"Does the Bible Teach Eternal Conscious Torment?"

RETHINKINGHELL

Negative Opening, by Chris Date and Nick Quient



Eternal Torment vs. Conditional Immortality



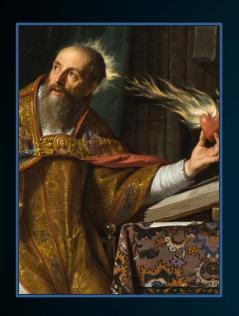
Introduction: Setting the Stage

"Does the Bible Teach Eternal Conscious Torment?"



Eternal Torment: The Risen Bodies of the Lost Will Be Immortal





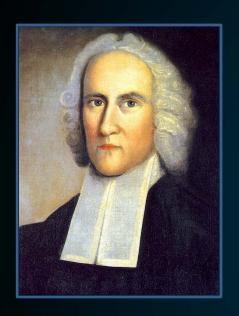
"Our opponents, too, make much of this, that in this world there is no flesh which can suffer pain and cannot die; . . . [but] the spirit, whose presence animates and rules the body, can both suffer pain and cannot die. Here then is something which, though it can feel pain, is immortal. And this capacity, which we now see in the spirit of all, shall be hereafter in the bodies of the damned."

Augustine of Hippo, City of God 21.3.2.









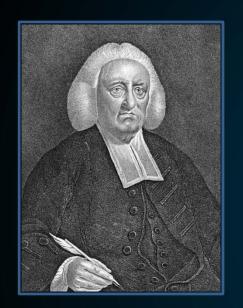
"The Doctor proceeds to argue, that future punishment will not be endless, because 'the wicked are not said to live always in torment without dying; or that their bodies shall be immortal . . . ' to be tormented forever and ever [as in Rev 20:10], is to live always in torment without dying. . . . The righteous are no more in the very words said to be immortal in happiness, than the wicked are said to be immortal in misery."

Jonathan Edwards, "The Salvation of All Men Strictly Examined," in *The Works of Jonathan Edwards*, vol. 1 (Boston, MA: John P. Jewett & Co., 1854), 229–30.



Eternal Torment: The Risen Bodies of the Lost Will Be Immortal



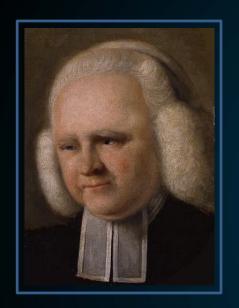


"The bodies of men, after the resurrection, are immortal; this mortal then puts on immortality, and always is clothed with it, and ever continues; but this is the gift of God, and the effect of his will and power; yea, even the bodies of the wicked are immortal, but not of themselves, it is even against their wills; they choose and seek death, but cannot have it;"

John Gill, A Complete Body of Doctrinal and Practical Divinity, new ed., vol. 1 (London, UK: Tegg & Company, 1839), 75.







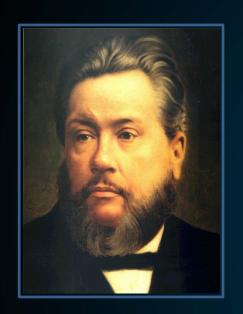
"Would we now and then draw off our Thoughts from sensible Objects, and by Faith meditate a while on the Miseries of the Damned, I doubt not but we should, as it were, here many an unhappy Soul venting his fruitless Sorrows in some such piteous Moans as these.

'... But must I live for ever tormented in these Flames? ... that Thought fills me with Despair. I cannot, will not, yet I must be miserable for ever."

George Whitefield, "The Eternity of Hell Torments," in *The Christian's Companion: Or, Sermons on Several Subjects* (London, UK: Booksellers in Town and Country, 1739), 171.







"Man for his sin was condemned to eternal fire; when God took Christ to be the substitute, it is true, he did not send Christ into eternal fire, but he poured upon him grief so desperate, that it was a valid payment for even an eternity in fire. Man was condemned to live forever in hell. God did not send Christ forever into hell; but he put on Christ, punishment that was equivalent for that."

Charles Haddon Spurgeon, "Sermon XIII: The Death of Christ," in Sermons of Rev. C. H. Spurgeon, 4th ser. (New York, NY: Robert Carter & Brothers, 1883), 217.







"Christianity asserts that every individual human being is going to live forever."

