

THE ETERNAL FLAME

By Brother Mike Sutherland

INTRODUCTION: When John F. Kennedy was buried they placed a small flame at his grave. It is called the eternal flame, but make no mistake about it, it is not eternal. However, there is an eternal flame. The Bible says 3 different times that God is a consuming fire. *Deuteronomy 4:24* says:

²⁴For the LORD thy God is a consuming fire, even a jealous God. *Deuteronomy 4:24*

Turn in your Bibles to *Isaiah 33:11-14*:

¹¹ Ye shall conceive chaff, ye shall bring forth stubble: your breath, as fire, shall devour you. ¹² And the people shall be as the burnings of lime: as thorns cut up shall they be burned in the fire. ¹³ Hear, ye that are far off, what I have done; and, ye that are near, acknowledge my might. ¹⁴ The sinners in Zion are afraid; fearfulness hath surprised the hypocrites. Who among us shall dwell with the devouring fire? who among us shall dwell with everlasting burnings? *Isaiah 33:11-14*

The remainder of Isaiah 33 sets up a contrast between those who shall be the everlasting inhabitants of the lake of fire and the eternal inhabitants of Zion: if you will, the everlasting inhabitants of the New Jerusalem.

Fire is a symbol of God's righteousness and his judgment. When speaking of the Devil in *Ezekiel 28* God had this to say in verse 18:

¹⁸ Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffick; therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it shall devour thee, and I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee. *Ezekiel 28:18*

The same fate awaits those who are the enemies of the Lord Jesus Christ. The prophet Zechariah said in *Zechariah 14:12*:

¹² And this shall be the plague wherewith the LORD will smite all the people that have fought against Jerusalem; Their flesh shall consume away while they stand upon their feet, and their eyes shall consume away in their holes, and their tongue shall consume away in their mouth. *Zechariah 14:12*

I. THE BEINGS THAT WILL ABIDE IN THE ETERNAL FLAMES OF THE LAKE OF FIRE.

A. The devil. *Isaiah 14:9, 12* and *Revelation 20:10*.

⁹ Hell from beneath is moved for thee to meet thee at thy coming: it stirreth up the dead for thee, even all the chief ones of the earth; it hath raised up

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from their thrones all the kings of the nations....¹² How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! *Isaiah 14:9, 12*

¹⁰ And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever. *Revelation 20:10*

B. The beast who is the Anti-Christ and the False Prophet. *Revelation 19:20.*

²⁰ And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone. *Revelation 19:20*

C. The fallen angels. *2 Peter 2:4.*

⁴For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment; *2 Peter 2:4*

D. The false religionists. *Matthew 23:15, 33.*

¹⁵ Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves. *Matthew 23:15*

³³ Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell? *Matthew 23:33*

E. The wicked and forgetful nations. *Psalms 9:17.*

¹⁷ The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God. *Psalms 9:17*

F. The foolish unbelievers. *Matthew 7:21-23, Revelation 21:8, Revelation 22:11, and 2 Peter 2:9.*

²¹ Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. ²² Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful

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works? ²³ And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity. *Matthew 7:21-23*

⁸ But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death. *Revelation 21:8*

¹¹ He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still. *Revelation 22:11*

⁹ The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished: *2 Peter 2:9*

II. THE EMOTIONAL AND PHYSICAL PAIN THAT SCREAMS AND AGONIZES FORTH FROM THE ETERNAL FLAMES.

There will be no end to the worst pain and suffering anyone has ever experienced; no end to the pain of the burning flames; no end to the thirst, no end to the ear piercing screams; no end to the agonizing emotions; no end to the regrets brought on by the agonizing memories of every time you heard the gospel and rejected it.

A. **Hell and the Lake Of Fire are eternal places with eternal flames: *Matthew 18:8; Matthew 25:41; Luke 16:24; Jude 7; and Revelation 14:11.***

⁸ Wherefore if thy hand or thy foot offend thee, cut them off, and cast them from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life halt or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet to be cast into everlasting fire. *Matthew 18:8*

⁴¹ Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: *Matthew 25:41*

⁷ Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire. *Jude 7*

¹¹ And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name. *Revelation 14:11*

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B. There is no mercy in the flames (no cooling agent): *Luke 16:24-25.*

²⁴ And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame. ²⁵ But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented. *Luke 16:24-25*

C. There are agonizing memories in the flames. *Luke 16:25.*

²⁵ But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented. *Luke 16:25*

D. There will be no escape from the morgue of the Lake Of Fire. The unsaved will always be in a state of dying and yet never able to completely perish . *Luke 16:26; Job 36:18; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9; Revelation 20:15; and Matthew 23:33.*

²⁶ And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence. *Luke 16:26*

¹⁸ Because there is wrath, beware lest he take thee away with his stroke: then a great ransom cannot deliver thee. *Job 36:18*

⁷ And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, ⁸ In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: ⁹ Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power; *2 Thessalonians 1:7-9*

¹⁵ And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire. *Revelation 20:15*

³³ Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell? *Matthew 23:33*

E. There is unending torment and never any rest in the flames of the Lake Of Fire: *Revelation 14:11.*

¹¹ And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they

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have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name. *Revelation 14:11*

II. HOW TO AVOID THE ETERNAL FLAMES OF THE LAKE OF FIRE. *Matthew 10:28 and Mark 9:43-48.*

THERE IS A CALL AND A WARNING THAT GOES FORTH! WILL YOU HEED THAT CALL?

²⁸ And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. *Matthew 10:28*

⁴³ And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: ⁴⁴ Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched. ⁴⁵ And if thy foot offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter halt into life, than having two feet to be cast into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: ⁴⁶ Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched. ⁴⁷ And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out: it is better for thee to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire: ⁴⁸ Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched. *Mark 9:43-48*

A. **See your sinful condition. *Romans 3:23; Luke 13:2; and John 3:36.***

²³ For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; *Romans 3:23*

² And Jesus answering said unto them, Suppose ye that these Galilaeans were sinners above all the Galilaeans, because they suffered such things? *Luke 13:2*

³⁶ He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him. *John 3:36*

B. **Respond to God's call of salvation. *John 6:44, and John 16:7-11.***

⁴⁴ No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day. *John 6:44*

⁷ Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. ⁸ And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin,

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and of righteousness, and of judgment: ⁹ Of sin, because they believe not on me; ¹⁰ Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; ¹¹ Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged. *John 16:7-11*

C. Seek the saving Christ. *Isaiah 55:6; John 5:24; John 6:37; Hebrews 7:25; and Romans 10:13-14.*

⁶ Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: *Isaiah 55:6*

²⁴ Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life. *John 5:24*

³⁷ All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out. *John 6:37*

²⁵ Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them. *Hebrews 7:25*

¹³ For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. ¹⁴ How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? *Romans 10:13-14*

D. The call to receive and publicly profess the Lord Jesus Christ. *John 1:12 and Romans 10:8-10.*

¹¹ He came unto his own, and his own received him not. ¹² But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: *John 1:11-12*

⁸ But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; ⁹ That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. *Romans 10:8-10*