

Hell

My Methodology

- **Examine the eye witness testimony regarding the statements made by Jesus that pertain to the the subject of eternal punishment.**
- **Examine the statements made by Jesus' disciples regarding eternal punishment in the N.T. letters**
- **Examine the statements made by early early Christians regarding eternal punishment with the idea they learned the subject from the disciples.**
- **Explanatory Power vs Explanatory Impotence - One theory is said to have more explanatory power than another theory about the same subject matter if it can account for all the facts that the second one does, but also explains the causes of other facts which the second one does not.**

Jesus' Statements Regarding Hell

Matthew 13:24–30, 36–43

“He put another parable before them, saying, “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?’ He said to them, ‘An enemy has done this.’ So the servants said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ But he said, ‘No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, ***Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned***, but gather the wheat into my barn.’””

Matthew 13:36–43

“Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples came to him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world, and the good seed is the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the close of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the close of the age.

The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. (εἰς τὴν κάμινον τοῦ πυρός)

Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.”

- **Metaphor** - The one who sows the good seed
- **Literal Meaning** = Son of Man (Jesus)

- **Metaphor** - Weeds
- **Literal Meaning** = sons of the evil one

- **Metaphor** - Enemy
- **Literal Meaning** = devil

- **Metaphor** - Harvest
- **Literal Meaning** = close of the age

- **Metaphor** - Reapers
- **Literal Meaning** = Angels

- **Metaphor** - Weeds being burned
- **Literal Meaning** = Fiery Furnace

- The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, and throw them **into the fiery furnace**. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.
- εἰς τὴν κάμινον τοῦ πυρός
- VERY UNIQUE Phrase
 - Exact same phrase used in the Septuagint in Daniel 3:6

Daniel 3:4–6

“And the herald proclaimed aloud, “You are commanded, O peoples, nations, and languages, that when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, you are to fall down and worship the golden image that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up. And whoever does not fall down and worship shall immediately be cast into a burning **fiery furnace**. (εἰς τὴν κάμινον τοῦ πυρός)””

““Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind. When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into containers but threw away the bad. So it will be at the *close of the age*. **The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the fiery furnace**. (εἰς τὴν κάμινον τοῦ πυρός) In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” (Matthew 13:47–50)

Matthew 7:13–14

““Enter by the narrow gate. **For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction**, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.”

Matthew 7:21-23

““Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. **On that day** many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ And then will I declare to them, **‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’**”

Matthew 25:31-46

““***When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory.*** All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

“Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited

Matthew 25:31–46

me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

"Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'

"The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'

"Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, ***into the eternal fire*** ("εἰς τὸ πῦρ τὸ αἰώνιον") prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.'

"They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?'

“He will reply, ‘I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.’

“Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.’”

“καὶ ἀπελεύσονται οὗτοι εἰς κόλασιν αἰώνιον, οἱ δὲ δίκαιοι εἰς ζωὴν αἰώνιον.”

““Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself. And he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man. Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and come out, **those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.**” (John 5:25–29)

- “Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, ***but the wrath of God remains on him.***” (John 3:36)

2 Thessalonians 1:5–12 - “This is evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are also suffering— since indeed God considers it just to repay with affliction those who afflict you, and to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. ***They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction “οἵτινες δίκην τίσουσιν ὄλεθρον αἰώνιον”, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might, when he comes on that day to be glorified in his saints, and to be marveled at among all who have believed, because our testimony to you was believed.*** To this end we always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling and may fulfill every resolve for good and every work of faith by his power, so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.”

What The Apostles Taught Regarding Hell

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2 Peter 2:1-10

“But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction. And many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of truth will be blasphemed. And in their greed they will exploit you with false words. Their condemnation from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.

For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to chains of gloomy darkness to be kept until the judgment; if he did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a herald of righteousness, with seven others, when he brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly; if by turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to ashes he condemned them to extinction, making them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly; and if he rescued righteous Lot, greatly distressed by the sensual conduct of the

wicked (for as that righteous man lived among them day after day, he was tormenting his righteous soul over their lawless deeds that he saw and heard); then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment until the day of judgment, and especially those who indulge in the lust of defiling passion and despise authority.”

