
◆ THE EDIFIER ◆

Volume 13

CHURCH of GOD 7th DAY - AUSTRALIA

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DANIEL NINE

More Food For Faith

Daniel's prophecy in chapter nine is a spectacular one because of its amazingly accurate fulfillment. It shows once again the inspiration of God in the Holy Scriptures. However, it is also a prophecy which I believe may be being misused by today's end time prognosticators. I hope this article causes us to see God's hand in the Bible and causes us to exercise caution toward some of the popular end time teachings.

The Setting

Daniel Nine opens with the land and people of Judah in desolation and despair. The prophet Daniel is in exile lamenting the fulfillment of Jeremiah's prophecy (Jeremiah 29:9-12) that Jerusalem and Judah would be punished by the King of Babylon for 70 years. So Daniel sets his face toward Almighty God in prayer, confessing on behalf of a nation its gross iniquity. Daniel acknowledges the nation's guilt and then in v11 of chapter nine writes "therefore the curse is poured upon us, and the oath that is written in the Law of Moses ...". He prays for God's anger and fury to be turned away and for God's face to shine on them once again.

The curse promised to Israel in the Law of Moses should they disobey God was a horrifying one. It is detailed in Leviticus 26:14-45 and Deuteronomy 28:15-68. For me, reading it in full is almost as horrible as reading about the suffering of our Lord on the Cross. Verse 40 of Leviticus 26 however provides some hope for the nation if, after the curse is poured out, it turns and confesses its sin. God says He will remember

the covenant He made with their ancestors, Abraham, Isaac etc.

Daniel whilst still praying and confessing the sin of his people is informed that at the beginning of his supplications to God the command in response to his prayer went out (see v20-23). There was to be some relief for Daniel's people as a result, but not immediately, and there was still much suffering for them to endure. The remainder of chapter nine details God's plan for dealing with the fully grown, but now confessed, sins of Israel as a whole. Verses 24-27 are set out in italics below. They illustrate that God's answer to Daniel's prayer is found in none other than Jesus Christ (Messiah), the suffering Saviour.

Seventy Weeks

"Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city..." v24

Seventy weeks has 490 days. The seventy weeks is generally interpreted as meaning 490 years using the day for a year principle which is illustrated elsewhere in scripture such as in Numbers 14:34. Correspondingly 69 prophetic weeks would therefore represent 483 years and one prophetic week, seven years. Note that the time frame for the commencement of the 'seventy weeks' is given in v25, that is, *"from the going forth of the commandment to restore and build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks and threescore and two [or 62 weeks]..."*. We read in chapters 6 and 7 of the book of Ezra, which was written approximately 457 BC, decrees of King Cyrus and King

Artaxerxes dealing with the reestablishment of Jerusalem. Bible scholars differ as to which of these two decrees signify 'the commandment to restore and build Jerusalem' as per v26, and as to which of the two is to be used as the starting point for Daniel's prophecy, but if either is used, 483 years from their commencement bring us to the time in history when Christ lived and ministered. Some scholars even go so far to say that Jesus remarkably was crucified exactly in the very year Daniel predicts in chapter nine. This would not be surprising, given God's foreknowledge.

Finish Transgression

"to finish the transgression ..." v24 cont.

In the context of God giving a response to Daniel's prayer for forgiveness of the transgressions of his nation and for God to turn away his anger from them, 'to finish the transgression' meant to do exactly that – to forgive them for their transgression. This is interesting in light of Jesus last words on the cross – "It is finished". The prophet Isaiah also wrote "he was wounded for our transgressions [and] he was bruised for our iniquities..." (53:5). Hebrews 9:15 says "for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise

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of eternal inheritance". The Apostle Paul also writes how Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law having become a curse for us (Gal. 3:13). It therefore seems reasonable to say that Jesus' death finished the transgression in fulfillment of Daniel's prophecy.

To Make an End of Sins

"and to make an end of sins" v24 cont.

The old sacrificial system that Israel had could never make an end of sins, but indeed Christ's sacrifice can. Matthew writes, "...thou shall call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins" (1:21). Hebrews says, "...but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself" (9:26) and "[b]ut this man after he had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God" (10:12). John also tells us that Christ is the Lamb of God taking away the sins of the world and that he was manifested to take away our sin or to make an end of sin just as Daniel wrote.

