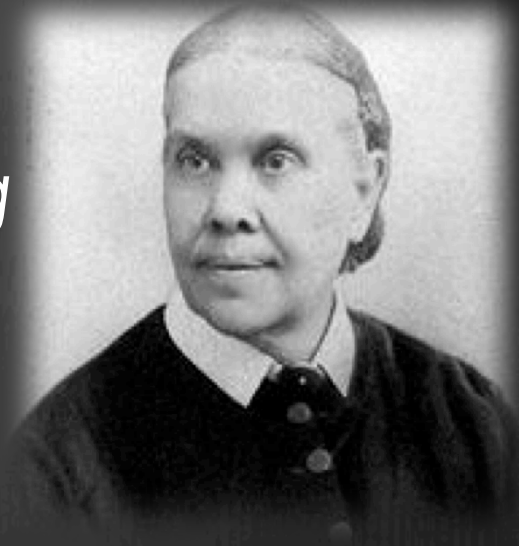


**The Great
Controversy and
Apologetics**

“How repugnant to every emotion of love and mercy, and even to our sense of justice, is the doctrine that the wicked dead are tormented with fire and brimstone in an eternally burning hell; that for the sins of a brief earthly life they are to suffer torture as long as God shall live. Yet this doctrine has been widely taught and is still embodied in many of the creeds of Christendom”

{DD 16.1}

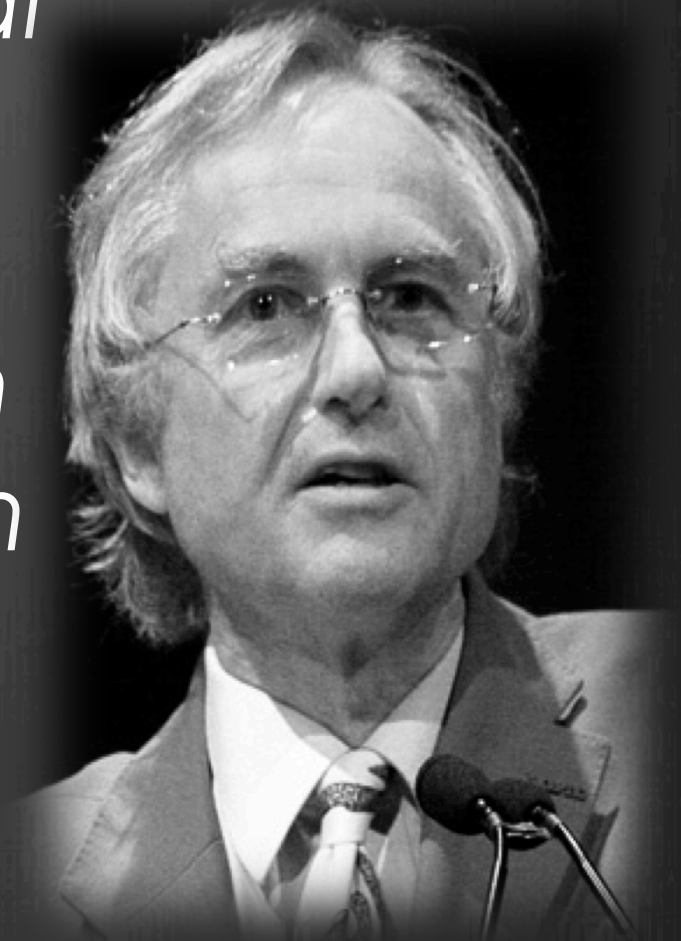
ELLEN WHITE



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RICHARD DAWKINS

*“Who will say with confidence that sexual abuse is more permanently damaging to children than **threatening** them with the eternal and unquenchable fires of hell?”*



