

The PLAIN TRUTH

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Is There a HELL?

If hell does exist, where is it—and can those who are there ever get out?

by **Herbert W. Armstrong**

WILL THOSE in hell *leave* hell at the time of the resurrection—or are they confined eternally to hell, so that they shall be UNABLE to take part in the resurrection?

What did Jesus mean when He said in John 5:28-29: "The hour is coming, in the which all that are in their graves shall hear His voice, and shall come forth . . . they that have done evil, unto the RESURRECTION OF JUDGMENT."

If "they that have done EVIL"—the UNSAVED—shall come forth in the RESURRECTION OF JUDGMENT, what is the connection between that resurrection of the UNSAVED, and their being in an eternal hellfire?

It's about time we took this question out of hiding, and took a good look at it! *What* is the TRUTH?

The Common Idea of HELL

First, what IS the generally accepted common belief in our western world about hell? Here's the terse and brief summation of this popular belief, which I quote from the *Encyclopedia Americana*:

" . . . As generally understood, hell is the abode of evil spirits; the infernal regions . . . whither lost and condemned souls go after death to suffer indescribable torments and eternal punishment. . . . Some have thought of it as the place created by the Deity, where He punishes with inconceivable severity, and through all eternity, the souls of those who through unbelief or through

the worship of false gods has angered Him. It is the place of divine revenge, untempered, never ending."

Now where, and how, did this popular belief about hell originate? The *Encyclopedia Americana* states further: "The main features of hell as conceived by Hindu, Persian, Egyptian, Grecian, and Christian theologians are essentially the same." The Western religious leaders through the Middle Ages borrowed the doctrine of eternal torture from the pagan philosophers. Certain writers of the Middle Ages had such tremendous influence on the Christian-professing world, that their writings and teachings came to be generally accepted and believed, until it became the doctrine of the Christian-professing world. Among these influential writers were Augustine, and Dante Alighieri.

Some years ago, I ran across a book in a large library, titled "*Dante, and His Inferno*." It summed up the history of the Christian-professing doctrine of hell. This factual history is rather amazing! Dante lived, 1265 to 1321 A.D. Only a few months ago I stood in front of his villa, where he lived in Rome—now one of the historic places of Rome. Dante wrote a tremendously popular book, titled "*Divino Comedy*," in three parts—Hell, Purgatory and Paradise.

From the Pagans

Now I quote from this book of history: "Of all poets of modern times, Dante Alighieri was, perhaps, the great-

est educator. He possibly had a greater influence on the course of civilization than any other man since his day. . . . He wrote, in incomprehensible verse, an imaginative and lurid account of a dismal hell—a long poem containing certain phrases which have caught the attention of the world, such as, '*all hope abandon . . . ye, who enter here!*' This had a tremendous impression and influence on the popular Christian thought and teaching. His '*Inferno*' was based on Virgil and Plato."

Dante is reported to have been so fascinated and enraptured by the ideas and philosophies of Plato and Virgil, pagan philosophers, that he believed they were divinely inspired. Here is an article on VIRGIL, from the *Americana*: "VIRGIL, pagan Roman poet, 70-19 B.C. Belonged to the national school of pagan Roman thought, influenced by the Greek writers. Christians of the Middle Ages, including Dante, believed he had received some measure of divine inspiration."

PLATO was a pagan Greek philosopher, born in Athens, 427 B.C., a student of Socrates. He wrote the famous book, *Phaedo*, on the immortality of the soul, and *this* book is the real origin of the modern belief on the immortality of the soul. I have before me, a copy of the "*Phaedo*," and in the introductory pages, I read this about Plato: "In fact, he acknowledges . . . three kinds of gods: superior, inferior, and intermediate."

There is the general statement of the popular belief about hell, and where that belief came from—actually from the imaginations of pagans who know not God!

What About the Millions of Heathen?