C. S. Lewis, Mere Christianity (New York, NY: Harper-Collins, 1972), 74.



"The message of the Bible is that . . . every human being who has ever lived will live forever."

John MacArthur, "The Resurrection of Jesus Christ: The Main Event in Redemptive History," sermon, https://www.gty.org/library/sermons-library/90-374/



"You are an embodied soul who will live forever in heaven or in hell."

John Piper, "Hijacking Back Your Brain from Porn," http://www.desiringgod.org/articles/hijacking-back-your-brain-from-porn







"Evidently God does not view unbelievers' being eternally alive in the lake of fire as incompatible with his being 'all in all.'"

Robert Peterson, "A Traditionalist Response to John Stott's Arguments for Annihilationism," *JETS* 37, no. 4 (1994), 566.



"You are going to live forever, and it will be unceasing joy or unceasing anguish."

Mark Driscoll, "Luke's Gospel: Investigating the Man who is God; Heaven and Hell," sermon, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RPOQoyA87hE



"This means that once people sin, God's justice would require . . . that they live forever in hell, receiving only his wrath eternally."

Wayne Grudem, Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine (Leicester, UK; Grand Rapids, MI: Inter-Varsity; Zondervan, 1994), 657.



Conditional Immortality: Working Definitions



Conditional immortality: the view according to which immortality is ultimately conditioned upon saving faith in Christ.

"Conditionalism is the view that life is the Creator's provisional gift to all, which will ultimately be *granted forever* to the saved and *revoked forever* from the unsaved."

Statement on Evangelical Conditionalism, http://rethinkinghell.com/statement/



The Dividing Line: Life and Immortality



NICK QUIENT



Does the Bible Teach Eternal Conscious Torment?

Yes No

Everyone will be immortal and physically live forever in either heaven or hell.

Only the saved will be immortal and physically live forever; the unsaved will instead die in hell, and forever.



Through the Lens of the Teaching and Revelation of Jesus



The Synoptic Jesus: Death by Fire in Gehenna

"Does the Bible Teach Eternal Conscious Torment?"





- Death: Matt 7:13–14; 10:28; Luke 20:35–36
- Fire: Matt 13:40–42; 25:41, 46; Mark 9:43–48
- Gehenna: Isa 66:24; Jer 7:32–33; Dan 12:2
- "... the way [ὁδός] is easy that leads to destruction [ἀπώλεια]...
 the way [ὁδός] is hard that leads to life [ζωή]..." (Matt 7:13–14)
 - "Behold, I have set before you the way [ὁδός] of life [ζωή], and the way [ὁδός] of death [θάνατος]. He that remains in this city shall die by the sword, and by famine: but he that goes forth . . . shall live" (Jer 21:8, LXX)







- Death: Matt 7:13–14; <u>10:28</u>; Luke 20:35–36
- Fire: Matt 13:40–42; 25:41, 46; Mark 9:43–48
- Gehenna: Isa 66:24; Jer 7:32–33; Dan 12:2
- "do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy [ἀπόλλυμι] both soul and body in hell." (Matt 10:28)
 - People want to kill [ἀπόλλυμι] Jesus (Matt 2:13; 12:14; 27:20;
 Mark 3:6; 11:18; Luke 19:47)
 - People and demons want to kill [ἀπόλλυμι] others (Matt 21:41; 22:7;
 Mark 9:22; 12:9; Luke 20:16)
 - Flood and fire kill [ἀπόλλυμι] people (Luke 17:27, 29)





- Death: Matt 7:13–14; 10:28; <u>Luke 20:35–36</u>
- Fire: Matt 13:40–42; 25:41, 46; Mark 9:43–48
- Gehenna: Isa 66:24; Jer 7:32–33; Dan 12:2
- "those who are considered worthy to attain to that age and to the resurrection from the dead . . . cannot die anymore" (Luke 20:35–36)
 - Some manuscripts, "will not die anymore"





- Death: Matt 7:13–14; 10:28; Luke 20:35–36
- Fire: Matt 13:40–42; 25:41, 46; Mark 9:43–48
- Gehenna: Isa 66:24; Jer 7:32–33; Dan 12:2

Death

Jesus teaches that the unsaved will die in hell, rather than live there forever.