To Make Reconciliation for Iniquity

"and to make reconciliation for iniquity" v24 cont.

Jesus made peace through the blood of His cross between God and man (Col:1:20-22). Hebrews emphatically states: "Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest ..., to make reconciliation for the sins of the people" (2:17)

To Bring in Everlasting Righteousness

"and to bring in everlasting righteousness" v24 cont.

In fulfillment of this prophecy of Daniel we are told in 2 Corinthians 5:21 that God made Him Who knew no sin (Jesus) to be sin for us that we might obtain the righteousness of God in Him. That this righteousness is an everlasting righteousness is confirmed in Romans 5:17-21 and Hebrews 9:12 where our marvelous eternal redemption through Christ is expounded.

To Seal Up Vision and Prophecy

"and to seal up the vision and prophecy" v24 cont.

To seal up something is to shut it tightly, to settle or determine it, or to fix it firmly. Jesus certainly did all of these things by fulfilling various prophecies Himself. Alternatively, to seal something is to proclaim or show that it is genuine. We still have the ancient custom of attaching a seal to a document to show that it is genuine. How then might Jesus figuratively have sealed up or shown that Old Testament vision or prophecy was genuine in this sense? I believe that to actually fulfill it Himself would be a great way. Numerous examples of Jesus doing this are quoted in the New Testament. Luke even quotes Jesus as saying, "O fools and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken" and writes "[a]nd beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself" (24:25-27).

PROPHECY

To Anoint the Most Holy

"and to anoint the most Holy" v24 cont.

The word 'Christ' means the same as 'anointed'. Jesus was the anointed one. In several texts Jesus was referred to as the 'Holy One' e.g. Luke 1:35. At His baptism He was anointed by God Who said of Him "this is My beloved Son in Whom I am well pleased". When Jesus first preached after His baptism he proclaimed that God had anointed Him to preach the gospel to the poor (Luke 4:18).

Rebuilding of Jerusalem

Verse 25 is already referred to above. It says that there will be seven weeks (49 years) and 62 weeks (434 years) from the time of the decree to rebuild Jerusalem to the coming of the Messiah, and that the rebuilding will be accomplished in troublesome times. The Bible in Ezra and

Nehemiah indeed records how much trouble the builders experienced in rebuilding Jerusalem and this rebuilding did take place over about 49 years, which probably explains the division of weeks in the verse.

Messiah to be Cut Off

"And after threescore and two [62] weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy that city and the sanctuary and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined." v26

The word 'after' is highlighted above as it reveals that after the seven and 62 prophetic weeks the Christ is cut off, which logically therefore is during the period of the 70th week, just following on consecutively. This time frame fits in well with the crucifixion of Jesus. The suggestion that Messiah won't be cut off 'for himself' may be an accurate prediction too forecasting that he would be cut off for the sins of the world and not His own sins (although note that some other Bible translations render this phrase 'but not for himself' very differently).

Desolations

Some years later in AD70, consistent with the latter part of v26, the prophesied destruction of the city and the sanctuary occurred when the Jewish people under pressure from the Roman commander Titus bring about the total destruction of their own city. Given the fact that the Jews' own stubbornness in not surrendering was probably the greatest cause of their own demise, and given the previous verse's reference to the time of the coming of Messiah the Prince, some would interpret 'the people of the prince that shall come' as meaning the Jews, who were the people of 'the prince' (Christ), whilst others would regard Titus as the prince and his people as being the destroyers referred to. Which ever interpretation of 'the prince' is correct, history indeed confirms the utter desolation of Jerusalem only one generation after Christ's crucifixion.

Confirm a covenant with many for one week

"And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate".
v27

Scholars generally agree that Jesus ministered for three and a half years and then was crucified. This is consistent with Daniel's statement above that in the middle of the prophetic week (7 years) the sacrifice will cease. Some scriptures are noted above which indicate that indeed Jesus' sacrifice was the ultimate sacrifice and that after His sacrifice no more sacrifices were required by God. He had 'offered one sacrifice for sins forever'. Sacrifices continued to be offered until the temple was destroyed in AD70 (when the abomination that makes desolate and the consummation determined was poured upon the desolate), but these were not according to God's will. In this sense Jesus caused 'the sacrifice and oblation to cease'.