Now, before we examine this idea to see whether it is TRUE, I want you to consider one or two FACTS: See where this concept of hell, if true, leads us! On this earth are some two and a quarter billion people. The most POPULOUS lands are China, India, and other parts of Asia, and in spite of missionaries from the west, actually *more than half* of all the people on this earth *have never so much as HEARD* the ONLY name by which men may be SAVED—the name of Jesus CHRIST! Now is there some *other way* by which men may be saved? Your Bible says there is NOT!

That means that BILLIONS of people on this earth have lived, and DIED, without ever having known anything about Christian salvation—without SAVING KNOWLEDGE—never having heard the ONLY name by which men may be saved? Now think what that means! IF all *unsaved* go immediately to hell at death—the hell commonly believed in—then more than HALF of the people who have lived on this earth have been consigned there—and they are there, now, without ever having been given so much as a CHANCE to escape it!

Ask yourselves candidly, do you believe THAT is the plan by which an all-wise, all-merciful, loving GOD is working out His purpose here below?

Now *what is the TRUTH?*

We face this alternative: Either the Holy Bible is the inspired WORD OF GOD, by which the CREATOR *reveals* the TRUTH on the subject, or else we must fling up our hands and confess WE JUST DON'T KNOW—we are *ignorant* on the question—because no one has ever COME BACK from such a hell to tell us about it, and SCIENCE knows nothing about it. We must believe what the BIBLE says, or we can believe *nothing*, if we are rational and honest!

Does the BIBLE say anything about "hell fire?" Didn't Jesus say something about hell fire? Yes, He did!

Hell Fire in the Bible

He said, in the passage most often quoted: "And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out: it is better for thee to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire: Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched. For every one shall be salted with fire, and every sacrifice shall be salted with salt" (Mark 9:47-49).

Now exactly what *is* this hell fire?

This word "hell" is an English word. Mark wrote, originally, in the Greek language. The word originally inspired, which Mark actually wrote, was the Greek word "Gehenna" which certainly does refer to FIRE.

But in *most* passages in the New Testament where the English word "hell" is found in our English translations, the original Greek words was a *different* word, "hades"—which does NOT refer to FIRE at all, but has an altogether different meaning.

Remember we merely read a TRANSLATION of the Bible from its *original* languages. A leading Bible Dictionary, called *A Dictionary of the Bible* edited by James Hastings, a leading authority in such technical matters, says this:

Incorrectly Translated "Hell"

"In our Authorized Version the word 'hell' is unfortunately used as the rendering of *three distinct words, with different meanings*. It represents, (1) the 'sheol' of the Hebrew Old Testament, and the 'hades' of . . . the New Testament . . . It is now an *entirely misleading rendering*, especially in the New Testament passages. The English revisers, therefore, have substituted the original Greek word 'hades' for 'hell' in the New Testament. In the American revision the word 'hell' is entirely discarded in this connection. . . . The word 'hell' is translated (2) as the equivalent of the Greek word 'tartaros,' (II Peter 2:4; Jude 6), and, (3) as the equivalent of the Greek word 'gehenna.'"

The original Hebrew word "sheol," and the Greek "hades" mean the same—the GRAVE, and these original words are so translated in many places. "Hell" is an old English word, and 344 years ago, when the Authorized Version was translated, the people of England commonly talked about putting their potatoes in HELL for the winter—a good way of preserving potatoes—for the word then meant merely a hole in the ground which was covered up—a dark and silent place—a GRAVE. But PAGAN teachings gaining popular acceptance have caused people to apply to the English word the meaning of "hell" which came out of the imaginations of DANTE.

The Greek word "tartaros" occurs only twice in the New Testament, and does not refer to humans, but the place of fallen angels. Its meaning, translated into English, is "darkness of the material universe," or "dark abyss," or "prison."