- Death: Matt 7:13–14; 10:28; Luke 20:35–36
- Fire: Matt 13:40–42; 25:41, 46; Mark 9:43–48
- Gehenna: Isa 66:24; Jer 7:32–33; Dan 12:2
- "Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be . . . The Son of Man will . . . gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all lawbreakers, and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." (Matt 13:40–42)
 - Ten verses earlier: "Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned [κατακαίω], but gather the wheat into my barn." (v. 30)
 - κατακαίω: "to destroy something by burning—'to burn something down, to burn something up, to reduce to ashes'" (Louw-Nida)





- Death: Matt 7:13–14; 10:28; Luke 20:35–36
- Fire: Matt 13:40–42; 25:41, 46; Mark 9:43–48
- Gehenna: Isa 66:24; Jer 7:32-33; Dan 12:2
- "Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be . . . The Son of Man will . . . gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all lawbreakers, and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." (Matt 13:40–42)
 - "For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble. The day that is coming shall set them ablaze . . . you shall tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet" (Mal 4:1, 3)





- Death: Matt 7:13–14; 10:28; Luke 20:35–36
- Fire: Matt 13:40–42; 25:41, 46; Mark 9:43–48
- Gehenna: Isa 66:24; Jer 7:32–33; Dan 12:2
- "Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be . . . The Son of Man will . . . gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all lawbreakers, and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." (Matt 13:40–42)
 - "the wicked will be no more . . . The wicked plots against the righteous and gnashes his teeth at him, but the Lord laughs at the wicked, for he sees that his day is coming." (Ps 37:10–13)





- Death: Matt 7:13–14; 10:28; Luke 20:35–36
- Fire: Matt 13:40–42; <u>25:41, 46</u>; Mark 9:43–48
- Gehenna: Isa 66:24; Jer 7:32-33; Dan 12:2
- "Depart from me . . . into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. . . . these will go away into eternal punishment [κόλασις], but the righteous into eternal life." (Matt 25:41, 46)
 - "Sodom and Gomorrah . . . serve as an example by undergoing a punishment of eternal fire." (Jude 7)
 - "by turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to ashes [God] condemned them to extinction, making them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly" (2 Pet 2:6)





- Death: Matt 7:13–14; 10:28; Luke 20:35–36
- Fire: Matt 13:40–42; <u>25:41, 46</u>; Mark 9:43–48
- Gehenna: Isa 66:24; Jer 7:32–33; Dan 12:2
- "Depart from me... into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels... these will go away into eternal punishment [κόλασις], but the righteous into eternal life." (Matt 25:41, 46)
 - "And the peoples will be as if burned to lime, like thorns cut down, that are burned in the fire. . . . Who among us can dwell with the consuming fire? Who among us can dwell with everlasting burnings?" (Isa 33:12, 14)





- Death: Matt 7:13–14; 10:28; Luke 20:35–36
- Fire: Matt 13:40–42; <u>25:41, 46</u>; Mark 9:43–48
- Gehenna: Isa 66:24; Jer 7:32–33; Dan 12:2
- "Depart from me... into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels... these will go away into eternal punishment [κόλασις], but the righteous into eternal life." (Matt 25:41, 46)
 - "there he dispatched the bloodthirsty fellow. The Lord thus repaid him with the punishment [κόλασις] he deserved." (2 Macc 4:38)
 - "that they might fill up the punishment [κόλασις] which their torments still lacked . . . might meet a strange death." (Wis 19:4–5)





- Death: Matt 7:13–14; 10:28; Luke 20:35–36
- Fire: Matt 13:40–42; <u>25:41, 46</u>; Mark 9:43–48
- Gehenna: Isa 66:24; Jer 7:32–33; Dan 12:2
- "Depart from me . . . into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. . . . these will go away into eternal punishment [κόλασις], but the righteous into eternal life." (Matt 25:41, 46)



"laws reckon the punishment [of death] to consist [not] in the brief moment in which death is inflicted [but in] that the offender is eternally banished from the society of the living"

Augustine, City of God 21.11.1





- Death: Matt 7:13–14; 10:28; Luke 20:35–36
- Fire: Matt 13:40–42; 25:41, 46; Mark 9:43–48
- Gehenna: Isa 66:24; Jer 7:32–33; Dan 12:2
- "It is better for you to enter life crippled than with two hands to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. . . . where their worm does not die and the fire is not quenched." (Mark 9:43, 48)
 - "chaff he will burn [κατακαίω] with unquenchable fire" (Matt 3:12)
 - "they shall go out and look on the dead bodies of the men who have rebelled against me. For their worm shall not die, their fire shall not be quenched" (Isa 66:24)





- Death: Matt 7:13–14; 10:28; Luke 20:35–36
- Fire: Matt 13:40–42; 25:41, 46; Mark 9:43–48
- Gehenna: Isa 66:24; Jer 7:32-33; Dan 12:2

Death	Fire
Jesus teaches that the unsaved will die in hell, rather than live there forever.	Jesus teaches that the fire of hell destroys, rather than preserves life forever.





