Understanding the Early Church doctrine of APOKATASTASIS



Compiled by

Karen Connell

EXTENED LIFE C.T.M.

Understanding The Early Church Doctrine of

"Apokatastasis"

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Contents

INTRODUCTION	5
A Scriptural Examination for Why Hell and the Lake of FIRE and BRIMSTONE are no ETERNAL Realities	
When Truth Requires a New Perspective	27
Our God is a Consuming Fire	29
God's Pattern for Sanctifying the Servants of God	30
God's Apokatastasis Promise of Being KEPT – When We TURN	33
Understanding the Doctrines of God's Judgment and the "Second Death"	35
There is a Difference Between Hell's fire and God's Lake of Fire	41
Hell's Fire	44
We Need Transformation, Not Condemnation	47
CONCLUSION	48
The Five Points of "Apokatastasis"	51
Doctrinal (Biblical)Summary: The Five Points of Universal Salvation	52
NOTES	59
Additional References:	60
The ORIGIN AND HISTORYOF The Doctrine of Endless Punishment	61
A Compilation of Excerpts from Thayer's book	61
CHAPTERS I & II (Overview)	61
CHAPTER III (Overview)	62
SECTION I DESCRIPTION OF THE HEATHEN HELL	62
SECTION II THE HEATHEN INVENTED THE DOCTRINE OF ENDLESS PUNISHMENT - SHOWN BY THEIR OWN CONFESSIONS	62
CHAPTER IV (Overview)	64
THE JEWS BORROWED THE DOCTRINE OF ETERNAL PUNISHMENT FROM THE HEATHEN	64
CHAPTER V (OVERVIEW)	69
ENDLESS PUNISHMENT NOT TAUGHT IN THE NEW TESTAMENT	69
SECTION I. SALVATION BY CHRIST (from sin and) NOT FROM ENDLESS PUNISHMENT	69

SECTION II. THE NEW TESTAMENT DOCTRINE OF HELL	69
HADES	70
TARTARUS	72
GEHENNA	72

INTRODUCTION

By Karen Connell

I want to Preface this Watchman Report by saying, I'm sure there will be those who, because they are not truly Scripturally familiar with the early Church doctrine of *apokatastasis*, as I was not for most of my Christian walk, will therefore, be tempted to lay this report down, without giving it serious consideration, simply because what this BIBLICAL doctrine encompasses is so *counter* to what we in *traditional* modern churches in this age have been taught and accept as the truth.

The reason this is so is because unwary and uninformed Christians in the body of Christ are ignorant of the many *translation errors* that exist in our modern day Bibles. Again, I was in the same boat for many years, so this is not meant to be taken as any type of criticism. These errors are found especially in the majority of English translations of the originally God inspired—Hebrew and Greek Scriptures. Translation errors of the original, inspired languages of the Bible, has been the basis for erroneous doctrines and in order to deal with these, divisions (denominations and various movements) have been created within Christ's Body, which is inevitable, just as the Apostle Paul stated. When there is not absolute agreement upon the originally inspired Scriptures—there cannot be true unity within the Body of Christ. True unity is the result of having the same *mind* (beliefs), **thoughts** (opinions) and *purposes* (agendas) when it comes to God's Holy Word.

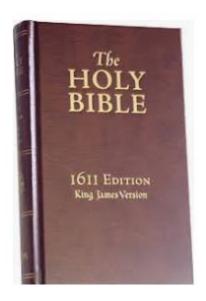
- (1 Corinthians 1:10) Let there be no divisions in the church. Rather, be of one mind, united in thought and purpose. NLT
- (1 Corinthians 11:19) But, of course, there must be divisions among you so that you who have God's approval will be recognized! NLT

The Bible tells us to <u>KNOW</u> THOSE WHO LABOR AMONG YOU and as a Bible researcher and teacher since 1985, I have found the importance of this admonition a key for avoiding deception.

(1 Thessalonians 5:12) And we ask you, brethren, to know those laboring among you, and leading you in the Lord, and admonishing you. YLT (Youngs Literal Translation)

When we are told to KNOW our leaders and teachers, what we need most to know is— do their beliefs, opinions and agendas conflict with the *originally inspired Scriptures*? Knowing these things, especially about our *early Church Fathers* is of utmost importance. Our church leaders from the first generation after the death of Jesus Christ, were the Twelve Apostles, who laid the foundation for the *beliefs*, *opinions and purposes* that were based upon what God by His Holy Spirit had revealed to them as the doctrinal foundation for His Church.

Those who professed Christianity and became leaders within the Church after the death of the apostles, came from various *pagan backgrounds* with various *beliefs*, *opinions* and *agendas*, which came into conflict with what was given through inspiration by God to the founding Apostles.



The KJV Bible, although it has done an enormous amount of good and has been used by God to bless English speaking Christians since its creation. It is however, not an **INFALLIBLE TRANSLATION** of the Bible. This is because every translation, including the beloved KJV, is a mixture of truth and errors due to the translator's own interpretation. As with any amount of leaven (error), it will end up spoiling the whole lump. The King James and other English translators have their own **INTERPRETATION** rather than an accurately inspired TRANSLATION from the original Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek languages of the Bible.

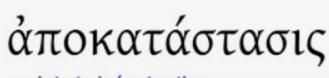
(2 Peter 1:20) knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture (i.e. inspired word from God) is of any private interpretation. NKJV

An INTERPRETATION involves explaining, reframing, or otherwise showing one's own understanding of the original **word meanings**, which are the **chosen languages of God** that were used by Him to inspire those who wrote the Scriptures. The accuracy of a translation of the original texts is dependent upon how well the translator is concerned about being true to the original word meanings and the grammatical structure of the language being translated. Therefore, compromising God's word by not holding true to the original inspired meanings, will cause the translator to give an interpretation that lacks the full scope and meaning of a word or text or even worse to give their own interpretation, due to their own *doctrinal or cultural bias* that is reflected in their interpretation of what they are translating.

An accurate translation is supposed to be rendering a text from a source language (e.g. Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek) into a target language of a culture (e.g. English, Spanish etc.), while preserving the fullness and intent of the original meaning. Therefore, looking to modern translations rather than the original languages of the Bible for accuracy is imperative for a complete and true understanding of the word meanings found in the Scriptures. God's inspiration still remains upon the languages He chose to inspire, and as we study these words and texts, we are inspired to understand and find an even deeper level of understanding that goes beyond human (private) interpretations. The Holy Spirit is the interpreter of all truth, and the revealer any errors that result from man's private interpretations. It is only through Him that we will accurately translate and fully understand God's inspired words.

One such doctrine that needs to be understood in its fullness and according to the originally inspired Hebrew and Greek Scriptures, is an early Christian Church doctrine that was prevalent for about the first 500 years of Christianity, known as "Apokatastasis"— which has since been, for the most part, lost to our modern church age. The word "Apokatastasis" is a Greek word that means: restitution and restoration. As relating to Christian doctrine, it is the final restoration of ALL things, including the restoration of all sinful beings and their being reconciled to God to live in the New heavens and the New earth.

In early Christian theological usage, *apocatastasis* meant *the ultimate restoration* of *ALL things to their original state*, which the early church believed would still entail a purgatorial (i.e. cleansing) state, Both Origen and Gregory of Nyssa confidently taught that all creatures would be saved.¹



apokatastasis / restoration

Those holding to the doctrine of "Apokatastasis" in this day and age, are often written off as heretics or seen as teachers of false a doctrine, mainly by those who do not take the time to investigate for themselves, what this doctrine really teaches in

light of the originally inspired Scriptures. Around 1997, about a year after my husband and I began our ministry, the Lord began to give me a glimpse into an aspect of this doctrine (which I had never heard of until more recently). At that time, I was doing an in depth word study in the Hebrew and Greek Scriptures on the subjects of *hell* and the *lake of fire*. I was utterly amazed when I was clearly shown by the Holy Spirit that these were not places of <u>eternal punishment</u> and <u>torture</u> but a place where healing and restoration

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¹ Benedetto & Duke 2008, p. 37b: 'Though often equated with universalism (the salvation of all beings), early church fathers couched the apokatastasis in God's eschatological victory over evil, which would still entail a purgatorial state.' (i.e. purging in the Lake of Fire). Of this doctrine was added to by the Catholic church to contain unscriptural ideas concerning the doctrine of "purgatory."

would take place. I saw at that time from my original word studies that the Lake of Fire was for the purpose of consuming all that was defiling. Thus, the judgment of those to be cast into the Lake of Fire was for the purpose of healing and restoration, where all defilement would die, thus God called this judgment by fire the second death.

I knew at that time the Bible taught that God's judgements upon this earth are for the purpose of restoring righteousness.

(Isaiah 26:9) ...for when your judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world learn righteousness.

Also at that time, God was beginning to lead me into understanding that His goal and ultimate plan for ALL of humanity (including rebellious and unrepentant people who died in that state) was to SAVE them from all sin and death (separation from Him), which the word save includes in the original Greek and Hebrew the idea of being made whole, and saved from harm, which of course is related to dealing with sin.

Not understanding this doctrine in our church age has caused a limited or narrow view of the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ, as well as our understanding of the end times, but most of all we don't see the fullness of God's unlimited love and His compassion for ALL of His creation. Through the loss of this doctrine, Satan has replaced the Biblical doctrine of "apokatastasis" with the false doctrine of ETERNAL PUNISHMENT.

Please don't think for a moment that I am saying God is not going to punish the sin of the unrepentant person, because the Bible is clear about the fact that the unrepentant will be punished... according to their deeds, by being cast into the Lake of Fire ... a place of great torment, BUT NOT FOR ETERNITY, as will be clearly pointed out in this report. Coming to understand what the Lake of Fire really is, will be one of the most important and most exciting revelations that Christians in this church age can receive.

The Gospel message is that the death of Jesus Christ was for the purpose of correcting, renewing and restoring ALL things created by Him. God's judgments of punishment upon sinners, is for the purpose of restoring life to those who are dead. This is the true Gospel of Jesus Christ. When this can be Scripturally understood in its fullness, to be the truth (which is the intent for this study), it makes the gospel truly the GOOD NEWS that it is intended to be.

In a recent Trumpet Sounds Newsletter, I shared some of the points that will be covered in more detail in this Watchman Report. I would like to share this article as part of the introduction into the subject of Apokatastasis. The following article on Apokatastasis, appears in the Sep/Oct 2019 TRUMPET SOUNDS Newsletter:



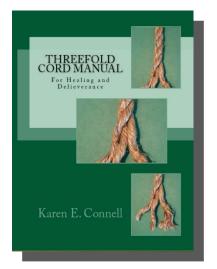
*All Scripture is from the KJV or NKJV unless otherwise specified—all numbers are from the Strong's Concordance.

he above verse from (Lamentations 3:31-33) has recently turned my Christian theology upside down and inside out, as I will be explaining in this article! God in His infinite wisdom waited until now to make real to me a truth He had given me glimpses of around 1997, a year or so after we were directed by the Lord to start our **EXTENDED LIFE Christian Training Ministry**. However, when I shared this truth with a body member in our ministry, I was vehemently accused of believing heresy. Thus, being intimidated by a Jezebel spirit operating in this person's life (which I knew far less about at that time); I backed away from continuing to research what the Lord had begun revealing to me, but still knowing there was much more to find out concerning what I had been shown.

As many of you know, for the past two years or so, I have been trying to complete the revising of my **THREEFOLD CORD HEALING AND DELIVERANCE MANUAL**, in preparation for its publication. I have been teaching different aspects of the revelations and spiritual principles for healing and deliverance that are contained in this manual since 1985. Several years ago, the Lord instructed me to get the manual ready for publication. So, I began compiling my additions and revisions for it. However, God seemed to keep putting a stalling upon the project at various junctures and it wasn't until

I recently started revising the last chapter of the manual that He brought me back to the awesome truth of what He began revealing to me in 1997. This was concerning the doctrine of *apokatastasis*, (known as the "restoration of all things"—also called "Universal Restoration").

This was the needed revelation the Lord wanted me to include in the last chapter of my manual. Now, I understand why I couldn't proceed beyond the point I was at, because God wanted this awesome truth included in my final chapter, to help establish the reality of His love and the magnitude of His great mercy and grace that was demonstrated by Jesus Christ obtaining the **TOTAL VICTORY** for **ALL OF HUMANITY** by His death—burial and resurrection.



The THREEFOLD CORD HEALING AND DELIVERANCE MANUAL contains the unfolding revelation I have received during my past 34 years of ministry (beginning in 1985). What is contained in this material clearly defines not only the dilemma of being a slave to the sinful carnal nature that every human being possesses, but the manual also reveals God's answers to finding freedom by becoming a NEW CREATION through the sanctifying power of God's Word. Without which, followers of Christ as **children**¹ of God can't become mature and eligible inheritors as sanctified saints who rule and reign with Jesus Christ in His

coming earthly kingdom. Very few are willing to walk the narrow road to maturity. What the Lord has given to me in this material, lays the foundation for the perfecting and spiritual maturing as **legitimate sons**². I won't go into detail here regarding the eligibility and sonship issue, because it is covered in detail in the *Threefold Cord manual*, through Greek and Hebrew word studies on these important subjects. But for now, suffice it to say, the Bible is very clear concerning our need for maturing ... (the healing, deliverance and sanctifying process) required for being eligible to inherit as saints, our positions as kings and priests, in our rule and reign with Christ. This is why we are admonished over and over again as believers to be found **"blameless"** and **"sanctified"** when Jesus returns, sadly many will not qualify as saints when He returns, because they remained

^{1 (}I Jn. 3:2) "Beloved, now are we the sons (NT:5043 tekna i.e. born from the seed) of God".

² (Gal. 4:6-7) "And because you are <u>sons</u> (NT:5207 *huios*)... and <u>if</u> a son (*huios*), <u>then</u> an heir of God through Christ".

underdeveloped spiritually and will need further refining:

(1 Thessalonians 5:23-24) May the God of peace <u>himself sanctify you completely</u>. May your whole spirit, soul, and body be <u>preserved</u> (Gr. guarded, watched over, maintained as) <u>blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ...</u> Faithful is he who calls you (to this), He will also do it. WEB³



What an awesome God we serve! Although He requires us to have a blameless purified, spirit—soul—body, HE is the one who promises to do this for us! We cannot make ourselves pure and mature, any more than we can save ourselves from our carnal human sin nature, which is our "thorn in the flesh," until we are born again and grow into the transformed image of our God—

Jesus Christ. On that day, at His appearing, if we are blameless, we will be rid of our earth born carnal being and be *instantly changed* in the twinkling of an eye and become the glorified being promised as part of our inheritance and truly become like Christ! O How I long for that day... Come quickly Lord Jesus!!

(1 Corinthians 15:52-53, 57) ...and we <u>will be changed</u>... For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality... But thanks be to God, who GIVES US THE VICTORY through our Lord Jesus Christ.

The above text speaks about the "victory" that is for ALL of mankind that has come through our Lord Jesus Christ by His death on Calvary's cross. This is where the doctrine of *APOKATASTASIS*—a Greek word meaning: *complete restoration*, brings us great hope. The majority of people in this world believe that this life is the only life there is therefore, they should do their best to enjoy it and make the most of it. Their mindset being ..." eat—drink—and be merry!" On the other hand, most religions and religious people believe strongly in some sort of *afterlife*. Traditional Christians believe it will either be *eternal happiness in heaven* or *horrible eternal torment in hell*. Thus, they sadly watch their friends and family heading for eternal torment, where the majority of humanity is headed and feeling powerless to do anything about it. Still, many like myself, have come

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³ **WEB** ...World English Bible—Parenthesis are mine for literal clarity. A good accurate translation from the original Greek and Hebrew texts.

to believe in a glorious *final restoration* of <u>ALL THINGS</u>, as mentioned in:

(Acts 3:20-21) ...Christ, who was preached to you before... whom heaven must receive (lit: be retain) until the times of the <u>restoration</u> (#605 apokatastasis) <u>of ALL THINGS</u> which God has spoken by the mouths of the prophets...

(2 Peter 3:13-14) ... But, according to his promise, we look for <u>new heavens</u> and a <u>new earth</u>, in which dwells righteousness... Therefore, beloved, seeing that you look for these things, be diligent to be found in peace, <u>without blemish and blameless</u> in his sight. WEB



Apokatastasis— the Doctrine of Universal Restoration and Hope for ALL Creation — Including and Especially Mankind

The final "restoration of <u>ALL</u> things" falls into a theological category called *Universal Reconciliation*, or *Universal Restoration* also referred to by others as simply "Universalism."

The term *universalism* is not one I like to use, as it is associated with **unbiblical forms** of *universalism* that falsely believe there will be NO PUNIISHMENT or such as *Unitarian Universalism*⁴ and others, which are associated with the New Age and the occult. However, in true Christian Universalism (ultimate universal restoration) there was an aspect of this doctrine that has been hidden from me, until my attention was drawn to a video entitled, "Hell is a Myth." It seemed lately every time I turned around, my attention was being drawn more and more to the subject matter of Christians trying to do away with the belief in *eternal punishment in hell*. Finally, I could bear it no longer and decided to dispel this "heretical notion," so I set out to research and write on this subject; because I saw it as a *deception* being promoted by those under the influence of a deceiving demonic doctrine! I felt the Holy Spirit prompting me to research this subject, even though I was sure, not many sincere Christians like myself, would fall for the lie that

⁴ **Unitarian Universalism** is a liberal religion characterized by a "free and responsible search for truth and meaning"--but does not recognize the Bible as the standard for all truth. Unitarian Universalists are unified by their guest for spiritual growth apart from the Bible.

says, "there is no such thing as hell or eternal punishment" because these things plainly exist in my collection of Bibles!