And now the Greek word "gehenna." Here is the official DEFINITION of that very Greek word which was inspired by God, and written originally by Mark. I quote from the authoritative HASTINGS *Bible Dictionary*: "Gehenna: The word

occurs twelve times in the New Testament. This term 'gehenna' represents 'the Valley of Hinnom' (Nehemiah 11:30, II Kings 23:10, etc.). The place was . . . a deep narrow gorge in the vicinity of Jerusalem, understood to be on the south side. It is repeatedly mentioned in the Old Testament (Jeremiah 19:6, etc.). It became an object of horror to the Jews, and is said to have been made the receptacle for bones, the bodies of beasts and criminals, refuse and all unclean things. The terrible associations of the place . . . the *fires* said to have been kept burning in it in order to *consume* the foul and corrupt objects that were thrown into it, made it a natural and unmistakable symbol of dire evil, wasting penalty, ABSOLUTE RUIN. So it came to designate the place of future punishment."

Hell—a Place of DESTRUCTION

Gehenna was a place of DESTRUCTION and DEATH—not a place of living torture! Jesus was talking to Jews who understood all about this Gehenna. Utter DESTRUCTION by fire was complete. NOTHING was left, but ashes!

Every text in the Bible translated from this Greek word "gehenna" means *complete destruction*—not living torture—NOT eternal LIFE in torment! YOUR Bible says, in Romans 6:23, "The wages of sin is DEATH"—not ETERNAL LIFE in torture. The PUNISHMENT revealed in the BIBLE is DEATH—the *cessation* of life. Eternal life is the GIFT OF GOD!

Then WHY have we been believing that PUNISHMENT is ETERNAL LIFE? And WHY have we been believing we already *have* eternal life, and don't NEED to come to God through Christ, to receive it as HIS GIFT?

The PUNISHMENT is DEATH. It is the *second* death, from which there shall be no resurrection! The PUNISHMENT is for ETERNITY—DEATH for eternity—ETERNAL punishment—but NOWhere does YOUR BIBLE say anything about the PAGAN teaching of eternal punishing. It's eternal punishment, *not* eternal punishing!

When Jesus spoke of being cast into "gehenna FIRE," He was using this "gehenna" as an illustration of the LAKE OF FIRE, which YOUR BIBLE reveals is to be THE PLACE of this final punishment—this second DEATH. He referred to Revelation 20:14: "And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death."

THAT fire will be much *hotter* than Dante's imaginary HELL! Do people go at DEATH to the fictitious hell of Dante's imagination to be TORTURED by flames of fire *forever*—and then are they to be brought OUT, to go into a JUDGMENT,

(Please continue on page 15)

What Is the PURPOSE of the Resurrection?

Why is a resurrection necessary if man has an immortal soul? If we are saved by the death of Christ, why did Jesus have to be resurrected?

by Herbert W. Armstrong

TODAY WE live in a time of world revolution. We begin to hear talk about the END OF THE WORLD!

Today we face a DUAL question! Not only regarding *man*, but now also concerning CIVILIZATION. WE need to find the answer to the question put by the patriarch Job: "If man die, *shall he live again?*"

This should be a time of HOPE—because, even if THIS WORLD dies—and it shall—there will follow a RESURRECTION of a new and *better* world—a world at PEACE—a world of contentment, happiness, abundance, JOY!

Now, as never before, we need to realize that the Eternal GOD is working out a purpose here below—and that His great PLAN involves a DUAL resurrection: the resurrection of *the individual*, and also the resurrection of a dying WORLD! *Very few*, indeed, have any conception at all of the NATURE of the resurrection!

Never a Time Like This Before

YOU live today in a time *different*—utterly *different*—from any past time on earth! YOU are destined, as no past generation has been, to live in two worlds! Yes, *this* world is dying—that's the real *meaning* of world chaos today—but there will be a RESURRECTION:—and, *catch this!*—the resurrected body is *not* the SAME body that previously dies!

Why did God Almighty NEED to provide for any resurrection at all? What's the PURPOSE of the resurrection? What does it MEAN?

