

Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God - 2004

Original Author - Jonathan Edwards (1703-1758)

Enfield, Connecticut • July 8, 1741

2004 Version Author – Brent Riggs •

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2004 Preface

I love to rewrite the Puritan and Reformation prayers into modern English, utilizing my own particular style that God has blessed me with. I believe God has impressed me to write a modern version of one of the greatest sermons of all time – “Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God”.

Make no mistake – the thoughts and the outline of this message are originally Jonathan Edward’s (from God first of course). As a teacher, I would not be worthy to do his laundry. I just felt, given our different vocabulary and reading skills of today, it was time to write a version of his sermon for the 21st century Christian.

This is NOT a word for word translation, but a paraphrase of his message in my own

words and style. I have followed the outline and thought pattern of his message, and adding my own thoughts where I believed them to be applicable to our times (*my additions are identified by italics type*).

This message by Jonathan Edwards is not only a classic, but it was also the spark that lit a revival all across America in his time.

Why not a revival today? America has been soft pedaled a feel-good, “Jesus will improve your life”, positive-self-esteem Word of God for many decades. The result is a weak Church, a worldly people, and a far too casual attitude about sin... accompanied by a lack of fear about the reality of hell for those who do not obey God.

It is simply not “American”, “civilized” or “polite” to reveal the jealous, angry God who hates sin and **MUST** by His own character, repay sin with the appropriate compensation – DEATH. (Rom 3.23).

But this IS the God we so easily dismiss. Yes, He is loving; but **He is an all consuming jealous God**. Yes, He is patient and merciful; but **He is also fearsome and terrible** to those who reject His Son. Yes, He will bless you with an abundant life of contentment and peace; but **He will condemn to the eternal flames of hell**

those who do not turn from their wickedness.

There is no second chance. There is no other way. The only thing between you and hell is our God, who is angered by sin and will not fail to punish every single person who does not obey HIS message of salvation.

This is the Gospel that our country needs to hear, and perhaps we will repent, as individuals, as families, as communities and as a nation; then God will hear, and heal our land and bless our homes and nation.

Please pass this on to as many people as you can.

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Deuteronomy 32:35 Vengeance is Mine, and recompense; **Their foot shall slip in due time**; For the day of their calamity is at hand, And the things to come hasten upon them.' (NKJV; emphasis mine)

In this verse, God promises to punish the wicked, unresponsive and unbelieving Israelites. In the Old Testament times, the Israelites were God's people on earth; they were His chosen children who lived under God's protection and grace.

But despite all of God's wonderful blessings, they denied God and pretty much kicked Him out of their nation and society (*sound familiar in our world today?*). Even though God did everything He could to be patient and bring the Israelites back in line, they still persisted in their wickedness and sin. (*sound anything like the world today?*)

In our opening verse, you see the phrase "their foot shall slip in due time". There are four things this phrase seems to imply about the punishment and destruction that was about to come on the Israelites for their continued disobedience (*as you read these, consider whether or not God would punish our wickedness today in the same manner... after all, He has never failed to punish an evil nation... is America [or other countries] somehow exempt from God's justice?*)

1. If you are standing on slippery surface, are you not predisposed to slipping? If you put yourself into wicked situations, are you not prone to sinning? If you

continue to do wrong, are you not destined to be punished? The phrase “their foot shall slip in due time” seems to imply that because the Israelites had chosen to ignore God, was it not only a matter of time before God would respond appropriately?

2. The phrase also implies that God’s judgment would be sudden, and unexpected. Just like walking on an icy sidewalk, you never know when you are going to slip and fall. It could happen at any time, and it will happen very quickly when it does. You have no idea when it will occur; then ‘whoosh!’, down you go!

Psalm 73:18-19 Surely You set them in slippery places; You cast them down to destruction. Oh, how they are brought to desolation, as in a moment! They are utterly consumed with terrors. (NKJV)

3. Another implication is that people fall because of themselves, not because someone pushes them down. When a person goes down on a slippery sidewalk, they only need their own body weight. No outside push is necessary.
4. We also find that the fall comes at the time that GOD has determined. “In due

time” means “at the appointed time”. Who is capable of determining that time? God of course. It’s not that God will push them down; no, it will be that God will simply no longer hold them up. Sinners fall by their own weight, God does not cause it. They only reason it doesn’t happen sooner is God’s mercy and patience.

So here is the point I want you to understand about this: **there is nothing that keeps the wicked and sinful person from dying and going straight to hell this very moment but the mere pleasure of God.**

What does “mere pleasure” mean? It means His sovereign pleasure. God can do whatever He wants and is under NO obligation to seek our approval. He is hindered by no one, and no thing.

