The Good News About Hell! -When Evil Comes to a Final Conclusion-

**Please don't do this Bible study until you have done "What Happens When You Die?"

*Remember to Pray for Wisdom Before You Begin

- 1.) What is the one marvelous character traits of God and His Son Jesus? 1John 4:7, 8 Beloved, let us love one another: for ______ is ____God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. 8 He that loveth _____ knoweth not God; for God is _____.
 NOTE: God's very character is love so there will be no teaching of the Bible that will contradict this principle of love.
- 2.) Since God's very character is love, what is a good scriptural description of this love? ["charity" is another word for love] 1Corinthians 13:4-7 Charity suffereth _____, and is _____; charity envieth _____; charity _____[boasts] not itself, is not _____, up, 5 Doth _____ behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her _____, is not easily ______, thinketh no _____; 6 Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the _____; 7 Beareth _____things, believeth all things, _____ all things, _____ all things.
- 3.) True love will not allow evil to go on unchecked to harm other innocent beings. This is called Justice. True love will administer justice when it is needed to stop its destructive behavior. How is this Biblically stated in God's character? Exodus 34:7 Keeping mercy for thousands, ________ iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by _____ means ______ the guilty; visiting the _______ of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth generation. Leviticus 19:36 Just ______, just ______, a _____ ephah, and a ______ hin, shall ye have: I am the LORD your God, which brought you out of the land of Egypt. Job 8:3 Doth God _______ judgment? or doth the Almighty _______ justice? NOTE: Devils and demons, unrepentant sinners and lawbreakers will someday come to an end. Evil will not be allowed to continue indefinitely. God would not be a God of love if He allowed sin to continue on. Sin causes pain, suffering, confusion, chaos and ultimately death. For the benefit of redeemed humanity, good angels and whatever other beings or creatures there are throughout heaven and earth, evil and sin must justly be punished and <u>eliminated</u>.
- 4.) All through the Word of God is the principle of vengeance, retribution and punishment. What scriptures bring this out unmistakably? Deuteronomy 32:41 *If I whet my glittering*

_____, and _____ hand take hold on judgment; I will render ______ to mine _____, and will ______ them that hate me. **43** Rejoice, O ye nations, with his people: for he will avenge the blood of his servants, and will render ______ to his adversaries, and will be ______ unto his land, and to his people. **Ezekiel 25:17** And I will execute great ______ upon them with ______ rebukes; and they shall know that I am the LORD, when I shall lay my ______ upon them. **2Thessalonians 1:8** In flaming ______ taking ______ on them that know not God, and that obey ______ the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: **NOTE: There are many more verses that could be listed**, **but the point is clear –sin will never go unpunished. The very fact that Jesus the Son of God had to come down to this evil world and lay our deserved punishment on Himself through the death of the cross is proof of the ultimate retribution of sin.**

5.) What will happen to all who don't receive the gracious invitation [in this life] to accept by faith the blood of Jesus on their behalf and receive everlasting life? Revelation 21:8 But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, _____ have their part in the _____ which burneth with _____ and _____: which is the second _____. NOTE: Take note of the last word in this verse, "death." Isn't death supposed to be the opposite of life? Let's look at some more verses that bring this out.

6.) How does John 3:16 contrast "everlasting life" with the fate of the lost? For God so the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not , but have everlasting life. How does the Apostle Paul use this contrast? Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is _____; but the gift of God is _____ through Jesus Christ our Lord. **2Timothy 1:10** But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished _____, and hath brought _____ and _____: James 1:15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and , when it is bringeth forth . NOTE: Keep in mind that "the wages of sin is death" not eternal life in hell-fire. John 3:16 uses the word "perish." This word means to come to an end or to pass from existence. Death is cessation of life. Verse after verse in the scriptures bring this out. But maybe you're thinking to yourself, what about those verses that talk about "eternal" or everlasting fire or "smoke of their torment ascending up forever and ever?" Hang in there and we will examine those plus many others that talk about being burned up, annihilation, etc... On the above issue about death and life -let's look at another passage from 1John 5:11 And this is the record, that God hath given to us ______ and this ______ is in his Son. **12** He that hath the Son hath ______; and he that hath the Son of God hath not . **FURTHER NOTE:** If you did the study "What Happens When You Die?": it brought out that the Bible plainly teaches that man is mortal <u>not</u> immortal and that he rests in the grave until the resurrection -he or she doesn't go to heaven or hell as soon as he or she dies!