My main concern for researching and writing was for new born again believers being taught this heresy. Being true to my calling as God's Watchman, I began a word study on the subjects of *hell and eternal punishment*, to prove these were *Biblical realities*. The first word study I was being urged by the Lord to start with, was on the subject *of the Lake of fire and brimstone*. I wanted to prove to my readers from the originally *inspired Greek and Hebrew Scriptures* that this truly is a place of eternal punishment, for **ALL** who do not repent of their sins and make Jesus Christ their Lord and Savior **before they die!**

But, to my great surprise, as I studied the words "lake of fire and brimstone" in the original Greek text, I suddenly realized I had done this study before! I also realized the Holy Spirit wanted me to complete this original word study on the subject of hell and the Lake of Fire and Brimstone, which I had begun to dig into way back in 1997. Because of the amount of space required to share the results of this study I will not include it in this newsletter, but it is included in this month's Watchmen Report being offered FREE of



charge. In it I cover the full subject of Apokatastasis, which is the doctrine of Universal Restoration. As I said, I have always believed in all things being restored (i.e. mainly applying this to the new heavens and earth) being restored to the state of perfection, as it was in the Garden of Eden. But what I never fully realized, was that

ALL THINGS really meant ALL THINGS—including ALL human beings that have ever lived upon this earth! What this means is no human being will ever have to suffer eternal punishment! From the word study on this subject in the Watchman Report, it becomes incredibly clear that the *Lake of Fire* is a refining fire lasting for a specific time frame (determined by God's judgment of the person). Thus, the Lake of fire - being the second death proves to serve as God's purifying process to bring **clarity** and **purity** to all who end up in the Lake of Fire and Brimstone time of judgment. As the Bible says, at some point **ALL** will ultimately be converted and restored by willingly bowing their knee, to pledge and confess their allegiance unto Jesus Christ. Think of it...all creation on the same page!!

◆ (Rev 5:13). 'EVERY CREATED BEING that is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all things in them, (will be) heard saying, "To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, be blessing and honor and glory and dominion and power FOREVER AND EVER""

(the phrase "forever and ever" in Greek is: ... correctly translated to mean: in the <u>age</u>⁵ of ages i.e. not ...eternal.

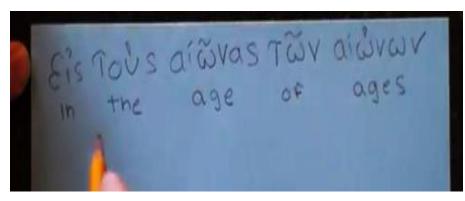
- ♦ (Romans 14:11) For it is written, "'As I live,' says the Lord, 'to me <u>EVERY</u> knee will bow. <u>EVERY</u> tongue will confess to God."' WEB
- ♦ (Philippians 2:10-11) That at the name of Jesus <u>EVERY</u> knee should bow, of those <u>in heaven</u>, those <u>on earth</u>, and those <u>under the earth</u>... and that <u>EVERY</u> tongue shall <u>confess</u> that (i.e. willingly acknowledge) Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father. WEB

I finally realized the word **EVERY** literally means just that! **EVERY** or **ALL** who have ever lived, whether they are <u>in heaven</u>, <u>on the earth</u> or **ALL** who have ever lived, whether they are <u>in heaven</u>, <u>on the earth</u> or <u>under the earth</u>... <u>ALL</u> will be restored and come to the point where they are willing to confess Jesus Christ as LORD. Now, don't get me wrong...I am NOT saying there will be *no judgment or punishment*. **For the Bible definitely teaches there WILL BE A TIME OF JUDGMENT and levels of** (corrective) **punishment** for those who had not repented of their sins and chose to live the new spiritual life and die to the carnal life through faith in Christ, while living on earth before their physical death. A close study of the GREEK New Testament texts PROVE <u>there will not be eternal nor be a never-ending tormenting punishment</u>. Yes, there will be God' justice through His **corrective** (painful) **punishment**, during a time of judgement that involves the Lake of Fire and Brimstone, **but it will NOT last for ever and ever!**

In the current Watchman Report I share in full, my word study from the Greek texts for the words translated as **hell fire**, **brimstone**, (i.e. Sulphur), which clearly reveals the **Lake of Fire** is a place of *correction*, *restoration* and *purifying* as I was shown in 1997. However, what I have recently discovered regarding the fallacy of eternal punishment has helped me to better understand many eschatology mysteries much more accurately.

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⁵ <u>AGE</u>: Greek: *AION*: meaning: <u>a period of time with a beginning and an end</u>. This phrase in (Rev 5:13) in the Greek and does not indicate "how many" ages or periods of time are involved. In classical Greek, in which the New Testament was written, *aion* was never used by intellectual writers like Plato or Alexander the Great's teacher Polymath and others, to mean eternal but only as a period of time.



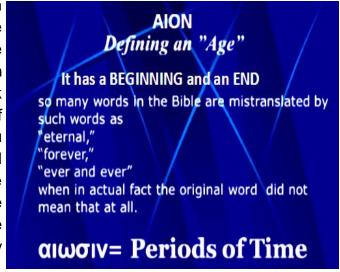
In my research, I was so astonished to discover that the English words forever and ever or eternal, have been incorrectly translated from the original Greek word AION. A CORRECT

translation of **AION** is the key to correctly understanding the full and wonderful truth concerning the doctrine of **APOKATASTASIS** (the ultimate restoration of all things). I give a more detailed historical background on how and why the word **AION** was *knowingly* and *incorrectly* translated from the original Greek texts. Latin translators used the Latin word "aeternus" meaning: <u>eternal</u>, <u>everlasting</u> in the Latin translation of the Bible, rather than using the Latin word "aetas" that means: age, period of time, time of life, or era—which is what **aion** means in the original Greek language.

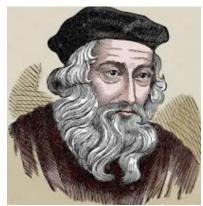
The Latin "aeternus" meaning: <u>eternal, everlasting</u> was also used incorrectly by the original English translators in the first English Bible translation. Thus, the doctrine of eternal punishment rests upon the meaning of the Greek word: **aion** ($\alpha i\omega v$), which is a noun and its adjective **aionios** ($\alpha i\omega v$). This being so, you may ask, how can anyone know for certain what any ancient Greek or Hebrew word means, now that all the people who spoke those languages are gone?

The answer is a good researcher will look into all the places in the Bible, and other available literature from that time, such as the writings of Historian Josephus, to find

where these words are used. You can then find a meaning that fits all the different contexts in which the words are used. In the case of Greek, we can search through both the New Testament Greek and the Septuagint (the Greek version of the Old Testament). For instance, if you search this out you will find that several phrases in both the Septuagint and the New Testament Greek show that the Greek phrase *eis ton aiona* cannot be translated as *forever*, for it correctly means "in the age of ages."



In the current Watchman's Report, I go into greater detail on these words and the history concerning the loss of the truth concerning ultimate universal restoration due to the *mistranslation* of the key Greek word *aion* (Strong's NT #165) in the New Testament. In general, as a result of these key *mistranslations* entering the church, traditional Christianity knows very little of the true gospel message of God's ultimate and total reconciliation that so magnifies and makes real the *fullness of His grace and mercy*, as well as His true nature of love for **ALL of humanity**. Because of this, the reality of the **total victory of Jesus** Christ over death and hell is not fully understood by modern day Christianity nor is it being taught. On the other hand, hell as a place of eternal punishment is instead widely taught.



John Wycliff who was the first person to translate the Bible into English and beginning his work in 1382, used only the Latin manuscripts of the Bible, which were all that were available to him at that time. By about the 5th century A.D. the Latin manuscripts were also used by English translators, even though at that time they had access to the Greek manuscripts (that should have been used), but chose to use instead the Latin manuscripts because Latin was the predominately spoken Language of the day.

When referring to HELL, the English translators used the meaning of the Latin word "inferno" to describe HELL rather than the original Greek word *haides* ("hades") which means: the realm of the dead or departed souls. The Latin word "inferno" from "infernus" means: a place of burning fire and suffering in the lower regions. Using inferno to mean "hell" as a place of torment in the regions below the earth is credited to medieval Italian poet, Dante and his Divine Comedy, which he was inspired by the use of the word "inferno" from the Latin Bible to describe hell. In the Latin Bible both of the words "sheol" (Hebrew) and "hadies," (Greek), which literally both words mean: the realm of the dead (departed souls), were translated as HELL and became associated with burning eternal torment. This was in despite of the fact that neither word, "sheol" or "haides," in the originally inspired Hebrew or Greek have any reference to a raging hell fire or place of eternal burning torment. Therefore, the whole idea of hell fire has been inspired by Latin manuscripts that were mistranslated from the original Greek and Hebrew using the Latin words "inferno," (place of burning) and "aeternus" (eternal) for which there is no word in the Hebrew or Greek to express these concepts for "hell."



The early church for the first five centuries would not have even known of such a concept as eternal torment in burning fire! As I discuss in the current Watchman Report, the King James translators did knowingly translate four different Greek—Hebrew words from the Latin inferno, to mean "hell" in English and none of these words, as I show by the word studies done in the Report, have anything to do with flames and punishment that are eternal.

These translation errors have been used for hundreds of years by TRADITIONAL CHRISTIANITY to control God's people, by frightening them into submission to teachings that are false. This enabled the traditional church hierarchy to control the laity, for the purposes of gaining money and power through Satan's false system of religion. Thus, the demonic doctrines of eternal punishment and hell have been weapons used against the Church. But these weapons will NOT prevail for God is building His Church, now and on into the ages to come, despite the devil's arsenal of false teachings coming from the gates of hell. Jesus warned us about putting our "church" TRADITIONS above the correctly translated TRUTH from the Word of God!

(Mark 7:9) ..."Full well do you reject the commandment (Word) of God, that you may keep your traditions." WEB

It is mind boggling to know that the hell fire, brimstone and eternal punishment teachings that have been part of traditional Christian Church's teachings for centuries, were never part of the original Christian doctrine in the early Church for the first 500 years! The loss of the doctrine of Apokatastasis and the false teachings that replaced this truth, are a good example of how allowing "a little leaven" from the mistranslation of that "one little Greek word" — aion, has robbed so much from God's people. Space does not permit me to go into detail on this MOST IMPORTANT point but is covered in greater detail in the Watchman Report. This mistranslation has caused a most glorious truth to become tossed into the garbage heap as being a heresy, by the vast majority of traditional Christianity (i.e. the mainline nominal and Charismatic as well as Pentecostal and Evangelical denominations alike). This is because many of the early church ecclesiastical authorities in power, at the time these mistranslations occurred, were corrupt, greedy and power hungry church leaders, who were more than happy to overlook the

inaccurate translations so they could better control their followers through fear of eternal punishment in hell.

by the Lord forever...
Though he brings grief,
he also shows
compassion because of
the greatness of his
unfailing love... For he
does not enjoy hurting
people or causing them
sorrow.

(Lamentations 3:31-33)

As I have seen in my past 36 years of doing Greek and Hebrew word studies, God's judgments, which do include punishment at some level, are ALWAYS for the purpose of redeeming, restoring and correcting the people He so dearly loves and sacrificed Himself for. God is the ultimate father figure for His creation and as a father who loves His children, He will correct and even scourge every child that he loves, with intent of rescuing and restoring that child from what has harmed or caused ruin. But, as any good and loving father He does not enjoy causing pain and sorrow anymore than we do with our own children, and never desires to see them suffer eternally!

(Hebrews 12:6-7) For whom the Lord loves, he chastens, And scourges every son whom he receives." ... It is for discipline (correction) that you endure. God deals with you as with children, for what son is there whom his father doesn't discipline? WEB

(Isaiah 26:9) for when your judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world learn righteousness. WEB

(Psalms 64:6) All mankind shall be afraid. They shall declare the work of God and shall wisely ponder what he has done. WEB

(Hosea 5:14-15) I myself will tear in pieces and go away. I will carry off, and there will be no one to deliver... I will go and return to my place, until they acknowledge their offense, and seek my face. In their affliction they will seek me earnestly." WEB

I want to now share two Biblical views concerning God's destiny for humanity. The 1st is the traditional Christian view, and the 2nd is the APOKATASTASIS perspective, by author Robert Beecham.⁶ From his writings he states the following concerning the

 $^{^{6}\} source: https://www.growthingod.org.uk/growthingod/the-author/$

traditional church view of our human destiny....

Traditional Church Teaching on God's destiny for Man

"The essence of the majority of traditional church teaching is that, after this perfect beginning, our first parents, Adam and Eve, were tempted by Satan and sinned against God. As a consequence, the whole human race has fallen from grace and is now in a



state of sin and separation from God. God sent his son Jesus Christ to become a man, and He gave His life on the cross to redeem mankind from sin and restore relationship with God. God freely offers salvation to all who will repent and believe the gospel. Every member of the human race has a free choice of accepting or rejecting this offer. Anyone who repents and accepts this offer will go to heaven when he or she dies and enjoy eternal happiness. All who reject will go to hell and suffer eternal torment. I feel it is

necessary to expand on this last statement because I don't think people who believe these things really think sufficiently about what they claim to believe.

Firstly, who are these people who are now suffering and will suffer eternal torment? They are, it appears, the vast majority of the human race. They almost certainly include some members of your own family: maybe your mother and father, probably some of your grandparents, maybe your children and maybe even your husband or wife. They will include most of the people you meet every day; your neighbors, your colleagues at work, your local shopkeepers. Most of these people probably lead relatively decent lives. They're not Hitlers, Stalins, or Saddam Husseins. They are simply people who have not repented of their sins and accepted God's offer of salvation.

Secondly, what is the torment they are suffering or will suffer? If we interpret scripture (as it is normally translated into English) literally it is the equivalent of being continually burnt alive, and not just for a day or a week or a month or a year, or even a century or a millennium, but for ever and ever without any possibility of escape or end! Perhaps you should think of the worst physical or mental torment you have ever experienced, multiply it by 10 and imagine it going on for ever and ever. The worst episodes in history, such as the holocaust and the inquisition, would be like holiday camps in comparison. This is what your parents or grandparents are now experiencing if they did not repent, and this is what

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may happen to your husband or wife or children, or maybe even yourself! How they would love a brief rest from their torments, perhaps a brief return to earth; but no such joy can be theirs. They are doomed to interminable, never-ending, conscious torment.

Almost every day when we read or watch the news we are shocked by the sufferings of children that have been abused or populations that have been brutalized in war or emaciated victims of famine. But if traditional church teaching is correct, all that is nothing to what vast multitudes, including most of our departed friends and relations, are suffering at this very moment without any hope of any relief or end. I mean really think about what you claim to believe!

How Traditional Churches Say it All Happened

To anyone who has not been indoctrinated with traditional church teaching like this, the whole scenario in the minds of many is totally impossible to reconcile with the God we claim loves humanity. The Bible tells us God created Adam and Eve in his own image and placed them in the Garden of Eden. (You may or may not believe in a literal Garden of Eden, but for the purpose of this discussion that won't make a significant difference.)



God, being infinite in wisdom and power, had an infinite choice in what he created. He could have created robotic machines, without any feelings or ability to feel joy or pain. He could have simply created animals that ate and drank and slept and enjoyed life and eventually ceased to exist. He could have created all sorts of beings beyond our imagination, and maybe he has done so in other galaxies or universes. Most of all, He could have created humans without giving them the ability to fall into sin. What we do

know he has done, is to create man in his own image, with the abilities to love and to hate, to suffer and to enjoy, to choose between good and evil; and, as many believe, to make the choice to suffer either endless bliss or endless torment.

Having created man, he placed him in paradise, where he also put the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. He commanded him not to eat of that tree because it would lead to his death. It appears that God did not tell Adam that eating the forbidden fruit would lead to the endless torment of most of his offspring. We may compare this to a human father who places a loaded gun in his child's play area and tells him not to touch it. The mother at least would have something to say! Having done that, he leaves the entrance to the garden open and allows Satan in the form of a serpent to come in and tempt Eve to eat the forbidden fruit. Later God placed the cherubim with flaming swords

to guard the entrance to keep Adam and Eve out! You would have thought they could have been there to keep Satan out in the first place! All normal human parents do everything to protect their children from anything or anyone who might harm them. Could God, the model of all fatherhood, do anything less? As we well know, the Bible says, Eve succumbed to Satan's temptation to eat the forbidden fruit and Adam followed.

Thus, they sinned and incurred the wrath of God, and placed themselves and all their future offspring on the road that leads to eternal torment and destruction (that is if you can go on being tormented eternally after you have been destroyed!).

...we trust in the living God, who is THE SAVIOR OF ALL MEN, especially of those that believe...

(1 Timothy 4:9-11)

God loved Adam and Eve and all their wisdom race. his he knew all consequences that would come of their eating the forbidden fruit. He had the power to stop it from happening, either by creating them strong enough to withstand temptation, or not putting the tree in the garden, or not allowing Satan in, or by warning them totally of the consequences. But he allowed it to happen. He did not stop Adam and Eve from taking the first step on the road that would lead to the eternal torment of most of their offspring.