Most people have somehow come to believe that Christ *completed* God's Plan of redemption on the cross—by His death! But if salvation was made full and complete by Jesus' DEATH, then why is there any need of—why do people celebrate—the RESURRECTION from the dead?

You often hear people say, "Christ *died* to save sinners." Many suppose that's a Bible quotation—but it isn't. Many firmly believe that Christ's DEATH

imparts to us ETERNAL LIFE, that it is the BLOOD of Christ—his *death* that actually SAVES—that imparts everlasting LIFE! Many of *you* will be surprised to learn that the Bible says NO SUCH THING! What a self-contradictory, totally unscientific thing the Bible would be stating, if you could find that in the Bible!

There is no more basic and firmly established law known to science than the Law of Biogenesis—that only LIFE can beget life! DEATH has no power to impart LIFE! Life cannot spring from dead matter. The *living* does not come from the NOT-living! GOD ALMIGHTY created that Law!

WHY, then, was it necessary that Christ DIE for us—that He shed His blood? Let's understand!

Death Cannot Impart Life

The Scriptures reveal that ALL have sinned, and the PENALTY for sin is DEATH! The PUNISHMENT is *death*—yes, death for all eternity—ETERNAL PUNISHMENT! The BIBLE definition of SIN is the transgression of God's LAW—the immutable, inexorable SPIRITUAL Law of LOVE summed up by the Ten Commandments. God established that Law, actually *set it in motion*, to MAKE MEN HAPPY. It's THE WAY to peace, to prosperity, joy! It's the *perfect* WAY OF LIFE. It's the way to ENJOY life to the full! *This* world is filled with strife and war, fear and worry, poverty and want, discontent and SUFFERING, *only* because men have TRANSGRESSED that Holy, Spiritual LAW!

God's salvation does not impart *merely* eternal life! Salvation means FAR more than that! Jesus said He came that we might have eternal life, yes—but He also said something MORE—"I am come," He said, "that they might have LIFE, *and that they might have it more ABUNDANTLY!*"

God help us to comprehend! Not merely continuous existence—but the full, happy, interesting, ABUNDANT life!

Yes—and *that* for ALL ETERNITY!

Just stop and think a moment! For God to impart mere never-ending EXISTENCE, which we should live in ever-increasing emptiness, boredom, misery and suffering—why, that would be the most *cruel* punishment! GOD IS LOVE! He wants YOU to learn the way to ENJOY life—FOREVER!

Why God Hides Himself

Your transgression of GOD'S WAY of life, has not only brought unhappiness and suffering to you—it has *cut you off* from all contact with your Maker! You are a mere mortal. The penalty hanging over you is DEATH—and the most certain thing in life is that all shall DIE! You have no power to impart *to yourself* eternal life. And you are *cut off* from God the Father, the GIVER of eternal LIFE!

But God so loved *this* world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that if you believe on HIM, you shall not, after all, PERISH, but have the GIFT of everlasting LIFE! That can only come THROUGH CHRIST!

But HOW? Jesus Christ was CHANGED from the divine Word of God to mortal human FLESH—for the purpose of DEATH. He, ONLY, of all humans, lived without sin. He said, "I have *kept* my Father's Commandments." When He shed his precious blood—when He GAVE His life—He was not paying the penalty of HIS sins, for He never sinned. He was paying YOUR penalty FOR YOU!—in your stead!—the penalty you incurred by disobedience. So now if and when you really REPENT of your transgressions, and when you BELIEVE, not only IN Christ, but also His GOSPEL, your penalty stands PAID IN FULL—you are RECONCILED to God—you have ACCESS to God the Father! You are now JUSTIFIED. Your guilt is wiped CLEAN—*up to THAT moment!* You are UNDER GRACE—that is, undeserved PARDON for *past* transgressions. But that GRACE gives you *no license* to *continue* in sin! As the

Apostle Paul wrote: "What, then, shall we CONTINUE in sin—transgressing God's LAW—that grace may abound? GOD FORBID!" Justification refers only to a guilty PAST!