7.) Is hell-fire taking place presently (now) with many of the lost and wicked in it? 2Peter 2:9 *The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to* ______ *the unjust*

_____ the day of judgment _____ punished: Matthew 13:38 The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the _____ are the children of the ______ one; 39 The enemy that sowed them is the _____; the harvest is the _____ of the world; and the reapers are the angels. **40** As therefore the are gathered and in the fire; so shall it be in the _____ of this world. **41** The Son of man _____ send forth his angels, and they ______ gather out of his kingdom all things that _____, and them which do _____; **42** And _____ cast them into a furnace of _____: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. **Job 21:30** That the wicked is to the day of destruction? they _____ be brought forth to the _____ of wrath. John 5:28 Marvel not at this: for the hour is ______, in the which _____ that are in the graves shall hear *his voice*, **29** *And come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of* _____; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of ______. **NOTE:** <u>The</u> scriptures above are very clear. No one is burning in hell now. The day of hell and the destruction of the wicked is coming in the future. Imagine for a moment if it were true that a lost person went to hell as soon as he died. Then we have a problem with someone like Cain who, toward the beginning of the world would be burning for all these thousands of years and then comes along someone like Adolf Hitler who undoubtedly was hundreds or thousands of times worse and then when he died joins the place of hell. But Cain who wasn't nearly as bad, has already been suffering thousands of years longer. Is this really justice?! The Bible is very clear that even the lost will be rewarded according to their works. When the destructive fires of hell occur at a certain time after the end of the world like the above verses say, then each one will receive their deserved punishment. God's Word when carefully studied gives us the truth when we study out these issues.

8.) According to God's Word where is the location of hell where the lost will be destroyed? Revelation 20:9 And they went up on the breadth of the _____, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and _____ came down from God out of heaven, and ______ them. 2Peter 3:7 But the heavens and the _____, which are now, by the same word are kept in _____, reserved unto _____ against the day of judgment and perdition of ______ men. Proverbs 11:31 Behold, the ______ shall be

_______ in the earth: much ______ the wicked and the sinner. NOTE: If lost sinners receive their punishment on the surface of this earth, will hell be an everlasting torment for them while they are on this earth? Notice what Proverbs 10:30 says. The righteous shall never be removed: but the wicked shall ______ inhabit the ______. This proves they will ultimately be annihilated. According to popular teaching "hell" is taking place in the center of the earth where it is viewed with the devil being in charge continually poking people with his pitchfork. This has no Biblical basis whatsoever but comes from fictitious medieval teachings. Hell, according to the Bible will take place right here on the surface of the earth right before the earth is made over new again. *The word "Hell" in the Bible can have different meanings depending on the original Hebrew or Greek word. In many places it is translated "grave" or some "a place of darkness" or "a place of burning."

9.) Who were the fires of hell originally prepared for? Matthew 25:41 Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, _____

for the ______ and his ______: **46** And these shall go away into everlasting _______: but the righteous into life eternal. **NOTE: The devil is not in charge of hell. Notice in verse 46 that it says "everlasting punishment"** <u>not</u> "everlasting punishing."

10.) Do the fires of hell burn through the ceaseless ages of eternity? Are the lost tortured on and on without any end? Malachi 4:1 For, behold, the day ______, that shall ______ as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do _______, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall ______ them _____, saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch. 3 And ye shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be _______.
under the soles of your feet in the ______ that I ______ do this, saith the LORD of hosts.
Psalm 37:9 For evildoers shall be ______ off: but those that wait upon the LORD, they shall inherit the earth. 10 For yet a little while, and the wicked shall ______ be: yea, thou shalt _______ consider his _______, and it shall _______ be: 20 But the wicked shall _______ into smoke shall they ________. 38 But the transgressors shall be destroyed together: the end of the wicked shall be cut off. Psalm 145:20 The LORD _______ all them that love him: but all the wicked will he _______. 21:9 Thou shalt make them as a fiery _______ in the time of thine anger: the LORD shall _______ in the mup in his wrath, and the _______ shall _______ them.

11.) Will even the devil or Satan himself come to a final end? Let see what God's Word actually says. Ezekiel 28:16 By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will ______ thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will ______ thee, O covering ______, from the midst of the stones of fire. 18 Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffick; therefore will I bring forth a ______ from the midst of thee, it shall ______ thee, and I will bring thee to ______ upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee. NOTE: This couldn't be much plainer! This passage unequivocally states that Satan (Lucifer before he became the devil) will be totally annihilated. If he will come to an end [ashes] in the fires of hell and he is far, far more evil than any human being, why would he come to a final end when human beings who have been made in the image of God suffer unendingly in the fires of hell?! Granted, his punishment will be vastly greater than any humans who have done evil and not repented. As we shall see later on in our study, there will be varying degrees of punishment according to the magnitude and/or number of sins committed.

