

63. The Book of Revelation—14:10-11

A message by Pastor Phil Ballmaier
(12-1-21)

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As we begin this study, let me remind the reader that Chapter 14 is a little difficult to make sense out of. The reason for that is that it speaks of events that haven't happened yet as if they had already taken place.

It only begins to make sense when you realize that it seems to be a "preview of coming attractions" or a "table of contents" highlighting the things that will take place in Chapters 15-19.

Revelation 14:9-11 (NKJV)

⁹ Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives *his* mark on his forehead or on his hand, ¹⁰ he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. ¹¹ And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name."

Those who worship the Antichrist will be forced to drink "the wine of the wrath of God...full strength..."

In those days they drank 'diluted' wine (one part wine, three parts water) because the water was often polluted with micro-organisms that would cause gastrointestinal diseases—and so they diluted it with a small amount of alcohol to kill the bacteria.

Of course, they did have full-strength, undiluted wine for when they wanted to celebrate at a wedding or simply when they wanted to get drunk (a Gentile thing).

The 'cup' that the angel is referring to is—the 'cup of God's indignation'—His judgment!

The fact that the angel commands that the cup of God's judgment be filled with "full strength wine" is a reference to wine that hasn't been *diluted* with water—but also that hasn't been 'filtered' or 'strained'.

Wine that was unfiltered still had the 'dregs' in it (the sediments—seeds, grape skins, etc.)—which meant as it fermented it was very strong to the taste—but also very *bitter* causing those that drank it to get sick!

This kind of wine became a metaphor of the bitterness of God's judgments—

Psalms 75:8 (NKJV)

⁸ For in the hand of the LORD *there is* a cup, And the wine is red; It is fully mixed, and He pours it out; Surely its dregs shall all the wicked of the earth Drain *and* drink down.

To drink the cup of the wrath of God full strength means that the unbelieving people of the world are about to experience the most severe judgments of the Great Tribulation Period (Chapter 16)— judgments that will be 'undiluted' and **unfiltered**' or in other words—without any mercy.

No more will any prophet of God be able to pray—“*In wrath remember mercy*” (Habakkuk 3:2)—the day of mercy will have come to an end by this time.

Of course, the ultimate interpretation of this is to understand this judgment as beginning on earth—but continuing for all eternity in the Lake of Fire (Hell) in the ‘*outer darkness*.’

❖ What’s in view is ‘*full strength*’ eternal judgment.

The full fury of God’s wrath, so long restrained, will finally be unleashed on the inhabitants of the world full strength. God’s wrath is not an outburst of emotion where God “*loses it and flies off the handle in an uncontrolled rage*”—God is NOT a hothead!

The Greek word means—“*a slow burning anger that has been building over time*” (like the pressure of a volcano).

In other words, God’s anger toward man’s rebellion and sin that has been building over the centuries—but in time past has been restrained by the love, mercy and grace of Almighty God.

2 Peter 3:9 (NKJV)

⁹ The Lord is not slack concerning *His* promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

1 Timothy 2:4 (NKJV)

⁴ who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

But now (Revelation 16) it will finally reach eruption and will explode upon a godless and wicked world.

Remember—believers will never drink of this cup because—Jesus already drank it for us.

Matthew 26:36, 39 (NKJV)

³⁶ Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and said to the disciples, “Sit here while I go and pray over there.” ...³⁹ He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, “O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You *will*.”

John 18:11 (NKJV)

¹¹ So Jesus said to Peter, “Put your sword into the sheath. Shall I not drink the cup which My Father has given Me?”

Those who reject Christ will be made to drink that cup of judgment themselves—full strength, only not for six hours (9 AM to 3 PM) as Jesus drank it—but for eternity!

Revelation 14:10b (NKJV)

¹⁰ he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. **He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb.**

Unrepentant sinners will be banished from God’s presence *relationally*—in the sense that they will be forever barred from loving fellowship with Him that believers will enjoy for eternity. They will not, however, be away from His presence in the sense of His omnipresence and omniscience—even in hell.

Proverbs 15:3 (NKJV)

³ The eyes of the LORD *are* in every place, Keeping watch on the evil and the good.

Psalms 139:7-8 (NKJV)

⁷ Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? ⁸ If I ascend into heaven, You *are* there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You *are there*.