Did God then have a remedy for this tragic situation? Traditional church teaching says, Yes! "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that all who believe in him should

not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

God had a plan to save and restore the whole human race, at immense and unimaginable cost to himself and his Son. "He does not want anyone to perish, but for everyone to come to repentance" (2 Peter 3: 9).

However, according to traditional church teaching this wonderful and costly plan of salvation only became effective for only a small proportion of mankind. Most of the world's population to-date have never even heard of it. Many of those who have heard of it have failed to understand it or not heard it clearly. Only a few will be saved (on the narrow road), while the vast majority pass on their way to eternal torment (on the broad road).

- ♦ If God were not all-loving, and did not care for the sufferings of mankind, it would make some sense; but then he sent his son to give his life to save them.
- ♦ If God were not all-wise and all-knowing, he might not have anticipated this unutterably terrible disaster. With better planning this need never have happened. But God sees the end from the beginning and his plans can never fail.
- ◆ If God were not all-powerful, we might imagine that Satan or some rival power brought about this terrible end to his plans. But God is omnipotent and there is no other rival power.

AND IF ONE OF THEM IS GONE ASTRAY DOESN'T HE LEAVE THE NINETY-NINE, GO SEEK THAT WHICH HAS GONE ASTRAY? ... EVEN SO IT IS NOT THE WILL OF YOUR FATHER WHO IS IN HEAVEN THAT ONE OF THESE LITTLE ONES SHOULD PERISH.

(Matthew 18:12,14)

Because God IS all-loving, IS all-powerful and IS all-wise, thus such a God could not possibly be happy even if even one member of the human race were left forever in torment and outer darkness. The good shepherd could not rest while even one of His sheep was lost. How much less could he allow the vast majority of those whom he created in his own image to go into irretrievable and endless torment,

separated forever from his presence?"

The Biblical APOKATASTASIS View of Human Destiny

In this 2nd perspective of humanity's destiny, Robert Beecham goes on to say this:

"God made man, but he was not yet satisfied. His work was incomplete. Man had the beautiful innocence of a child, but not the spiritual maturity of an adult. Something more was necessary. Man must understand both good and evil (because it had entered God's creation). He must experience both light and darkness. He must know both love and hate. He must experience both the positive and the negative. Only the knowledge and experience of these opposites could make the complete, mature and perfect beings that God wanted. In his wisdom he planned that the whole human race should fall into sin and darkness and separation from himself, and he planned that the whole human race should also be redeemed and restored and brought into a new and greater communion with himself.

So, God deliberately placed the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the garden with the full knowledge that Adam and Eve would fall to the tempter's voice and eat its fruit. From before the foundation of the earth he had a comprehensive plan for the total restoration of the entire human race and beyond it for his whole creation.

God sent his son, Jesus Christ, to die on the cross and rise again to redeem all of mankind. He then commissioned his first apostles, and many others after them, to carry this good news to the whole of his creation. Those who receive Jesus in this lifetime immediately receive life from God. In the words of Jesus, "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life" (John 5: 24).

For as by Adam all die, so also by Christ all will be made alive.

1 Corinthians 15:22

Multitudes in the last 2000 years have done this and are now in the presence of their savior. However, multitudes no doubt have rejected Jesus and gone into judgment and punishment. But this punishment is not an endless, merciless torment. Rather it is a loving, beneficial, corrective time of purification.

"The Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a

son" (Heb 12: 6). We read of those who receive the mark of the beast that they ... "will be tormented with fire and sulphur in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb" (Rev 14: 10).

This typological language for fire and sulphur represents the healing and cleansing agents for restoration. This purging takes place in the loving, caring presence of Jesus and His Holy Angels. When that work is complete they too will come to repentance and salvation through Jesus Christ and join the great multitude of the redeemed and sing the praises of the savior of all mankind." -End of newsletter Article-

Good News Gospel of Universal Restoration

There are many more things that become much clearer when one understands the doctrine of Universal Restoration. When the truth of what is being shared in this newsletter is fully embraced it will cause the Gospel of Christ to become the truly Good News it is intended to be. Now I understand more fully why God has called me to the ministry of sanctification. It has caused me to see the great importance of getting God's people prepared for their positions of honor as sanctified saints who are VESSELS OF HONOR within His great house (family).

(2 Timothy 2:20-21) Now in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of clay. Some are for (result in) honor, and some for (result in) dishonor... If anyone therefore purges himself, from (among) these (vessels), he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified, and suitable for the master's use, prepared for every good work. WEB (Parenthesis contain a more literal translation).

- * GOLD REPRESENT THE PURE AND RIGHTEOUS WORKS OF THE
- * SILVER SPIRIT DONE BY REDEEMED SANCIFIED MATURE SAINTS

(1 Corinthians 3:12-14) But if anyone builds on the foundation with gold (sanctified), silver (redeemed), costly (gem) stones⁷ (authority of God), wood, hay, or stubble (carnal works of the flesh)... each man's work will be revealed. For the Day will declare it, because it is revealed in fire; and the fire itself will test what sort of work each man's work is... If any man's work remains which he built on it, he will receive a reward (inheritance as saint). WEB

Gold and Silver vessels that have been refined and sanctified with God's baptism of fire that brings sanctifying healing and deliverance from their sinful carnal life are rewarded with their inheritance as glorified saints, at the second coming of Jesus. Gold and silver vessels are those who are prepared to do the GOOD WORKS of God in the coming earthly kingdom of Jesus Christ at His second coming. However, those who are born again but do not walk in the "newness of life" in the spirit (Romans 6:4) but still live a carnal life and need sanctifying, their position in God's family is one of dishonor and they are represented as wood and clay vessels:

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⁷ <u>Precious stones</u> are typology representing the gem stones on the breastplate of the priest... these represent the tribal aspects of God's complete authority

(1 Corinthians 3:15) ...If any man's <u>work is burned</u>, he will suffer loss (loss of their promised inheritance as a saint because they still need to be "save " * WOOD REPRESENT CARNAL WORKS OF THE FLESH DONE BY UNSANCTIFED BORN AGAIN CHILDREN OF GOD.

Those who have experienced their second death⁹, by God's sanctifying baptism of fire, in this life on earth, will be part of the first resurrection when Jesus returns and will not come into judgment by experiencing the refining second death in the Lake of Fire and brimstone.

(Luke 3:16-17) He will baptize you in the Holy Spirit <u>and fire</u>... whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly cleanse his threshing floor, and will gather the wheat into his barn... WEB

(Revelation 20:6) Blessed and holy is he that has part in the first resurrection (rapture of the righteous): on such the second death (in the Lake of Fire) hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ and shall reign with him a thousand years.

(Revelation 20:14-15) This is the second death... whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

May we truly praise and thank our most glorious and merciful God for His TOTAL VICTORY won on Calvary's cross for ALL humanity for ALL ages! -end of Newsletter article-

I will, in this Watchman Report, fill in more details of what was mentioned in my above Newsletter article. It is important for sincere followers of Jesus Christ to understand the awesome message of the gospel that reveals the depth of our God's love for His creation. I pray you will prayerfully consider what is contained in this report and allow the Holy Spirit

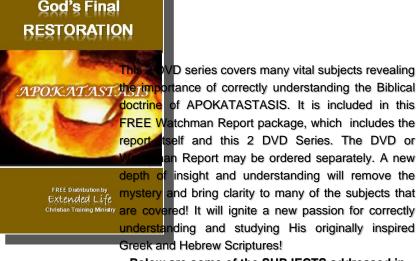
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⁸ "<u>as</u>" NT:5613 **hos** (hoce); can also mean: *like in the same manner as* (i.e. as what? The context of the text reveals what the comparison is concerning) the context for(1 Corinthians 3:15) concerns going through the fire of sanctification "Like in the same manner as"... what? ANSWER: The gold and silver vessels of honor that allowed God's baptism of fire to sanctify them

⁹ <u>Second death</u> The Bible reveals because Adam sinned all receive death (this is our first death) through Christ ALL have life... dying now is the second death called sanctification, so there is no painful Lake of Fire and brimstone second death. This is covered in detail the last chapter of the THREEFOLD CORD MANUAL.

to confirm the truth by personal revelation from God's Word to your own heart.

I would highly suggest that the reader request a copy of the 2 DVD's that are an excellent resource for receiving a clear understanding of this important subject...



Below are some of the SUBJECTS addressed in DVD's #1-2



In this Video Series DVD #1 includes over an hour teaching on the mistranslated Greek word revealing when correctly translated it completely dispels the notion of



A Scriptural Examination for Why Hell and the Lake of FIRE and BRIMSTONE are not ETERNAL Realities

By Karen Connell

***NOTE: In my word studies I use Strong's Concordance definitions and numbers, as well as other lexicons as indicated, e.g. Thayers, Brown Driver Briggs or the CWSD (the Complete Word Studies Dictionary) and others. I use an ALT (Alternate Literal Translation) for those verses I find poorly or erroneously translated, otherwise the translation used is indicated. Also, I use (parenthesis) within in a text for literal or expanded word meanings for underlined words.

When Truth Requires a New Perspective

In this report I will delve much deeper into the Word of God to gain a greater understanding than the majority of English Bible translations reveal, concerning the subjects of eternal punishment, hell and the Lake of Fire and brimstone. I would sincerely hope that the reader will also do their own research and study, so the truth can be confirmed through the Scriptures by the Holy Spirit—the revealer of all truth. Without Scriptural confirmation, truth does not become established or firmly fixed within our spirit, leaving room for confusion and doubt to work, allowing the leaven to grow.



I want to emphatically state, that most of our modern English Bible translations have translation errors and denominational biases that depart from many of the literal originally inspired word meanings. Without seeing the true scope of meanings for words in the originally inspired languages of Hebrew, Greek and Aramaic, many like myself for a good part of my Christian walk, have or will form wrong beliefs because of not studying the Bible from their original literal word meanings.

At present, I find there are only a very few, writers and teachers I currently know of who take the time to study the originally inspired texts of the Bible, to confirm what they teach as truth. When I do run across those who teach from the original texts, it is a thrill and joy to study their writings and teachings! Because, so much of what these authors and teachers say, *confirms* what is also revealed to me from the originally inspired texts of Scripture.

Sadly, just as I did for many years, the majority of writers and teachers today, rely on English Bible translations (yes, including the KJV) to form their ideas and doctrines; but these are missing the mark on so many subjects. I personally cut my teeth on the KJV

Bible, and the Strong's Concordance, both of which have elements I now find lacking in accuracy or true depth of meaning, especially since becoming aware of more resourceful older lexicons for Hebrew and Greek word studies. Therefore, in case any think I am writing my own "private translation" to the verses translated from the originally inspired definitions of God's words, I strongly urge ALL to do their own word studies, using multiple resources to confirm the truth and receive greater clarity. Do not put your faith in man but only in the Word of God and the Holy Spirit who reveals all truth.

One thing I have learned since doing original Hebrew and Greek word studies since 1985, is that "semantic change"— meaning when original word meanings end up being interpreted radically different than the original literal meanings, through changing cultural usage over time, so the literal translation becomes obscured. That is why it is important to learn words from their original source and *etymology* – meaning their root source and derivates. Semantic change occurred during the middle ages, when the original Hebrew and Greek Scriptures were translated into Latin, and many important words became interpretations rather than original translations. This was also carried into the King James "translations" reflecting words being interpreted according certain cultural and pagan perspectives and biases.



One very important example of how Semantic change, has had devastating consequences for Christians today, lies In the understanding of the Greek word AION (#165). This word originally in Greek literally referred to an "age lasting during the ages." However, when being translated from Greek to Latin, the Latin word "aeternus" was used, which means: eternal/everlasting/imperishable, perpetual, w/out start/end. The Latin word "aetas" which means: age; time; time of life, should have been used to stay true to the originally inspired Greek word "aion." Because of this, the church lost the wonderful doctrine of APOKATASTASIS thereafter.

However, I will say, the Lord has used English translations to bless me with much truth, but because of being imparted some of these errors, the mixture of truth and error it hinders receiving an accurate understanding of the truth, when it is presented. This is due to having learned what is wrong and forming an erroneous perspective. This must be abandoned in order for the leaven to be removed. When this is the case, one will struggle with doubt and wavering, when the truth is not **firmly confirmed through Scripture**,

when having to change an erroneous perspective to align with the truth. In other words, mixture can make our stand for the truth a real struggle to establish.

> (2 Peter 3:16-18) ...those who are not taught or mis-taught having no confirmation are not resolute but vacillating people, who twist to their own destruction ... the Scriptures ... beware ... of the error that is wrong so you do not become a companion to seduction... but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, ALT

Our God is a Consuming Fire

Having established my perspective establishing truth, I would like to continue by discussing the importance of understanding the subject of God's judgments, as related to His unquenchable FIRE. In the Bible, God's fire brings forth three aspects that are used to accomplish His judgment; those three aspects are truth, light and purity. The word **FIRE** in the originally inspired Greek language, is the word NT:4442 *pur* (poor); the CWSD¹⁰: states: it represents God's judgment... or the trials which we endure that will produce purify of faith and heart ...just as fire tries and removes impurities and purifies precious metals.



We Are told in (Hebrews 12:29) Our God is a consuming fire, and as stated, this fire destroys only the cause for what is defiling, just as the impurities in metal are destroyed but NOT the precious metals themselves. This consuming fire is needed to transform and RESTORE ALL THINGS in God's ENTIRE creation, as promised in Scripture (Acts 3:21, Revelation 21:5). All that has been created by God has been exposed to the sin soaked defilement of this world and must experience His sanctifying fire, before the New Heavens and the New Earth come into being. The Alternate Literal Translation more accurately translates the following text from the original Greek New Testament, revealing God's plan for apokatastasis, meaning the RESTORATION OF **ALL THINGS.** This means anything touched by God's fire is going to be **restored to** reflect God's Glory!

> (2 Peter 3:9) ...the Lord is not slow in regard to the promise (i.e. to restore all things), as certain count slowness, but is long-suffering to us, not (willing)¹¹ for any to be lost but that ALL have a change

¹⁰ The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament © 1992 by AMG International, Inc. Revised Edition, 1993

¹¹ Not willing is the Greek word NT:1014 bouloma (boo'-lom-ahee) & NT: 1013 boulema (boo'-lay-mah); from NT:1014; in this verse referring to (i.e. God) has not chosen, decided or planed as an intended outcome or purpose... "for any to be lost"... (i.e. universal salvation)

of mind from evil to good or from good to better and pass on to reformation (i.e. restoration)... and it will come — the day of the Lord — as a thief in the night, in which, the heavens with a rushing noise will pass away, and the elements with burning heat 12 be dissolved, and earth and the (i.e. defiling) works in it shall be burnt up. ALT

God's Pattern for Sanctifying the Servants of God

In the encounter Moses had with the "consuming fire of God," when God **called** Moses to serve Him, a *pattern* is revealed that pertains to all who desire to be "**chosen**" and prepared for serving God...

(Exodus 3:2-5) Yahweh's angel appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not CONSUMED... Moses said, "I will turn aside now, and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt." ... When Yahweh saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the midst of the bush, and said, "Moses! Moses!" He said, "Here I am." ... He said, "Don't come close. Take your sandals off of your feet, for the place you are standing on is holy ground." WEB¹³



Before I get into pointing out some things from the above text, I want to look more closely at and share some things, the Lord by His Spirit, revealed to me concerning the word **CONSUMED**.

In the originally inspired Greek and Hebrew texts found in (Hebrews 12:29), and also in (Exodus 3:2-5), the word "consumed" in the original texts — can be translated as: <u>to be CONSUMED, destroyed or eaten up.</u> The various English dictionaries I consulted, define the word

CONSUMED (apart from being destroyed or eaten up) as... that of also being <u>captivated</u> <u>by</u>, or <u>attracted to</u>, or <u>having one's complete interest and attention seized by</u> <u>something or someone</u>. Pertaining to what is being discussed here, we are talking about

¹² NT:2741 *kausoo* (kow-so'-o); from NT:2740; to set on fire

¹³ World English Bible Translation

being CONSUMED by God's fire. Thus, being consumed by his fire does not destroy his creation (i.e. us) but only what is defiling it (i.e. sin), so the result is holiness or sanctification.

