

# CHRISTIANITY

# 101

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS

*About*

SIN & SALVATION  
RESURRECTION & JUDGMENT

↑  
HEAVEN

HELL  
↓

THE NATURE OF MAN

◉ *The Nature of God* ◉

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HELL

# WHY DOES HELL EXIST?

▶ Matthew 25:41

▶ This is the negative side of the Gospel.

▶ Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## WHO GOES TO HELL?

- ▶ 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.

## WHAT ABOUT LOVE?

- ▶ The logic goes like this:
- ▶ Love never hurts anyone.
- ▶ God is love.
- ▶ Therefore, God would never hurt anyone, especially by sending them to hell.

## PEOPLE ARE SEDUCED BY THE ILLUSION OF SENTIMENTAL LOVE.

- ▶ Sentimental love is based on feelings not on the kind of love presented in the Bible.
- ▶ People who won't let others get hurt or suffer as a consequence of their actions are actually harming them by removing responsibility from them.

# FREEDOM

- ▶ God takes our freedom seriously.
- ▶ God created humanity with the freedom to choose.
- ▶ Inherent in that freedom is the possibility of judgment and death.

- ▶ Among the freedoms granted us is the freedom to reject God.
- ▶ Hell is the choice of those who reject God.
- ▶ Hell, then, is the natural consequence of freedom and love, a fulfillment of justice.



# OUR HEARTS CRY FOR JUSTICE!

- ▶ At the Last Judgment, every person will be resurrected and judged individually and there will be an accounting of every detail of each of our lives (every thought, every motive, every intention...what did we do with what we knew?)

# RETRIBUTIVE JUSTICE

- ▶ To vindicate the King's righteousness.
- ▶ To defend the moral order of His Kingdom.

- ▶ To highlight the preciousness of the Servant who died to make us just.
- ▶ It is the response of positive holiness reasserting the moral order of the world against all that is evil.

# ALL RELIGIONS LEAD TO GOD

- ▶ All religions indeed lead to God—as Judge!
- ▶ For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son: That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. Jn 5:22-23a

## WHAT IS HELL LIKE?

- ▶ And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal. Mt. 25:46
- ▶ Heaven and hell are corresponding opposites.

## JESUS DESCRIBES IT FOR US: LUKE 16:19-31

- ▶ Some say, "That's just a parable!"
- ▶ And all flesh shall see that I the Lord have kindled it: it shall not be quenched. Then said I, Ah Lord God! they say of me, Doth he not speak parables? Ez. 20:48-49

# HELL IS A PLACE OF CONSCIOUSNESS

- ▶ “in hell he lift up his eyes...”
- ▶ He could see.
- ▶ “Being in torments...”
- ▶ He could feel.

- ▶ “And seeth Abraham...Lazarus”
- ▶ He could recognize.
- ▶ “He cried and said...”
- ▶ He could speak.
- ▶ “Abraham, have mercy...”
- ▶ He could plead.



- ▶ "I am tormented in this flame..."
- ▶ He could suffer.
- ▶ "Abraham said [to him]..."
- ▶ He could hear.
- ▶ "Son, remember..."
- ▶ He had memory.

- ▶ “Send to my ...brethren”
- ▶ He could reflect.
- ▶ “Lest they also come...”
- ▶ He could look ahead.

- ▶ The human condition is not diminished in hell, it is intensified.
- ▶ Hell is a place of both self-awareness and other-awareness.

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HELL