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Holiness Writers

THE ENLARGEMENT OF HELL

By

Evangelist Lum Jones

*“Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without
which no man shall see the Lord” Heb 12:14*

Spreading Scriptural Holiness to the World

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and
The Mission of Jesus to the
Spirits in Prison

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Text: "Therefore hell hath enlarged herself, and opened her mouth without measure; and their glory, and their multitude, and their pomp, and he that rejoiceth, shall descend into it" (Isaiah 5:14).

Context: "By which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison" (I Peter 3:19).

This text suggests the enlargement of hell, but there are many who do not believe in hell-fire as God teaches it in the Bible. We shall notice some things about hell as taught in the inspired Word of God.

First, there is a hell, for God said so, and it is our purpose to show that hell has been enlarged. If hell has been enlarged there must be more space used for the enlargement. This is the logical requirement. The Bible asserts, "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 from their thrones all the kings of the nations" (Isaiah 14:9). This goes to show that hell is somewhere beneath us. Now if hell has been enlarged as is shown in the text and also moved, then surely the borders of hell are not the same as they were in the beginning. There must be a reason for this change.

Again, the Scriptures declare, "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat" (Matthew 7:13). God has established a threefold law in connection with mankind. We are under physical laws, having material bodies; we are under mental laws, as intellectual beings; we are under moral laws, being free agents.

God said, "Choose ye this day whom ye will serve. As threefold beings by creation, possessing spirit, soul, and body, and death means separation, there must be a place for the part of man that lives on after death. And that there is a part of man that lives on after death is undeniable, for John the Revelator declares, "And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held; and they cried with a loud voice saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?" (Revelation 6:9, 10).

I. Let us notice the beginning of hell. "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). You see from this that hell was prepared for the devil and his angels, so if hell was prepared there was a time when hell did not exist. There was also a time when the devil did not exist. What was the origin of the devil and who was he before he became the devil? you ask. The Word declares: "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 14:12). One time he was son of the morning and in heaven.

Again we read, "Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord God; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty. Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created. Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee" (Ezekiel 28:12-15). We see that he was the greatest in wisdom of all creation. In the entire universe there was no greater except omniscience. Neither was there found greater nor more perfect beauty, other than God's holiness.

Here we note the words of Jesus, "And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven" (Luke 10:18). John the Revelator saw a star (Lucifer, or Light Bearer) fall: "And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit. And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit" (Revelation 9:1, 2). It seems here that the devil received the kingship of hell for there was given him the key to the bottomless pit. But we notice that there were others connected with him in the fall: "For 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" (II Peter 2:4). We see here that sin caused them to lose their place and they were sent from heaven to hell, into chains of darkness. And we read again: "And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day." Jude the 6th verse. Here they left their first estate, were not forced out, but are now reserved in everlasting chains under darkness, unto judgment.

II. What was the mission of Jesus when He came to this world? We understand that His coming was twofold for we are informed, "God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). God loved the world and gave His Son. We read again: "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church and gave himself for it; that he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word" (Ephesians 5:25, 26). Then His coming was not only to save but to sanctify the church. The blood of Christ is the basis of our salvation, and not only are we redeemed by the blood, but, "Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate" (Hebrews 13:12).

Again we read a very striking passage of Scripture as to the mission of Christ in part: "For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit, by which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison" (I Peter 3:18, 19). There are those who endeavor to prove that Jesus preached to them for the purpose of giving them another chance, but nowhere does the Bible teach this. However, there must have been two crowds that He was to visit while on His mission. One in hell (Hades), the other in Paradise (Hades). By Hades we understand the interior of the earth which before the time of Christ was the abode of the dead, both wicked and righteous, being separated by a "great gulf." "Jesus went to Hades not as

a subject of death, but as the conqueror of death, heralding His victory to the spirits therein detained. Christ said of His Church that: 'The gates of hell [Hades] should never prevail against it,' that is, it should never close on any true member of His Church. Paul, in triumphant exultation over the portion of believers, now exclaims, 'O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where. is thy victory?'"

"The grave holds the victory now just as it ever has done, but Hades does not; and the victory of which the apostle speaks and gives thanks is the victory over Hades, not over the grave" (Seiss). The word grave here does not mean the abode of the soul, but the resting place of the body.