The <u>bush</u> that Moses saw, represents us or whatever God chooses to sanctify. Please notice it was engulfed in God's fire but was not *destroyed* or *annihilated*. The Hebrew word for "bush" literally refers to "thorns" or being thorny. This bush of thorns represents *sin and the pain it causes*, being destroyed by God's consuming fire. This is also depicted by the thorns, in the *crown of thorns* that Jesus wore, while going through the judgment fire of God, in order to destroy the destructive defiling power of sin and death for all of humanity. The language in this text describing



Moses's encounter is symbolic and very rich in typology regarding this "consuming process." This text in (Exodus 3:2-5) reveals the following things:

- Moses realized he was experiencing something supernatural when he saw the burning bush. He became CONSUMED with (i.e. captivated by or attracted to) the fire of God. In other words, he was attracted to or being drawn to the sanctifying fire that brings holiness. When we come to realize our need for the supernatural work of the "burning bush" in our life, we too will be "drawn like a moth to that flame. God is that CONSUMING (attracting fire). We cannot sanctify ourselves by our own power, it comes by faith in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Jesus said, "No man can come to me, except the Father which has sent me draw him; ...and I will raise him up at the last day (John 6:44). (He also said when this consuming or "being drawn" to God's Word (i.e. Jesus) happens, it leads to being part of the "first resurrection of the righteous" on the last day. Like a moth to a flame drawn by that fire, we too are drawn by God, for no person can come to faith in Jesus Christ on his own accord. Also, the more the sanctifying process "consumes" (destroys) what is defiling in our life—the more we become "consumed" or have our complete interest and attention (i.e. "will") seized by God.
- God saw Moses was a person who was willing to "TURN ASIDE" —this phrase is the Hebrew word OT:5493 cuwr (soor); CWSD: the meanings to this word are listed below and all apply to Moses, regarding his call to a new sanctified life and ministry. This also applies to all who answer God's call to walk (i.e. live and move and have their being) in God's saving and sanctifying presence. The word turn aside, describes Moses's willingness...
 - to quit ... Moses was willing to quit working for his father-in-law Jethro in order to answer God's call. We must be willing to become an "employee"

¹⁴ **BUSH** OT:5572 *cenah* (sen-eh'); meaning to prick; CWSD : It indicates a desert shrub, with reference to a **thorny** shrub.

of the true and living God, just as Jesus said, before he reached maturity, "I need to be about My (heavenly) Father's business" (Luke 2:49). Our main occupation must also be our Father's business rather than our own or that of others, including even our family, as was the case of Jesus (see Luke 2:43-52).

- to turn away from... Moses was willing to turn to God and away from his family, country and all that was familiar and dear to him in order to fulfill God's will and purposes.
- to remove ... Moses was instructed to remove his "shoes." This act represents the willingness to no longer walk in or follow human customs, ways and means but only walk in and follow God's ways and means.
- to be removed ... Moses was willing to have removed from him his own carnal fleshly covering (i.e. carnal desires and motivations) and to follow God's instructions. This was represented by the act of cutting off the flesh by circumcision (i.e. symbolizing sanctification), which God required of Him and his son's. This was a sign of His covenant with God, (of being set apart for God's use and having a pure or sanctified heart) (see Romans 2:28-29).
- Because of his willingness to turn aside, the Angel of the Lord (i.e. the incarnate Lord Jesus Christ—the Word of God), spoke to Moses from the midst of the fire. When we are in the midst of the fire (i.e. having our faith purified by fiery trials) is when we learn to hear God's voice with greater clarity, if we don't give up but continue to seek Him, while we are being tried. Moses was instructed to remove his sandals (i.e. as a sign he would no longer walk in anything made by man). It can be a lot more comfortable to walk in our carnal ways, than to walk "barefoot" through hard places. He was told to do this because he was now standing (i.e. his call was being established) upon holy ground (i.e. not his unholy natural life—but rather on a life that was being consecrated to serve God in holiness).



The above acts of consecration revolving around the "fire of God" are also a representation of Moses experiencing our pattern for the "second death" (i.e. sanctifying means death to the natural carnal life) in order to answer God's call to walk with Him in the new life of holiness. All who answer the call to become one of God's "chosen" servants— must also choose this "second death" (baptism

of fire i.e. sanctification) while still alive on this earth. Moses saw "the light" of God and moved into it just as we must, if we want to be one of God's **chosen saints** (remember: many are called but few are chosen). Moses answered God's call when he **turned** aside,

enabling God to choose him to be a deliver for the people. The word "<u>turn</u>" results in "apokatastasis conversion" (i.e. everything being restored, rescued or made safe in our life) by sanctification.

(1 Thessalonians 3:13) To the establishing your hearts <u>blameless</u> <u>by sanctification</u> before our God and Father, in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints. YLT¹⁵

(Acts 26:18) (Jesus said) ...<u>turn¹⁶ them</u> from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may (first) <u>receive</u> forgiveness of sins and (second) a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.' KJV

(Jude 1:1) "...those who are <u>called</u>, <u>sanctified</u> by God the Father, (are) <u>KEPT</u> for Jesus Christ..." WEB

God's Apokatastasis Promise of Being KEPT - When We TURN

The meanings for the Greek word NT:5083 *tereo* (tay-reh'-o), is translated as **KEPT**—in (Jude 1:1) above, according to the definitions given in the Strong's Concordance and the CWSD (Complete Word Studies Dictionary), these describe what God will do for us when we <u>answer His call</u> and **TURN** (like Moses did) to become <u>sanctified for His service</u>. The word KEPT means God will be...

- <u>guarding</u> from loss or injury
- keeping an eye upon us
- <u>holding</u> in safe keeping;
- <u>maintaining</u> or be providing us with support and our necessities for keeping us in good condition or in good working order and by regularly examining or repairing (restoring) us when it is needed.
- withholding for His personal ends (i.e. use)
- <u>keeping unmarried</u> i.e. a virgin (both sexes) means being unattached, available, eligible, free (i.e. to serve especially in the future kingdom that Jesus will establish after His return to earth). Like the wise virgins, we must keep our lamps trimmed (sanctified).

¹⁵ Youngs Literal Translation Bible is one of the few English Bibles that translates the words "eternal" or "everlasting" and forever (NT: 165 aion) correctly as: "age of ages" (e.g. Philemon 1:15-16) meaning a specific age among the ages; or as "age enduring" ...when the context of the text is referring to torment or punishment, meaning "during a designated age" (which has a beginning and an end) which the length of the age is determined by God.

¹⁶ <u>TURN</u> NT:1994 *epistrepho* (ep-ee-stref'o) CWSD: meaning: <u>to convert</u>, or to cause a return from error. The Greek Septuagint uses the verb NT:600 *apokathistemi* (ap-ok-ath-is'-tay-mee) ;in (Matthew 17:11; Ezra 6:22; Malachi 4:5): this "turning" or returning resulting in "RESTORATION" ...from this we get the word NT:605 *apokatastasis* (ap-ok-at-as'-tas-is); meaning: **restitution or restoration** (Acts 3:21), it also means <u>to reconstitute</u> – (i.e. involving the use of water (i.e. God's word) ...to restore to an original state.

As seen in the footnote word study below for the word <u>TURN</u> – one of the meanings is to <u>CONVERT</u>. In the original Greek, the word "<u>convert</u>" in all various etymological forms indicates how *apokatastasis* is achieved in our lives. The literal Greek translation for (Acts 26:18) indicates (*continual*) <u>sanctification</u> (as the verb tense indicates) by a (continual) <u>turning</u>, or a (continual) <u>repentance</u> from error that results in *apokatastasis*.

• **RECONSTITUTES** ... is also a definition given for the word "turn" and is defined as **restoring** (i.e. especially something dried up), **to its original** state **by adding water** (i.e. the Word).

(Matthew 3:11-12) I indeed <u>baptize</u> <u>you</u> <u>WITH</u> <u>WATER</u> <u>unto</u> <u>repentance</u>: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I ...he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, <u>and with fire</u>: ... Whose fan is in his hand, and <u>he will thoroughly PURGE</u> (sanctify) his floor (the foundation) and gather his wheat (i.e. sanctified saints) into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff (the garbage) with <u>unquenchable fire</u>. (Parenthesis mine for literal clarity) **NKJV**

(Ephesians 5:26-27) That he might sanctify and cleanse (His church) with the WASHING BY WATER by the word ... That he might present it to himself a glorious (glorified) church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be SANCTIFIED¹⁷ and without blemish. ALT

And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that HE MAY SIFT YOU AS WHEAT: But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.

This then, is God's pattern for achieving *apokatastasis*. Until **believers** in Jesus Christ experience the **second death** through God's conversion fire, they cannot help others as sanctified servants of God. Only those who become sanctified saints will rule and reign with Christ in the Millennial Kingdom. Like Moses they cannot be sent forth to minister deliverance by offering conversion

to others until they themselves <u>experience</u> and become <u>established</u> in God's holiness, by continually using **this** *pattern for sanctification*. Jesus told Peter, after he would deny Him three times and that until he experienced the sanctifying fire of the second death (i.e. conversion), and **was restored** by Him (this happened after Jesus was resurrected)—he could not, like Moses, be sent out with apostolic power and **authority** to fulfill his calling and ministry to convert others. So it is, with all who answer the call to follow and serve the Lord...otherwise it is like the blind leading the blind and both fall into the ditch!

(Luke 22:32) (Jesus said to Peter) "...But I have prayed for you, that your faith fails not: and when you are converted (i.e. experience

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¹⁷ The words <u>HOLY</u>—<u>SAINT</u>—<u>SANCTIFIED</u> are all forms of the same Greek word: NT:40 *hagios* (hag'-ee-os), defined as: physically, pure, morally blameless or consecrated (i.e. set apart or dedicate to the service of God).

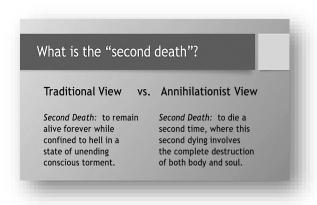
continual apokatastasis that restores completely), strengthen your brethren. NKJV

(Matthew 13:15) Because is made gross the heart of the people, and with the ears they hear <u>heaviness</u>¹⁸, and their eyes shut down (i.e. experience sleep or spiritual death), if ever at any time there is seeing with the eyes, and with the ears hearing, and with the heart there is understanding, because of experiencing <u>conversion</u> (i.e. apokatastasis), <u>also there will be HEALING for oneself</u>. ALT

Notice in the above verse, a **promised** aspect of the "apokatastasis conversion experience," is the promise that God releases HEALING into the lives of those who experience the **second death** of APOKATASTATIS sanctification.

Understanding the Doctrines of God's Judgment and the "Second Death"

The doctrine of the SECOND DEATH as God's judgment that produces holiness, is an important doctrine a professing Christian must learn CORRECTLY. This concept of the second death is not clearly understood by many Christians because they, like I was for so long, are being falsely taught that the <u>first death</u> we experience is when our physical body dies. As the Bible makes clear however, this is not the case.



(Hebrews 9:27-28) Inasmuch as it is appointed for (all) men (humans) to die once, but also there is to be judgment. ALT

The Bible makes it very clear that when life leaves the physical body of a person (his spirit and soul) have *vacated* their earthy *temple* (i.e. God's house) and goes **home immediately** to be with the Lord. The Bible also clearly teaches that our physical body is a *temple. dwelling place*, or *earthly house* for our *inner man* (i.e. our spirit and soul)¹⁹. When the human spirit and soul (inner man) departs from or vacates the (outer man) the flesh, the *inner man goes immediately into the presence of the Lord located in the third heaven, where paradise is located.²⁰ In fact, the following texts reveal that <u>ALL</u> who*

²⁰ <u>The righteous go to Paradise</u>, which is where Jesus and the man on the cross beside Him went after their death (Lk 24:43) located in the third heaven where Paul was caught up to (2 Cor 12:2, 4).

¹⁸ The Greek entomology of the word <u>HEAVINESS</u> NT:917 *bareos* (bar-eh'-oce); what is burdensome, depressing or cruel in all of its various forms and definitions, reveals that the understanding of AUTHORITY (i.e. godly authority) is a mystery, something not understood, and is heard as something cruel, and oppressive, to the unconverted heart, or (un-sanctified) person.

¹⁹ This subject is covered in depth in Chapter Three of the THREEFOLD CORD HEALING MANUAL

vacate their earthly body—MUST appear before the <u>JUDGMENT SEAT</u> of Christ to have all practices and accomplishments while living in this earthly body, put on trial to be closely examined and be RECEIVED as good or bad. The unrighteous will appear before the judgment seat and have their works rewarded by being sent to hell to await their final judgment at the Great White Throne judgment where they will be sentenced to be cast into the Lake of Fire and Brimstone.

• (2 Corinthians 5:8-10) We (who are born again) are confident, I say, and willing rather to be <u>ABSENT from the body</u>, and <u>to be PRESENT with the Lord</u>... Wherefore we labor, that, whether present (in our body) or absent, we may be accepted by him.... For we must <u>ALL appear</u>²¹ before the <u>JUDGMENT SEAT</u>²² of Christ; that <u>EVERY ONE</u> may <u>RECEIVE</u>²³ the things done (while living) in his (physical) body, according to the resulting habits and practices, whether it be good or bad... Knowing therefore the terror ²⁴ of the <u>Lord</u>²⁵, we <u>persuade men</u> (lit: try to convince people to have faith in the good news of the gospel of Christ) ... WEB (Parenthesis mine for literal clarity).



The above text makes it clear that the JUDGMENT SEAT of Christ is a time of having everything openly revealed and shown to us—to be either (good or bad) according to God's standard (i.e. the Bible). This is the *basis* or *foundation* for judging (closely examining) our **STAND** — meaning our opinions, attitudes, way of thinking and what we use to support these (i.e. truth or lies). The "bema" JUDGMENT SEAT of Christ, (as literally defined in footnote²² below) is also where the basis for *judging our WALK* (conduct, behavior, performance or the "works") we did in this life.

²¹ <u>Appear NT:5319 *phaneroo* (fan-er-o'-o) meaning: be known, shown openly (i.e. nothing hid). (1 Cor 13:12 ...we will know even as we are known by God).</u>

²² <u>Judgment seat</u> NT:968 *bema* (bay'-ma); <u>throne</u> i.e. a tribunal (a seat of judgment) from NT:939; *basis* (bas'-ece); CWSD: meaning the <u>basis</u> or <u>foundation</u> for <u>judging</u> our: <u>stand</u> (our opinions, way of thinking and support base for what was looked to for upholding our views (truth or lies) and "bema" is then the foundation for <u>judging</u> our <u>walk</u> (conduct, behavior, performance i.e. works) in this life while on earth.

²³ <u>Receive</u> NT:2865 *komizo* (kom-id'-zo); to be provided for, taken care of, tended to, carried off from harm, CWSD; the idea of receiving what is needed for recovery (healing and restoration).

²⁴ **Terror** NT:5401 **phobos** (fob'-os); the exceeding fright and alarm

²⁵ Lord NT:2962 *kurios* (koo'-ree-os); supreme in authority, i.e. controller; THAYER'S: he to whom a person or thing belongs, about which he has the power of deciding;

After His resurrection from Gehenna, Jesus was seated at the right hand of the Father, or His throne called the "Judgment seat of Christ." Scripture tells us His **throne** is a throne of: **mercy—grace** and **justice** (i.e. truth and righteousness) from where *He provides what is needed* for those who cry out for His mercy, when confronted with their "bad or wrong" works. At that judgment seat, all will face Christ, who is <u>seated on His throne</u>, at the "<u>right hand of the Father</u>." This phrase represents the one seated being given the authority or the right by God the Father for rendering judgment or trying people.



The text below gives us insight into this judgment for the righteous, who will find mercy and grace (i.e. favor with God) at His judgment seat from heaven, when their life is examined. At this close examination, the Lord will make all things known to those who are righteous (i.e. those who are JUSTIFIED (declared innocent) because of their faith in Jesus Christ).

This means we who are JUSTIFIED by faith in Christ, will have any and all "unsanctified works" (e.g. associated with our "Christian foundation" e.g. beliefs and motivations) exposed, explained and destroyed, so we can be restored from all of their defiling affects at the Judgment seat of Christ. The "judgment" associated with the word "bema"— which is translated as "judgment seat"— is defined in more detail in (see footnote ²²) on the previous page. The judgment seat will be a trial by "fire from God" that will reveal the "GOOD WORKS" that God will reward us for and the "BAD WORKS" that need to be confessed by us and destroyed by God's Word that will come from His mouth as a two edged sword.

(1 Corinthians 3:13-15) Each man's <u>WORK²⁶</u> will be revealed. For the Day will declare it, because it is <u>revealed in fire</u>; and the fire itself will test what sort of work each man's work is... If any man's work remains which he built on it, <u>he will receive a reward</u>...If any man's work is burned, he will <u>suffer loss²⁷</u>, and he himself will be saved²⁸, but as through (God's consuming) fire. WEB

(Romans 14:9-12) For to this purpose is why Christ died, rose, and lived again, that he would be Lord over both the dead and the living

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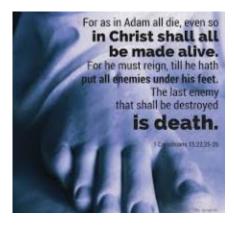
²⁶ **WORK** NT:2041 ergon (er'-gon); CWSD: deeds, acts, actions that were done.

²⁷ **LOSS** NT:2210 **zemioo** (dzay-mee-o'-o); CWSD: to experience ruin or destruction (i.e. of bad works).

²⁸ **SAVED** NT:4982 **sozo** (sode'-zo); protected, healed and made whole i.e. restored

...For we will all be present for proof given by <u>arguments</u>²⁹ before the judgment seat of Christ... For it is written, "'As I live,' says the Lord, 'to me every knee will bow. Every tongue will confess to God.'" So, then each one of us will give to God and receive from Him an account of himself. ALT

(Psalms 9:4, 7) For you attend to my legal case, by holding a trial and examining me, while sitting on <u>Your throne</u>, you have pronounced Your righteous and fair verdict in my case... <u>Those who know your name³⁰ trust in you, for you, O Lord, do not abandon those who search for you</u>... You care for the helpless. You do not ignore the cries of those who suffer... Lord, have mercy on me... For the Lord reigns forever (continuously), executing judgment (continuously) from his throne (in heaven) ... NLT



The Bible identifies all those who remain unrepentant and unsanctified, as "enemies" of God because they are ruled by TWO of God's greatest enemies—which are SIN and DEATH. Sin was dealt with on the cross of Christ, so that our confession and faith in the blood of Christ removes our condemnation for sin that brought death into our life. God has planned that EVERY mouth will confess their sin, and have it purged, and every knee will bow to make Jesus Lord, so ALL will belong to Christ BEFORE Jesus hands His kingdom over to God the Father at the end of the age,

and the New Heavens and earth become a reality. This means NO MORE DEATH in the New Heavens and Earth, because the **last enemy**, which is **death** must be subdued and stopped, if all things are to be restored. This would also mean all of the (spiritually dead) in hell, at some point will also be given new life by Christ.