- Death: Matt 7:13–14; 10:28; Luke 20:35–36
- Fire: Matt 13:40–42; 25:41, 46; Mark 9:43–48
- Gehenna: Isa 66:24; Jer 7:32–33; Dan 12:2
- "thrown into hell [γέεννα], 'where their worm does not die and the fire is not quenched.'" (Mark 9:47–48; cf. Matt 5:22, 29, 30; 10:28; 18:9; 23:15, 33; Mark 9:43, 45; Luke 12:5)
 - "The Greek term γέεννα is derived from a Hebrew phrase meaning 'Valley of Hinnom,' a ravine running along the south side of Jerusalem" (Louw-Nida)





- Death: Matt 7:13–14; 10:28; Luke 20:35–36
- Fire: Matt 13:40–42; 25:41, 46; Mark 9:43–48
- Gehenna: <u>Isa 66:24</u>; Jer 7:32–33; Dan 12:2
- "And they shall go out and look on the dead bodies of the men who have rebelled against me. For their worm shall not die, their fire shall not be quenched, and they shall be an abhorrence to all flesh." (Isa 66:24)
 - "it shall devour every green tree in you and every dry tree. The blazing flame shall not be quenched" (Ezek 20:47)
 - "I will kindle a fire in its gates, and it shall devour the palaces of Jerusalem and shall not be quenched" (Jer 17:27)





- Death: Matt 7:13–14; 10:28; Luke 20:35–36
- Fire: Matt 13:40–42; 25:41, 46; Mark 9:43–48
- Gehenna: Isa 66:24; <u>Jer 7:32–33</u>; Dan 12:2
- "it will no more be called . . . the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, but the Valley of Slaughter . . . And the dead bodies of this people will be food for the birds of the air, and for the beasts of the earth, and none will frighten them away." (Jer 7:32–33)



"these corpses will remain unburied, becoming food for beast and bird—the ultimate disgrace and the worst possible fate imaginable."

Michael L. Brown, "Jeremiah," in Expositor's Bible Commentary, 171





- Death: Matt 7:13–14; 10:28; Luke 20:35–36
- Fire: Matt 13:40–42; 25:41, 46; Mark 9:43–48
- Gehenna: Isa 66:24; Jer 7:32–33; <u>Dan 12:2</u>
- "And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt [דֵּרָאוֹן]" (Dan 12:2)
 - "the dead bodies of the men who have rebelled against me . . . shall be an abhorrence [דַּרָאוֹן] to all flesh" (Isa 66:24)





- Death: Matt 7:13–14; 10:28; Luke 20:35–36
- Fire: Matt 13:40–42; 25:41, 46; Mark 9:43–48
- Gehenna: Isa 66:24; Jer 7:32-33; Dan 12:2

Death	Fire	Gehenna
unsaved will die in hell, rather than live there	Jesus teaches that the fire of hell destroys, rather than preserves life forever.	Jesus evokes the Old Testament warnings of final, shameful death in the Valley of the Sons of Hinnom.

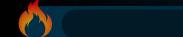


Through the Lens of the Teaching and Revelation of Jesus



The Johannine Jesus: Eternal Life Only in Jesus

"Does the Bible Teach Eternal Conscious Torment?"