Given, on this interpretation, that Jesus was cut off in the middle of the prophetic week, one may ask how then could it be said that He confirmed the covenant with many for one week? The answer is actually obvious and very beautiful for any believer in Christ – He was resurrected to life after three days and three nights. Jesus is alive! Hallelujah! Romans 15:8 says "Now I say that Jesus Christ was a minister of the circumcision for the truth of God, **to confirm the promises (or the covenant)** made unto the fathers". In the remaining three and a half years the covenant continued to be confirmed by Christ personally, after His resurrection, and through His disciples. The Church of God 7th Day has traditionally taught that "the last half of this final week ended at the approximate time of Acts 6-10, when Stephen was stoned [after delivering the New Covenant

message in that era to the leaders of Jerusalem as a nation one final time], Paul was converted, and Peter visited Cornelius' home with the gospel. In the events of this week ... the awful fate of Jerusalem and its Jewish population in A.D. 70 was confirmed". (quoted from Vol. 85, no.3 COG7 Bible study quarterly).

A pivotal prophecy

The above interpretation of Daniel's prophecy is actually not well accepted in Christian circles today. In fact the most widespread interpretation today would have it that the last week of the seventy weeks has not been fulfilled yet and that it is held over until the end of time, despite verse 26's clear statement that Messiah was to be cut off **after** the 69 weeks which of necessity must bring Christ's crucifixion into the last week, and despite there being no hint of a 2,000 plus year gap in the prophecy. Other interpreters would also have it that it is not Jesus who confirms the covenant, but instead, the anti-Christ, and that verse 27 teaches that the anti-Christ will cause the temple to be rebuilt in an end time seven year tribulation period, and cause sacrifices to be restarted and then stopped after three and a half years.

Hence Daniel 9 becomes pivotal to various end time scenarios that we see commonly preached today. In fact it is used as the primary foundation for these terrifying seven year tribulation period scenarios complete with rapture, restored temple and sacrifices and people being left behind to live through the terrifying rule of the anti-Christ. I believe, however, as do many in the Church of God 7th Day, that we should seriously question the relevance of Daniel 9 to all of this.

Conclusion

With this in mind I ask the reader to simply reflect again on the context of Daniel nine, which we saw was Daniel's prayer for God to have mercy on the people of Israel, and God's answer to Daniel's prayer. My prayer is that when you do this you will see a marvelous, faith building, fulfilled prophecy about Jesus death and resurrection being God's answer to forgive and restore the people of

Israel. So long as they turn to Him and so long as we turn to Him, the curse of punishment will no longer remain and we will have great hope for eternal life.

My prayer also is that in reflecting on the context of Daniel nine you will see that the alternative, but now mainstream teachings which are built on Daniel nine, have very shaky foundations and that great caution should be exercised in relation to them. How out of wack do such ideas (when based on Daniel nine) as an Anti-Christ desecrating a rebuilt end time temple in a distant end time seven year tribulation period seem in the context of Daniel's prayer and God's answer? Conversely, how wonderfully appropriate and prophetic does God's answer in sending Christ to redeem His people seem?

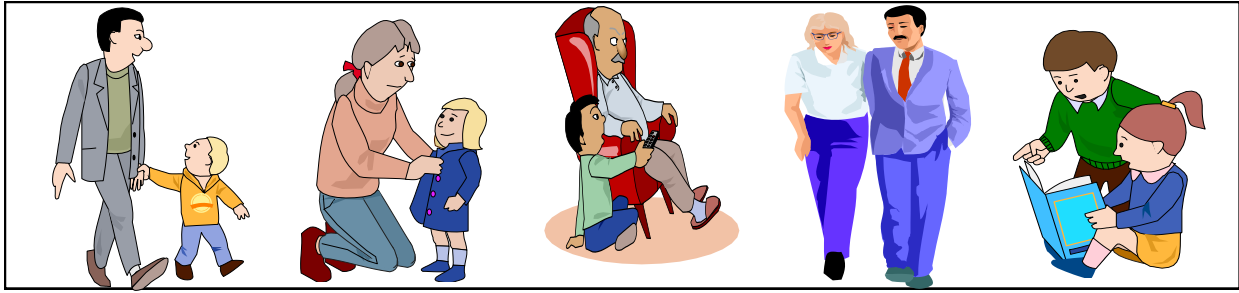
David Kidd

(KJV used throughout)

