

Heaven and Hell
&
The Theme of Fire
in the Book of Revelation

Rescued Church Boston
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Defining Heaven: Self-Centered Rewards?



Defining Heaven: Self-Centered Rewards?



Defining Hell: Self-Centered Fears?



Defining Hell: Self-Centered Fears?



The Problem

- Is Jesus just a gatekeeper to getting what you want and avoiding what you don't?
- What if your desires are messed up?
- What if God is actually trying to fix your desires?
- Then you can't start with yourself and your current desires

Rescued's Statement of Faith

- 'God will fully heal all creation in the future when Jesus Christ personally returns. Jesus will judge all people by their responses to him. **For those who consign themselves to being unhealed eternally, in hell, Jesus will continue to condemn the corruption of sin within them.** For those who receive him and his full healing with gladness, Jesus will welcome them into the eternal life, love, and goodness of the Triune God.'

The Book of Revelation

- Author: John
- Purpose: Reveal who Jesus is
- Written: ~90 AD?

The Book of Revelation

- ^{1:1} The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show to His bond-servants, the things which must soon take place; and He sent and communicated it by His angel to His bond-servant John, ² who testified to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw. ³ Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and heed the things which are written in it; for the time is near. ⁴ John to the seven churches that are in Asia...

The Book of Revelation

- ^{1:12} Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking with me. And having turned I saw seven golden **lampstands**; ¹³ and in the middle of the **lampstands** I saw one like a son of man, clothed in a robe reaching to the feet, and girded across His chest with a golden sash. ¹⁴ His head and His hair were white like white wool, like snow; and His eyes were like a **flame of fire**. ¹⁵ His feet were like **burnished bronze**, when it has been made to **glow in a furnace**, and His voice was like the sound of many waters.

The Book of Revelation

- ^{1:16} In His right hand He held seven **stars**, and out of His mouth came a sharp two-edged sword; and His face was **like the sun...**²⁰ As for the mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden **lampstands**: the seven **stars** are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven **lampstands** are the seven churches.

The Book of Revelation

- 2:18 'And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write: The Son of God, who has eyes like a **flame of fire**, and His feet are like **burnished bronze**...

The Book of Revelation

- 3:14 'To the angel of the church in Laodicea write...¹⁸ I advise you to buy from Me **gold refined by fire** so that you may become rich, and **white garments** so that you may clothe yourself, and that the shame of your nakedness will not be revealed; and eye salve to anoint your eyes so that you may see. ¹⁹Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline; therefore be zealous and repent.



**ush buried
with fire and it was not
consume**

The Book of Revelation

- 4:4 Around the throne [of Jesus] were twenty-four thrones; and upon the thrones I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white garments, and golden crowns on their heads. ⁵ Out from the throne come flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder. And there were seven lamps of **fire** burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God...

The Book of Revelation

- ^{21:1} Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth... ² And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ ...and God Himself will be among them, ⁴ and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away”... ⁹ “Come here, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.” ¹⁰ And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, ¹¹ having the glory of God... ¹⁸ ...the city was **pure gold, like clear glass**...²¹ And the street of the city was **pure gold, like transparent glass**.







The Book of Revelation

- 14:9 'If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand, ¹⁰ he also will drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is mixed in full strength in the cup of His anger; and he will be **tormented with fire** and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and **in the presence of the Lamb**. ¹¹And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever; they have no rest day and night, those who worship the beast and his image...'

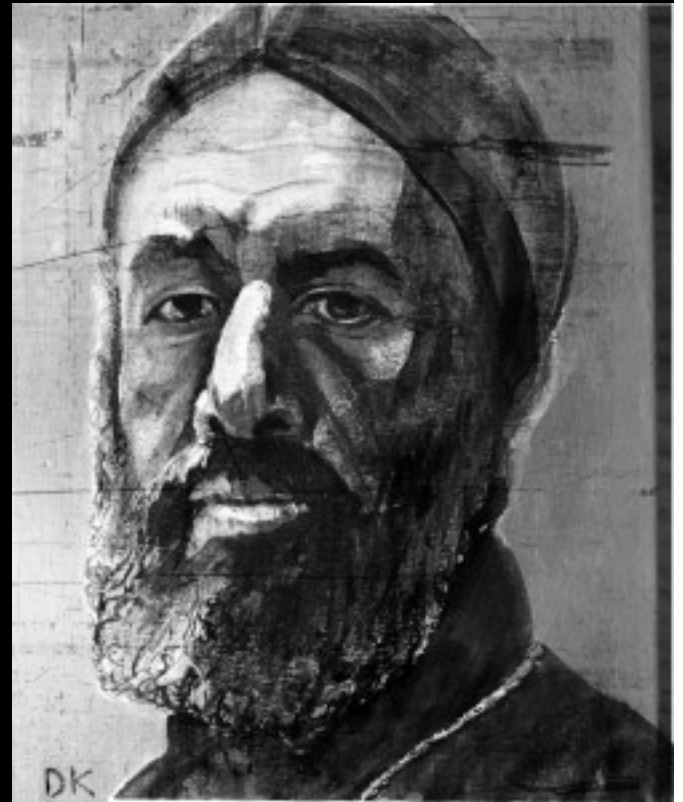
The Book of Revelation

- 20:10 And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the **lake of fire** and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever...¹³ And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds.¹⁴ Then death and Hades were thrown into the **lake of fire**. This is the second death, the **lake of fire**.¹⁵ And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the **lake of fire**.