- Gospel: John 3:16, 36; 5:28–29; 6:49–51; 8:51; 10:28; 11:25–26
- Apocalypse: Revelation 14:9–11; 22:2 (cf. 2:7)
- "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16)
 - "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life." (vv. 14–15)
 - "So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live." (Num 21:9)







- Gospel: John 3:16, <u>36</u>; <u>5:28–29</u>; <u>6:49–51</u>; 8:51; 10:28; 11:25–26
- Apocalypse: Revelation 14:9–11; 22:2 (cf. 2:7)
- "Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him" (John 3:36)
- "all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and come out, those who
 have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil
 to the resurrection of judgment." (John 5:28–29)
- "Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. . . . If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever." (John 6:49–51)





- Gospel: John 3:16, 36; 5:28–29; 6:49–51; <u>8:51</u>; <u>10:28</u>; <u>11:25–26</u>
- Apocalypse: Revelation 14:9–11; 22:2 (cf. 2:7)
- "if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death." (John 8:51)
- "I give them eternal life, and they will never perish" (John 10:28)
- "Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die." (John 11:25)





- Gospel: John 3:16, 36; 5:28–29; 6:49–51; 8:51; 10:28; 11:25–26
- Apocalypse: Revelation 14:9–11; 22:2 (cf. 2:7)

Gospel

Jesus is the source of life, and grants it eternally to those who believe in him. Those who do not will ultimately perish forever.





- Gospel: John 3:16, 36; 5:28–29; 6:49–51; 8:51; 10:28; 11:25–26
- Apocalypse: <u>Revelation 14:9–11</u>; 22:2 (cf. 2:7)
- "If anyone worships the beast . . . he also will drink the wine of God's wrath . . . and he will be tormented with fire and sulfur . . . And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever, and they have no rest, day or night" (Rev 14:9–11)
 - Drinking God's wrath
 - Tormented with fire and sulfur
 - Ever-rising smoke



The Johannine Jesus: Eternal Life Only in Jesus



- Gospel: John 3:16, 36; 5:28–29; 6:49–51; 8:51; 10:28; 11:25–26
- Apocalypse: <u>Revelation 14:9–11</u>; 22:2 (cf. 2:7)
- The fate of the harlot, "Mystery Babylon" (Rev 18–19)
 - Image: Drinking God's wrath (18:6)
 - Image: Tormented with fire and sulfur (18:7–9, 18)
 - Image: "The smoke from her goes up forever and ever." (19:3)
 - Interpretation: "So will Babylon the great city be thrown down with violence and will be found no more" (18:21)







- Gospel: John 3:16, 36; 5:28–29; 6:49–51; 8:51; 10:28; 11:25–26
- Apocalypse: Revelation 14:9–11; 22:2 (cf. 2:7)
- "And the streams of Edom shall be turned into pitch, and her soil into sulfur; her land shall become burning pitch. Night and day it shall not be quenched; its smoke shall go up forever." (Isa 34:9–10)
 - "Fire, brimstone, pitch, and sulfur from a volcanic eruption will burn up everything on the land.... This devastating burning will leave the land totally useless and uninhabitable forever.... the land will go back to its pre-creation status; that is, it will be without form (no structure or organization) and void (empty, without inhabitants)." (Gary V. Smith, Isaiah 1–39, New American Commentary, 574)







- Gospel: John 3:16, 36; 5:28–29; 6:49–51; 8:51; 10:28; 11:25–26
- Apocalypse: Revelation 14:9–11; <u>22:2</u> (cf. 2:7)
- "Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life . . . also, on either side of the river, the tree of life" (Rev 22:1-2)
 - "To the one who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God." (Rev 2:7)
 - "'Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil. Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever—' therefore the Lord God sent him out from the garden of Eden" (Gen 3:22–23)



The Johannine Jesus: Eternal Life Only in Jesus



- Gospel: John 3:16, 36; 5:28–29; 6:49–51; 8:51; 10:28; 11:25–26
- Apocalypse: Revelation 14:9–11; 22:2 (cf. 2:7)

Gospel	Apocalypse
	Smoke rising forever from fiery torment symbolizes destruction. Access to the tree of life symbolizes living forever.



Through the Lens of the Teaching and Revelation of Jesus



Recap: Summary of Findings



Through the Lens of the Teaching and Revelation of Jesus



The Synoptic Jesus: Death by Fire in Gehenna

Death	Fire	Gehenna
Jesus teaches that the unsaved will die in hell, rather than live there forever.	fire of hell destroys, rather than preserves	Jesus evokes the Old Testament warnings of final, shameful death in the Valley of the Sons of Hinnom.



Through the Lens of the Teaching and Revelation of Jesus



The Johannine Jesus: Eternal Life Only in Jesus

Gospel	Apocalypse
Jesus is the source of life, and grants it eternally to those who believe in him. Those who do not will ultimately perish forever.	Smoke rising forever from fiery torment symbolizes destruction. Access to the tree of life symbolizes living forever.