Do not withhold good from
those to whom it is due,
When it is in the power of
your hand to do so.
Do not say to your neighbour,
"Go, and come back,
And tomorrow I will give it,"
When you have it with you.

Proverb 3:27-28





The Sabbath Experience

The Sabbath is a pause with a blessing, a gift to us from God.

And yet, the busyness of life is relentless. There is little time for rest.

The technologies we have designed to improve efficiency and save time have instead enslaved more than they have liberated us. We seem to be busier than ever before.

We were designed to work and then rest; the rhythm of life is day with recovery at night; even our hearts rest between each beat.

When God's work of creating this physical world was completed, He rested - not because He was tired; God never tires or wearies. He rested to set us an example. Made in His image and likeness, modelled from clay for the time being, we are destined to become His glorified sons forever.

This journey, from physical to eternal, began when God

saw what He had made in that creation week as "very good". On the seventh day following His work, God rested from His work. He also blessed the seventh day and He made it holy. God had just made man, and then He made the Sabbath.

Thousands of years later, when on the earth as Jesus Christ, God further explained the gift of the Sabbath, saying, "The Sabbath was made for man."

In healing the sick and giving sight to the blind, Jesus specifically chose to magnify the blessing of the Sabbath - and by doing so, broke the bondage (the slavery of relentlessness) that has been imposed on us.

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." (Jesus) (Matthew 11 : 28)

Do you really experience Sabbath rest?

Like the space between inhale and exhale, the harvest and planting, the moment before sleep overcomes, we need rest.

The Sabbath. It's been called a sanctuary in time - the experience of physical rest ordained by God at creation - a pause with a blessing. And more than that, this physical rest points to our spiritual rest - Rest in Christ.

"There remains then a Sabbath rest for the people of God..... Let us therefore make every effort to enter that rest." (Hebrews 4 : 9,11)

The Church of God is pleased to introduce you to an ancient truth in a fresh way.

We invite you to join us "The Rest of God", to pause, and allow God priority in your life.

*Written by John Klassesk,
Message Week, Perth, WA.*

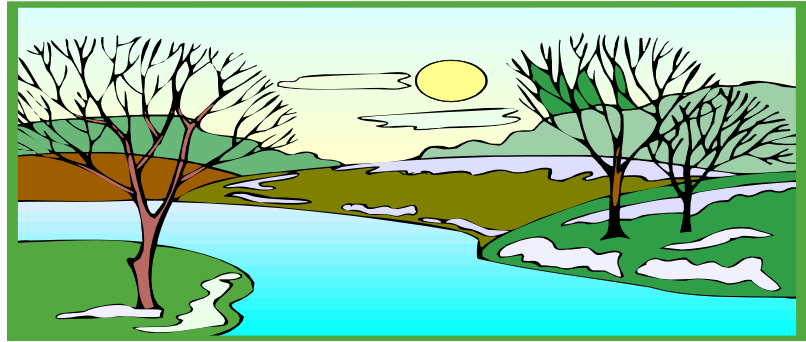
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Sabbath History

"It seems to have been customary in the Celtic churches of early times, in Ireland as well as Scotland, to keep Saturday, the Jewish Sabbath, as a day of rest from labor. They obeyed the fourth commandment literally upon the seventh day of the week." (James C. Moffatt, D. D., *The Church in Scotland*, Philadelphia: 1882, p.140)

Pope Gregory had sent delegates to the Christian Celts saying: "'Acknowledge the authority of the Bishop of Rome.' These are the first words of the Papacy to the ancient Christians of Britain. They meekly replied: 'The only submission we can render him is that which we owe to every Christian.'" (Merle D' Aubigne, *History of the Reformation*, Book XVII, chap. 2.) "'But as for further obedience, we know of none that he, whom you term the Pope, or Bishop of Bishops, can claim or demand.'" (Early British History, G. H. Whalley, Esq., M. P., p.17 London: 1860; see also *Variation of Popery*, Rev. Samuel Edger, D. D., pp. 180-183. New York: 1849)

The above appeared in a recent Sabbath Sentinel Magazine, sent in by Gray Hodge.