RICHARDDAWKINS.NET

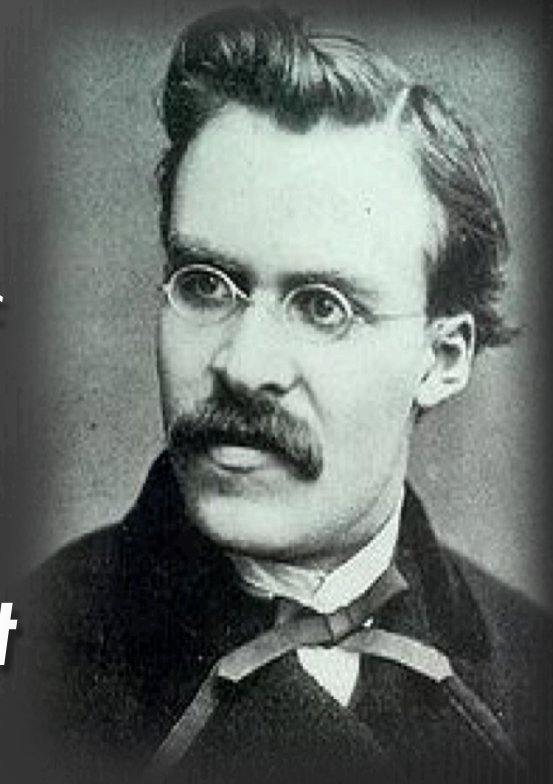
The Richard Dawkins foundation for reason and science/quotes

The Great Controversy and Apologetics

“ [H]e ejects from himself all his denial of himself, of his nature, naturalness, and actuality, in the form of an affirmation, as something existent, corporeal, real, as God, as the holiness of God, as God the Judge, as God the Hangman, as the beyond, as eternity, **as torment without end, as hell, as the immeasurability of punishment and guilt.**”

Essay II, Section 22

FRIEDRICH
NIETZSCHE



**The Great
Controversy and
Apologetics**

*“For this reason Christianity-which in one breath espouses a God of infinite mercy and pity, and in another describes the fires of hell in which millions upon millions writhe even now in horrible and unending pain-has for many people become an **absurd joke**. What does eternal torment say about God’s character? What kind of justice does it represent? After a few hundred billion eons burning in hell, even Hitler would have paid for his own sins.”*

THE DAY EVIL DIES, PG 96

CLIFFORD
GOLDSTEIN

**The Great
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Apologetics**



*“God says do what you wish, but make the wrong choice and you will be tortured for eternity in hell. That's not free will...When a man says this we call him a **psychopath**. When god says the same we call him "loving" and build churches in his honor.”*

*How Could **God** Allow Suffering and Evil? (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2003), 59.*

CHUCK EASTTOM

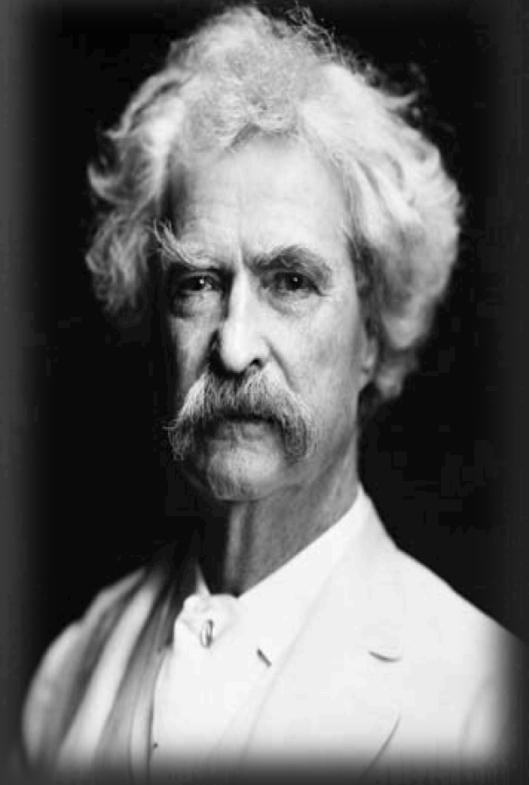


**The Great
Controversy and
Apologetics**

MARK TWAIN

*“There is one notable thing about our Christianity: bad, bloody, merciless, money-grabbing and predatory as it is--in our country particularly, and in all other Christian countries in a somewhat modified degree -- it is still a hundred times better than the Christianity of the Bible, with its prodigious crime -- the **invention of Hell.**”*

(1835-1910 / Reflections on Religion)



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“First, I don't believe in the hell you believe in, because God is not going to torment people for millions and millions of years, so we smell their burning flesh! But the problem is this, the hell I believe in is hotter than the hell you believe in.” They said, ‘What do you mean?’ I said, ‘The hell the Bible teaches about gets the job done. It burns up sinners and sin, consumes them to ashes, then God makes a new world. But the hell you believe in isn't hot enough, because it just torments people for millions of years.’”

