

# A Fire & Brimstone Sermon

**Introduction:** The expression “fire and brimstone” preaching describes preaching that strongly denounces the sins of man, with the imminent threat of hell awaiting all who do not repent. And often it may involve a lot of shouting, yelling and pounding the pulpit. Ha! There is a place in God’s scheme of things for strong rebuke of sin, and I try to do a balanced job from this podium myself, minus the yelling, shouting, and pounding. Ha! Ok, I do get loud sometimes, but hopefully not out of control or overboard.

I wish to make this lesson though a more literal fire and brimstone lesson, meaning a discussion of the Word of God’s use of this description of eternal fiery punishment and God’s powerful threats to bring about change in man’s behavior.

The expression, “fire and brimstone”, has its roots in God raining fire and brimstone on Sodom and Gomorrah - Genesis 19. Connect this with Jude 5-7. *Notice also verses 21-23.*

**God** says, (not me) that He will burn people with fire if they do not please Him. And if we succeed in turning them to God before this life is over, it is like snatching them out of the FIRE!

## I) The Use Of Threats By God

Parents threaten their kids...“if you do that” or “if you do not do this”.....Our Heavenly Parent, (God, our Father) has always used the **fear** of punishment in His dealings with man. It begins in the beginning...*In the day you eat of it, you shall surely die.* Now that is a one severe threat! And God continues throughout Scripture to warn of dire consequences to disobedience.

**Deut. 11:26-28** - *Behold, I set before you this day a blessing and a curse; A blessing, if ye obey the commandments of the LORD your God, which I command you this day: And a curse, if ye will not obey the commandments of the LORD your God, but turn aside out of the way which I command you this day, to go after other gods, which ye have not known.*

But, just as Satan did then, when he whispers in our ear ("You shall not die") so he continues to this day. Whisper: "You will not suffer in hell"... "it is not eternal"... "God is too loving to send any of His children to such a place"... "there is no such place." -- And people buy it!

Listen to me good...God never, ever threatens in vain...unlike some parents (bad parenting, I might add). No idle threats! Ever.

Repent **or else** is the continuous watchword of Jehovah...*Except you repent, you will all likewise perish...Repent or I will remove your candlestick...Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds.*

Brethren and friends, God is going to punish us severely if we fail to come to know Him and obey the gospel. You see the slogan on bumper stickers..."No Fear"? Well, there is one person you and I had better fear... GOD! Heb. 10:31 - *It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.*

## **II) The Threat of Fire & Pain**

Do you know who spoke the most about hell in the Bible? It might surprise you...JESUS! And would you believe that He spoke more of hell fire than heavenly bliss? BELIEVE IT! For it is absolutely true. -- Let's read Matt. 10:28 -- The Greek word "Gehenna" is rendered hell. -- Valley of Hinnom, garbage dump outside Jeru-

saalem, where **burning** carcasses and rotting decay seemed to never stop. This is what happens to your spirit and resurrected body. Just as heaven is depicted as having gates of pearl and a street of gold, so the extreme opposite is descriptive of hell. -- **Unquenchable fire** - Mark 9:43-44 - never burns out...NEVER! -- Where the **worm dies not** - an allusion to maggots? Decomposing worms eating at you? Sick! -- **Torment in flames** - Lk. 16 rich man and Lazarus story. Not even a drop of water relief.

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

Hebrews 12:29 - *For our God is **a consuming fire.***

**Wailing and gnashing of teeth** - extreme pain and agony (Matt. 13:42,50) ...Crying, lots of crying...weeping, lots of weeping...Grinding and gritting their teeth painful.

**Outer Darkness** - Matt. 8:12...Sometimes you hear of scaring the daylights out of someone...well, what we really need is for someone, somehow to scare the darkness out of us! This is terrifying. Perpetual blackness - Jude 13 reads *...Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the **blackness of darkness** for ever.*

**Prepared for the devil** - Matt. 25:41 - What kind of place must that be? The place God has made for Satan and his angels to suffer eternal punishment!...is where we go! How bad that must be! Who wants to be around him all the time? He

hates God. He is doomed along with us forever and he has super power. We should dread to think of it.

### **III) Eternal Punishment**

Matthew 25:46 - *everlasting punishment* (from Latin "pain")...Don't be deceived, hell is very real...as real as heaven! And lasts just as long. If heaven is forever and ever, then so is hell and vice versa.

**Rev. 21:8**...*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 burns with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.*

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

Maybe the most dreaded thought if we are lost, will be the hopeless moment when we realize in that place of black darkness, fiery burning, and agonizing pain that we are NEVER getting out of this place! We are by nature hopeful creatures...we can survive if there is just a glimmer of light at the end of the tunnel. But there will not be. Not in a million years, not ever.

**Conclusion:** God severely threatens us, with a punishment so awful and lasting so long that no one in their right mind would ever toy with the idea of going there or monkey around and slip up and in so doing go to that bad place. Right? My dear friend, don't mess up! I plead with you...don't mess up.