12.) A verse in Matthew speaks about "everlasting fire." Let's allow the Bible to interpret itself about the meaning of this word. What do these verses say? Matthew 25:41 Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into _______ fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: Now let's look at what Jude 7 says. 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 ______,

suffering the vengeance of ______ fire. NOTE: The effects of this fire are everlasting. The lost will be lost for all eternity. Notice what 2 Peter 2:6 says which make this clearer from the effects of Sodom and Gomorrah. 2Peter 2:6 And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ______ condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ______ unto those that ______ should live ungodly; FURTHER NOTE: Amazing! This makes it quite plain that Sodom and Gomorrha were reduced to ashes and not only that, but <u>God has made them as an example for the final fate of the wicked</u>. Are the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha still literally burning today? Absolutely not!

13.) But doesn't the Bible say something about the "wicked being tormented for ever and ever?" Yes, let's look at these and just let the Bible explain itself. Revelation 20:10 And

the ______ that deceived them was cast into the ______ of fire and ______, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be _______ day and night for ______ and ever. **14:11** And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up _______ 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. **NOTE:** For certain very wicked people, satan or evil angels, the punishment probably will be night and day for a period of time, but as we shall see, even they will eventually be burned up and finally come to an end. But let's look at other places in scripture that uses the term "for ever" and see if it means eternal. Keep in mind also that these verses are in the "symbolic" book of Revelation where we don't always take everything literally. See next question in # 14 below.

14.) Are there some other Bible passages that use the words "for ever" that means only for a **limited space of time? Exodus 21:6** Then his master shall bring him unto the judges; he shall also bring him to the door, or unto the door post; and his ______ shall bore his _____ through with an aul; and he shall serve him ______. **1Samuel 1:22** But Hannah went not up; for she said unto her husband, I will not go up until the child be _____, and then I will bring him, that he may appear before the LORD, and there abide ____ . **28** Therefore also I have lent him to the LORD; as as he he shall be ______ to the LORD. And he worshipped the LORD there. NOTE: In this situation, for ever means "as long as he liveth." In Exodus 21 the servant would serve his master "for ever" and obviously this meant as long as he lived. Jonah 2:1 Then Jonah ______ unto the LORD his God out of the fish's _____, **2** And said, I cried by reason of mine _____ unto the LORD, and he heard me; out of the belly of _____ cried I, and thou heardest my voice. **3** For thou hadst cast me into the deep, in the ______ of the seas; and the floods compassed me about: all thy billows and thy waves passed over me. 4 Then I said, *I am* out of thy sight; yet I will look again toward thy holy temple. **5** The waters compassed me about, even to the : the depth closed me round about, the weeds were wrapped about my head. 6 I went down to the of the mountains; the earth with her bars was about me _____: yet hast thou brought up my life from , O LORD my God. FURTHER NOTE: When Jonah was inside the belly of this sea creature with who knows what else down there with him, as well as possible digestive

juices, claustrophobic conditions to the extreme –three days and nights probably seemed like forever!! With many of the scriptures plainly teaching that hell fire comes to an end, and knowing that the Bible does not contradict itself, we have to let the Bible explain itself. When we do, we see a beautiful harmony of consistency throughout its sacred pages. <u>Keep in mind that an eternally burning hell would make it impossible to ever</u> <u>totally get rid of sin and suffering</u>. The teachings of an "immortality of the soul" and an "eternally burning hell" have pagan roots that have no foundation or place in the inspired Word of God.

15.) If your son or daughter committed a terrible crime like murder for instance, would you want them to be continually punished or burned for all eternity? In light of that thought what vital question does Job ask about our sense of justice compared to God's sense of justice? Job 4:17 Shall ______ man be more ______ than God? shall a man be more ______ than his maker? Job 34:10 Therefore hearken unto me, ye men of understanding: ______ be it from God, that he should do ______; and from the Almighty, that he should commit iniquity. 12 Yea, surely God will ______ do wickedly, neither will the Almighty ______ judgment. NOTE: Any decent normal people would not want to subject their children or loved ones to unspeakable torture for all eternity for some crime they might have committed. Why do we reason that a loving, holy and righteous God would do this??

16.) Will there be varying degrees of punishment for the wicked and lost? Luke 12:46 The lord of that servant will come in a day when he looketh not for him, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him in sunder, and will appoint him his portion with the ______ his lord's will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his _____, shall be beaten with _____ stripes. **48** But he that knew ______ and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with stripes. For unto whomsoever much is , of him shall be much : and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more. **49** I am come to send on the earth; and what will I, if it be already kindled? **Romans 2:5** But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself ______ against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous ______ of God; 6 Who will render to every man to his deeds: **2Corinthians 5:10** For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may ______ the things done in his _____, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or _____. **NOTE:** According to these verses above and there are more (not listed) that plainly teach that the final execution of judgment will be according to what every lost human deserves. For the followers of Christ, His blood and merits cover our unworthiness and His powerful grace enables His followers to overcome every sin and evil in their lives to be transformed into His image.