Will a loving God burn sinners forever?

MARK FINLEY



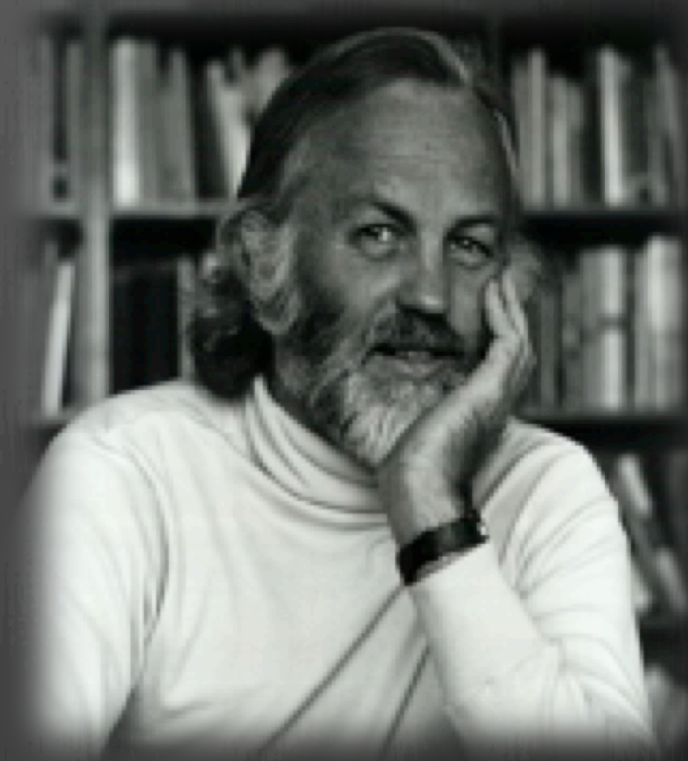
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*“It is beyond the power of the human mind to estimate the evil which has been wrought by the heresy of eternal torment. The religion of the Bible, full of love and goodness, and abounding in compassion, is darkened by superstition and clothed with terror. When we consider in what false colors Satan has painted the character of God, can we wonder that our merciful Creator is feared, dreaded, and even hated? The appalling views of God which have spread over the world from the teachings of the pulpit have made **thousands, yes, millions**, of skeptics and infidels.” GC 537*



**William
Lane Craig**

1994 DEBATE-BRITISH COL, CANADA



**Raymond D
Bradley**

**The Great Controversy
and
Apologetics**

P1. A perfectly good being would not torture anyone for any period whatever, however brief.

P2. A just being wouldn't punish someone eternally for the sins committed during a brief lifetime but would proportion the punishment to the offense.

P3. A righteous being would not punish someone eternally for unavoidable lack of belief.

P4. A loving being would not bring about and perpetuate the suffering of those that it loves.

ADAPTED FROM <http://www.reasonablefaith.org/can-a-loving-god-send-people-to-hell-the-craig-bradley-debate#ixzz23eemU7X9>

The Great Controversy and Apologetics

DOUBT?

“But I notice that Our Lord, while stressing the terror of hell with unsparring severity usually emphasizes the idea not of duration but of finality. Consignment to the destroying fire is usually treated as the end of the story—not as the beginning of a new story. That the lost soul is eternally fixed in its diabolical attitude we cannot doubt: **but whether this eternal fixity implies endless duration—or duration at all—we cannot say.**”