The fact that the preservation of the wicked from hell for one single moment, or the delaying of the sinner’s death and consignment to hell this very second is due solely to pleasure of God can be seen as true when we consider the following:

1. There is certainly no lack of power or ability in God to cast sinful men into hell at any moment that He chooses.

Obviously He could do this, so the fact that He does not, displays His pleasure in delaying.

If God chose to cast us in to hell, we would be powerless to stop it. God can do it, and do it easily if He so chooses.

Sometimes an earthly authority has trouble getting an outlaw under control who has some means of fighting back, or perhaps has recruited a group of criminals to fight with him. But this is not true for God.

There is no place to hide from God, or place to hole up and fight Him off. Even if every person on earth decided to join together to go against God, they won't last a single second longer than if it was only one person.

Anyone attempting to go against God will be like a blade of grass in a tornado; or like dry hay in a firestorm. It would be easier for God to defeat all the armies of the world that it would be for you or I to crush a worm on sidewalk by stomping on it.

How easy would it be for you to burn a single piece of thread in two that held

something up in the air? Just put a lighter to it for one second and the thing “hanging by a thread” would fall. So it would be infinitely easier for God to “let go” of the thread that keeps us from falling into hell.

Who are we to argue this truth to the God before whom the entire earth trembles, and the mountains are crumbled to the ground?

2. Second, the wicked DESERVE to be cast into hell; there is nothing “unfair” about it. If God chose to destroy all sinners this very moment, it would be perfectly just and right. In fact, justice CALLS for our punishment!

Justice says “let wickedness be punished!” and of course this is right. The sword of justice could cut the strand that holds us from plunging into hell at any moment; and it is only the will of God that delays this from occurring.

3. The sinner is already condemned to hell, just like a criminal who is sentenced to jail. The sinner not only deserves hell, but the sentence and the pronouncement of condemnation has

already been proclaimed. Why? Because it is the proper consequence of sin as it separates us from the eternal righteousness of God. Hell is already a certainty, a just certainty, and inevitable certainty for those who die without Christ.

John 3:18 "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. (NKJV)

Every person who dies without believing in and responding to Jesus Christ belongs in hell. *That is tough language in today's world of 'positive' religion and 'let's don't mention hell' seeker-friendly churches. But it is the truth; the real, awful truth. For example, consider this quote from one of today's most popular "Christian" leaders, Robert Schuller:*

"I don't think anything has been done in the name of Christ and under the banner of Christianity that has proven more destructive to human personality and, hence, counterproductive to the evangelism enterprise than the often crude, uncouth, and unchristian strategy

of attempting to make people aware of their lost and sinful condition."

(Christianity Today, October 5, 1984)

John 8:23-24 And He said to them, "You are from beneath; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins."
(NKJV)

The proper place of unrepentant sinners is hell; "you are from beneath". And there in hell the sinner is trapped because it is the proper place where God's justice must be served... that is the result of His unchangeable law that proclaims clearly what the penalty of sin is (*Rom 3.23*)

4. The unbelieving sinner is the object of the very same anger and violence that is found in the torments of hell. The only reason the sinner does not go to hell today, is **not** because God, who is in control of all, does not have, right now at this very moment, the very same hellish anger towards their sin. *Don't believe that God is not angered over sin just because He is silent for a short time, or because no hellish consequences have*

been delivered.

No, don't mistake God's patience for apathy because even now many miserable and eternally lost people are already experiencing the torments of hell. *Billions of unrepentant sinners can already attest to the fierceness of God's holy anger.*

Because we have the revealed Truth at our fingertips today, no doubt that God is even a great deal more angered with the multitudes on earth today who ignore or deny Him. There is no question that even a great many who read this sentence at this moment are in danger of God's anger to an even greater degree than those who already suffer in hell. Why? Because many in hell already did not have the vast resources of the Bible and the Gospel message that we enjoy today. We have no excuse.

Do not be mistaken... it is not because God is ignoring wickedness today, or that He doesn't notice it, that keeps every sinner from being cut loose into hell at this moment. God is not like us, so we must not harbor any foolishness that He is forgetful or thinks lightly of our sin.

The wrath of God burns with full fury in preparation for the careless, rebellious or ignorant sinner. Hell is prepared to receive those who deserve to be there. The sentence has been pronounced, the torments are waiting. Hell rages and glows hot in anticipation.

Even now, as the unbelieving sinner dangles over those flames, the Sword of Wrath has been sharpened and the Swordsman is ready to sever the thread that keeps sinners from the plunge. Hell is open wide to receive its eternal inhabitants.