In Revelation 11:7 we read, "And when they shall have finished their testimony. the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them." Again notice, "The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition; and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they beheld the beast that was, and is not, and yet is" (Revelation 17:8).

Our translators call Tartarus, hell, as if Tartarus, Hades, the abyss, and the lake of fire were all one and the same thing. But the truth is, that they are not the same but are all apartments of the underworld, the Gehenna hell is the lake of fire and altogether a different hell from Sheol, Hades, the abyss, or Tartarus.

But why should Christ preach to the wicked spirits in prison? It was to confirm their eternal damnation, because of their disobedience when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah. But it seems that Jesus also turned His attention to the Paradisiacal side of Hades. For He said to the thief on the cross, "And Jesus said unto him, verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with me in Paradise" (Luke 23:43). This visit to Paradise must have immediately followed His death for He said "today," and it was three o'clock in the afternoon when He died. Let us read again, "For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth" Matthew 12:40). Then Paradise must have been somewhere in the earth and He must have preached to the ones in Paradise as well as to those in prison. But to whom was He to preach or testify? The saints from the fall of man in the Garden of Eden, to the crucifixion of Christ, those who died in the faith. For proof we read, "These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth" (Hebrews 11:13).

What was the promise which they had not received? Immediately after the fall and man was cast out of the Garden of Eden God promised the woman that her seed should "bruise the serpent's head," and further the promise extended to Abraham and God promised that if they would look forward by faith they would receive an inheritance and the Holy Ghost would be given. So a little farther down in Hebrews in the eleventh chapter and the fourteenth, fifteenth, and sixteenth verses we find that they were seeking a country, but now they desire a better country, that is a heavenly, for God has prepared for them a city.

Here He is in prison saying, "I am come to deliver you to whom the promise was made." Who could this be, but the saints when He led "captivity captive and gave gifts unto men"? For note the

exact words of the Scripture: "Wherefore he saith, when he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. (Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.)" He was not to preach to the saints for the purpose of giving them another chance, but to affirm the fact that His blood had been spilled, as this is the faith in which they died, looking forward to the promise.

Jesus declared that He had the keys of hell and of death (Revelation 1:18), and this key which was His sacrifice was to unlock Paradise and remove the righteous dead, and then we read of the great deliverance and releasing that was brought to bear: "And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent; and the graves opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, and came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many" (Matthew 27:51, 52, 53). Who would dare venture to say that the saints returned back to their graves after they had gone to the Holy City? These were to bear witness of the resurrection of Christ. Not only so, but they were to testify for themselves, for now they desire a better country that is an heavenly.

Now we rejoice over the fact that Paradise has been changed since the resurrection of Jesus. Read carefully, "I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth); such an one caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter" (II Corinthians 12:2-4). Here Paul speaks of being caught up to the third heaven, then he says he was caught up into Paradise. Jesus was to be in the heart of the earth or lower parts of the earth, and the thief was to be with him, so at that time Paradise was down, and now Paul speaks of Paradise being up. So Jesus must have carried the saints with Him when He arose, and since the space would no longer be used by the saints it was used for the enlargement of hell.

Yet we must understand that hell and the lake of fire are not the same place, neither are Paradise and heaven. The wicked go to hell when they die and will remain there until the Judgment, for no man can receive his full judgment when he dies, for his influence will live on until the white throne judgment, then they will be brought out of hell: "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 every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire" (Revelation 20:13-15). Here death and hell will be cast into the lake of fire.

Why should anyone be brought out of hell to be judged and then put back into the same place? Hell must be that intermediate state. So then Paradise must be an intermediate state also. And there must be a time when they will receive their full reward, both wicked and righteous. That cannot be until their influence ceases. Hell is not only a state but a place prepared for the devil and his angels; but all who are the sons of the devil will go there. "Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own; for he is a liar and the father of it" (John 8:44). The devil is the father of lies and ye are his sons, those who lie, the consequences are, "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).