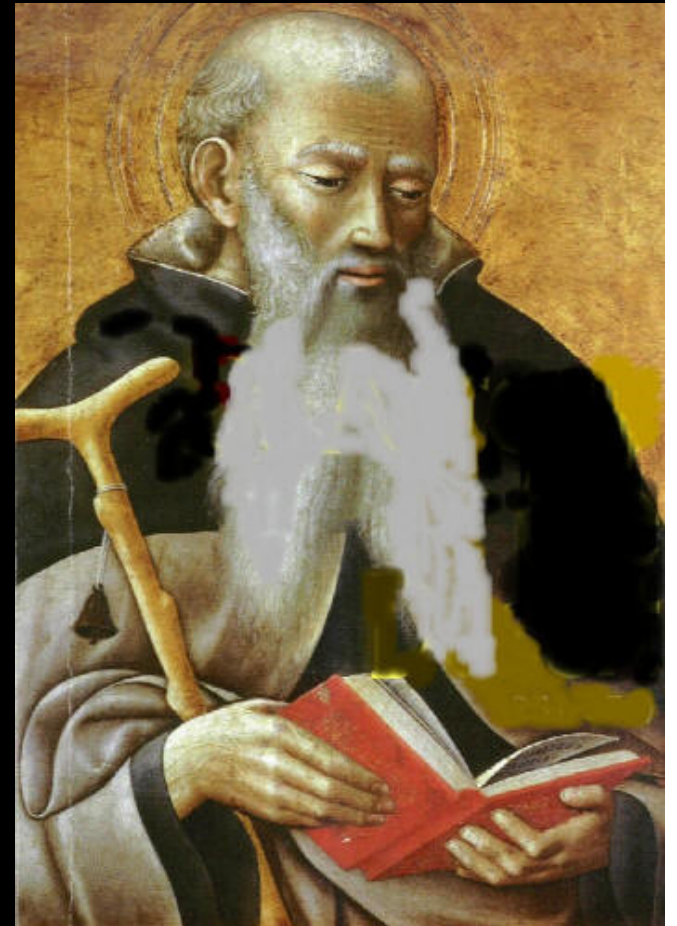
Hell: *Why* It's Like That

- ‘God... inflicts blindness upon those who do not believe... just as **the sun** [blinds] those who, by reason of any weakness of the eyes cannot behold his **light**; but to those who believe in Him and follow Him, He grants a fuller and greater illumination of mind.’
 - Irenaeus of Lyons, 2nd century
(*Against Heresies* 4.29.1; cf. 4.39.1 – 4)



Hell: *Why* It's Like That

- 'God is good, dispassionate, and immutable... Thus to say that God turns away from the wicked is like saying that the **sun** hides itself from the blind.'
- Anthony the Great, 3rd to 4th centuries, Egyptian monk and founder of monasticism (*Philokalia*, Vol.1: On the Character of Men, 150)



Hell: *Why* It's Like That

- ‘O God, you are the **consuming fire that can burn away** their love for these things and re-create the men in immortal life.’ ‘I have been divided...until I flow together unto You, **purged and molten in the fire of Your love.**’
‘Every inordinate affection is its own punishment.’
 - Augustine, bishop of Hippo, 4th and 5th centuries (*Confessions* book 5.3; 11.29; 1.19)



Hell: *Why* It's Like That

- 'In eternity God supplies good things to all because He is the source of good things gushing forth goodness to all... People after death are unchangeable, so that on the one hand the righteous desire God and always have Him to rejoice in, while sinners desire sin though they do not have the material means to sin... they are punished without any consolation. For what is hell but the deprivation of that which is exceedingly desired by someone? Therefore... whoever desires God rejoices and whoever desires sin is punished.'



- John of Damascus, 7th and 8th centuries, Syrian priest (*Against the Manicheans* 94.1569, 1573)

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Salvation and Hell

LEGAL

MEDICAL

Jesus saves us from

God

The corruption in us

Salvation is

God changing His
mind about us

God changing us

Hell is

A prison

A rehab center

You want

God

Not God

You're there

Against your will

Because of your
will

God's nature is

Two Faced:
Love and Wrath

One Face:
Love only