5. Satan stands ready at this moment to seize for himself as many souls as he can. He cherishes each lingering moment that God permits him to claim more for his possession and dominion. The devils watch and wait, ever vigilant to see who will make the fall next. They stand watching like hungry lions awaiting their prey, expecting to have it any second... but for some reason are held back, if only for a moment.

At any moment, if God decided to remove His restraining hand from the ravenous devils, they would pounce on

the poor souls. Hell stands ready and only God keeps it from swallowing up those who could slip in at this very second.

6. The hearts of sinful men contain the principles of wickedness that would already have them fuel the fires of hell if it were not for God's merciful restraint. The very nature of the flesh is the foundation of the torments of hell.

There is that rotten part of man's heart, which man can use to great destruction that are the seeds of hell's fire. These wicked tendencies are active and powerful in the race of men, exceedingly violent, and again, only God's restraint keeps that wickedness from flaring up into a great consuming fire to receive the same torments as those souls who are already damned.

In other words, every heart in every man has the potential and capability for great wickedness; and the wickedness would quickly send each of us to hell if it were not for God's merciful decision to keep this from happening this very moment.

The souls of wicked men are like the stormy sea (Isa 57.20). For a little while

God restrains their sinfulness in the same way that He can speak to the stormy waters saying, “the raging water can come only to this point, and no further”; but if God were to let the waters go without restraint, it would flood and destroy everything in its path without mercy.

Sin is what destroys and ruins lives; it’s very nature and purpose is to destroy things. If God decided not to intervene and restrain it, then there is no way that every one of us would not totally wreck our lives.

This teaching of this truth is almost non-existent today. Think about it. The nature of sin is TO DESTROY EVERYTHING IT TOUCHES. We are all sinful. If God did not mercifully restrain the effects of sin in each of our lives, we would most certainly destroy ourselves in a very short time.

Jeremiah 17:9 “The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it? (NKJV)

The wickedness in our hearts has no boundaries or moderation; and as long as sinful people inhabit the earth, it will

be like a fire that is held back by God, which if let loose would consume the entire world. The heart of man is a place of sin, and if God wasn't keeping us from it, our soul would quickly be consumed in the fire.

7. There is no comfort for the wicked man just because immediate danger or death can not be seen. In the same way, just because a person is healthy now, the wise man knows that at any moment he could die from an accident even those he's sees no immediate cause for concern.

Yet it is the common experience of mankind that we do not think about the fact that we stand on the very edge of eternity, one step away from leaving this world. The number and variety of ways that we could die this very moment are so many, you can't even count them.

Unsaved people do not see that they walk over top of hell on a thin, rotting floor that is so weak it can barely hold their weight and threatens to break and cave in at any moment, sending them plummeting to eternal torment.

When is the last time you heard the truth

of this? Think about it. There are a thousand thousand ways a person could die at any given moment. For the unsaved, it's like walking a tightrope over the fires of hell. At any moment, they could lose their balance, trip, the rope could break, a gust of wind could blow them off... any number of things could send them into eternal torment of hell at any moment. And only the mercy of God keeps it from happening this very second.

When was the last time you heard, or presented, this part of the Gospel?

The potential to die comes at us from all angles, every moment of the day, and yet most are unseen to us because God protects us. There are so many ways that a person can die unexpectedly and be immediately in hell, that it should almost be considered a miracle that any wicked person live one minute longer.

All the ways that a sinner can die this second and be in hell are so numerous, and so much in God's hand, under His power and control, that if He were to quit caring or being concerned for even one moment, then every sinful person would be killed and go immediately to hell.

That is a point you should not lightly pass over. There are countless ways a person can die at this very second. Each of these ways, like everything, are under the power, control and providence of Almighty God. If God were to quit caring, quit restraining, or withdraw His attention for even a moment, then every sinner would no doubt be killed instantly and forever be lost in the tormenting fire of hell.

8. Our desire or ability to preserve or protect our lives will not secure one extra second of existence for us. It is the common experience of all men that this is indeed true. No amount of money, talent, fame or power can ensure that you will extend your life for one second past the time God allots you.

Man's wisdom certainly gives us no protection from death. If that were true, then we would see some difference between the wise and powerful compared to others; but we don't. All men die with equal opportunity regardless of status or privilege.

Ecclesiastes 2:16 For there is no more remembrance of the wise than of the

fool forever, Since all that now is will be forgotten in the days to come. And how does a wise man die? As the fool! (NKJV)

The wise and powerful die just as surely and suddenly as the fool.

9. All the efforts and tricks that evil men use to avoid hell, even while they continue to reject Jesus Christ will not keep them from hell even one second less.

