

John 27 – Jesus’ Teaches Hell is Forever

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John 8:21-30

John Has Connections

- Though John never expressly speaks of his connections to the hierarchy his *point-of-view* narratives could only come from
 - Being present during *inner-circle* events (Jn 18:15)
 - Receiving information from *inner-circle* events (Jn 2:45-49)
- Reveals John is well educated and his family has close ties to Jewish {Sadducees} religious *inner-circle*

Jesus Not a Handsome Man

- Isaiah clearly writes that Messiah would not be a handsome man lest people become attracted simply by looks (Is 53:2-3)
- Nearly all depictions of Jesus are wrong, he might have looked like this bust



Jewish Festivals are the Key

- Jewish festivals key to understanding God's plan
- Spring festivals depict Meek Christ dying for sin
- Fall festivals sandwich Christ's judgment on sin with Millennial Kingdom



Axial Age: Preparing for Christ

Sadducees – Pre Axial Age

- King-Priest guarded god's truth via rituals
- People participated in the rituals to appease god
- Government and religion intertwined by culture

Pharisees – Post Axial Age

- God's message via the Jews, Axial Age (800-200 B.C.), prepared for Christ
- New and old faiths taught personal relationship with deity based on works; thus Judaism became Talmudic

Both Sadducees and Pharisees missed the mark
However, their influenced prepared the world for Christ

Two Hazy Jewish Views of Eternity

Sadducees – Torah

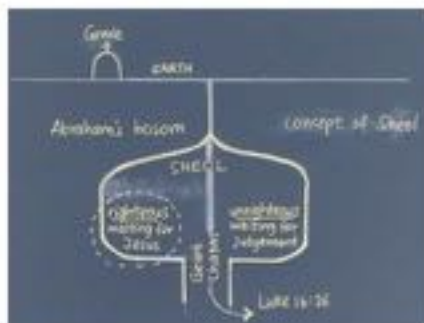
- Sheol mentioned in Torah as place for the wicked (Nu 30:30-33)
- Righteous taken to God like Enoch (Ge 5:24)
- Not a developed doctrine, many discounted eternity

Pharisees – All of OT

- Sheol abode of the dead
 - Gehenna - Torment
 - Hell/Hades
 - Abaddon
 - Abyssos/Tartarus
- Paradise - Comfort
 - Elysium
 - Heaven

Christ's Teaching of Sheol

- Sheol – abode of all who die (Lk 16:22-26)
- Located in the Earth (Nu 30:30-33)
- Chasm divided two parts
 - Paradise for Saved
 - Hades for Sinners



Pharisees Were Universalists

- Pharisees generally believed that all consigned to Gehenna would be released to Paradise except the greatest of sinners, like men who followed their wives
 - This is the core of Universalism – Man can pay for sin over time with punishment {Prison concept}
 - No concept of man's unworthiness to atone sin's debt
 - This belief prevails in Christendom today

Christ Teaches Hell is Eternal

- Christ was teaching them a new doctrine on judgment
 - Christ was teaching them that unless they believed in Him as Son of God they would be judged for their sin
 - This judgment would be permanent at death
 - All who are of the earth are already consigned to Hell
 - Change from earthly to heavenly apart from faith in Christ's atonement impossible {Gift of God} (Eph 2:8-9)

This Explains Jews Confusion

- Not only did Christ challenge their understanding of God, Trinitarianism, but He also gave them a new understanding of personal relationship with God
 - Before this the believer viewed God from afar (Ex 33:17-23)
 - Only via Messiah's sacrifice can one come near to God (Eph 2:13)
- This revelation shattered all man-based religions (Jews) (Ps 51:16-17)

Jesus Continues His Teaching

- John has Jesus continue His teaching the devout in the Temple during Sukkot's Great Day by building on His earlier words of "going away" (Jo 7:33-36)
 - Remember their first assumption was that Jesus was going away to teach Greeks {Gentiles} His new doctrine
- Jesus reveals He will be going back to Heaven where they cannot find Him - Remain in sin for eternity

Ominous Words of Warning

- Messiah clearly warns these pietistic Jews that they have missed the mark, definition of sin, and if they do not repent they will die in their sin; forever damned
 - They seek God but cannot accept Him standing before them because their salvation is based on religious rituals
 - They cannot enter the Kingdom; their righteousness like bloody rags; Christ's righteousness is washes away sin (Jo 6:30; 6:60; Mr 22:1-14; Ro 7:16-20; 1Jo 1:7)

Truth Eludes the Jews

- Jews ask themselves if He will kill Himself since He is going where they cannot come; *non sequitur* thinking
 - This illustrates their inability to intellectually apprehend the truth Christ is teaching (1Co 2:14)
 - Their view of eternity is like life on earth without suffering or death; no conception of God's plan (Is 64:4; 1Co 15:51)
 - Following the proper rituals with the right attitude is their ticket to this good eternity, after some suffering

Difference Between Above & Below

- Christ declared His is from Above while they are from Below, from this world
 - They cannot apprehend His truth using their own wisdom; goes against all they have been taught
 - They must be enlightened by God or else they will never grasp the truths Christ teaches
 - There is only one source of Heavenly truth: One who came from Heaven to teach them God's truths (Ep 4:7)

Again Jesus Declares "I Am"

- Though lost in the English Jesus says, "Unless you believe I Am you will die in your sins." (Jn 14:6)
 - Jesus is not pleading with them to believe Him; He is warning them of the consequences of their unbelief
- Their response shows their inability to grasp His truth when they ask, "Who are you?"
 - Jesus had already revealed Himself as Son of God; I Am

Extraordinary Message from God

- This extraordinary message was so important God sent it by His own Son who is giving it directly to man
- Those from below need to be born from above to hear this message
 - It goes out into the world but the world does not hear because sinners are dead in their sin (Eph 2:1-3)
 - God makes us alive in salvation so we hear the truth (Ro 8:15; Eph 2:4-5)

Christ Confirms His Death

- Christ confirms that when He is lifted up, hanged on the stauros, then they will know that He is the I Am
 - The Jews had asked Him if He was going to kill Himself
 - He now tells them that He will die (Paschal Lamb)
 - Events surrounding His death and resurrection will show Him to be the I Am as He told them
 - Yet, many will still not believe even the resurrection (Jk 16:27-31)

Father Never Leaves the Son

- Christ makes the declaration that the Father is always with Him, has never left Him, because Jesus always does what is pleasing to the Father; i.e., does not sin
 - Christ is never in a state of rebellion against the Father
 - Father sent the Son to tell the message and then to die on the stauros for sin at the hands of the False Jews
 - Only then will people be able to enter New Covenant

More Than a Simple Message

- On the surface this seems to be a simple message: Believe! This is not a simple message
 - The Jews had seen many false prophets and Messiahs; thus, they had grown leery of such proclamations
 - They were right to question His credentials
 - Even Christians are told to question those bringing any message to determine if it is of God (1Jo 4:1)

Christ Authenticated His Word

- Christ authenticated His message with the works given Him by the Father
 - Nicodemus admitted this (Jo 3:1-2)
 - This crowd admitted this (Jo 7:38)
 - They were like their ancestors who killed the prophets God sent to warn them of their sin (Mt 21:33-46; Lk 11:47-51)
 - Issue is not whether He was speaking truth but that His truth violated their religion of self-made righteousness

Many Believe His Message

- While Christ is teaching, many believe His message
 - However, there is a difference between believing an abstract message and having the belief change you
 - We have already seen many of His disciples leave as they could not accept His truths (Jo 4:16; 6:46)
 - Christ will now turn to address those who believe Him separating true from false belief in our next lesson (Lk 13:23-28)