Lexemes of Destruction: Extinction and Eradication





- καταργέω: 1 Cor 1:28; 2:6; 15:24–26; 2 Thess 2:8; 2 Tim 1:10
- ἀπόλλυμι/ἀπώλεια: 1 Cor 1:18; 10:9–10; Phil 3:18–19
- φθορά/φθείρω: 1 Cor 3:17; Gal 6:8
- ὄλεθρος: 2 Thess 1:9
- καταργέω: "to cause to cease to exist—'to cause to come to an end, to cause to become nothing, to put an end to'" (Louw-Nida)





- καταργέω: 1 Cor 1:28; 2:6; 15:24–26; 2 Thess 2:8; 2 Tim 1:10
- ἀπόλλυμι/ἀπώλεια: 1 Cor 1:18; 10:9–10; Phil 3:18–19
- φθορά/φθείρω: 1 Cor 3:17; Gal 6:8
- ὄλεθρος: 2 Thess 1:9
- "knowing this, that our old self was crucified along with him for the purpose of bringing the body of Sin to nothing [καταργέω], so that we would no longer be enslaved to Sin" (Rom 6:6*)

^{*} All translations from here forward are Nick's







- καταργέω: 1 Cor 1:28; 2:6; 15:24–26; 2 Thess 2:8; 2 Tim 1:10
- ἀπόλλυμι/ἀπώλεια: 1 Cor 1:18; 10:9–10; Phil 3:18–19
- φθορά/φθείρω: 1 Cor 3:17; Gal 6:8
- ὄλεθρος: 2 Thess 1:9
- Entities and beings to be "destroyed" or to "cease to exist" (καταργέω):
 - The "things that are" (1 Cor 1:28)
 - The "rulers of this age" (1 Cor 2:6)
 - "All rule & sovereignty & power, including Death" (1 Cor 15:24–26)
 - "Lawless One" whom Jesus will "kill" and "annihilate" (2 Thess 2:8)
 - Death (2 Tim 1:10)





- καταργέω: 1 Cor 1:28; 2:6; 15:24–26; 2 Thess 2:8; 2 Tim 1:10
- ἀπόλλυμι/ἀπώλεια: 1 Cor 1:18; 10:9–10; Phil 3:18–19
- φθορά/φθείρω: 1 Cor 3:17; Gal 6:8
- ὄλεθρος: 2 Thess 1:9
- ἀπόλλυμι/ἀπώλεια: "to destroy or to cause the destruction of persons, objects, or institutions—'to ruin, to destroy, destruction'" (Louw-Nida)





- καταργέω: 1 Cor 1:28; 2:6; 15:24–26; 2 Thess 2:8; 2 Tim 1:10
- ἀπόλλυμι/ἀπώλεια: 1 Cor 1:18; 10:9–10; Phil 3:18–19
- φθορά/φθείρω: 1 Cor 3:17; Gal 6:8
- ὄλεθρος: 2 Thess 1:9
- "for the message of the cross is indeed folly to those who are perishing [ἀπόλλυμι], but to us who are being delivered [σώζω] it is the power of God" (1 Cor 1:18; cf. Rom 9:22; 2 Cor 2:15; 4:3; Phil 1:28)





- καταργέω: 1 Cor 1:28; 2:6; 15:24–26; 2 Thess 2:8; 2 Tim 1:10
- ἀπόλλυμι/ἀπώλεια: 1 Cor 1:18; 10:9–10; Phil 3:18–19
- φθορά/φθείρω: 1 Cor 3:17; Gal 6:8
- ὄλεθρος: 2 Thess 1:9
- "Neither should we put the Messiah to the test, just as some of them did and were killed [ἀπόλλυμι] by the serpent, nor grumble as some of them did and were destroyed [ἀπόλλυμι] by the Destroyer [ὀλοθρευτής]." (1 Cor 10:9–10)





- καταργέω: 1 Cor 1:28; 2:6; 15:24–26; 2 Thess 2:8; 2 Tim 1:10
- ἀπόλλυμι/ἀπώλεια: 1 Cor 1:18; 10:9–10; Phil 3:18–19
- φθορά/φθείρω: 1 Cor 3:17; Gal 6:8
- ὄλεθρος: 2 Thess 1:9
- "The enemies of the cross of Christ, whose end [τέλος] is destruction [ἀπώλεια]; their 'god' is their belly, their glory is in their shame" (Phil 3:18–19)