Almost every person who hears about hell imagines that it somehow doesn't apply to them and entertains the idea that they will escape it somehow; perhaps by being a "good" person. Or perhaps they convince themselves that they will do something in the future that will change things.

People dream up all sorts of plans and ideas that allow them to either escape hell or to be convinced it doesn't exist at all. They believe that what they have thought up is a good idea and must be true. In our day when one person's "truth" is as good as another's, people just deny that hell exists, or believe that a "loving God" wouldn't send anyone there, or they just make up their own religion

that declares their safety from hell.

Either way, instead of accepting what God has declared about the reality of hell, foolish men somehow believe they can just make up their own reality, and even though it will cost them their soul for all eternity, their pride will not allow them to believe otherwise.

Sinners hear God's Word that only a few will be saved (compared to how many will be lost) and they hear that the greater part of mankind who has died chose hell over God, but still hold onto the foolish belief that THEY will be different; that hell was for others, but not them.

It is not their intention to choose hell; they do not believe they will end up there. They have every intention and plan to take care of things in the future and arrange life in such a way that hell will not be their destination.

But this is complete foolishness! Men deceive themselves by their own plans rather than simply following God's. They rest their fate in their own wisdom and strength. They place their trust in nothing more than a dream.

The majority of people who have died, having the same grace offered to them by God as we have, have no doubt rejected that grace and are now in hell; not because they were less wise than we are, but because they simply chose to trust themselves, and not Christ.

If we could ask each person, one by one, who is now in hell whether or not they expected to end up there in misery and torment (even though they had been adequately warned while alive), we would no doubt hear them reply:

"No, I never thought I would end up in hell. I had it all figured out. I thought I had things taken care of. I had intended to do something about it, but death came unexpectedly. I wasn't looking for it when it happened; it came when I wasn't ready. Death out-smarted me, and God's wrath came too quickly for me to avoid. What a fool I was! I thought I had it all figured out, deceiving myself with my ignorant ideas; and just when I thought all was well.... Hell came calling."

No person plans to end up in hell. To the contrary, we all convince ourselves that

we don't deserve it, and that somehow, some way, certainly we will escape it (I'm speaking of those without Christ). We ignore, change the rules, rationalize or put off dealing with it for a future day. No one plans to go to hell. No one intends to go to hell. No one WANTS to go to hell. Not one person there right now thought they would be there.

10. God has not promised to keep the unrepentant sinner from death and hell for even one moment. God has made no promises outside of Christ and the New Covenant to preserve any life, to give any reward, or to save any person from eternal death.

And it is true that most people have no interest in Christ, no interest in the New Covenant or the Mediator of that Covenant; and so God is under no obligation to extend to them one less second in hell.

Given these things, it is plainly true that no matter how much human effort is made, no matter how much religious effort is made, no matter how many prayers are offered up, no matter how much sincerity is involved... until, and unless, a person believes in Jesus Christ for salvation, God is under no obligation to save

them from the hell they themselves have chosen.

This applies to a person no matter how "good" they are as well. It has become popular today to preach a religious of morality and goodness resurrecting the age old damnable lie that if a person is simply "more good" than He is bad, that a god who is truly loving could never justly condemn them to hell. "Goodness" does not save. Belief and obedience in the Gospel of Jesus Christ does; that, and that alone.

So the truth is, regardless of our opinion of it, is that every person is held by the hand of God over the fires of hell. We deserve to be dropped into the pit, and our sin has already secured our just and rightful place in the fire.

God is very angry over our sin, and rightfully so. His anger is just as great towards us as it is towards those who are already suffering in hell. We have done nothing to diminish God's anger, neither is God obligated in any way to keep us from being dropped into hell at this very moment. *(again, I speak of those outside of Christ)*

The Devil wants each of them. Hell is open wide. The flames burn fiercely.

The sinner craves their sinfulness and has no

interest in God. They could fall into hell at any moment and have no promise of one more second of delay. They have no place of safety they can run to; nothing to hold on to that will keep them from falling.

All that keeps them from hell this very moment is the will, mercy and pleasure of God; the same God who has no obligation or promise to protect them for one more second; the same God who is very, very angry over sin.

**So how does this truth apply to us?
How should we respond?**

We don't hear a lot of straightforward talk about hell today. It's not considered polite or "friendly". My word, folks! Of course it's not friendly! You're talking about confronting someone with the awful reality of eternal condemnation that could start any second!

By discussing this terrible subject, it might certainly wake up the unrepentant sinners who hear about hell; for what we have said to this point is true for every person outside of Jesus Christ.

The place of misery, full of fire and torment and the raging wrath of God is waiting below each and every person who has not yet responded to Christ's Gospel. Hell is the horrible pit of fire,

burning, waiting to devour you. You have nothing to keep you safe from it; there is nothing but thin air between you and hell. Only the power and wish of a merciful God keeps you from going there right this moment.