17.) The Bible says that hell fire will be unquenchable. What does this mean? Luke 3:17 Whose fan is in his hand, and he will throughly purge his floor, and will gather the wheat

into his garner; but the ______ he will ______ with fire ______. NOTE: "Unquenchable" means exactly what it says. While this fire is doing its work of consuming, it will not be able to be put out <u>until</u> it has done its work, then it goes out. In other words if any rebellious evil person has some plan to be able to put this fire out -forget it; it will be impossible because this fire will be a supernatural fire!! An example of this is given in (Jer. 17:27 and then 2 Chron. 36; 19, 21) where it says that Jerusalem if they continued in disobedience of the Sabbath; they would suffer with unquenchable fire. This eventually happened and the fire went out when its intended purpose was fulfilled.

- 18.) According to the earthly Hebrew Sanctuary which was a model for the plan of salvation and how God saves us from sin, had three parts to it –The court yard, the holy place, and the most holy place. Symbolically the courtyard represented this earth, the other two sections represented what is already in heaven. What does Exodus 29:18 & 30:18 say? Exodus 29:18 And thou shalt ______ the whole ram upon the ______: it is a burnt offering unto the LORD: it is a sweet savour, an offering made by ______ unto the LORD. 30:18 Thou shalt also make a ______ of brass, and his foot also of brass, to ______ withal: and thou shalt put it between the tabernacle of the congregation and the altar, and thou shalt put ______ therein. NOTE: Since the Courtyard represents what happens on this earth, two cleansing agents were used –water and fire! The altar of sacrifice had fire to consume or burn up the substitute sacrifice. The laver of water was for symbolically cleansing sin away. Our earth because of its wickedness was once cleansed by water in the world-wide flood. The flood came to an end! At the very end of the culmination of sin in
- this world, it will be cleansed this time by fire! And this too will come to an end! 19.) What further Biblical evidence do we see that hell and all evil will come to a complete and final end? Revelation 21:1 And I saw a new heaven and a new _____: for the first

heaven and the first earth were ______ away; and there was no more sea. 2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of ______, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will ______ with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. 4 And God shall wipe away all ______ from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor ______, neither shall there be any more ______: for the former things are passed away. NOTE: If there were an eternal hell, this last verse couldn't be true, because there would still be crying, pain, and sorrow. And since we have seen that the final destruction of evil angels and men will be on the surface of this earth, how could the earth be made over new if there was still a hell fire going on?

20.) Since Jesus paid the penalty for our sins as our perfect substitute so we don't have to face the final destruction, -is Jesus still being punished on the cross today? John 19:30 When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is ______: and he bowed his head, and gave _____ the ghost. **33** But when they came to Jesus, and saw that he was

______ already, they brake not his legs: Hebrews 10:10 By the which will we are sanctified <u>through</u> the offering of the body of Jesus Christ ______ for all. 12 But this man, after he had offered ______ sacrifice for sins ______, sat down on the right hand of God; NOTE: Actually, the real punishment of sin that Jesus suffered for was the sense of separation from His heavenly Father that He was experiencing even starting from the Garden of Gethsemane. This sense of separation peaked or climaxed on the cross when Jesus <u>from</u> <u>His human standpoint</u> felt all the sins of the world being laid on him and that He was headed into the tomb of death and never, ever coming out of that tomb again! Anticipation of this was the real suffering! Now praise God He was raised again, but Hebrews 2:9 says "He by the grace of God should <u>taste</u> death for every man." Jesus, to really take our place had to go through the experience of this separation from God which every lost person will also experience. The suffering by fire will probably be insignificant compared to this experience of being eternally ripped apart from our Maker and Source of life. This in essence will be what hell is really all about! May we CHOOSE Jesus and His powerful love and then begin LIFE eternal through Him!

Brief Quiz

CIRCLE ONE

- 1.) True/False The lost will have to suffer excruciating pain and suffering for all eternity.
- 2.) True/False The devil will be in charge of hell and he will make sure each one receives as much torture as possible.
- **3.)** True/False The final destruction of the lost will not take place till the end of the world.
- **4.) True/False** Sodom & Gomorrha are set as examples for those who will suffer the final punishment.
- 5.) True/False Hell is somewhere in the middle of the earth.
- 6.) True/False God's sense of justice, if anything, is fairer and more just than ours.
- 7.) True/False All will be punished differently according to what they deserve.
- 8.) True/False The character of Jesus as seen when He was on this earth proves that we can truly trust how God is going to handle the retribution of the wicked.

My Response

The scriptural evidence about what actually happens to the lost is unmistakably clear to me. My appreciation of the character of God is strong because I see that He is merciful and just at the same time. I want to make sure that I am surrendered to Jesus and to follow Him all the way to His beautiful kingdom.

Signed_____