But *now* where do you stand? Are you now automatically already SAVED? You most certainly are not! *Be NOT DECEIVED!* The DEATH of Christ does *not* impart ETERNAL LIFE! You are NOT finally SAVED by the death of Christ—you are merely JUSTIFIED—your PAST GUILT removed—reconciled to GOD! You are merely PREPARED so that you CAN be saved. You now have access to GOD from whom eternal life comes!

What the Death of Christ Means

The BLOOD of Christ does NOT finally SAVE you, and had Christ REMAINED dead, you would have *no salvation*—NEVER could you have eternal life!

HERE'S the glorious TRUTH! *Here's* the point I want you to grasp: You are finally SAVED—you receive eternal LIFE, *by the* RESURRECTION of Christ—from the LIVING Christ—not a dead Saviour!

It's in YOUR BIBLE. Turn to it—SEE IT WITH YOUR OWN EYES! Turn to Romans 5:8-10: "God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now *justified by His blood*, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if, when we were enemies, we were *reconciled to God by the DEATH* of His Son, much more, being reconciled, *we shall be saved BY HIS LIFE!*"

There it is! Do you see? Do you comprehend? We are *forgiven*, JUSTIFIED OF PAST GUILT, reconciled to the Father, by the DEATH of Christ—but we SHALL be SAVED, not by His death, but BY HIS LIFE! Yes, BY HIS RESURRECTION!

In I Cor. 5:7-8 the Apostle Paul laid down the commandment for the CHURCH: "Christ, our Passover, is sacrificed for us; *therefore, let us KEEP THE FEAST!*" The original TRUE Church which *Jesus* built kept the PASSOVER, and the Feast of Unleavened Bread—NOT Easter. The Passover was the MEMORIAL of the DEATH of Christ, observed on its anniversary—picturing our JUSTIFICATION from past sins—our being RECONCILED TO GOD. *Therefore*, as Paul said, let us PUT SIN OUT OF OUR LIVES—for that's what the Festival of Unleavened Bread was given by God to picture to HIS CHURCH! Also *this* Festival of GOD pictured the RISEN, RESURRECTED CHRIST! And so, as CHRIST died for us, and ROSE again, the people of God are instructed (Rom. 6:11) "Likewise, reckon ye *also yourselves* to be dead indeed UNTO SIN—but ALIVE unto God, through Jesus Christ our Lord"—Yes, through Christ's LIFE.

Saved by His Resurrection

CHRIST'S resurrection makes possible OUR resurrection to immortal life in the very divine FAMILY of God—He is only the *first-born* of many brethren! Your gift of ETERNAL LIFE results NOT from the DEATH of Christ—but from HIS RESURRECTION!

Suppose Jesus Christ had remained dead in His tomb. Do you suppose that, in that case, your faith in HIS BLOOD—His DEATH—could have SAVED you? If you do, you'd be trusting in a FALSE HOPE! It's time we realize the TRUTH!

Notice again—read this in YOUR BIBLE: I Cor. 15:14-18: "IF Christ be not risen, then is our preaching VAIN, and *your faith* is also VAIN. . . . if Christ be NOT RAISED, your faith is VAIN . . . then they also which are fallen asleep (that is, DEAD) *in Christ*, are PERISHED!"—unless Christ ROSE from the dead!

Do you grasp the wonderful truth? Christ is not a *dead* Saviour! He ROSE from the dead!—He is our LIVING Saviour! But He *was* DEAD! He rose from DEATH—not from LIFE! It was the EVER-LIVING FATHER who raised Him—who imparted eternal LIFE to Him! Jesus Christ became mortal man for the very PURPOSE of *death*—to pay the PENALTY—DEATH—for you and for me. He was mortal. He died. YOU are mortal. YOU shall die. And there is NO immortal life—and no possibility of it, in mortal man. GOD ALONE possesses inherent immortality! God *is* Life—Life inherent—Life eternal! God alone has life to IMPART. WE can have it only as HIS GIFT!