You probably aren't even aware of this; you know you aren't in hell, but you don't realize that only the hand of God keeps you from it. Instead you focus on the state of your physical existence, your health, your possessions and everything you do to take care of yourself.

But these things are nothing! If God moves His hand, they will no more keep you one second from hell than thin air can keep you from falling!

Your wickedness weighs you down so that you are headed even more surely downward towards hell; if God decides to let go, you would plunge with great speed into the bottomless pit... then what would your worldly possessions mean? Your health and riches cannot slow down or stop your fall any more than a spider web could stop a falling boulder.

If it was not for the mercy and will of God, you would not be on this earth one second longer. You are a part of the sinful curse that causes the creation to groan in death; for the whole world is in bondage to sin. The sun does not shine on

you and give you light so that you may sin against its Creator; it only does so because of the curse of sin. The Earth does not willingly produce food so you can grow strong and pursue your wickedness; it does so because of the curse of sin. Air was not created to fill your lungs so you could curse God.

God's creation was created for good, all things in it were made to help man serve and worship God. The creation and its creatures groan because they are now forced to help wicked men profane the name of God by their wickedness.

The world would spew out the wicked if it were not for God's hand keeping it from happening. The black clouds of God's anger hang directly overhead of the wicked; the storm of wrath is raging and were it not for God's restraint, it would consume every sinner in an instant.

The sovereign pleasure of God, for a while, holds back the storm; otherwise it would rush upon us with destruction like a hurricane or tornado on a pile of hay.

The anger of God over sin is alike a great body of water that is held back by a dam; the water keeps rising and rising until it finds some way to escape. The longer the source of water is

held back, the more intense and quickly it will travel when finally let loose.

It is often true, that punishment is delayed for a sinner's wickedness; God's judgment is withheld for a time; but your guilt and punishment are building up constantly and becoming more and more intense. Only the mercy of God keeps your punishment from coming immediately and swiftly.

If God should simply move His hand, the floods of His fierce wrath would wash us away with inconceivable fury; they would rush on you with all the power of God. If you were one million times stronger than you are now or even if you were the strongest being who has ever existed on earth or in heaven, you still could not withstand God's rage for even one second.

The bow of God's anger is flexed, and an arrow of fury is drawn back, pointed straight for your heart. Only God keeps the arrow from its flight. Even though He is angry over your sin, and He is under no obligation to restrain the arrow, it is only His mercy and restraint that keeps the arrow from plunging into your heart.

Make no mistake, every person who has not been given a new heart by Christ; every person who is not indwelled with the Holy Spirit of God; every person who is not born again into a

new creature of Christ, saved sin; every person who has not experienced the life and light of God are right now at this very moment in the hands of an angry God.

No matter how many things you have changed in your life, no matter how religious you have been, no matter if you have played “church” all your life, it doesn’t matter. If you have not believed and obeyed Jesus Christ you are only one moment from being swallowed up into eternal hell.

It really doesn’t matter whether you are convinced of this truth now; **you will be**. Every single person who has ever died in their sins knows the truth about hell. The truth came upon them suddenly and with complete finality. One moment they were denying that hell existed, and the next moment they were regretting it. While the words “peace and safety” were coming from their lips, the very things they were placing their hope and trust in disappeared into empty shadows.

God holds you from falling into hell much the same way someone would hold a spider or creepy insect over a fire. This same God hates your sin and is terribly angry at your wickedness. His wrath burns to be satisfied, to cast the sinner into the flames, worthy of

nothing but death because the eyes of God are too holy to look upon sin.

Our sin is ten thousands time more awful to God than the worst rottenness in the world is to us. We offend God infinitely more than any other human has ever offended us no matter terrible or destructive their offense may be. And yet, if you do not belong to Christ, it is the hand of this very same offended God that keeps you from going to hell this very moment.

There is no other reason than God that a lost sinner is not this very moment entering the flames of hell; or that they woke up this moment here and not in torment. There is no other reason than God that death has not come at some point on this day to take the sinner to hell. There is no other reason than the good will of God why any lost person reading this very sentence does not die instantly and be lost forever.

Listen to me! Think about the terrible danger you are in if you have not obeyed the words of Jesus Christ. You are one moment from being in the flames of hell, the bottomless pit, the fire of God's wrath which has been inflamed as much by your sin as the sin of those who are already in hell.