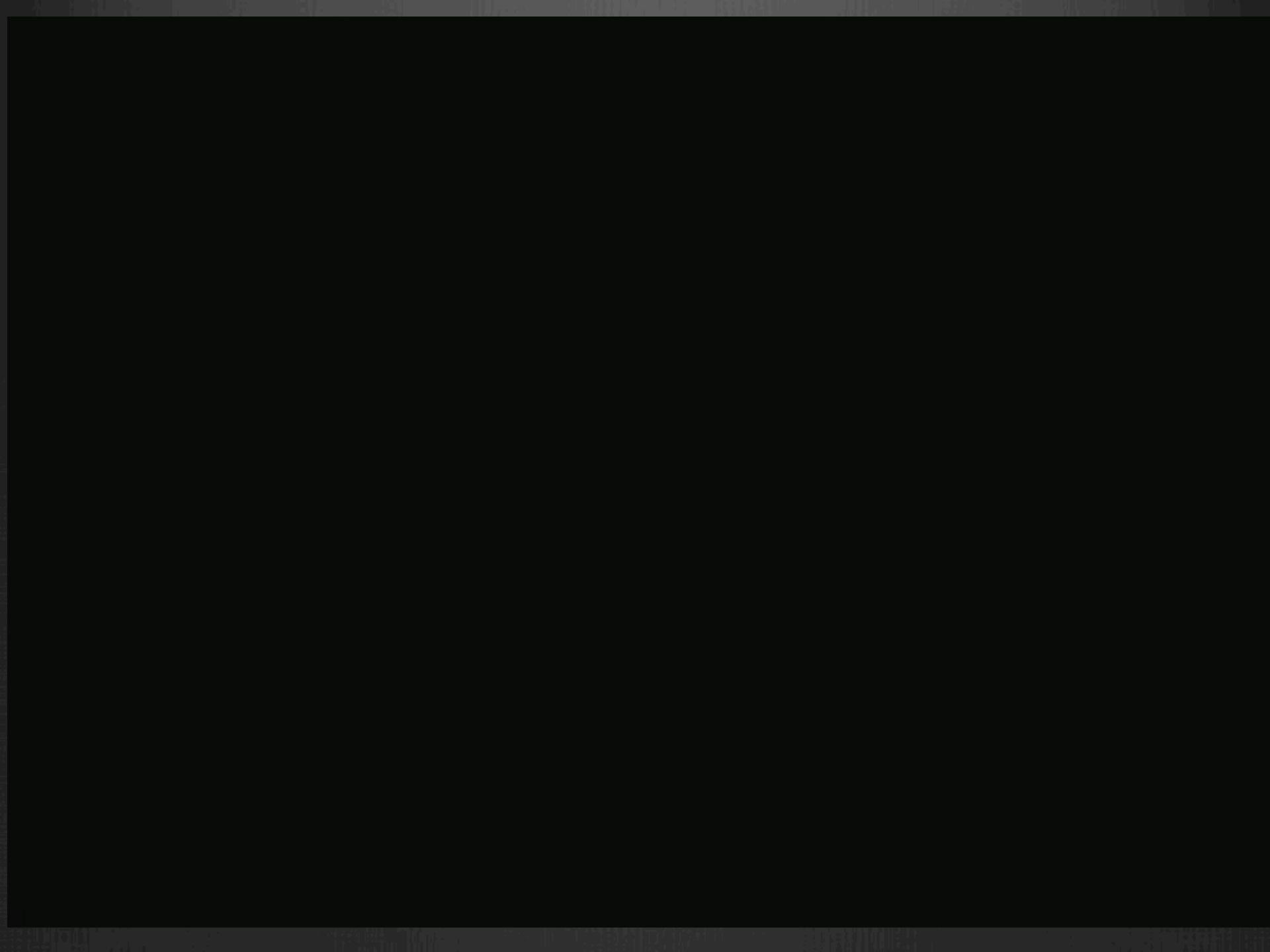


CS LEWIS –PROBLEM OF PAIN



Edward Fudge

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Apologetics**



Commonly quoted?