Revelation 20:13–15

“And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done. Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And if anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, **he was thrown into the lake of fire.**”

**What the The Early
Church Taught
Regarding Hell**

Do not err, my brethren. Those that corrupt families shall not inherit the kingdom of God. If, then, those who do this as respects the flesh have suffered death, how much more shall this be the case with any one who corrupts by wicked doctrine the faith of God, for which Jesus Christ was crucified! Such an one becoming defiled [in this way], ***shall go away into everlasting fire,*** and so shall every one that hearkens unto him.

Ignatius, Epistle to the Ephesian Church,

when thou shalt fear what is truly death, which is reserved for those who shall be condemned to the eternal fire, which shall afflict those even to the end that are committed to it. Then shalt thou admire those who for righteousness' sake endure the fire that is but for a moment, and shalt count them happy when thou shalt know [the nature of] that fire.

Mathetes, Epistle of Mathetes to Diognetus, Chap X
(Early 2nd Century)

And that no one may say what is said by those who are deemed philosophers, **that our assertions that the wicked are punished in eternal fire are big words and bugbears, and that we wish men to live virtuously through fear**, and not because such a life is good and pleasant; I will briefly reply to this, that if this be not so, God does not exist; or, if He exists, He cares not for men, and neither virtue nor vice is anything, and, as we said before, lawgivers unjustly punish those who transgress good commandments. But since these are not unjust, and their Father teaches them by the word to do the same things as Him self, they who agree with them are not unjust.

Justin Martyr, Second Apology, Chap IX, Circa 150 AD

carefully preserving the ancient tradition, believing in one God, the Creator of heaven and earth, and all things therein, by means of Christ Jesus, the Son of God; who, because of His surpassing love towards His creation, condescended to be born of the virgin, He Himself uniting man through Himself to God, and having suffered under Pontius Pilate, and rising again, and having been received up in splendour, shall come in glory, the Saviour of those who are saved, and the Judge of those who are judged, **and sending into eternal fire those who transform the truth, and despise His Father and His advent**

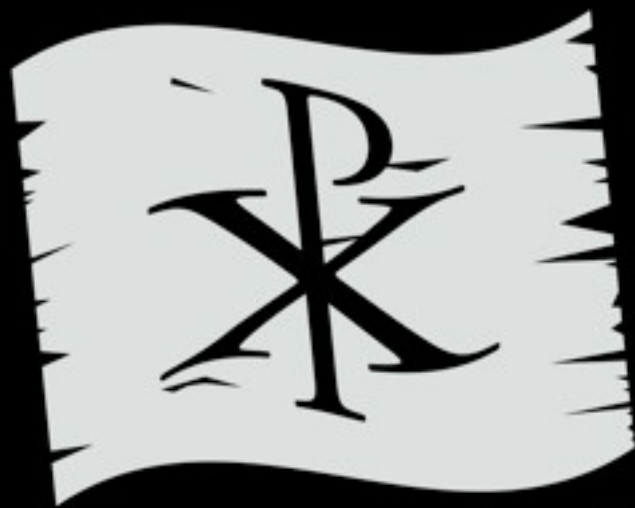
Irenaeus, Against Heresies, Book 3, Chap 4:2 (Late 2nd Century)

- **What is the ONLY Explanation of this evidence that has Explanatory Power to take into account all of these facts?**
- Jesus taught a *literal eternal judgement in eternal fire*
- The disciples, like Jesus, taught *a literal eternal judgement in eternal fire because*
- The disciples of the disciples taught a literal eternal judgement in eternal fire.

ANSWER: Hell (eternal fiery punishment) is the real and literal fate that awaits those who persist in sin and unbelief.

FACT: No other explanation can make sense of these facts and the evidence I've presented. Furthermore, every other explanation requires you to play word games or subjectively 'spiritualize' these words in order to make them say something other than what the words clearly and plainly say and how they would have been understood by 1st Century hearers.

In other words no other explanation has explanatory power but suffers from explanatory impotence.



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Thank You!