You are held from hell by slender thread with the flames rising up all around. At any moment the fire could burn the thread in two and drop you. How can you go on uninterested in God? No one else can save you, certainly not you yourself. Nothing about you, nothing you have ever done, nothing you possess can save you. Nothing about YOU can keep you from going to hell right this moment. Consider these things:

1. Whose anger are we talking about? The Infinite God's, that's who! If we were simply speaking of a man, even someone powerful like a president, then it would be comparatively easy to ignore. The wrath of a king or dictator who has the power of life and death in their hands no doubt is a scary thing.

Proverbs 20:2 The wrath of a king is like the roaring of a lion; Whoever provokes him to anger sins against his own life. (NKJV)

The person who enrages a tyrannical dictator is probably going to suffer, maybe even be tortured cruelly. But the very worst that any earthly power can inflict on man even with all the resources of wickedness at their disposal is nothing more than an insignificant speck of nothing compared

to the power of the Creator of Heaven and Earth.

In reality, there is comparatively little harm men can inflict on each other, even at its very worst and most furious. All the power of all men on the whole earth is like a grasshopper compared to God; we are like nothing, no, less than nothing!

The wrath of God is infinitely greater than all the power of man, as is His majesty and power:

Luke 12:4-5 “And I say to you, My friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear Him who, after He has killed, has power to cast into hell; yes, I say to you, fear Him! (NKJV)

2. It is the intensity of God’s wrath that the lost sinner is exposed to. Consider some of these descriptions of God’s fury (emphasis mine):

Isaiah 59:18 According to their deeds, accordingly He will repay, **Fury to His**

adversaries, Recompense to His enemies; The coastlands He will fully repay. (NKJV)

Isaiah 66:15 For behold, the Lord will come **with fire** And with His chariots, like a whirlwind, **To render His anger with fury, And His rebuke with flames of fire.** (NKJV)

Revelation 19:15 Now out of His mouth goes a **sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations.** And He Himself will rule them with a **rod of iron.** He Himself treads the winepress of the **fierceness and wrath** of Almighty God. (NKJV)

These are some pretty scary images! The “wrath of God” is fearsome enough but notice it says the “fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.” The fury of God, the burning anger of Jehovah... how awful and frightening that must be!

Who can imagine what that really means? No matter how terrible we can imagine it, it must be exponentially worse. It's not just “wrath” but “fierceness and wrath”! Think of how bad it would be to feel the fierceness and wrath of some terrible human

dictator who unleashed all of his anger and torment on some poor victim...

How much more terrible must it be then for those who feel the fierceness and wrath of God? What will become of the pitiful soul who is the target of the fury of God? Who could endure it? Whose heart will not melt?

Can you imagine the depth of misery that will be experienced by any poor creature who is object of God's anger? If you have not repented of your sins and obeyed Jesus Christ, think about this:

God will turn His anger and fury on you without pity, without mercy, without relenting.

When God looks down on you in all your suffering and sees that it is infinitely too much for you to bear, that your suffering is immense compared to your ability to endure it, that your soul is crushed and broken in infinite gloom and despair... He will have NO compassion on you. None.

God will not stop nor lessen His execution of anger, torment and wrath upon you in the slightest amount. There

will be no breaks, no relief, no mercy. In no way at all will God let up pouring out His vengeance on the soul who has denied Him.

God will have no regard or care for you except for one thing: **you will not suffer beyond what strict holy justice requires.** Nothing will be withheld no matter how unbearable it will be.

Ezekiel 8:18 Therefore I also will act in fury. My eye will not spare nor will I have pity; and though they cry in My ears with a loud voice, I will not hear them." (NKJV)

Right now, this moment, God has pity on you. Today, God has mercy on you and offering you a chance to escape the coming storm. You can cry out to God this second and He will hear you and show you love and mercy.

But once the day of mercy has passed, it will not matter how much you beg and plead, or cry and repent, or scream and suffer... it will be too late. You will be completely lost and God will not take you back. He will not be concerned with your welfare at that point.

God will have no other purpose or use for you than to see that you suffer. You shall exist for all eternity with no other reason than to be tormented and punished. You will be a container for God's wrath, good for no other use. God will be so deaf to your cries, and so far from showing you any mercy that it is said He will only "laugh and make fun" you (Prov. 1.25-26)

How terrible are these words! This is not the God that we hear about today. This wrath and fury are foreign to us today. And not by accident. How much more would sinful men stop and listen if they believed the truth about hell and eternity!

Consider how fearsome God's words are (emphasis mine):

Isaiah 63:3 "I have **trodden** the winepress alone, And from the peoples no one was with Me. For I have **trodden** them in My anger, And **trampled** them in My **fury**; **Their blood is sprinkled upon My garments, And I have stained all My robes.** (NKJV)

It is hard for us to think of words that describe contempt, hatred and fierce anger any better than what we find in

this verse. Once in hell, God will simply not ignore your cries for pity, He will trample you under His feet even while you cry out.