God said, "the fearful, the unbelieving, and all liars" would go to the lake of fire. Sin is the only thing that will keep us out of heaven. It is a calamity to be a sinner, but it is worse to remain a sinner, and it is still worse to refuse the deliverer: worse still to die a sinner, but it is awful to go to hell for sin when God has offered to pardon us, but the worst of all is to stay in hell forever. How long is that? As long as time lasts; as long as heaven lasts; and as long as eternity, and eternity has no beginning and will have no ending. There they will forever be trying to get out but all in vain. It is a place of one continual night. There is no light there and the soul wanders on and on in outer darkness, forever and ever. Many precious judgment-bound, eternity-destined, will never stop until it is too late. "And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation and strength and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night" (Revelation 12:10).

But you cannot get them to stop. They are going on with darkened minds, a conscience that has been seared, stabbed and murdered. They did not see the red flag. They have passed the lighthouse and are drifting to their eternal reward. One more step and they will be at Hell's Depot. But who is to blame? They have paid their fare and are riding the train hellward bound. Some could not stop if they wanted to. They have been warned of hell by the preacher; they have dreamed about it and yet they say they are not afraid.

There is a time when God will not hear you: "Because I have called and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded; but ye have set at nought all my counsel and would none of my reproof: I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh; when your fear cometh as desolation and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish cometh upon you. Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me; for that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the Lord" (Proverbs 1:24-29).

Here they heard God call and they would not come, now they call and God will not answer, and God said their feet shall slide. They will never know that they are on the verge of despair until it will be too late. As they sing in their sleep, "I dreamed that the great judgment morning had dawned and the trumpet had blown," they will not awake till it will be a reality. But watch them as they go, my God, someone catch that girl, there she goes over the cataracts of eternal damnation. Too late, she is gone. There comes an old man with two boys following him, they are his own flesh and blood, yet he is leading them by the hand to everlasting woe. I hear a scream; too late, there he does down the winding stairways into hell. What is that about his neck? My God, it is a chain carried by the devil. Why do the boys curse their father? Is it because his influence sent them to hell? Oh; did you see them fall? Why do they cry? Look, there comes an old lady; she is trying to stop, my God, over she goes.

I pause for a time. Do you see that smoke rising from that pit? What are those things like snakes that are coiling around that man's soul? But do you see them going into his mouth? See him trying to get them out of his ears; they are like a million slimy snakes, they slip out of his hands when he

gets hold of them. What are those things flying around that girl? They have tongues like serpents; but do you hear them hiss? Look, there she lost her hold; she's falling again. Oh, she comes to that large gate, look there, the devil is unlocking it. Here comes another crowd; someone preach while others pray. Let us see if we can't stop some of this crowd; but here comes my brother; I must stop him for he promised father while upon his death bed that he would live right and meet him in the skies. Someone help me hold my brother while others pray; thank God, now he is safe, but oh, I have another somewhere back in that mass of humanity; will I see him as he passes? Look yonder at that soul in that lake of liquid hell fire; he is crying for water.

I must stop and see why these all went to hell.

"Father, why did you go there?"

"Because I refused to be saved, would not go to church, said I would get saved later; but I see there is not a ray of hope for me now.

"Mother, why did you go to the lake of fire?"

"I said I would get saved when my husband did, and too I thought the Lord would save me on my death bed; but when I called He would not answer. They tell me that I am here forever; how can I stand it? If I could only suffer here for a thousand years and then get out it would not be so bad; but oh, I am lost; it is so dark here I cannot find my way out. I have been looking so long for a light but it gets darker all the time."

"Young lady, did you not hear the preacher that night when he told you if you did not get saved you would be forever lost?"

"Yes I heard him, but I did not believe it."

"Do you believe it now?"

"Yes, I know it."

"Why did you go on when you were warned?"

"I wanted to have some more fun, I thought there would be plenty of time. And too, I was proud; but I have been here so long and have had no rest since coming. Can't you help me? I want out."

"Young man, what are you doing in hell?"

"I have been looking all of these years for that girl that I laughed at and caused her to be lost. If I could only find her and ask her to forgive me this torment would not be so bad, but I have seen something like a pair of eyes after me that seem to trouble me so much. Oh, is that she? I thought for a time I wanted to see her, but if I could only get out of her sight. My sins, Oh, I knew better but

that doesn't help now. The man who preached said I would come to this end, but I thought I knew my business, but he was right; I am here."