No Immortal Souls

The Scriptures do NOT teach that the soul that sins shall go on living forever—but "the soul that sinneth—IT SHALL DIE," (Ezekiel 13:4). And ALL have sinned! YOU have sinned! Millions of people today have learned to HATE other people. People learn to HATE, in time of war. Do THEY have eternal life inherent—do THEY have an immortal soul—is ANY eternal life inherent in them? LISTEN: "Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him" (I John 3:15).

DO SAVED mothers up in heaven see the writhing and hear the shrieks of their lost children down in HELL?

Thousands like you have been asking for the true explanation of the "Rich Man and Lazarus." Write immediately for your FREE copy of Mr. Armstrong's booklet "LAZARUS and the RICH MAN." Learn what the Bible really says!

GOD'S WORD says plainly such a person does NOT have an immortal soul! To our first parent, God said: "DUST *thou* art, and unto dust shalt THOU return." He didn't say "your body that you live in"—He said "Dust THOU art." YOUR Bible says "Man is MORTAL," but nowhere does it say he is immortal. Man is mortal flesh, subject to corruption—DEATH! All have sinned, and the penalty is DEATH for all ETERNITY—eternal DEATH!

But in John 4:24 it is written "GOD is a SPIRIT, "And again, "For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself" (John 5:26). Notice also I John 5:11-12: "And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life."

Christ Jesus is a LIVING Saviour! He DIED to pay the DEATH penalty for YOU—that your past guilt might be erased! God RAISED Him from the dead, to make a resurrection to ETERNAL LIFE possible for YOU. Jesus said, "I am the Resurrection, and the LIFE."

Paul wrote, I Cor. 15:20: "But now is Christ RISEN from the dead, and become the first fruits of them that slept."

But His resurrection made possible NOT ONLY *your* personal salvation and mine—but the resurrection of this dying WORLD! For Christ was raised from the dead, to ascend to the throne of God the Father in heaven—to be GLORIFIED—to RECEIVE for Himself the KINGDOMS OF THIS WORLD—and He promised that if He *went*, He would COME AGAIN—coming this time as KING of kings, and LORD of lords, to RULE THE WORLD with the supernatural power of God—to bring us the happy WORLD TOMORROW! Jesus' GOSPEL was the GOOD NEWS of The Kingdom of God—the REIGN of God—WORLD RULE!

Why the Gospel of the Kingdom?

The CONDITIONS to entering that glorious and GLORIFIED Kingdom are these: "REPENT"—repent of YOUR ways, YOUR thoughts, the ways of this world—the ways that have seemed RIGHT to a man, but are contrary to God's perfect and holy LAW; and "BELIEVE." Yes, believe the GOSPEL—believe on CHRIST as personal Saviour. The inspired Peter pointed the way: "REPENT, and BE BAPTISED," he said, "and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." That's the WAY to salvation—the WAY into eternal inheritance in the KINGDOM OF GOD.

At the RESURRECTION of the JUST—at Christ's coming it is proclaimed: "The kingdoms—the governments—of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord and His CHRIST; and HE shall (Please continue on page 16)

Is There a HELL?

(Continued from page 2)

to see if God had made a mistake in having punished them so long in this "hell"?

What Happens to "Hell"?

Notice verses 13-15: "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. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire." The LAKE OF FIRE, which JESUS referred to is a place of DEATH, not of eternal life—the SECOND DEATH—ETERNAL Punishment!

Notice what Jesus said in Matthew 10:28: "Fear him which is able to DESTROY both soul and body in GEHENNA." Here in plain language JESUS said the SOUL could be *destroyed*—and that it would be DESTROYED in this GEHENNA that has been falsely translated into the English word HELL! Gehenna is a place of DESTRUCTION!