And even though God will know full well that you are incapable of bearing the agony of His wrath, He will still ignore you and crush you under His feet without mercy or hesitation. He will crush you to the uttermost so that your blood will fly in all directions and stain God's robes.

Do not make the mistake of thinking this is not true because of the symbolic language. The description in Isaiah is used simply to give us something we can comprehend in our finite minds. And even at this, we cannot possibly begin to conceive of how awful hell really will be, or we would faint dead at the thought.

God will not only hate you, but He will have the utmost contempt and disgust for you. There will be no place for you in God's presence and the only thing you will be worthy of is to be stomped down and crushed into nothing.

3. Once in hell, the misery you are exposed to is the same that will be inflicted for all

eternity, without end or break. It is God's purpose to demonstrate the eternal and secure nature of His love, forgiveness and mercy. So how does it not make sense that it is also true that His wrath and punishment are eternal and sure? God has given plenty of warning.

Once in a while, an earthly king will set out to show how foolish it would be to provoke his wrath. He shows this by inflicting extreme punishments on those who make him mad. Nebuchadnezzar did this to Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego throwing them into a super-heated furnace that was seven times hotter than normal; as hot as humanly possible.

So if man is willing to show his willingness to punish, how much more capable is Almighty God to demonstrate that He most assuredly will execute a penalty on those who provoke Him?

Romans 9:22 What if God, wanting to show His wrath and to make His power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, (NKJV)

Understanding that both heaven and hell are God's design and plan, to show both his mercy and his justice, is to have no doubt that He will in fact do so without fail. There is a result and very real purpose behind the display of God's wrath. When the Almighty of Heaven rises up and executes justice on those who have rejected Him, and exercises the full fury of His indignation upon the wicked... then the entire universe will be given notice to behold the majesty and supremacy of the God who is over all.

Isaiah 33:12-13 And the people shall be like the burnings of lime; Like thorns cut up they shall be burned in the fire. Hear, you who are afar off, what I have done; And you who are near, acknowledge My might." (NKJV)

Make no mistake; this is how it will be for those who reject Jesus Christ. The infinite power and terrible anger of the omnipotent God will be focused directly on you with the purpose of making you suffer. You will be tormented in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb whom you rejected (Jesus).

When this happens, the inhabitants of heaven will see the awful spectacle as a testimony to the terrible reality of God's wrath and fierceness; then, having seen it, they will fall down and worship the God of Heaven and Earth.

Isaiah 66:23-24 And it shall come to pass That from one New Moon to another, And from one Sabbath to another, All flesh shall come to worship before Me," says the Lord. "And they shall go forth and look Upon the corpses of the men Who have transgressed against Me. For their worm does not die, And their fire is not quenched. They shall be an abhorrence to all flesh. (NKJV)

4. God's anger towards the unsaved will NEVER end. It would be the most horrible of torments to suffer God's wrath for one second; the lost will suffer it for all eternity.

The will be no end to the unimaginable, unbearable, exquisite misery that is reserved for those who reject Jesus. *Why do we fail to tell people this?!? We paint for them a picture of how Jesus will make their life better. We share with them the bliss of heaven; both of which*

are true, no doubt. But what how cowardly and miserably selfish and uncompassionate to allow a single sinner to go on about their life deceived or ignorant about the awful, horrible, terrible eternal punishment they will suffer one instant after death!

In hell, the wicked will look forward and see a long “forever”, an endless duration which alone is sufficient torment. The lost will despair every moment realizing they have no hope of release, relief, escape or deliverance. You will fully realize that you must endure endless ages, millions upon millions of times, wrestling with this awful reality of eternal condemnation; and then when you have finally reached the end of ages upon ages upon ages, you will realize that it is but a fraction of a second gone in eternity.

Who can imagine being in this state? Who can grasp it? *It is so much harder today to imagine it because we have generations of humans who are convinced that a “loving” God would not send anyone to hell, much less for all eternity. Couple that with the fact that a large segment of “Christianity” today teaches a “temporary” hell of some type*

*leading to eventual release to heaven...
and we have reached an age where the
reality of hell according the Bible is not
only shunned, but laughed at.*

All that we can possibly say or teach
about hell is but a faint and feeble
glimpse at what it will really be like. It is
inexpressible and inconceivable, for
“who knows the power of God’s anger”?

How scary it is for those who are in danger this
very moment of dying and being lost in hell for
all eternity! Sad as it is, this is the case for every
single person who has not heard and responded
in obedience to Jesus Christ, regardless of how
good, moral or religious they are.