Who is that I see in hell looking for something? Is it a Bible he is looking for? No Bibles there! He is trying to stop the crowd to tell them it was he who was the cause of their being lost. The crowd goes on in that dark dismal night that shall never have a day. Is that the preacher? The man who mixed poisons for the people? Yes that's he, he told them there was no harm in the things of the world; they believed and followed him, and now they are all in hell together.

I hear a mighty noise like the great waters of the whirlpool rapids of the Niagara.

No wonder God said, "And the hail shall sweep away the refuge of lies and the waters shall overflow the hiding place." No man has ever gone into the whirlpool rapids and gotten out, but think of the people who will be tossed upon the angry billows of a hell; a lake like God speaks of. Where the mighty belchings of hell thunder will bound into the dome of hell, to leave the dripping of liquid hell fire, to ever be falling upon the heads of those poor sin-blighted souls that are damned forever.

But is that a crowd I see around that dark depot of hell's night, waiting for the train to pull in that is running on time, to unload their poor dupes into the night without a star? Yes that is they. Watch them dance in the lava that was poured out from God's wrath on the platform of the tottering station where they wait. Why does this preacher curse himself and call himself a fool? Did he not know better? Yes, he knew better, he laughed at holiness and now God laughs at him. No doubt in my mind but every holiness fighting preacher on earth today will preach holiness in hell, but too late, too late, poor trembling soul, too late, too late to be made whole. Think of a man that will fight God and then want God to help him while he is dying, or after he is lost without hope. It seems as though I can hear them singing:

I dreamed that the great Judgment morning
Had dawned and the trumpet had blown.
I dreamed that the nations had gathered,
To Judgment before the white throne.

From the throne came a bright shining angel
And stood on the land and the sea,
And said with his hand raised to heaven.
That time was no longer to be.

And oh what a weeping and wailing,
As the lost ones were told of their fate;
They cried for the rocks and the mountains,
They prayed. but their prayers were too late.

There will be one continuous prayer-meeting in hell; all classes will pray. The stiff preacher that was too proud to kneel, who stood like the Pharisees and made long prayers, but his heart was not right. He prays now, (though he had long since quit praying here on earth), for those that he had

duped with his doctrine of hell. He asks now that someone be sent to his church who will preach the truth, or to his home and pray with his pleasure-loving wife, find his dancing daughter, or his movie-going son. "Pray, don't let them come to the place where I am now." What did he do when he was on earth, did he tell them better? No he went with them. Said it was not wrong. Stop, is this a dream? No he is there, with all his prayers, yet his daughter comes in on hell's train to dance the dance of death where she will dance on forever in the fires that are kindled by God's wrath. While in this world she was jazz mad, but now she wails over the doom of her soul. Dance on, young lady, you said you would not give it up for the church; you made your word good.

The dome of hell's church will echo the sound of the singing of the masses that have made this their choice, but will they sing:

Away from Jesus no rest or peace,
No true repentance from sin, no release.
The end never comes, no light to shine there.
No one to guide us, eternity where.

Will they sing for the chorus:

Shall it be joy in ages to come.
Or shall It be darkness wherever we roam?
Light has ever gone, now darkness and gloom
cover my soul wherever I roam.

In this life they did not believe in praying; they thought those crazy that prayed for a sinner. Too much noise, nothing to this, was heard from them, but how about it now? They are where the worm dieth not and the fire is not quenched, the black cloud of God's wrath is gathering. The storm is coming, but no place to hide. They pray now, but too late. But in the breaking of this service in hell, shall they sing:

Eternity where? It floats on the air,
Amid clamor or silence it ever is there!
The question is solemn, eternity where?
But we are forever bound in eternity here.

This crowd will forever dance on across the dark barren plains of hell's night, looking for the well that will have no water, but to have liquid hell fire poured down them by the capering imps of hell; then to lose their footing and slip into the river with its boiling brimstone, to be lost, in the angry waves of this mighty ocean of God's displeasure, you will be carried like the ship without sail, to be tossed to and fro, seen only by the eye of God, for a time, then be thrown on the banks of this mighty stream, and choked by millions of demons. On and on you will go, but no day, will be found.

While I now preach there are those making the choice between heaven and bliss, or hell, misery, and woe. Which will you take? Come now, come, don't wait!