(1 Corinthians 15:22, 25-26) because through Adam ALL die, in the same way ALL through Christ will be given a revitalized new life. For Christ must reign until he humbles all his enemies BENEATH HIS FEET... And the last enemy to be destroyed is death. ALT

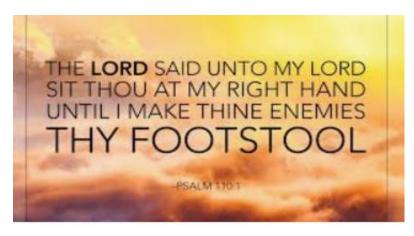
(Philippians 2:9-11) Therefore, God elevated (Jesus Christ) to the place of highest honor and gave him the name above all other names ...in order that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, <u>in</u> heaven and <u>on</u> earth and <u>under</u> the earth ... and every tongue confess that

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²⁹ **ARGUMENTS** a reason or set of reasons given with the aim of persuading another that an action or idea is right or wrong.

³⁰ The word **NAME** in Hebrew is OT:8034 shem (shame) and refers to ones "character and authority."

Jesus Christ is Lord (i.e. and be given new life), to the glory of God the Father. ALT



It has been established that the righteous people go immediately into paradise and the presence of God's **throne or judgment seat** when they vacate their body. The question remains then, what happens to those who were not righteous, but remain unsanctified, unrepentant sinners when they vacate their earthly body? The

answer to this question is the enemies of Christ go directly to hell and will find their judgment at the "footstool" of the Great White throne judgment. As we have stated, EVERY tongue will confess (all sin and bow to Jesus as Lord). for the unsanctified and unrepentant this will happen at the "footstool" of God. Anyone can repent and turn to God for forgiveness, even in hell!

(Psalms 9:15-17) The unsanctified people have sunk down in the pit (hell) which they made;³¹ In the net which they hid, their own foot is caught... The Lord is known by the judgment He executes; Wickedness is A snare by the work of their own hands... Wickedness shall be turned³² (repented of) in hell, including all the uncircumcised people³³ that forget God. ALT

(Psalms 99:5) Exalt ye Jehovah our God, and bow (humble) yourselves at His footstool, holy is He. YLT

(1 Corinthians 15:24) For Christ must reign until he humbles all his enemies beneath his feet (i.e. footstool). NLT

³¹ Those in hell have "made their bed and must then lie in it" as it says in **(Psalm 139:8) If I make my bed in Sheol (hell), behold, you are there! WEB**

³² <u>BE TURNED</u> OT:7725 *shuwb* (shoob); CWSD: MEANING...(turn) change the mind, of people returning (repenting) and seeking God.

³³ The literal meaning in Hebrew for this text clearly reveals that all uncircumcised (unsanctified) people will TURN (repent) of their wickedness (wrong doing) while in hell. They will come to know the Lord by the judgment (close examination) he conducts when their life goes on trial before Him. Hell's fire is a refining and purifying fire that "saves" (restores).

First of all, the throne of God is symbolized by two pieces of furniture: a "<u>throne seat</u>" (representing His seat of authority) and the "<u>footstool</u>" (representing the place of putting to rest, stopping or subduing, all that is against God). The throne seat of God is a seat of Mercy and Justice—requiring that none will escape having unsanctified beliefs, practices and behavior exposed and destroyed at their time of their judgment (close examination).

(1 Corinthians 3:15) If any man's <u>work</u>³⁵ is burned, he will <u>suffer loss</u>, ³⁶ and he himself will be <u>saved</u>, (lit: healed and restored) but as through (God's consuming) <u>fire</u>. WEB

(Psalms 9:4, 7-8, 10) For you have judged in my favor; from your throne you have judged with fairness... Those who know your name³⁷ trust in you, for you, O Lord, do not abandon those who search for you...

(Psalm 110:1-3) Our Divine Sovereign will sit person's honored at his right hand until placing enemies that are to be stamped upon and subdued by inspection, observation, and teaching, causing them to walk through correction that is strong. There will be an appointing by Jehovah out of (New) Jerusalem, those who bear rule. They will tread down and subjugate what is in the midst of those who are enemies – hating God and His ways. These people shall freely and voluntarily offer themselves in the day of this activity and become an ornament of glory as saints who become developed and rise as the sun from the night mist with life that is refreshing and invigorating. Jehovah has sworn an oath and will not change His mind that you (i.e. saints) will be priests for the age of ages according to the manner of Melchizedek, which is to be righteous kings and priests in the (New) Jerusalem. ALT

The righteous will be rewarded for their "good works" but they will also experience "loss" (destruction of what is defiling i.e. cleansing from) any "bad works" and be (saved) restored by God's "purifying refining fire" of truth and light.

³⁶ <u>LOSS</u> NT:2210 *zemioo* (dzay-mee-o'-o); Thayers: do damage to; CWSD: to experience receiving injury and destruction (i.e. from bad works). A more literal translation reads: "If any person's work is consumed, it is because it did damage to the person, but they will be restored by fire."

³⁴ <u>FOOTSTOOL</u> OT:3533 *kebesh* (keh'-besh); From root OT:3534 *kabash* (kaw-bash'); a primitive root; to tread down; hence, to conquer, subjugate, CWSD: It is used of the Lord's subduing, removing, crushing the iniquities of His people (Micah 7:18-19).

³⁵ WORK NT:2041 ergon (er'-gon); toil, efforts or occupation; actions, deeds, doing

³⁷ The word **name** in Hebrew is OT:8034 shem (shame) and refers to ones "character and authority."

(Matthew 25:33-34) ' And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. Then shall the king say to those on his right hand (i.e. signifies those having authority to judge), Come you, the blessed of my Father, reign and inherit that which hath been prepared for you from the foundation of the world; YLT

(Matthew 25:41) Then shall he say also to those on the left hand, you who have turned yourself over to ruin, go from me, to the fire, that is age-enduring, that hath been prepared for the Devil and his messengers (i.e. the Lake of Fire NOT "hell" fire). ALT

There is a Difference Between Hell's fire and God's Lake of Fire



Those who are resurrected from the dead (from hell) to stand before Christ at His Throne of Glory (i.e. Great White Throne) will receive their "age enduring" sentence ("aion" — see footnote⁴⁴), to face what has brought ruin and destruction in their life so IT (not them) can be destroyed and have it put an end, by God's footstool judgment. They must go into God's refining "crucible" called the LAKE³⁸ OF FIRE

AND BRIMSTONE. This means HELL and the Lake of Fire are not the same place. Hell is a place of awakening to the truth that we are separated from God because of our sin, and the Lake of Fire is where unrepented sin and death (separation from God) is subdued.

Hell, with its fire and the Lake of Fire and its fire, both cause great **TORMENT** for those in both places, but with very different results. The torment of hell is punishment for those whose **pride has not died**, keeping them bound by death in the torment of hell. Like the rich man in hell, those in that place, do not cry out to God, instead those in hell become **inflamed**, as will be discussed.

(Isaiah 14:11) Arrogant pride causes a descending down to Sheol (hell), and the sound of collapsing beneath a bed of maggots, which become a covering. ALT

consuming fire" was present and and not a hair on their head was harmed. (read Daniel 3:23-27)

³⁸ <u>LAKE</u> NT:3041 *limne* (lim'-nay); a pond; (i.e. <u>receptacle</u> for water) from NT:3040 *limen* (lee-mane'); meaning a **haven** (place of safety or refuge). Just **as a pond is a receptacle** for water (i.e. the word that washes as a cleansing agent)... the "Fire of God" (i.e. as a cleansing or refining agent), the receptacle for **God's fire** a "crucible" ... this crucible is a **place of safety or no harm, even though it is a place of God's fire**. Just as when Daniel and his two friends ended up in the fiery "crucible" as their test, the God of "all-

(Mark 9:47-50) ...to be cast into the Gehenna's (hell) fire — ...where their worm³⁹ (pride) is not dying (ending), and the fire (accusing language) is not being quenched; for everyone without any doubt with fire shall be salted⁴⁰. Valuable for use is salt,⁴¹ but if the salt becomes insipid⁴², what can be generated by it? To become seasoned by having the necessary experience, to be made suitable for use, to be preserved or saved. ALT

Those in Hell will stay there until they are resurrected from (the place of dead) to experience their trial and sentencing in the Lake of fire, where the Devil, Beast and False Prophet are cast.

(Revelation 20:10) and the Devil, who is leading them astray, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, they shall be TORMENTED⁴³ day and night — FOR the AGE of the AGES.⁴⁴ (This is not for eternity, see footnote) YLT

³⁹ <u>WORM</u> NT:4663 *skolex* (sko'-lakes); a grub, **maggot**; The word **maggot** in Hebrew is OT:7415 *rimmah* (rim-maw'); a derivative of OT:7311] *ruwm* (room); meaning: to be high, **presumptuously**, <u>proud</u>, to **breed worms**.

⁴⁰ **SALTED** NT:233 *halizo* (hal-id'-zo); CWSD: metaphorically everyone shall be **seasoned** by being tried with fire. This means everyone human shall be tried or perfected **by suffering** (i.e. torment) so as to become acceptable in the sight of God. This typology was seen in the Old Testament sacrifices where it was required that every animal's flesh was prepared for sacrifice by being <u>sprinkled with salt</u>. We become a living sacrifice unto God by being salted (Lev 2:13).

⁴¹ **SALT** NT:217 *halas* (hal'-as); CWSD: purifies, cleanses, and preserves from corruption.

⁴² **INSIPID** NT:358 **analo**s (an'-al-os) meaning: Meaning: lacking strength or interest, UNINSPIRED, DULL, BARREN, HALF HEARTED. i.e. Describes the state or the attitude of those towards the Gospel message of suffering required for the flesh to die by sanctification.

⁴³ **TORMENTED** NT:928 *basanizo* (bas-an-id'-zo); meaning: torment or torture. The etymology of this word reveals what the TORTURE or TORMENT is, what it is NOT is that of being physically burned. As it is traced to its various derivates the following is revealed... basanizo NT:928 is from NT:931 basanos (bas'-an-os); the same as NT:939 basis (bas'-ece); (referring to going to the bottom); also associated with a TOUCH-STONE, in its root form implying the foot—meaning: (walk). Thus, referring to going to the foundation (bottom) to TEST the basis for a person's "walk" or way of life, CWSD: States a touchstone or a black siliceous stone, is used to test the purity of gold, silver and other metals, hence it refers to any test or criterion by which qualities are tried. Metaphorically, "BASANOS" means: the time of "testing" and "close examination" being the instrument (i.e. God's touchstone) used to ultimately bring forth "confessing" and divulgence of sensitive truth. (i.e. The revealing of private or sensitive (very personal and secretly kept information, brought out by examination and trial). This is said to be torturous for the one being tried, meaning "severely painful." (i.e. Those in hell have "tall" pride walls that need to come down, the stronger the pride the more tormenting the exposure of facing personal secrets as God reveals them, and they are seen from His perspective). I suggest watching the companion videos to this Watchman report, they present an excellent perspective. Request a free copy of this free DVD series from the order form on the last page. ⁴⁴ FOR EVER AND EVER (NT#:165) aion meaning a period of time that has a beginning and an end. It does not mean eternal or "never ending"— as all "ages" at some point end. Thus, it denotes an "age" among all of the future ages, in which something is happening, such as weather conditions in the "ice age" or the inventions that took place in the "Industrial age". There will be an age of TORMENT for those sentenced, that will not end until the fire of God has accomplished a full disclosure, examination, confession and repentance, in order for there to be a full restoration for the tormented one. How long this age (period of time of torment is) is determined by how long it takes the tormented one to confess with their tongue and

The text above plainly states the Devil, Beast and false Prophet do not burn in hell, they are **cast into the "Lake of Fire."** On the other hand, the account Jesus gave in (Luke 16) regarding the deaths of righteous Lazarus and the unrighteous rich man, reveals both men found himself <u>interred in **Gehenna**</u>⁴⁵ (i.e. hell) when they vacated their body. Hell then, **before** Jesus died, had two compartments separated by a **steep gulf or ravine**.

Abraham and those who were declared righteous by their faith in God before Jesus came, were on one side of hell **being comforted** and the ungodly were on the other side being tormented. Abraham said this to the rich man in torment...

(Luke 16:26) ... between us and you there is a great gulf (i.e. ravine) fixed, that those who want to pass from here to you are not able, and that none may cross over from there to us.' WEB

The other person in hell (Gehenna) was **Lazarus**. This account shows us that before the death and resurrection of Jesus, there were *two kinds of people in hell*... the **captives** like the prideful rich man, and the **comforted** like humble Lazarus. However, according to the text, Lazarus nor the rich man remained in Gehenna. I say this because, before Christ paid the price of vacating his physical body on Calvary's cross, he declared **IT IS FINISHED!** That act of death to His flesh, reconciled ALL of mankind back to God. The ransom was paid, and **the captives were set free**. From that point on humanity no longer had to be separated from God, unless they chose to reject the Gospel or fail to seek God so it could be revealed to them.

The glorious news is a way was made by God for ALL of humanity to come back to Him! Yes, even the homosexuals of Lots day, and those who were brazenly godless before and during the time of Noah—who were interbreeding with angels and sinning in every

bow their knee to God. For more information on "aion" REQUEST the FREE DVD series GOD'S FINAL RESTORATION: APOKATASTASIS.

(OT:1516) <u>valley</u> gay' (gah'-ee); Thayer's Lexicon: a valley (deep and narrow <u>ravine</u> with very <u>high walls</u> i.e. veiled reference to <u>high pride defenses</u>) from root OT:1465; gevah (gay-vaw'); meaning exaltation; arrogance: lifting up (i.e. elevate or cause to be seen),

O(OT:2011) Hinnom; (hin-nome') (or Ge-Hinnom= Gehenna) meaning: a valley of lamentation. Valleys were typology for the place of an event (e.g. Hinnom was a valley where the apostate Jews practiced child sacrifice by fire). This pictures hell (i.e. Gehenna) as a "valley" of lamentation (grief) those defiled by pride, where burning punishment takes place.

(i.e. the "<u>baptism of fire</u>" (being immersed in God's <u>light</u> that <u>purifies</u> or consumes the garbage (sanctifies). Gehenna is the place of condemning accusations that <u>inflames</u> tormenting guilt, anger and pride.

⁴⁵ <u>HELL</u> NT:1067 *geena* (gheh'-en-nah); a compound of two words of **Hebrew origin** [OT:1516] and OT:2011]; meaning: "valley" of the children of lamentation.

evil way imaginable... they were set free and released from hell! How and why? Because when Jesus <u>descended</u> into hell after vacating His physical body, the Bible tells us that **He preached the good news of the Gospel to those who were rebellious sinners who were captives, such as those killed in the flood of Noah.** They were the Captives (i.e. in hell), so when He ascended, they were led to paradise as Christ's captives, to God's heavenly throne. I doubt very much if there were any who remained unrepentant and bound by pride, after hearing Jesus preach His gospel!

(Ephesians 4:8-9) That is why the Scriptures say, "When he ascended on high, he led (his) crowd of captives from their captivity (in hell) and gave gifts to (his) people." ...That he ascended, also means that Christ also descended first to the lower parts of the earth (i.e. to get His captives from hell). ALT (Parenthesis mine for literal clarity).

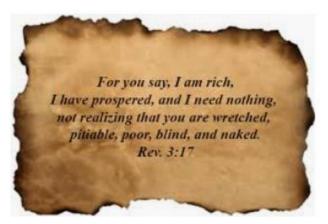
(1 Peter 3:19-20) Unto which also those captives (i.e. in hell) he preached to these departed spirits that were imprisoned ... who before were willfully unbelieving and disobedient at one time...

Hell's Fire

Again, it is so important to study God's word according to the originally inspired languages, in order to get a true understanding of the Scriptures. It was only by doing this that I discovered not only that *hell and the Lake of Fire are not the same place*, I also discovered that hell's fire and the Lake of Fire are not the same fire. This text states that Lazarus was a poor, mistreated humble man, who was carried by the angels into Gehenna (hell) to a place called "Abraham's bosom."

(Luke 16:22-24) It happened that the beggar died, and that he was

carried away by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died, and was buried (interred) in Hades... He lifted up⁴⁶ his eyes⁴⁷, being in torment, and saw Abraham far off, and Lazarus at his bosom.... And he cried and said, Father Abraham (notice he didn't call on the Lord... but



⁴⁶ **LIFTED UP** NT:1869 *epairo* (ep-ahee'-ro); to exalt self (i.e. pride)

⁴⁷ **EYES** NT:3788 **ophthalmos** (of-thal-mos') used figuratively of, envy (from a jealous side glance)

his religious leader), have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and <u>coo</u>l⁴⁸ the tongue; for <u>I am</u> tormented in this flame.⁴⁹ WEB

In the above account, the rich man, representing the person who was proud, and unrepentant, who was confronted with the truth that while on earth he lacked nothing, but was also self-indulgent and having no compassion on the poor while on earth. This also describes the prideful, and deceived Christians that Jesus described...