- καταργέω: 1 Cor 1:28; 2:6; 15:24–26; 2 Thess 2:8; 2 Tim 1:10
- ἀπόλλυμι/ἀπώλεια: 1 Cor 1:18; 10:9–10; Phil 3:18–19
- φθορά/φθείρω: 1 Cor 3:17; Gal 6:8
- ὄλεθρος: 2 Thess 1:9
- φθορά: "a state of ruin or destruction, with the implication of disintegration—'ruin, destruction'" (Louw-Nida)
- Φθείρω: "to ruin or destroy something, with the implication of causing something to be corrupt and thus to cease to exist—'to destroy'" (Louw-Nida)





- καταργέω: 1 Cor 1:28; 2:6; 15:24–26; 2 Thess 2:8; 2 Tim 1:10
- ἀπόλλυμι/ἀπώλεια: 1 Cor 1:18; 10:9–10; Phil 3:18–19
- φθορά/φθείρω: 1 Cor 3:17; Gal 6:8
- ὄλεθρος: 2 Thess 1:9
- "if anyone destroys [φθείρω] God's temple [that is, the human body],
 God will destroy [φθείρω] that person." (1 Cor 3:17; cf. Rom 8:21)
- The body of a believer "is sown in corruption [φθορά], it is raised in imperishability" (1 Cor 15:42)





- καταργέω: 1 Cor 1:28; 2:6; 15:24–26; 2 Thess 2:8; 2 Tim 1:10
- ἀπόλλυμι/ἀπώλεια: 1 Cor 1:18; 10:9–10; Phil 3:18–19
- φθορά/φθείρω: 1 Cor 3:17; Gal 6:8
- ὄλεθρος: 2 Thess 1:9
- "for the one who sows to their own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption [φθορά]; but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life" (Gal 6:8)





- καταργέω: 1 Cor 1:28; 2:6; 15:24–26; 2 Thess 2:8; 2 Tim 1:10
- ἀπόλλυμι/ἀπώλεια: 1 Cor 1:18; 10:9–10; Phil 3:18–19
- φθορά/φθείρω: 1 Cor 3:17; Gal 6:8
- ὄλεθρος: 2 Thess 1:9
- ὅλεθρος: "a state of utter ruin or destruction—'ruin, destruction"
 (Louw-Nida)
 - "sudden destruction" (1 Thess 5:3)
 - "destruction of the flesh" of the incestuous man (1 Cor 5:5)
 - "annihilation [ὅλεθρος] and destruction [ἀπώλεια]" (1 Tim 6:9)







- καταργέω: 1 Cor 1:28; 2:6; 15:24–26; 2 Thess 2:8; 2 Tim 1:10
- ἀπόλλυμι/ἀπώλεια: 1 Cor 1:18; 10:9–10; Phil 3:18–19
- φθορά/φθείρω: 1 Cor 3:17; Gal 6:8
- ὄλεθρος: 2 Thess 1:9
- "These will pay the price of eternal destruction [ὅλεθρον αἰώνιον] from [ἀπό] the presence of the Lord and from [ἀπό] the glory of his strength" (2 Thess 1:9)
 - YHWH's presence causes everyone to hide (Isa 2:10–21, LXX)
 - "Destruction" and "vanishing" of Jeroboam's house (1 Kgs 13:34, LXX)
 - Nowhere in LXX do these words and groups refer to torment
 - This "eternal destruction" comes "from God's presence"





- καταργέω: 1 Cor 1:28; 2:6; 15:24–26; 2 Thess 2:8; 2 Tim 1:10
- ἀπόλλυμι/ἀπώλεια: 1 Cor 1:18; 10:9–10; Phil 3:18–19
- φθορά/φθείρω: 1 Cor 3:17; Gal 6:8
- ὄλεθρος: 2 Thess 1:9

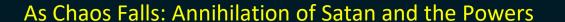
Paul and the Lexemes of Destruction

Paul's language is focused, not on the "torment" or "pain" of people or nations, but on their utter destruction. Lexically, historically, and contextually, evangelical conditionalism makes the best sense of the totality of Paul's language.





