

Voice of Baptists

"The Voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God."
Isaiah 40:3

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THE REALITY OF HELL

by Stephen M. Skinner
Springfield, MO

Men often refer to those things that they can physically see, feel, hold, and possess as "real." "Real" things are fixed, permanent, immovable, or occurring in fact. "Real" things are not artificial, fraudulent, or illusory. Nothing is more real than hell.

The author will leave to the reader a detailed word study of "hell," but must mention that three New Testament Greek words are translated into the English word "hell." It is *Gehenna* (used 13 times in the New Testament, 12 of those by Christ) that refers to the place of retributive suffering. This word derives its meaning from the Hebrew, *ge-hinnon* (the valley of Hinnon) which was a refuse pit into which was dumped the filth of Jerusalem and the bodies of executed criminals to be burned. This putrid and continually burning trash pit yields faint image of a place "where their worm dieth not, and fire is not quenched."

Hell is real and does exist. It is a place. Man, a creation of God, is real and must be posited somewhere. At death the body of man returns to the earth from which it came, and the soul of man goes either to paradise with God or to hell. After resurrection and judgment, the wicked shall be cast body and soul into hell. Certainly Jesus Christ was referring to a real place in Matthew 10:28, "And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell." When Christ said "in hell" that is exactly what he meant.

Hell is not just a place of happenstance, but is a prepared place. Matthew 25:41, "Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his

angels." The same omnipotence employed in making a city of habitation for those that love God was also used in preparing a place of torment for the devil and his angels, into which all the wicked of man shall be cast. The rack, thumb screws, and stakes of the dark ages in Europe remind us of the persecution and torment that men inflicted upon our forefathers in the faith. But, it is the omnipotence of God that will destroy without ceasing the soul and body of wicked man in hell. "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God," Hebrews 10:31.

Hell is a prison. II Peter 2:4, "... God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into

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LET FREEDOM RING

Our fathers have left us a rich spiritual legacy. Surely it is our duty not to squander it but to leave it replenished so that we, in our generation, may bequeath to those who come after us a tradition as noble as was left us.

- AUTHOR UNKNOWN

The salvation of America will lie in a general return to the old-fashioned, commonplace, everyday virtues that make sterling character, and which we are surrendering to the brilliant and spectacular. Honesty, courage, purity and self-control are far more needed today than any career of glory or any exploits that win the plaudits of the galleries.

- EXAMINER

DOCTRINAL STATEMENT OF "VOICE OF BAPTISTS"

1. *The Trinity of God* – God, the Father; God, the Son; God, the Holy Spirit. One God in trinity, and trinity in unity.

2. *The Inerrancy of Scriptures* – The Scriptures are the infallible, plenary, inspired, verbal word of God.

3. *The Biblical Account of Creation* – That creation of earth, man and all things is the production of something from nothing by God, true and eternal.

4. *The Personality of Satan* – The Bible uniformly represents Satan as the Person who entices man to sin.

5. *Hereditary, Total Depravity of Man in Fall of Adam* – The entire creation of man is sinful by nature, being descendents of Adam.

6. *The Virgin Birth and Deity of Christ* – God's only begotten and holy Son.

7. *Christ's Blood Atonement for Fallen Man* – The sin-debt, owed by man to God, was paid by the blood of Christ.

8. *Bodily Resurrection of Christ and His Ascension Back to the Father* – Completely conquered death giving assurance to all men, and is now sat down at the right hand of God to mediate and intercede.

9. *The Person and Office Work of the Holy Spirit* – Reproving the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment.

10. *Salvation by Grace through Faith in Christ* – God's grace entitles, enables and enlivens the sinner to the new life in Christ.

11. *Justification before God by Repentance and Faith without any admixture of works* – "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he hath saved us."

12. *Separation of God's Children from the World* – "Ye shall know a tree by the fruit it bears."

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DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

(Continued from Page 1)

13. *Water baptism (immersion) to be administered to believers only and by divine authority as given by Our Lord to His church.*

14. *A New Testament church is a local, visible body of baptized believers observing the Great Commission.*

15. *The Lord's Supper is a church ordinance, as is baptism, and is to be administered to baptized believers in scriptural church capacity only.*

16. *Eternal Security of the Believer* – Harmony of God's preserving the believer in Christ with the believer's persevering through faith in Christ.

17. *Establishment by Christ of His True Church during His personal ministry on earth* – That Christ took saved and baptized people, and thus organized them into a little government with His Word as the only Law and Himself as the only Lawgiver.

18. *A God-called Ministry* – God impresses the hearts of some saved men to devote their lives to prayer and ministration of the word of God.