Matthew 8:12

*...But the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into outer darkness. There will be **weeping and gnashing of teeth.***

MATTHEW 22:13

*...Then the king said to the servants, 'Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there will be **weeping and gnashing of teeth.***

MATTHEW 25:30

*...And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be **weeping and gnashing of teeth.***

*“His righteousness endures forever; His horn will be **exalted with honor**. The wicked will see it and be grieved; He will **gnash** his teeth and melt away; The desire of the wicked shall perish.”*

PSALM 112:9-10

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JOHN 5:22

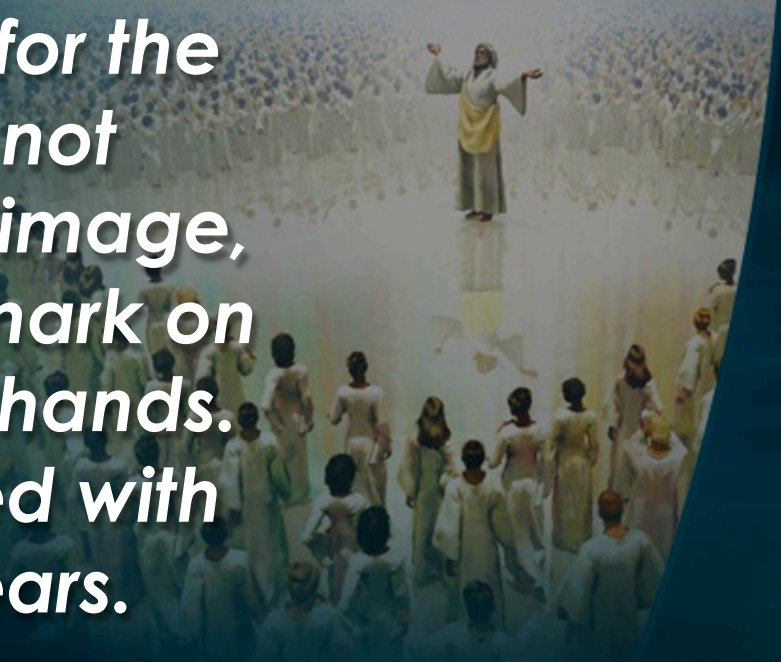


For the Father
judges no one,
but has
**committed all
judgment** to the
Son

CUTTING EDGE
The Sequel

REVELATION 20:4,5

*And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and **judgment was committed to them**. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.*



“With all the facts of the great controversy in view, the whole universe, both loyal and rebellious, with one accord declare: **“Just and true are Thy ways, Thou King of saints.”**”

GC pg671



** If Hell is real, why is it **not mentioned** in most leading English Bible translations until Matthew? (Most Bible translations now acknowledge Sheol should NOT ever be translated Hell as the King James Bible incorrectly did.)*

** If Hell was real, and if Paul was commissioned by God to preach the gospel to the nations, why did Paul not mention Hell **even once** except to declare victory over it? (1 Cor. 15:55, the word death in this passage is the word "Hades" which some translations of the Bible also translate Hell.)*

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Controversy and
Apologetics**

* If God re-creates a new heavens and new earth, where will **hell** located?

* How does God pronounce "**no more pain, no more sorrow, no more death**" if there is a eternal dying of lost souls?

* If immortality is based **on Tree of Life**, how do the unrighteous burn for all eternity?

The Great
Controversy and
Apologetics

* *If the wicked go straight to hell after death, what's the purpose of a second coming and **future judgment**?*

* *If evil-doers are burning for all of eternity, then has God actually **destroyed evil or simply locked it up**?*

* *Under what circumstances, could ceaseless torture and endless progressive affliction be justified? If we in a sinful world could **not tolerate such evil**, how in a perfectly loving heaven, could it ever be?*

** If Hellfire is an eternal fire, why is Sodom not burning today after it was destroyed with “**eternal fire**”? (Jude 7)*

** How is the concept of an eternal burning hell **consistent** with God’s revealed justice?*

** If hell is forever, why is **death and hades** finally thrown into the lake of fire?*

* “If God takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked,” Ezekiel 33:11 how does the trillions and trillions years of torment of the wicked ever **satisfy Him?**

* How does one **rectify** an eternal punishing because of temporal deeds?

* What purpose does destroying sinners non-stop for all of eternal existence **ever accomplish?**



CUTTING EDGE
The Sequel

Isaiah 33:14,15

The sinners in Zion are afraid; Fearfulness has seized the hypocrites: "***Who among us shall dwell with the devouring fire? Who among us shall dwell with everlasting burnings?***"

He who walks righteously and speaks uprightly...





CUTTING EDGE
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