SPRING

**Spring is the season for cleaning,
For sorting, tidying and freeing.
Shedding the excess and unwanted,
Ready for renewal and recharging.**

**So get on with the cleaning,
The sorting and freeing
Because summer is coming,
Summer is coming
And then we'll rejoice and relax.**

**Ever thankful, there's One who can clean
Even the stains and pains from our hearts.
Forgiving, freeing, healing and restoring,
Only Jesus, can do all that.**

Leslie Hodge

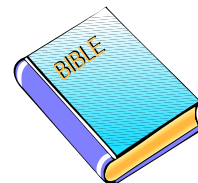




TOP TEN TRUTHS ABOUT EARTHLY WEALTH

1. It comes from God, and everything we have belongs to Him (Psalms 24:1; 50:10; Haggai 2:8).
2. It should be earned with diligence, received with gratitude, and managed with care (Deuteronomy 8; Proverbs 10:4; 13:4; 27:23ff).
3. Christ teaches giving some of it to Caesar (taxes) and some of it to God (a tithe, Matthew 22 : 17-21).
4. For a better blessing, it should be shared with others who have little or none (Isaiah 58:7; Acts 4:34; 35; 20:35).
5. Not good security, it can fade, deflate, flood, rust, or be stolen, and cannot guarantee an abundant life (Matthew 6:19, 20; Luke 12:15).
6. Having more of it places us under greater obligation and makes it harder to enter the kingdom (Luke 12:48; 16:19-31; 18:24, 25).
7. It can bring a curse, lead to all sorts of evil, and testify against you at the Judgement (Proverbs 30:8,9; Jeremiah 17:11; Luke 6:24; 1 Timothy 6:9, 10; James 5:1-3).
8. It can't save from death or from God's wrath (Zephaniah 1:18; James 1:9, 10).
9. Although it can't be taken with you, it can be sent ahead (Psalm 49:7; Matthew 6:20; Luke 12:33; 16:9; 1 Timothy 6:7, 17-19).
10. Less of it is more, if God is in it (Psalm 37:16).

Jesus the Messiah

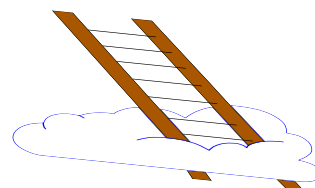


Prophecy Fulfilled

Ever since people became alienated from God by sin, they have looked for a deliverer - a Messiah. Ancient people anticipated His coming. Men of God, under the influence of the Holy Spirit, revealed many facts concerning Him. These predictions in the Old Testament later provided evidence of His identity when He appeared; thus godly men and women of His own generation recognized Him.....The purpose of this booklet is to review some of the more prominent prophecies that verify Jesus as the Messiah, the Son of God.

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The Youth Section



Jacob's Ladder

Fit the words in the list into the diagram below reading forward, backward, up, down, diagonally, always in a straight line.

Genesis 28 : 10 - 20

G	S	T	S	C	S	T	O	N	E	D	D	A	E	H
N	I	N	E	A	A	Y	G	T	R	E	F	O	E	S
I	E	M	E	N	F	A	T	H	E	R	G	S	L	T
Y	O	V	O	J	T	E	S	I	A	U	U	E	S	A
L	I	E	A	R	T	H	L	I	C	O	E	U	D	I
G	N	C	W	E	N	E	D	Y	H	P	D	O	B	R
G	O	D	O	S	H	I	B	L	E	S	S	E	D	W
B	R	Y	K	T	P	G	N	I	D	N	E	C	S	A
D	T	K	E	I	A	I	N	G	E	R	H	A	N	Y
O	H	B	L	N	B	W	E	G	S	U	T	L	I	O
O	Y	L	G	G	R	T	E	H	I	T	O	L	G	N
F	A	E	N	D	A	U	E	S	M	E	L	E	H	W
R	L	I	O	G	H	B	O	L	O	R	C	D	T	O
S	R	H	A	R	A	N	U	J	R	M	A	E	R	D
B	L	A	N	D	M	Z	M	S	P	L	E	A	V	E