No matter how young or old you are, please
consider the truth of these words. There is
plenty of reason to believe that many who are
reading these words right now are in danger of
the very hell they are reading about. No one
knows for sure except God. No one knows your
name, or what you are thinking at this moment.
You may feel safe. You may read these words
and think they are silly, or that they don’t apply
to you, or you may have no feeling at all about
them.

You may even think in the back of your mind
that there **MUST** be a way of escaping hell

because it simply can NOT be true. If there is only one person in the whole world in danger of hell, it would still be a horrible awful thing. If we knew who that person was, we would have such pity on them! Surely we would lift up a loud and agonizing cry to them to warn them of the danger.

But instead of just one person, how many millions may read these words and remember them only when it is too late? Any how many of those millions will be in hell this year? This week? Today? No matter how long you live on this earth, it will seem like nothing in the very first instant that God's fury washes over you.

No matter how long you linger on this earth, hell will come quickly if you do not repent and obey Jesus Christ! The only real puzzle is why you are not there already; and you don't even see that the same God who keeps you safe now, will not keep you safe forever.

No doubt there are some people you have seen and known, that never deserved hell more than you, who are already there. They have no hope. They are crying out in extreme misery and complete despair; but here you are still living and still hearing the Word of God... you still have a chance for salvation. How much do you think those in hell would give for one more

second of chance to say “yes!” to Jesus? You have that second. What will you do with it?

So right this minute you have an extraordinary opportunity... a moment still yours where Christ has opened the doors of mercy wide and stands calling your name with a loud voice, “come poor sinners while there is still time!”. Even now many are responding to His call from all corners of the world; people who were destined for hell just a short time ago. But now they are the happiest and most hopeful of all the world, their hearts filled with love for Him who loved them first and washed their sins with His sacrificed blood. The hope of the glory of God is now their destiny.

If you are reading this, the day of hope still exists for you. How awful to let it past when it is yours for the taking. How terrible to watch others no more deserving than you accept the free gift of salvation while you let it pass yet again. How can you rest for one moment if your destiny is eternal punishment? Your soul is as precious as any who has ever come to Christ; so why not you? Why not now?

There are many older people reading this that have lived a long time in this world and have not yet obeyed Christ. They have done nothing with their entire lives except build up the wrath of God against themselves. Their situation is

extremely dangerous! Their heart has been hardened to God's message and hope is slipping away.

Do you not see that in general the older someone gets, the less likely they are to turn to God in faith and repentance even though God's grace extends to all in this day of mercy? You need to wake up before it's too late! You cannot bear the wrath and fury of the Infinite God who is no respecter of your age or status!

And young men and women, listen up! Will you waste this precious opportunity to obey Christ while you have your whole life to give Him glory? Will you do what most other young people are doing, living for pleasure and foolishness? Many your age are turning to Christ and living a glorious life, will you be left behind?

You have an extraordinary opportunity... you have heard and understood salvation at a young age. But if you neglect it, you will end up like all the others who have lived a life of sin and become hard and blind to God's Word.

And children... you are no different. I know it's scary, but hell awaits all who have sinned. Many children from all over the world trust Christ for salvation every day and become

children of the Most High King. Will you miss this opportunity today?

Let every single person who has not obeyed Christ understand their situation: there are suspended over the flames of hell this very moment. Whether young or old, men or women, adult or child... all of you hear the voice of God offering you salvation and eternal life.

This day is the day God is extending His saving grace to you; it will be a day of great rejoicing for some, and a day of great vengeance for others. Those who ignore this call today will have their hearts hardened at a quickened pace and they face the danger of having their eyes blinded forever to God's mercy.

God is quickly gathering His children from all parts of the world and most likely the greater part of all persons who will be saved have been, or will be in short time. The time of grace is drawing quickly to a close. Those who hear the call of God, the Elect, will be saved and the rest left for destruction.

If you pass up God's call today and end up in hell, you will curse this moment for all eternity... for salvation is but one decision of obedience from being yours. To pass up this opportunity will be to curse the day you born

wishing that you had never seen or heard of the mercy of God which you refused and rejected.

No doubt that today is the same as it was in the day of John the Baptist, when the Lord said that every tree that did not bear fruit (meaning every person who did not respond to Him) would be cut down and thrown in the fire.

LET EVERY PERSON WHO HAS NOT SURRENDERED TO AND OBEYED CHRIST wake up and run from the wrath that is coming! The wrath of God is now waiting for many who are reading these very words. Don't let it be you. Run from evil! Run for your life into the arms of Jesus! Don't look back; escape to God lest you be lost in hell forever.