The idea of a literal place called **hell** where there will be eternal torment is not very popular with people—they ask:

➤ *“How can a God of love allow people He created in His own image suffer eternal torment?”*

Because people can't wrap their minds around this (it's just too horrible to think about) most people fall into one of three categories with regard to Hell:

- a) **They ignore it** by living in denial concerning the reality of Hell (76% of people believe in Heaven but only 6% believe in Hell).
- b) **They try to get around it**—Annihilationism, Universalism. (Explain—both of these are rooted more in wishful thinking than in biblical truth.)
- c) **They make light of it** (joke about it)—*“I'd rather be partying in Hell with all my friends than bored playing a harp in Heaven with all those hypocrites.”*

The main reason that people have such a hard time dealing with the reality of Hell is because they can't reconcile it with the concept of a loving God. They reason that, *“If God does exist and if He is a God of love then Hell cannot exist because a loving God would never create a place like Hell much less send people there forever.”*

However, the number one reason people refuse to believe in a literal place called Hell is because—it's just easier to dismiss the existence of Hell than it is to get their lives right with God—

“If Hell doesn't exist then I have nothing to worry about and I can go on living the way I want”—so they bury their head in the sand and pretend it doesn't exist.

Paul the apostle talked about those who suppress the truth of God because they want to live unrighteous lives. (Romans 1:18).

People can joke about Hell; they can ignore it or dismiss it or try to get around it by saying it isn't really hot or that it isn't forever but none of that matters—the only thing that matters is what God has to say about Hell.

Jesus talked about Hell more than anyone else; in fact, He talked about it more than He talked about Heaven or even love—and I believe He did that ***because He didn't want anyone to go there!***

Today almost all evangelism is based on the love of God, but we hear very little based on coming judgment.

Jesus was the first 'hell-fire and damnation preacher' of the New Testament period.

Jesus talked about Hell in the same sentence that He talked about Heaven—

Matthew 25:46 (NKJV)

⁴⁶ And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

Here not only did He talk about both Heaven and Hell in the same sentence—but He said that they were both eternal.

I've been to many funerals in my life and often when someone I know was unbeliever dies their friends and family will say, "Well, George is in a better place—he's not suffering anymore." But that is not what the Bible teaches—it is mere 'wishful' thinking rather than biblical reality—

Revelation 14:10-11 (NKJV)

¹⁰ he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. **He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb.** ¹¹ **And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name."**

The horrifying fate awaiting the person who drinks **the wine of the wrath of God** is to **be tormented with fire and brimstone**.

The verb translated "**be tormented**" speaks of the "*ceaseless infliction of pain.*" The noun form of that verb is used in Luke 16:23 to describe the pain of the rich man in Hades.

Many Christian pastors, preachers, professors, and theologians teach that this will be an eternity of '*unbearable, agonizing, ceaseless pain*'—which they believe the word '**torment**' implies (one pastor likened it to them being tormented in the fire of a blowtorch forever)—but I'm not convinced of that.

Please don't misunderstand, I do believe that those whom God will force to drink from **the cup of His indignation** in hell for all eternity—will be tormented. Also, I firmly believe that there will never be any lessening or diminishing of their torment—in other words they will never experience any moments of rest or relief throughout eternity—

"...the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever; they have no rest day and night."

It's just that I don't believe their torment will be so agonizingly painful that they will be screaming in agony for all eternity because of that pain.

As for those who believe that hell isn't eternal or that those cast into won't suffer for eternity in its fires (annihilationism)—this angel would strongly disagree with those who deny the *eternality* of hell.

His description of Hell as the place where **the smoke of the torment of the wicked goes up forever and ever**—is consistent with the rest of Scripture.

Daniel 12:2 (NKJV)

² And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, Some to everlasting life, Some to shame *and* everlasting contempt.

Matthew 3:12 (NKJV)

¹² His winnowing fan *is* in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather His wheat into the barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

Luke 3:17 (NKJV)

¹⁷ His winnowing fan *is* in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather the wheat into His barn; but the chaff He will burn with unquenchable fire."

2 Thessalonians 1:9 (NKJV)

⁹ These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power.

**No one taught the sobering truth of the eternality of Hell
more clearly than did the Lord Jesus Christ.**

- ❖ He spoke of hell as the place of *"eternal fire"* (Matthew 18:8; 25:41), of *"unquenchable fire"* (Mark 9:43), where *"the fire is not quenched"* (Mark 9:48).
- ❖ In Matthew 25:46, Jesus clearly taught that the torment of the lost in hell will last as long as the blessedness of the redeemed in heaven.
- *"Yes, but I still can't get me mind around how a God of love could send people to a place like hell."*

Remember one thing—hell wasn't even made for man but for the devil and his angels. (Matthew 25:41)

But, the Bible says that those who refuse to receive Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior, whose blood alone can pay their debt—they will spend eternity in hell paying for their crimes against God.

Now this causes most people to ask, *"Why does a person have to spend eternity in hell for sins they committed during their lifetime? It doesn't seem fair that the sins committed over the course of 70 or 80 years would bring a sentence of eternity in hell."*

That's a legitimate question—come on back next time and we'll try to answer it.

If you would like to know more about what it means to be a Jesus-follower—please reach out to us. It would be our greatest privilege to lead you into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ.

Want to know more? Click [here](#).

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