(Luke 16:25) "But Abraham said to him, 'Son, remember that during your lifetime you had everything you wanted, and Lazarus had nothing. So now he is here being comforted, and you are in anguish. NLT

(Revelation 3:17-19) Because you say, 'I am rich, and have gotten riches, and have need of nothing;' but don't know that you are the wretched one, miserable, poor, blind, and naked... I counsel you to buy from me gold (be willing to pay the price) to be refined by fire, (our baptism of fire i.e. trials that test for purity) that you may become rich; and possess white (wedding) garments, that you may clothe yourself, and that the shame of your <u>nakedness</u> (not having Christ's righteousness and His sanctification) may not be revealed; and eye salve to anoint your <u>eyes</u>⁵⁰ that are filled with prideful jealousy and envy, that you may become aware and take heed... As many as I love, I convince them of their faults. Be zealous therefore, and repent. ALT

Please notice, the prideful man in the (LUKE 16) account does not call upon God to have

mercy on him in this place of torment, but instead, called upon on the man (the one he depended on to make him acceptable to God). He called upon Abraham, a man who could not save him from the fire of hell or extend one ounce of God's mercy to him in his suffering.

Therefore, in hell he is suffering and being tormented by "flames of fire." This



⁴⁸ <u>COOL</u> NT:2711 *katapsucho* (kat-ap-soo'-kho); cool down, **bring refreshing** (i.e. the tongue i.e language)

⁴⁹ The torment and flames mentioned in this story are not God's *cleansing and restoring* fire of apokatastasis. Those in hell awaiting the resurrection of the dead are being tormented by the Devil's hell fire (e.g. demonic language that accuses and "inflames" those in hell that would be horribly painful, i.e. harassing, teasing, taunting language using sins committed by the unrepentant to condemn and enrage them).

⁵⁰ **EYES** NT:3788 **ophthalmos** (of-thal-mos') used figuratively of, envy (from a jealous side glance)

fire, however, IS NOT the "all-consuming apokatastasis restoring "baptism of fire" from God's Holy Spirit" that is found in the Lake of Fire—which is going to ultimately restore all of God's creation. This fire is coming forth from hell. Hell must be infested with demonic voices, for this fire is literally defined as "language" that is defiling. Just as the demonic "language" that we hear now on earth, in the form of thoughts from the Satan the accuser and his "ministers" or messengers... this painfully accusing, condemning, and harassing language will torment those in hell, causing them to become inflamed.

(James 3:6) And the tongue (lit: language) is a fire (hell's) world of iniquity. The tongue (this language) is conveyed among our members to defile the whole body (flesh, soul and spirit) and inflames and physically affects what is being generated (anger, passions etc.) and it (this language) is ignited (KJV: set on fire) by hell. ALT



The above verse reveals that the "tongue" (language) is a "fire" ignited from hell that is very damaging and defiling. The word describing the tongue as "fire" is the Greek word NT:4442 pur (poor); and refers to lightning (i.e. a shocking, painful and deadly force). This verse also reveals that hell is behind these "lightning strikes" of harassing and accusing language because this is defiling language "ignited" by hell. The KJV

translation uses. The phrase "<u>set on fire</u>" is the Greek word NT:5394 *phlogizo* (flog-id'-zo); it means: to, to ignite, to inflame with <u>passion</u> (e.g. uncontrollable emotions). What happens when something becomes **inflamed?** Two things, it becomes...

- * **RED**... is associated with <u>embarrassment</u> (rejection issues) & <u>anger</u> (bitterness issues)
- * **SWOLLEN**... means "puffed up" (pride issues)

This fire from hell is the accusing language that describes how the cords (i.e. the 3-fold cord of rejection, bitterness and pride) are snares of death from hell.

(2 Samuel 22:6-7) The cords from Sheol (hell) were round about me; These snares of death came on me... In my distress I called on Yahweh; Yes, I called to my God: He heard my voice out of his temple; My cry came into his ears. WEB

When anyone cries out to God in their distress because of being tormented by hell's 3-fold cord—He listens and responds. The unrepentant or unrighteous remain bound in

by these cords from hell while enduring hell's fire...awaiting their resurrection from hell to have their time of judgment and sentencing, at God's *footstool judgment* called the Great White Throne judgment.

(Revelation 20:11-15) And I saw a great white throne, and that one sitting upon it ... And I saw <u>THE DEAD</u>, small and great, stand before God; and the <u>books</u>⁵¹ were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and <u>the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books</u>, ACCORDING TO THEIR WORKS... 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 each one according to their works... THEN DEATH and HELL were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. (I.e. FROM THIS POINT ON NO MORE DEATH OR HELL). ... And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was <u>cast into the lake of fire</u>.

We Need Transformation, Not Condemnation

I believe with all my heart that the Church today needs to hear the truth from God's Word concerning the true Gospel of Jesus Christ ...to make us realize that God is really God and that He is truly a GOOD God! Many have not come to the realization in the Church, concerning the depths of God's love as demonstrated by His promise to restore all things and make all things (including people) NEW!. The last words spoken by Jesus, while hanging on the cross: He said, "Father, FORGIVE THEM; they don't know what they are doing!" He then ended by saying, "It is finished!"



Reformed or Deformed

And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, **I make all things new.** And he said unto me, write: for these words are true and faithful. (Revelation 21:5)

Many of God's people suffer continually under condemnation for things in their lives over which they have no control and can't seem to become victorious over. These things can only be transformed by the infiltration of the Spirit of God and His baptism of fire upon our life.

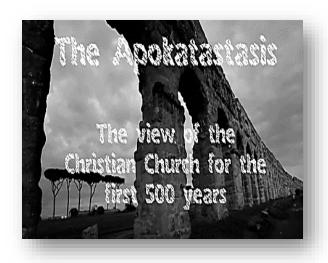
Yes, we must have God in us, but what we also need is for Him to GROW in us so we can be transformed into His image and likeness, while we still live on this earth. We need never be condemned for the condition of our natural sin life; as humans this is who we are, but if we just keep hungering after God and seeking Him until He comes FULLY

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⁵¹ NT:975 *biblion* (bib-lee'-on) books (i.e. the "books" of the Bible)

ALIVE within us, our carnal man is put to death. How does this happen? Actually, it can't happen until we get completely FED UP with our sin and this sin sick world.

God fully understands we are all born into sin and it's our nature to sin, and we can't do a thing about that! Therefore, we must also fully understand God did not send Jesus to condemn us for something we did not choose to be born with. Who in their right mind



would choose to be born "deformed?" No one, I'm sure... but we all are deformed by sin. It is because we inherited a sin nature that God offers to "reform" and to heal and restore the deformities sin has caused!

Jesus, who was God in the flesh, came to save all of humanity and His entire creation from being condemned by our deformities from sin. By realizing and accepting His love for us and His eagerness to forgive and reform us, we can be free from all sin and condemnation in our life. Yes, we all have many faults

and weaknesses, but if we will just seek God by <u>studying</u>, <u>believing</u> and <u>practicing</u> what He reveals to us in His Word, this will take care of our faults and weaknesses and bring reforming and restoration in our lives, now upon this earth, so we can rule and reign with Him.

We also need to realize that this is a process that takes time, just how long it takes depends upon, how long it takes for us to get FED UP with sin and Satan and to grow up spiritually! For Jesus, who is called the AUTHOR and the FINISHER of our faith, this means he will continue to work in us until the job is **FINISHED** and He brings ALL of humanity, past—present and future, fully into HIS wonderful plans and purposes.

(1 Corinthians 2:9-10) That is what the Scriptures mean when they say, "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him." ... But it is to us (who love Him) that God reveals these things by his Spirit. For his Spirit searches out everything and shows us God's deep secrets. NLT

CONCLUSION

As I closely studied this from the originally inspired texts, this little-known doctrine of **APOKATASIS**, I came to a much fuller and more accurate grasp the Scriptural truth regarding God's promise to RESTORE ALL THINGS by His all-consuming purging fire. I have for most of my Christian walk, known this was going to be the case, but many pieces

of this truth were missing. However, as I closely studied this subject from the originally inspired texts, I was totally in awe at how so many Scriptures I have been very familiar with, have come to my mind and have also been given "new life" by allowing the Holy Spirit to teach me the literal meanings to God's inspired languages of the Bible. I now see, especially regarding the endtimes, how verse after verse can only be rightly connected and understood by studying the originally inspired meanings. For me, this has formed an awesome picture of God's love and His plan for restoring His creation.



Just knowing that all my lost friends and loved ones who rejected Jesus Christ while here on earth, will experience hell's fire as was discussed, but Glory to God, they will also be brought, along with ALL others who likewise died separated from God by their sin, into a time and place where they will become willing to cry out to God for mercy in the place of purging and refining, in His crucible of the Lake of Fire. This will result in EVERY tongue

confessing and with EVERY knee bowing to Jesus Christ as their Lord, and ALL will be saved and be restored!!

(Psalms 116:3-6) The cords (i.e. the 3-fold cord) of death surrounded me; the pains of hell got a hold of me. I found trouble and sorrow. Then called I on the name of Yahweh: "Yahweh, I beg you, deliver my soul. "Gracious is Yahweh, and righteous; Yes, our God is merciful. Yahweh preserves the simple (lit: those who have been seduced). I was brought low, but he saved me. WEB

As this material has clearly and Scripturally revealed, ALL, at some point in time, during some "age" in time, are going to call upon the name of the Lord and they will be saved! When this is accomplished, God is going to at last bring forth restoration to the heavens and the earth. I would like to end this report by sharing from the Hebrew, "word for word" *interlineal literal translation*⁵² from (Isaiah 65:17-25), a prophetic text regarding the restoration of the New heavens and earth. As I went through this, I was so very amazed at the way the King James and other English Bibles absolutely ruined this wonderful revelation!

(Isaiah 65:17-25)

"Behold, I will create a repaired and restored heavens and a repaired and restored earth. There will not only be acknowledging and recognizing past ancestors, of a truth they will have been raised up.

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⁵² Interlinear Transliterated Bible. Copyright © 1994, 2003, 2006 by Biblesoft, Inc. All rights reserved.

Because of this — Hearts, O! Of a truth, will be glad and rejoice continually because of what I created. Then with surprise will be seen the creator of Jerusalem (i.e. Jesus — see John 1:1-4) There will be great rejoicing. The people who are the object of delight will spin around under the influence of great emotional rejoicing!

Violent rejoicing will be in Jerusalem and the making of mirth, celebrating with fun, laughter and joy by the people! No longer will be heard in her again voices of weeping or voices of crying.

Never will there exist at all any longer, a given point in time for infancy, and the aged will never expire. The given point in time for adolescence age will be 100 years, the putting to death of the sin age order, for hundreds of years will be considered trivial, unimportant and cursed.

There will be a building of family homes, marrying, will continue (i.e. among natural people-not glorified saints). It will be established, where they will keep their house and it will remain. There will be a planting of gardens and vineyards to eat fruit from.

Without rebuilding and establishing families, in different locations, is to not only establishes gardens and vineyards, but different ones to eat from at a given point in time (i.e. in different seasons). The trees are for a given point in time (seasons) for the people to work with their hands.

Growing old and wasting away and being worn out by the chosen ones will never be and they will never be tired or exhausted or have no purpose or feeling empty.

There will be no bearing young medically in panic or trouble, because children will be blessed by Jehovah and they who produce children.

There will exist those who will be invited to preach as "famous guests" teaching and declaring and appointing what they hear from me (Yahweh).

...these "famous guests" will be...

The <u>WOLF</u> (metaphorically speaking the former deceiver (Lucifer) and the <u>LAMB</u> (Jesus Christ) will make friends and even be companions. Together they will gather and care for those who have eaten the chaff from the serpent's rubbish (LIES). Their food will then be "show bread" (i.e. metaphorically: revealed truth that gives authority). No longer will there be anything bad nor anything

destructive in any manner, for There will be the promoting of holiness, from that time on, says Yahweh. AMEN!!

STUDY GUIDE For:

The Five Points of "Apokatastasis" Also Known as Universal Restoration

Ву

Michael A. Webber⁵³

1.) **God is love**. His goodness is free, immutable, eternal, infinite, and impartial.

2.) Kingdom government is by the faithful

To be a child of God is to be a (being sanctified is a qualification for being an⁵⁴...) heir of the kingdom and therefore carries royal authority **but is not exclusive salvation from death**.

- 3.) **Death will be abolished by Christ**. All of mankind is rescued from death by Christ, even non-believers, at the resurrection of the dead on the last day.
- 4.) The judgment seat of Christ. God demands equity in his justice. Therefore, God's punishments are always corrective and measured, rooted in his nature of love and goodness, and never infinite.
- 5.) Those who follow Christ (into sanctification) alone pass directly through death and into life.

⁵³ SOURCE: http://thetotalvictoryofchrist.atwebpages.com/FivePointsofUniversalSalvation.pdf NOTE: Comments found in () parenthesis are by compiler, Karen Connell

⁵⁴ (Acts 26:18) to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins <u>and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.'</u>

Doctrinal (Biblical)**Summary: The Five Points of Universal Salvation**

- 1.) God is love. His goodness is free, immutable, eternal, infinite, and impartial.
 - "The LORD is good to all: and his tender mercies are over all his works." Psalm 145:9
 - "Oh give thanks to the God of heaven; for his loving kindness endures forever." Psalm 136:26
 - "He who doesn't love doesn't know God, for God is love." 1 John 4:8
 - "Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever." Psalm 136:1
 - "Remember not the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions: according to thy mercy remember thou me for thy goodness' sake, O LORD. Good and upright is the LORD: therefore will he teach sinners in the way." Psalm 25:7-8
 - "As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save many people alive." Genesis 50:20
 - "Praise the LORD; for the LORD is good: sing praises unto his name; for it is pleasant." Psalm 135:3
 - "O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever." Psalm 106:1
 - "Peter opened his mouth and said, "Truly I perceive that God doesn't show favoritism; but in every nation he who fears him and works righteousness is acceptable to him." Acts 10:34
 - "For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 8:38-39
 - "But I tell you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who mistreat you and persecute you, that you may be children of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the just and the unjust."
 - Matthew 5:44-45
 - "O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever." 1 Chronicles 16:34
 - "Therefore "If your enemy is hungry, feed him. If he is thirsty, give him a drink; for in doing so, you will heap coals of fire on his head." Don't be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." Romans 12:20-21
 - "But God commends his own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8
 - "Praise ye the LORD. O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever." Psalm 106:1

- "Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!" Psalm 107:15
- "O praise the LORD, all ye nations: praise him, all ye people. For his merciful kindness is great toward us: and the truth of the LORD endureth for ever. Praise ye the LORD." Psalm 117:1-2
- "The angel said to them, "Don't be afraid, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be to all the people. For there is born to you, this day, in the city of David, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:10-11
- "For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. For as you in time past were disobedient to God, but now have obtained mercy by their disobedience, even so these also have now been disobedient, that by the mercy shown to you they may also obtain mercy. For God has shut up all to disobedience, that he might have mercy on all." Romans 11:29-32
- "Praise waits for you, God, in Zion. To you shall vows be performed. You who hear prayer, to you all men will come. Sins overwhelmed me, but you atoned for our transgressions." Psalm 65:1-3
- "But we see him who has been made a little lower than the angels, Jesus, because of the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that by the grace of God he should taste of death for everyone." Hebrews 2:9
- 2.) Kingdom government is by the faithful (i.e. sanctified) who are the heirs. To be a child of God is to be a (sanctified) heir of the kingdom and therefore carries <u>royal</u> <u>authority</u> but is not <u>exclusive</u> (i.e. only) salvation from death.
 - "But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, that you may proclaim the excellence of him who called you out of (i.e. authority to be saved from) **darkness** into his marvelous light..." 1 Peter 2:9
 - "And he is the atoning sacrifice for (i.e. salvation from) our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the whole world." 1 John 2:2
 - "For (i.e. authority for) the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men" Titus 2:11
 - "But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave (i.e. authority for) the right to become children of God," John 1:12
 - "He who overcomes (sinful carnality), I will give to him to sit down with me on my throne, as I also overcame (sinful carnality), and sat down with my Father on his throne." Revelation 3:21
 - "Don't you know that the <u>saints</u> (i.e. sanctified) will judge the world? And if the world is judged by you, are you unworthy to judge the smallest matters?" 1 Corinthians 6:2
 - "Listen, my beloved brothers. Didn't God choose those who are poor in this world to be rich in faith, and heirs of the Kingdom which he promised to those who love him?" James 2:5

- "Blessed are the poor (humble) in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 5:3
- "For this reason he is the mediator of a new covenant, since a death has occurred for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first covenant, that those who have been <u>called</u> (i.e. born again ones) may receive (it is possible to receive)⁵⁵ the promise of the eternal inheritance." Hebrews 9:15
- "Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God." 1 Corinthians 6:9-10
- "But seek first God's Kingdom, and his righteousness; and all these things will be given to you as well." Matthew 6:33
- "But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become God's children, to those who believe in his name: who were born not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God." John 1:12-13
- "For to this end we both labor and suffer reproach, because we have set our trust in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe." 1 Timothy 4:10
- "The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God; and if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ; if indeed we suffer with him, that we may also be glorified with him" Roman 8:16-17
- "Therefore, receiving a Kingdom that can't be shaken, let us have grace, through which we serve God acceptably, with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire." Hebrews 12:28-29
- "Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God. Whoever loves the Father also loves the child who is born of him." 1 John 5:1
- "For if by the trespass of the one, death reigned through the one; so much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one, Jesus Christ." Romans 5:17
- "But all things are of God, who reconciled us to himself through Jesus Christ, and gave to us the ministry of reconciliation; namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself, not reckoning to them their trespasses, and having committed to us the word of reconciliation." 2 Corinthians 5:18-19
- 3.) Death will be abolished by Christ. All of mankind is rescued from death by Christ, even non-believers, at the resurrection of the dead on the last day.