As Chaos Falls: Annihilation of Satan and the Powers







- Pauline Theology: Rom 16:20; 1 Cor 2:6; 15:24–26; 2 Thess 2:8; Heb 2:14
- Apocalyptic Corroboration: Rev 20:10–15
- "The God of peace will utterly crush/destroy [συντρίβω] Satan under your feet in swiftness" (Rom 16:20)
 - The συντρίβω word group occurs often in Jewish literature (e.g., 1 Macc 3:22; 4:10; Sirach 35:22) to describe the death or the threat of death in warfare
 - "to break or shatter a solid object into pieces, with the implication of destruction—'to break into pieces, to shatter'" (Louw-Nida)





- Pauline Theology: Rom 16:20; 1 Cor 2:6; 15:24–26; 2 Thess 2:8; Heb 2:14
- Apocalyptic Corroboration : Rev 20:10–15
- Satan will be "utterly crushed/destroyed" (Rom 16:20)
- The rulers of this age will be "destroyed" (1 Cor 2:6)
- Death, rulers, and sovereignties will be "destroyed" (1 Cor 15:24–26)
- The "annihilation" of the Lawless one (2 Thess 2:8)
- The Devil is "destroyed" (Heb 2:14)





- Pauline Theology: Rom 16:20; 1 Cor 2:6; 15:24–26; 2 Thess 2:8; Heb 2:14
- Apocalyptic Corroboration : Rev 20:10–15

Pauline Theology

Death is destroyed. God is "all in all." And Satan is annihilated.





- Pauline Theology: Rom 16:20; 1 Cor 2:6; 15:24–26; 2 Thess 2:8; Heb 2:14
- Apocalyptic Corroboration: Rev 20:10–15
- "And the devil who had deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet lie, and they will be tormented day and night into the ages of the ages" (Rev 20:10)





- Pauline Theology: Rom 16:20; 1 Cor 2:6; 15:24–26; 2 Thess 2:8; Heb 2:14
- Apocalyptic Corroboration: Rev 20:10–15
- Contradiction?
 - Pauline Theology:
 - Satan destroyed
 - Death destroyed
 - Rulers of this age destroyed
 - Sovereignties destroyed
 - Lawless one annihilated

- Apocalyptic Theology:
 - Satan tormented forever
 - Beast tormented forever
 - False prophet tormented forever





- Pauline Theology: Rom 16:20; 1 Cor 2:6; 15:24–26; 2 Thess 2:8; Heb 2:14
- Apocalyptic Corroboration: Rev 20:10–15
- John the Seer sees torment
 - Rev 20:13—universal resurrection of all people
 - Given up by Death and Hades
 - Judged according to their "works"
 - Rev 20:14—The Second Death
 - Death and Hades thrown into the lake of fire
 - They join the unholy trinity
 - "This is the Second Death"





- Pauline Theology: Rom 16:20; 1 Cor 2:6; 15:24–26; 2 Thess 2:8; Heb 2:14
- Apocalyptic Corroboration: Rev 20:10–15
- John the Seer's hermeneutical method:
 - "Tormented eternally" is "the second death"
 - Explains his use of symbolism:
 - "the seven stars are the seven angels of the seven assemblies, and the seven lampstands are the seven assemblies" (Rev 1:20)
 - "this [vv. 10–14] is the second death, the lake of fire" (Rev 20:14)
 - "the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death" (Rev 21:8)





- Pauline Theology: Rom 16:20; 1 Cor 2:6; 15:24–26; 2 Thess 2:8; Heb 2:14
- Apocalyptic Corroboration: Rev 20:10–15

Pauline Theology	Apocalyptic Corroboration
	Death is destroyed (Rev 20:14). Satan is annihilated (Rev 20:10).





Recap: Summary of Findings





Lexemes of Destruction: Extinction and Eradication

Paul and the Lexemes of Destruction

Paul's language is focused, not on the "torment" or "pain" of people or nations, but on their utter destruction. Lexically, historically, and contextually, evangelical conditionalism makes the best sense of the totality of Paul's language.





As Chaos Falls: Annihilation of Satan and the Powers

Pauline Theology	Apocalyptic Corroboration
Death is destroyed (1 Cor 15:24–26; 2 Tim 1:10). God is "all in all" (1 Cor 15:28). And Satan is annihilated (Rom 16:20; Heb 2:14).	Death is destroyed (Rev 20:14). Satan is annihilated (Rev 20:10).

No, the Bible Does Not Teach Eternal Conscious Torment