Again Jesus used this word "gehenna" as quoted in Matthew 23:33: "Ye serpents," He said to the Pharisees, "how can ye escape the damnation of GEHENNA?"—the second DEATH—eternal PUNISHMENT!

The ancient rebellious cities Sodom and Gomorrha, suffered, as we read in Jude 7, the vengeance of ETERNAL FIRE. But they are not still burning. They were burned up FOREVER—eternal DESTRUCTION!

Now *what happens in this "hell"*—derived from the Greek word "gehenna?" Let the Holy Word of GOD answer: "For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the Lord of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch. But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall. And ye shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, saith the Lord of hosts" (Malachi 4:1-3).

God Is Love—and Justice!

God is a God of LOVE—or MERCY, as well as a God of ABSOLUTE JUSTICE! If He were the vain, angry, unjust god pictured by the PAGANS who invented this popular conception of heaven and hell, then, according to the common belief of the illustration of Lazarus and the Rich Man, saved mothers up in

heaven are hearing the shrieks, seeing the indescribable AGONY, *writhing*, of their own lost children down in hell—actually able to carry on a conversation with them—yet UNABLE to help them.

Would THAT be the heavenly BLISS it is generally represented?

The 37th Psalm OUGHT to make plain to us this matter of heaven and hell. Notice!

"For evildoers shall be cut off: but those that wait upon the Lord, they shall inherit the earth. For yet a little while, and the wicked shall not be: yea, thou shalt diligently consider his place, and it

shall not be. But the meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace. The wicked plotteth against the just, and gnasheth upon him with his teeth. But the wicked shall perish, and the enemies of the Lord shall be as the fat of lambs: they shall consume; into smoke shall they consume away. For such as be blessed of him shall inherit the earth; and they that be cursed of him shall be cut off. The righteous shall inherit the land, and dwell therein for ever" (Psa. 37:9-12, 20, 22, 29).

And now, Psa. 104:35: "Let the sinners be consumed out of the earth, and let the wicked be no more. Bless thou the Lord, O my soul."

Again, Obadiah 16, God's Message to Gentile EDOM: "For as ye have drunk upon my holy mountain, so shall all the heathen drink continually, yea, they shall drink, and they shall swallow down, and they shall be though they had not been."

And now, Isa. 66:24: "And they shall go forth and look upon the carcasses of the men that have transgressed against me: for their worm shall not die, neither shall their fire be quenched; and they shall be an abhorring unto all flesh."

Never to Be Quenched?

"Neither shall their fire be QUENCHED." Does that mean burning forever, and never burning up? Try this test: Put a piece of paper in a pan. Light it with a match. Now, *don't* QUENCH that fire! Don't put it out—for that's what "quench" means. Very soon the paper will *burn up*. Then put it down on the floor and step on it! NOW it's merely ashes under the sole of your feet—precisely as YOUR BIBLE plainly says the wicked shall be! In Jer. 17:27, God warned the Jews that Jerusalem would be *burned*, and the fire would *not be quenched*—unless they repented. In Jer. 52:13, you read the account of the burning of Jerusalem. That fire was NOT QUENCHED! It is NOT still burning!

Do you know that YOUR BIBLE teaches the *resurrection* of *all* who die? The Apostle Paul said his HOPE was the hope of the RESURRECTION! If the resurrection is true doctrine, then the pagan myth of an eternal TORTURE, beginning at death, is as false as Satan himself! If all UNSAVED—even all who never *heard* the ONLY name—are roasting, screaming, in such a hell, and can never get out, HOW can there be a RESURRECTION?

Thank GOD!—there is to be a resurrection to JUDGMENT, as well as a resurrection to eternal life of the dead IN Christ! Yes, thank GOD, He so LOVED the world—we NEED not perish, but through Christ we may have EVERLASTING LIFE!

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Are YOU under God's PROTECTION?

(Continued from page 12)

utter a poignant truth which applies to you. Study it carefully.

"Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, HIS SERVANTS YE ARE TO WHOM YE OBEY; whether of *sin* unto *death*, or of *obedience* unto *righteousness*?" (Rom. 6:16).

When a *choice* has to be made between following the ways of your friends and family, or *obeying* what you have found to be the *will of God*—which course do YOU follow? Do you take the easy way out and follow *men*? Do you *serve* and thereby *WORSHIP* the ways of men more than the ways of God?

Don't "kid" yourself! You CAN'T fool God!

When you learn some new point of *truth* in the pages of this magazine, or on THE WORLD TOMORROW broadcast, or in your own personal Bible study, do you put it into *PRACTICE* in your life—do you *OBEY* it—or do you *reject* it because it conflicts with what your *church* or your particular *society* believes and observes?

Are you like the Pharisees who rejected Christ because "they loved the praise of *men* more than the praise of God?" (John 12:43). God seems *far away* to some people, and their friends seem *so close* and *so important*. Which do YOU *worship*? Which do you *OBEY*?

If you had to give up your *job*—your *only source of income*—in order to obey some point of *truth* you found in God's Word, *would you do it*? Would you exercise *FAITH*, as Jesus did, and rely on God's many promises to "supply all your need"? (Philip. 4:19). Would you worship *God*—or *MAMMON*?

These questions apply to YOU!

The *true* God—the God of Creation,

of the Bible, of *Christ*—reveals Himself as the present *RULER* of this earth who is *permitting* man, during this age, to disobey Him and learn by suffering.

What to Do

God's supreme *Rulership* is the chief characteristic of God we need to recognize. It was the principal message of all His servants. Once you recognize God as your *Ruler*, and *surrender* *UNCONDITIONALLY* to His will, then you may be *assured* of God's protection—the *ONLY* real protection that exists.

Be sure to read Herman Hoeh's article on *baptism* in this issue of *The PLAIN TRUTH*. You must fully *repent* and *be baptized* to receive of God's Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:38). And you *MUST* have *God's Spirit* to be under His *protection*!

God inspired Paul to write, "Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his" (Romans 8:9). And in Ephesians 1:13 and 4:30, and II Corinthians 1:22, we find that we are "sealed" as God's own when we receive the Holy Spirit.

And when you have given yourself to Him and have received of His Spirit, you may be *assured* of *divine* protection in the fearful days ahead. You will then be *spiritually baptized* into *God's true church*. And if you *grow* spiritually and remain *faithful* you will be among those taken to the place of safety described in Rev. 12:14-17.

Notice that this woman—that *church*—keeps the "*commandments of God*." It recognizes God's *rule* and *OBEYS* His laws.

As Jesus prophesied (Mat. 24:14), this gospel of the *kingdom*, the *RULE*, of God is being proclaimed as a "witness" to all nations. As thousands of you recognize this as the work of God and come to know the *true* God—yours is the solemn responsibility to *accept* or *reject* God's final warning.

"Lip service" is not enough. God re-

quires *OBEEDIENCE*. "He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a *liar*, and the truth is not in him" (I John 2:4).

"*Prove* all things." *Obey* what you know is God's will. *Write* us for help if God has shown you that this is His prophesied work for these closing days of this age.

It's later than you *think*!

RESURRECTION

(Continued from page 14)

reign for ever and ever" (Rev. 11:15).

If we *repent*, believe, and are *BEGOTTEN* of God now, if we *OVERCOME*, and *grow* in grace and knowledge, we shall sit *WITH* Christ on His throne—we shall be given power over the nations to *RULE* them with a rod of iron, as kings and priests under Christ the *KING* of kings.

And now one glimpse into that *RESURRECTED* world—the glorious, happy *WORLD TOMORROW*—lying at *PEACE*, at last: "But in the last days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it. And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more (Micah 4:1-3).

GOD SPEED THAT HAPPY DAY! Let us pray, "THY Kingdom come."

The PLAIN TRUTH

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