54

⁵⁵ It is only those who answer the call to be born again who find it possible to be sanctified which qualifies them for receiving the promised "eternal inheritance."

- "Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through a needle's eye, than for a rich man to enter into the Kingdom of God." When the disciples heard it, they were exceedingly astonished, saying, "Who then can be saved?" Looking at them, Jesus said, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." Matthew 19:24-26
- "So then as through one trespass, all men were condemned; even so through one act of righteousness, all men were justified to life." Romans 5:18
- "But we do see Jesus, who was made lower than the angels for a little while, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone." Hebrews 2:9
- "For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ **all will be made alive**. But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then those who are Christ's, at his coming. Then the end comes, when he will deliver up the Kingdom to God, even the Father; when he will have abolished all rule and all authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. **The last enemy that will be abolished is death.**" 1 Corinthians 15:22-26
- "By this we know that we remain in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son as the Savior of the world." 1 John 4:13-14
- "The next day, he saw Jesus coming to him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" John 1:29
- "For God didn't send his Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world should be saved through him." John 3:17
- "I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be restrained." Job 42:2
- "Don't marvel at this, for the hour comes, in which all that are in the tombs will hear his voice, and will come out; those who have done good, to the resurrection of life; and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of judgment." John 5:28-29 (Emphasis Bible)
- "And he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the whole world." 1 John 2:2
- They said to the woman, "Now we believe, not because of your speaking; for we have heard for ourselves, and know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world." John 4:42
- "The angel said to them, "Don't be afraid, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be to all the people. For there is born to you, this day, in the city of David, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:10-11
- "The sea gave up the dead who were in it. Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them. **They were judged, each one according to his works**. Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire." Revelation 20:13-14
- "If any man's work is burned, he will suffer loss, but he himself will be saved, but as through fire." 1 Corinthians 3:13

- "For to this end we both labor and suffer reproach, because we have set our trust in the living God, who is **the Savior of all men**, especially of those who believe." 1 Timothy 4:10
- "Who is a God like you, who pardons iniquity, and passes over the disobedience of the remnant of his heritage? He doesn't retain his anger forever, because he delights in loving kindness." Micah 7:18
- "For the Lord will not cast off forever. For though he cause grief, yet he will have compassion according to the multitude of his loving kindnesses. For he does not afflict willingly, nor grieve the children of men" Lamentations 3:31-33.
- "For I will not contend forever, neither will I be always angry; for the spirit would faint before me, and the souls whom I have made. I was angry because of the iniquity of his covetousness, and struck him; I hid myself and was angry; and he went on backsliding in the way of his heart. I have seen his ways, and will heal him: I will lead him also, and restore comforts to him and to his mourners." Isaiah 57:16-18
- "In overflowing wrath I hid my face from you for a moment; but with everlasting lovingkindness I will have mercy on you," says Yahweh your Redeemer." Isaiah 54:8
- "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Romans 6:23
- "Look to me, and be saved, all the ends of the earth; for I am God, and there is no other. I have sworn by myself. The word has gone out of my mouth in righteousness, and will not be revoked, that to me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall take an oath." Isaiah 45:22-23
- "The LORD upholdeth all that fall, and raiseth up all those that be bowed down." Psalm 145:14 "...that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, those on earth, and those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." Philippians 2:9-11
- "...No one can say, "Jesus is Lord," but by the Holy Spirit." 1 Corinthians 12:3
- "For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior; who desires all people to be saved and come to full knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all; the testimony in its own times;" 1 Timothy 2:3-6
- "He will wipe away from them every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; neither will there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain, any more. The first things have passed away." Revelation 21:4
- "For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. For as you in time past were disobedient to God, but now have obtained mercy by their disobedience, even so these also have now been disobedient, that by the mercy shown to

- you they may also obtain mercy. For God has shut up all to disobedience, that he might have mercy on all." Romans 11:29-32
- "For all the fullness was pleased to dwell in him; and through him to reconcile all things to himself, by him, whether things on the earth, or things in the heavens, having made peace through the blood of his cross." Colossians 1:19-20
- 4.) The judgment seat of Christ. God demands equity in his justice. Therefore, God's punishments are always corrective and measured, rooted in his nature of love and goodness, and never infinite.
 - "A false balance is abomination to the LORD: but a just weight is his delight."
 - Proverbs 11:1
 - "He will not always accuse; neither will he stay angry forever." Psalm 103:9
 - "For whom the LORD loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth." Proverbs 3:12
 - "But God commends his own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8
 - "For the LORD will not cast off for ever: But though he cause grief, yet will he have compassion according to the multitude of his mercies. For he doth not afflict willingly nor grieve the children of men." Lamentations 3:31-33
 - "If he finds it, most certainly I tell you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine which have not gone astray. Even so it is not the will of your Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish" Matthew 18:13-14
 - "Who is a God like you, who pardons iniquity, and passes over the disobedience of the remnant of his heritage? He doesn't retain his anger forever, because he delights in loving kindness." Micah 7:18
 - "For I will not contend forever, neither will I be always angry; for the spirit would faint before me, and the souls whom I have made. I was angry because of the iniquity of his covetousness, and struck him; I hid myself and was angry; and he went on backsliding in the way of his heart. I have seen his ways, and will heal him: I will lead him also, and restore comforts to him and to his mourners." Isaiah 57:16-18
 - "All nations you have made will come and worship before you, Lord. They shall glorify your name." Psalm 86:9
 - "All the ends of the world shall remember and turn unto the LORD: and all the kindreds of the nations shall worship before thee." Psalm 22:27
 - "yes, he says, "It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved of Israel: I will also give you for a light to the nations, that you may be my salvation to the end of the earth."" Isaiah 49:6 "For it is written, "'As I live,' says the Lord, 'to me every

knee will bow. Every tongue will confess to God." So then each one of us will give account of himself to God." - Romans 14:11-12

- "Thy kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and thy dominion endureth throughout all generations. The LORD upholdeth all that fall, and raiseth up all those that be bowed down." Psalms 145:13-14
- "Jesus answered, "This voice hasn't come for my sake, but for your sakes. Now is the judgment of this world. Now the prince of this world will be cast out. And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw **all people** to myself."" John 12:30-32
- "He has showed you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?" Micah 6:8
- "Oh let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you will judge the peoples with equity, and govern the nations on earth. Selah." Psalm 67:4
- Let them sing before the LORD, for he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity. Psalm 98:9

5.) Believers who Follow Christ alone (and not carnality) pass directly through death and into life.

- "Jesus said to him, "Assuredly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise." Luke 23:43
- "Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will still live, even if he dies. Whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"" John 11:23-26
- "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. But if I live on in the flesh, this will bring fruit from my work; yet I don't know what I will choose. But I am in a dilemma between the two, having the desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better." Philippians 1:21-32
- "We are courageous, I say, and are willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be at home with the Lord." 2 Corinthians 5:8
- "For God so loved the world, that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life." John 3:16
- "I said therefore to you that you will die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am he, you will die in your sins." John 8:24
- "But as for cowards,* the unfaithful, the depraved, murderers, the unchaste, sorcerers, idol-worshipers, and deceivers of every sort, their lot is in the burning pool of fire and sulfur, which is the second death." Revelation (NAB)

NOTES

Notes: The "lake of fire", or more correctly the "pool of fire and sulfur," as translated in the New American Bible, was identified by early church fathers, such as Origen of Alexandria and Gregory Nyssen, as being a refiner's crucible used to eliminate the dross, which are impurities in the gold

(1). This view is very consistent with the imagery of a pool of fire and sulfur. Sulfur has been used since ancient times in the gold parting process. This is a process of separating the gold from other unwanted metals (2)(3). This doctrinal outline retains the same understanding as understood by these early Greek speaking church fathers. This is also related to the "furnace of fire" (Matthew 13:42, 50). This understanding is in keeping with the imagery used in Proverbs 17:3, the testing of the heart. "The crucible for silver and the furnace for gold, but the LORD tests the heart." - Proverbs 17:3 (NIV)

Point 5 note: In addition to directly going to be with Christ upon passing from this earth believers in Christ are also eligible to participate in the 1st resurrection (Rev 20:4-6, Matthew 27:51-63, 1 Corinthians 15). **The timing of this event is dependent on various views of end times eschatology.** Some believe the 1st resurrection is ongoing since the close of the 2nd temple era and is identical to what is happening in Luke 23:43, John 11:23-26, Matthew 27:51-63, Philippians 1:21-32, 2 Corinthians 5:8. Meaning believers in Christ pass directly through death and into the 1st resurrection. Others hold that this is a future event that begins sometime after the final return of Christ at the close of the tribulation. Either way this event is unique to those who are followers of Christ.

***Note: Some Universalists in the past have asserted that the resurrection of both the just and the unjust is an ongoing event since the close of the Mosaic era after the destruction of Jerusalem, which was the "last day" in Preterest reckoning. Meaning upon passing from this world all people immediately appear before Christ, either to be welcomed into the kingdom or go through corrective chastisement. This view is consistent with point five of this outline in that "life" also means being in proper relationship with God. This view is noteworthy. (Ref: TWENTY-FOUR SHORT SERMONS ON THE DOCTRINE OF UNIVERSAL SALVATION By John Bovee Dods - Sermons 19-24).

NOTE: This doctrinal outline does not cover **translation problems in the bible**. The problem of the Greek word "aión" being translated as "eternity" or "forever and ever". The Greek word "aión" **merely means "age" and not eternity.** This is in keeping with doctrinal point #4, that God's punishments are always corrective and measured, rooted in his nature of love and goodness, and never infinite.

Additional References:

- (1) Universalism, Prevailing Doctrine, by J.W. Hanson pg. 149, 237.
- (2) (2) An essay upon various arts, tr., with notes, by R. Hendrie pg 426, 433-434. (3) (3) Gold parting using ancient technique by suphurization. Reference: On Divers Arts: The Foremost Medieval Treatise on Painting, Glassmaking, and Metalwok By Theophilus (Presbyter.), John G. Hawthorne, Cyril Stanley Smith 1963, 1979, Page 147.

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The ORIGIN AND HISTORY of The Doctrine of Endless Punishment

BY THOMAS B. THAYER

Prove all things. Hold fast that which is good --- PAUL

A Compilation of Excerpts from Thayer's book

(That which is contained in parenthesis is a comment from Karen Connell)

Author Thayer's Note:

This work is written for the purpose of furnishing a sketch of the argument by which it is shown that the doctrine of Endless Punishment is not of divine origin, but traceable directly to a heathen source... It is intended as a... presentation of the method of proof, and of the leading facts and authorities on which the argument rests. The sale of the first edition of nearly two thousand copies in the space of three or four months, without being advertised in any form, reveals the work meets an actual want, and will be serviceable to the cause of Truth...Yet, such as it is, I send it forth... to do what work it may; believing that, in the conflict of



opinions, Truth only is immortal, and cheerfully confident, therefore, that, at last, all error and all evil will perish.

THOMAS B. THAYER, Boston, January 1871.

CHAPTERS I & II (Overview)

Deal with Patriarchal and Law periods, down to the close of the Old Testament ...these chapters show how the doctrine of Endless Punishment is nowhere to be found in the sacred Scriptures of the Jews. Thayer's states:

⁵⁶ SOURCE: https://www.tentmaker.org/books/OriginandHistory.html



"But we know that the heathen world, during a large portion of this period, was in possession of the doctrine (endless punishment), and fully believed it. It is pertinent to our subject, therefore, to inquire into their belief, and endeavor to ascertain from what source they obtained it. It may be, too, that the examination will

discover to us the source of some of our modern doctrines on the subject. At any rate, it will show that the superstitions of the past and the present, of Pagans and Christians, are not very wide apart."

CHAPTER III (Overview)

SECTION I DESCRIPTION OF THE HEATHEN HELL

Among the ancient pagans, the belief in a hell of some sort was very general, if not universal. It was known by various names, as Orcus, Erebus, Tartarus, and Infernus or Inferna, whence our expression "infernal regions," &c. The views current respecting it were different at different periods, and among different nations, according to the degree of civilization, and the genius of the people. What I shall offer on this point will have respect mostly to the Romans, Greeks, and Egyptians.

SECTION II THE HEATHEN INVENTED THE DOCTRINE OF ENDLESS PUNISHMENT - SHOWN BY THEIR OWN CONFESSIONS.

Consider the following points:

- Any one at all familiar with the writings of the ancient Greeks or Romans, cannot fail to note how often it is admitted by them that the national religions were the inventions of the legislator and the priest, for the purpose of governing and restraining the common people.
- Hence, all the early PAGAN lawgivers claim to have had communications with the gods, who aided them in the preparation of their codes.
- The object of this sacred fraud was to impress the minds of the multitude with religious awe and command a more ready obedience on their part.
- Of course, in order to secure obedience, they were obliged to invent divine
 punishments for the disobedience of what they asserted to be divine laws.
 "Hence," says Bishop Warburton, "they enforced the belief of a future state of
 rewards and punishments by every sort of contrivance." And speaking of the

addition of metempsychosis, or the <u>transmigration of souls</u>,⁵⁷ he says: "This was an ingenious solution, invented by the Egyptian lawgivers, to remove all doubts concerning the moral attributes of God."



- Egypt has been called the "Mother of Superstitions," and her whole religious history shows the propriety of the appellation. Greeks and Romans, Lawgivers and Philosophers, acknowledge their indebtedness to her in this respect, and freely credit her with the original invention of the fables and terrors of the invisible world;
- We find the doctrine in full bloom with the Egyptians, but not a trace of it among the early Hebrews. But, singularly enough, when, in after ages, the Jews had become corrupted, and had departed from the Law of Moses, we find the doctrine among them. And, what is very noteworthy, as the next chapter will show, its first appearance is in apocryphal books written by Egyptian Jews. Thus, contrary to what some think instead of the Egyptians borrowing it from the Jews, the Jews borrowed it from the Egyptians.
- It is plain enough, from their united testimony, that the whole matter of judgment
 after death, the rewards of a good life, and the punishments of a bad life, with all
 the formal solemnities of trial and condemnation, originated and was perfected
 among the Egyptians, according to the peculiar character of their mythology.
 From them it was borrowed by the Greeks, who made such changes and additions
 as fitted the system to the genius(education) and circumstances of that people.
- These records of the ancient Greeks, confirmed by the monuments as illustrated by modern scholars, open to us the origin of the doctrines of a judgment after death, and of future endless rewards and punishments, for the good or evil deeds of this life. From the Egyptians it passed, with suitable modifications, to the Greeks and Romans.
- The Egyptian *Tartar*, significant of the lamentations of relatives over the dead refused burial on account of their wicked lives, furnishes the Greek *Tartarus*, where the wicked are punished.

⁵⁷ The original meaning of **transmigration or metempsychosis** was the revolution of the soul from body to body whether animal, human, angelic or of the gods. www.lexico.com/en/definition/metempsychosis



- The terrors of the invisible world must be presented in a way to strike the imagination in the most powerful manner and produce some direct result on the individual and on society. The whole thing is designed for effect, to influence the multitude, to restrain their passions, and to aid the magistrate and ruler in keeping them subject to authority. It is the invention of priests and lawmakers, who take this as the easiest method of governing the people. They claim the "divine right" to govern; claim that their laws originate with the gods, as we have shown above; and that, therefore, the gods will visit on all offenders the terrors and tortures of the damned. Hence, through the joint cunning of priest and legislator, of church and state, mutually supporting each the other, we have all the stupendous frauds and falsehoods respecting the invisible world.
- I wish to repeat; and I desire the reader to have it always in mind: The rulers and
 magistrates, or priests, invent these terrors to keep the people, the masses, in
 subjection; the people religiously believe in them; while the inventors, of course,
 and the educated classes, the priests and the philosophers, though they teach
 them to the multitude, have themselves no manner of faith in them.

CHAPTER IV (Overview)

THE JEWS BORROWED THE DOCTRINE OF ETERNAL PUNISHMENT FROM THE HEATHEN

Obviously a god who tortures people for eternity could not be our God who is described by mainly by three nouns used in the Bible. A god who tortures people for eternity is not our God of LIGHT(i.e. truth)—LIFE or LOVE!

The Jews in our Savior's time believed the doctrine of future endless punishment; that it was a part of the common faith. Of course, as the doctrine is nowhere to be found in their Scriptures, the question arises, where did they find it? At the close of the Old Testament Scriptures they did not believe it; at the beginning of the New they did. Between these

two points of time there was an interval of some four hundred years, during which there was no prophet in Israel.



Malachi was the last of the Hebrew prophets, and from him to Christ there stretches this waste period of centuries, when the Jews were without any divine teacher or revelation from heaven. And all this while they were in constant and intercourse close with the heathen. especially the Egyptians, the Greeks and Romans, who held the doctrine in review as part of the national faith. From these,

therefore, they must have borrowed it, for it is certain that they could not have obtained it from any inspired source, since none was open to them during this period.