ABRAHAM
AFRAID
ANGELS
ASCENDING
AWESOME
AWOKE
BEERSHEBA
BETHEL
BLESSED
BRING
CALLED
CITY

CLOTHES
DOWN
DREAM
DUST
EARTH
FATHER
FOOD
GATE
GIVE
GOD
HARAN
HEAD

HEAVEN
HOUSE
ISAAC
JACOB
JOURNEY
LAND
LAY
LEAVE
LUZ
LYING
MORNING
NIGHT

NORTH
OIL
PILLAR
POURED
PROMISED
REACHED
RESTING
RETURN
SAFELY
SLEEP
STAIRWAY
STONE

TENTH



Puzzle from Bible Wordsearch

Insights From the Past

HAPPY NEW YEAR

As we approach a new year, we realize that we are on the verge of the unknown and that only the Creator of all things can unlock the secrets of the future. The victories, the defeats, and the opportunities of 1949 are history and can never be recalled until personally we come to judgement and are weighed in the balances of God's Word. 1950 lies before us, and who knows what we shall find, what changes shall come, and what new needs shall arise.

The best new year's resolution for the child of God is found in Philipians 3:10-14, and let us call the reader's attention to three key words: remember, forget, and press on. David said in Psalm 77:11, 12, "I will remember the works of the Lord: surely I will remember thy wonders of old. I will meditate also of all thy work, and talk of thy doings." If you will count your blessings you will be surprised to find that the list will grow so long that you will discontinue it and break out into singing and praising the Lord. How many are praising Him for trials as well as blessings?

"Forgetting those things which are behind." Let us wipe out of our memory all the unpleasant things of the past, the unjust criticisms, harsh judgements, the untruths, the persecutions, and the troubles and ask the Lord to give us forgiving grace. Enter the new year with a clear slate, a clean conscience, and a conscience that all is right between us and our Creator. And without fail, ask God to help us under all conditions to manifest the spirit of meekness, gentleness, tolerance, and love that is taught in Galatians 5.

"Press on." Develop such a conscientiousness of [God's] abiding presence that we learn to walk and talk with Him. To "press on" means to stay on the ship of life where no enemy torpedoes molest, for the Captain is at the helm, ever watchful.

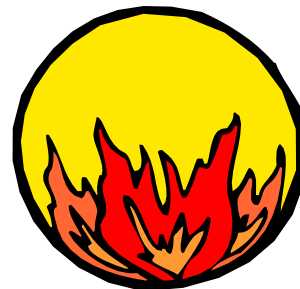
What is the secret of a happy new year? Putting first things first is the answer. Seeking God's kingdom and His righteousness. Too many people put first things last. Today they seek riches, wealth, and pleasure first, and if they seek God at all, they seek Him last. It seems hard to exercise enough faith to believe that if we seek God first, all the things we need will be added to us.

Many persons make resolutions on New Year's Day. They intend to give up something that is wrong in their lives, but they want to give it up slowly so their friends will still recognize them. The Book tells us to put off the old man and put on the new man, but it does not say to do it little by little. Too many people wish to reform step by step, instead of claiming the greater happiness by full surrender.

May we pray God that whatever may come in the year that is sealed to us just now, we may ever keep in mind that a Happy Eternity awaits those who are willing to do the first things first. May we meet there.

EDITOR'S NOTE : The above article appeared in the January 2, 1950, edition of The Bible Advocate and Herald of the Coming Kingdom. This article was written by A.S. Christenson, now deceased, served as editor of the publication from 1945 - 1950.

Will God Punish the Wicked Forever?



Many Christians believe that a person who dies without Jesus Christ goes to hell immediately at the moment of death. There they burn in the fire prepared for the Devil and his angels. There they will spend eternity writhing in torment.....Does this understanding accurately reflect what the Scriptures teach?

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