As one might infer from their previous history, departing further and further from the law, and growing more and more corrupt; till at last they had, as the Savior charges upon them, utterly made void the law of God by their traditions. (Mark 7:9, 13) He said to them, "Full well do you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your TRADITION... making void the word of God by your tradition, which you have handed down. WEB

We see that the cords which bound them to the authority of Moses, and to the written law and revelations of God, had been slowly relaxing for a long time. Of course, when the last prophet had departed, and God had withdrawn all special guidance, (because of their pagan beliefs and practices), the growth of corruption among them, and conformity to Pagan opinions, rapidly increased.

The process is easily understood. About three hundred and thirty years before Christ, Alexander the Great had subjected to his rule the whole of Western Asia, including Judea, and also the kingdom of Egypt. Soon after he founded Alexandria, which speedily became a great commercial metropolis, and drew into itself a large multitude of Jews, who were always eager to improve the opportunities of traffic and trade. A few years later, Ptolemy Soter took Jerusalem, and carried off one hundred thousand of them into Egypt. Here, of course, they were in daily contact with Egyptians and Greeks, and gradually began to adopt their philosophical and religious opinions, or to modify their own in harmony with them.

The Jews came in contact with Greeks and with Greek philosophy, under one modification or another. It was around them and among them; for small bodies of that people were scattered through their own territories, as well as through the surrounding provinces. It

insinuated itself very slowly at first; but stealing upon them from every quarter, and operating from age to age, it mingled at length in all their views, and by the year 150 before Christ, had wrought a visible change in their notions and habits of thought." 3

At Alexandria, too, was established that celebrated school of philosophy and theology which exerted such a corrupting influence on both Jewish and Christian doctrine and teaching. "This school," says Enfield, "by pretending to teach a sublimer doctrine concerning God and divine things, enticed men of different countries and religions, and among the rest the Jews, to study its



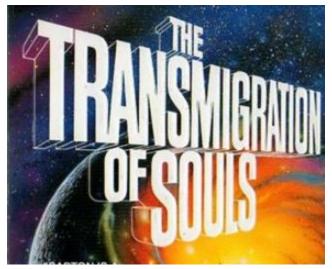
mysteries, and incorporate them with their own...Hence, under the cloak of symbols, Pagan philosophy gradually crept into the Jewish schools; and the Platonic doctrines, mixed first with the Pythagoric, and afterwards with the Egyptian and Oriental, were blended with the ancient faith in their explanations of the law and their traditions."

"This corruption, which began in the time of Ptolemy Philadelphus (B.C. 283), soon spread into Palestine, and everywhere disseminated among the Jews a taste for metaphysical subtleties and mysteries." Again, he says: "Under the Ptolemies the Jews began to learn the Egyptian and Oriental theology, and to incorporate those foreign dogmas with their ancient creed." And once more he says: "Some among them were so unfaithful to their country and their God, as to court the favor of the conqueror (Antiochus Epiphanes), by mixing Pagan tenets and superstitions with their own sacred doctrines and ceremonies." ⁵⁸

In these extracts we have some very important facts in aid of our inquiry. "The Pagan philosophy gradually crept into the Jewish schools," and the Jews incorporated into their ancient faith the dogmas of both the philosophy and theology of Egypt, the very fountainhead from which came the doctrine of future endless torments. But not only did they borrow from the Egyptian, but also from the Oriental and Pythagorean philosophy, in both of which, as well as in the Egyptian, one of the distinguishing features was the doctrine of metempsychosis, or the transmigration of souls, as a method of retribution after death. Indeed, Pythagoras made so much of this dogma, that it was often called specially by his

⁵⁸ History of Philosophy, Book iV c. 1. See also Murdock's Mosheim, vol. I 39.

name; and it was almost universally believed by the Oriental nations, and is to this day, especially by the Hindus, the Burmans, the followers of the Grand Lama, and by the Buddhists generally.



As this particular doctrine has an important bearing on our inquiry, it may be well to enlarge a little on this point. The opinions of the Egyptians have already been stated. Pythagoras taught that souls were sent into bodies corresponding to their several characters. The good were allowed to inhabit those of a gentle and social kind, as bees, doves, ants, &c. The bad were sent into such as resembled them in disposition and life; the angry and malicious into serpents; the ravenous and

robbing into wolves; the fraudulent into foxes; and, with the incivility of a Mahometan, cowards and effeminate into the bodies of women.

The Buddhists, according to Judson, believe that mankind pass into other bodies, the character of which is determined by their conduct in the present life. They may be sent into the bodies of birds, beasts, fish, or insects, from a higher to a lower grade, if wicked, until they reach hell, or a place of unmixed torment. In cases of atrocious crime, as the murder of a parent, or a priest, they pass through no transmigration, but go directly to hell.⁵⁹

This, it will be seen, corresponds with what Wilkinson says of the Egyptian doctrine, that only those sinners whose crimes admit of purification are allowed the benefit of this purgatorial transmigration, while the unpardonable sinner is condemned to endless fire. The Hindus have brought the doctrine to such a degree of perfection, that they profess to be able "to tell precisely the sin which the person committed in another body, by the afflictions which he endures in this. For instance, they say the headache is a punishment for having, in a former state, spoken irreverently to father or mother. Madness or insanity is a punishment for having been disobedient to parents, or to the priest or spiritual guide.

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⁵⁹ Wayland's Life of Judson, vol. I 144-152.

Epilepsy is the penalty for having in another body administered poison to any one at the command of a master. Pain in the eyes is retribution for having, when in a former body, coveted another man's wife. Blindness is a punishment for having killed one's mother; but



this person, before coming into another body, will be subjected to many years' torment in hell."

Such are the views respectively of the Egyptians, Pythagoreans, and Orientals, the subject of on transmigration as a system of retribution beyond death. And from these sources Enfield and others say the Jews borrowed largely,

incorporating the dogmas both of their philosophy and theology with the sacred doctrines of their ancient creed. Is there any proof that they borrowed the particular doctrine in question? We answer, there is abundant proof, which we will proceed to offer.

Of course, in doing this, we shall not distinguish between the particularly Egyptian and the particularly Grecian elements. Indeed, they were so blended after the conquest of Egypt by Alexander, and the influx of Greeks into the country, that it would be next to impossible to separate the two in their influence on the Jewish mind and opinions. In presenting the evidence, we shall do with the Jews as we did by the heathen - let them speak for themselves.

In the apocryphal Book of Wisdom, written perhaps from fifty to ninety years before Christ, by an Egyptian Jew, we have the following: "I was a witty child, and had a good spirit. Yea, rather, being good, I came into a body undefiled." Chapter viil 19, 20.

Josephus, who wrote about one hundred and fifty years later, says of the Pharisees: "They believe that souls have an immortal vigor in them, and that under the earth (in Sheol or Hades) there will be rewards and punishments, according as they have lived virtuously or viciously in this life. The latter are to be detained in an everlasting prison; but the former shall have power to revive and live again." This, it will be seen, is a great advance on the Old Testament Sheol or under-world. We find nothing of this sort among the patriarchs or prophets.

The truth is, that in the four hundred years of their intercourse with the heathen, during which they were without any divine teacher or message, Pagan philosophy and superstition had, so far as regarded the future state, completely pushed aside the Law of Moses and the Scriptures of the Old Testament, and set up in place of them their own extravagant inventions and fables respecting the invisible world. 14

CHAPTER V (OVERVIEW)

ENDLESS PUNISHMENT NOT TAUGHT IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

Consider the following quotes from this chapter...

- If the doctrine (of eternal punishment) be true, then the old patriarchs and prophets, and the chosen people of God, were all wrong some thousands of years; and the Egyptians, and Greeks, and all the heathen, were right. Those who enjoyed divine instruction were in error, while those who only had the light of nature for a guide found the truth.
- God makes a special revelation, through Christ, of what everybody knew before, Jews and Gentiles; for, as we have seen, the Jews had adopted the doctrine from the Pagans before Christ came. Heathenism (under demonic inspiration) had anticipated Christianity, and there was no need of a supernatural revelation of that which the Pagans had shrewdness enough to invent...

SECTION I. SALVATION BY CHRIST (from sin and) NOT FROM ENDLESS PUNISHMENT

• There are over ...one hundred and three examples that refer to spiritual or Gospel salvation. And yet in not one of these texts is it said that Christ came to save the world, or any part of it, from endless punishment, or even from "hell." But it is said repeatedly, and emphatically, that He came expressly to save us from something quite different from this, (meaning sin). How shall we explain this, if the doctrine (of eternal punishment) be true?

SECTION II. THE NEW TESTAMENT DOCTRINE OF HELL

 Do we find the doctrine of endless punishment revealed in the use of the word Hell? Let the facts answer. There are three words translated "Hell" in the New Testament, Hades and Tartarus, which are Greek, and Gehenna, which is the Greek form of the Hebrew words Gee and Hinnom, meaning "the valley of Hinnom."

HADES.

This word occurs eleven times, and is rendered "grave" once, and "hell" ten times. It may be profitable first to consider what one of the most accomplished orthodox scholars says in regard to it. "In my judgment," says Dr. Campbell, "it ought never in Scripture to be rendered hell, at least in the sense wherein that word is universally understood by Christians. In the Old Testament the corresponding word is Sheol, which signifies the state of the dead in general, without regard to the goodness or badness of the persons, their happiness or misery. It is very plain that neither in the Septuagint version of the Old Testament, nor in the New, does the word hades convey the meaning which the present English word hell, in the Christian usage, always conveys to our minds."60



- o HADES is put for the grave, or the state of the dead. Our translators have so rendered it in 2 Cor. xv 55. "O death, where is thy sting? O grave (hades), where is thy victory?" Let us look at some other passages where it is rendered "hell." "Thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine holy one to see corruption." "He spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither did his flesh see corruption." Acts ii 27, 31. Was the soul of Christ ever in hell, in the orthodox sense of the word, as a place of endless torment? But the sacred writer himself explains the word, when he says he is speaking of the resurrection of Christ, that is, from the grave, or the dead.
- o we know that the grave (hades) will deliver up its dead, and that death and the grave will be destroyed in the resurrection, when death shall be

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⁶⁰ Prelim. Diss. vi, Pt. ii.

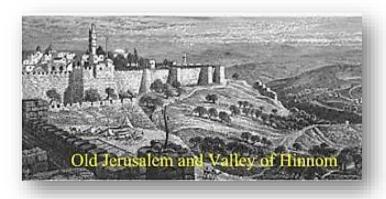
- swallowed up in the victory of immortal life. Then with a meaning it will be said, "O grave (hades, hell), where is thy victory?" for then will be fulfilled the saying, "O grave (hades, hell), I will be thy destruction." Hosea xiil 14.
- o HADES is also used in a figurative sense to represent a state of degradation, calamity, or suffering, arising from any cause whatever. "And thou, Capernaum, which art exalted unto heaven, shalt be brought down to hell" (hades). Matt. xi 23. The parallel passage is in Luke, x. 15. No one supposes that the city of Capernaum went down to a place of endless woe. The word hell here, as Dr. Clarke says, is a figure to establish "the state of utmost woe, and ruin, and desolation, to which these impenitent cities should be reduced. This prediction of our Lord was literally fulfilled." Bp. Pearce says, "It means, to be quite ruined and destroyed. ... it is a "hyberbolical expression, figuratively representing the depth of adversity."
- The parable of the rich man and Lazarus furnishes another example. (Luke XVI:19-25) "And in hell (hades) he lifted up his eyes, being in **torment**." "61 It will be remembered that the Jews had borrowed their ideas of **torment** in a future state from the heathen, and of course they were obliged to borrow their terms to express this. Accordingly, after the manner of the Greeks, Hades, or the place of departed spirits, is represented as receiving all, as Sheol did, good and bad; but we have also the additional idea of separate apartments or districts, divided by a great gulf or river; on one side of which the blessed are located, and on the other side the damned, near enough to see each other, and converse together, as in the case of Abraham and the rich man.
- o It must also be remembered that this **is only a parable**, and **not a real history**; for, as Dr. Whitby affirms, "**we find this very parable in the Gemara Babylonicum**."⁶² The story was not new, and **not original with Christ**, but known among the Jews before He repeated it. He borrowed the parable from them and employed it to show the **judgment** (experience of the 2nd death in the Lake of Fire) which awaited them. He represented (was emphasizing) the spiritual favors and privileges of the Jews by the wealth

71

⁶¹ **TORMENT** Strong's NT:931 *basanos* (bas'-an-os); referring to **a touch-stone**, CWSD:A touchstone, being a black siliceous stone used to test the purity of gold, silver, hence representing any test or criterion by which qualities are tried or tested. Metaphorically meaning the instrument or means (i.e. truth) by which one faces trial by examination. (from The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament © 1992 by AMG International, Inc. Revised Edition, 1993)

⁶² This was also known as the **Talmud Babylonicum**, the Jewish "Tulmud" or teachings and traditions that were learned from pagan Babylon during the Jewish captivity.

and luxury of the rich man, and the spiritual poverty of the Gentiles by the beggary and infirmity of Lazarus; and while the former (i.e. the Jews) would be deprived of their privileges and *punished* (experience a trial) for their wickedness, the latter (believing gentiles) would enjoy the blessings of truth and faith. A perfect commentary on the parable is found in such passages as these: "The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof." Matt xxi 43. "There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when ye see many coming from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south, and sitting with Abraham and Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of God, while you yourselves are thrust out." Matt. viil 11, compared with Luke xiil 28, 29. "It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you; but, seeing ye put it from you, and judge (show) yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles." Acts xiil 46.



TARTARUS

• This word occurs only once, and then in a participial form, in 2 Peter ii 4. "If God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, &c. Tartarosas. This is of the same character with the parable just considered, Tartarus being the place of torment in Hades, where the rich man was supposed to be. Bloomfield says that "Tartarus here is derived from the heathen, and chains of darkness from the Jewish mythology."

GEHENNA.

This word occurs twelve times in the New Testament and is always translated "hell." The word, "Gehenna, originally a Hebrew word, signifies the **valley of Hinnom**. Following is the word study on the Jews placed that brazen image of Moloch. It is said, on the authority of the ancient Rabbins, that to this image the idolatrous Jews not only sacrificed doves, pigeons, lambs, &c., but even to offer

their own children. In the prophecies of (Jeremiah 7: 31), this valley is called Tophet, from Toph, a drum; because they beat a drum during these horrible rites, lest the cries and shrieks of the infants who were burned should be heard by the assembly. At length these nefarious practices were abolished by Josiah, and the Jews brought back to the pure worship of God. After this they held the place in such abomination that they cast into it all kinds of filth, and the carcasses of beasts, and the unburied bodies of criminals who had been executed. Continual fires were necessary in order to consume these, lest the putrefaction should infect the air; and there were always worms feeding on the remaining relics. Hence it came, that any severe punishment, especially an infamous kind of death, was described by the word Gehenna, or hell."



- Isaiah says, "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." (Isa 66: 23, 24). Here the unquenchable fire and the undying worm of Gehenna, or hell, are used as figures of judgment to happen on the earth, where there are carcasses, new moons, sabbaths, &c. Gehenna, with its accompaniments, was an object of utmost loathing to the Jew, and came to be employed as a symbol of any great judgment or woe.
- In (James says of the tongue, "It defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of (in)⁶⁴ hell" (Gehenna). Here Gehenna, that place of filth and corruption and unquenchable fires⁶⁵, is the place where the tongue following "the course of nature" (carnal ways) that defile the whole body is "set on fire" to be utterly purged.

⁶³ Lexicon on Gehenna. The same statements are made by Prof. Stuart, Whitby, Clarke

⁶⁴ OF NT 5259 hupo can also be translated as "in."

⁶⁵ Anytime the Bible talks about the "unquenchable" fire of God, it is in reference to the judgement of God that results in the total destruction that purges what is defiling. This unquenchable sanctifying "fire" cannot be put out by man. The burning sanctifying process will continue until there is a complete purging. (Matt 3:11-12) he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire... Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.

 Gehenna is specially relied upon as teaching the (pagan) doctrine of endless torments, and this doctrine of a pagan hell, is widely believed by Christians... However, it is impossible to establish the doctrine of eternal punishment by the word Gehenna.

KAREN'S CONCLUSION: When professing Christians are convinced that there will be eternal punishment for sinners, there is often a lack of understanding about the fact that Hell (Gehenna and Sheol) are not the same as the Lake of Fire, especially if they are believing that the Lake of Fire is a place of eternal punishment rather than God's all-consuming fie of purging and restoration. The good news is that both death and hell will be cast into the Lake of Fire and totally consumed as the dross of the former earth and heavens... (Revelation 20:14) And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. KJV



(Revelation 21:1-7) Then I saw a new, fresh, unused heaven and a new, fresh, unused earth, for the old heaven and the old earth had disappeared. And the sea

was also gone... And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven like a bride beautifully dressed for her husband... I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, "Look, God's home is now among humanity! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them... He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things will have departed... And the one sitting on the throne said, "Look, I am making everything new, fresh and unused!" And then he said to me, "Write this down, for what I tell you is trustworthy and true." ... And he also said, "It is finished! I am the Alpha and the Omega—the Beginning and the End. To all who are thirsty I will give freely from the springs of the water of life... Those who are continuing to subdue, overcome and conquer shall inherit all these things, and I will be their God, and they will be my mature child. ALT (Alternate Literal Translation)

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