19. *Worldwide Evangelism was given by Christ to His Church* – We are debtors to carry the glorious gospel to every creature on earth.

20. *Perpetuity of the Doctrines of Baptist Churches from the First Advent of Christ until His Second Advent* – Though the Lord's true churches have gone by names given them by their enemies in other days, they have always been known by their doctrines.

21. *That all Scriptural Churches should be held as equal units as to their rights and privileges in associated capacities* – No big or little churches with one lording authority over another.

22. *That all associational assemblies are servants of the churches.*

23. *That we brand as unscriptural: open communion, alien baptism, pulpit affiliation with heretical ministers, Unionism, Formalism, Universalism, Campbellism, Catholicism, Charismaticism, Pentecostalism, Deism and all other religious philosophies of men.*

24. *The personal and bodily Second Coming of Christ.*

25. *The bodily resurrection of the dead, both of the righteous and the wicked.*

26. *The reality of Heaven, with divine assurance of eternal happiness for all the redeemed of God.*

27. *The reality of Hell, with everlasting punishment of the incorrigible wicked.*

OUR MESSAGE –

A Living Christ for a Dying World.

ELIJAH Prophet of Israel

Elijah, a Tishbite of Gilead, suddenly appears in I Kings 17. For the fourteen year period 910-896 B.C. Elijah left an indelible mark on religious history.

His first prophecy was offered in the presence of King Ahab as follows: "As the Lord God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word." He immediately hid himself at the command of the Lord. While hidden before Jordan by the Cherith brook, the ravens brought him bread and flesh twice a day.

The Lord directed him to Zarephath and a certain widow woman having one son. Elijah requested water and bread from the woman. Water she had, but only meal enough for perhaps two more cakes – one for her son and one for herself. The woman told the prophet her plans of preparing those two cakes, eating and dying. Elijah commanded her to make him a cake first and then for her and her son. He informed her that the meal nor cruse of oil would be depleted until rain came and that this would be accomplished by the Lord God of Israel. For many days following they all continued to eat from that barrel of meal and cruse of oil.

Then, the woman's son fell sick and in fact did stop breathing. He was dead! Elijah took the boy up into the loft of her house and stretched himself upon the boy three times and cried, "O Lord my God, I pray thee, let this child's soul come into him again. And the Lord heard the voice of Elijah; and the soul of the child came into him again, and he revived." I Kings 17:17-24

Perhaps the most memorable event in Elijah's life occurred at mount Carmel. Ahab had accused Elijah of troubling Israel. Elijah shot back at him these words, "I have not troubled Israel; but thou, and thy father's

house, in that ye have forsaken the commandments of the Lord, and thou hast followed Baalim." Elijah challenged Ahab and his 450 prophets along with the 400 prophets of the groves that ate at Jezebel's table. Please read I Kings 18:21-40.

After God had proven Himself by consuming the sacrifice prepared by Elijah, he ran from Jezebel who threatened his life. Notice I Kings 19:1-18.

Elijah anointed Elisha to succeed him as prophet in Israel (I Kings 19:16-21).

Ahab was foretold of his death because of the evil committed toward Naboth. "In the place where dogs licked the blood of Naboth shall dogs lick thy blood, even thine." This prediction was fulfilled – "So the king died; and the dogs licked up his blood according unto the word of the Lord." I Kings 22:37,38

Fire was called down from heaven to consume soldiers of Ahaziah. He had fallen and was very sick. Instead of inquiring from Elijah, God's prophet, about whether he would live or die, he sent to Baalzebub the god of Ekron and inquired. Because of this death was pronounced upon the king. "So he died according to the word of the Lord which Elijah had spoken." II Kings 1:17

God called upon Elijah to go to Jordan. Elisha was bound to go with him. Elijah took his mantle and wrapped it together and smote the waters, and they were divided hither and thither, so that they two went over on dry ground. It was right there that Elijah asked Elisha what he would have of him before he was taken away from him. Elisha requested a double portion of Elijah's spirit. He said, "thou hast asked a hard thing: nevertheless, if thou see me when I am taken from thee, it shall be so unto thee." And Elisha saw it. He cried and tore his own clothes in two pieces. He then took up the mantle of Elijah and went to the bank of Jordan. Taking the mantle he smote the waters, and said, "Where is the Lord God of Elijah?", and when he had smitten the waters, they parted hither and thither.

Elijah (Elias) appeared with Jesus and Moses on the mountain of transfiguration (Matt. 17:3).

Elijah and Enoch are the only two ever translated not to see death. They were taken into heaven directly from life and their physical bodies were changed into glorified ones for flesh and blood cannot inherit heaven.

Reading and Serving

A Bible-reading church is an informed church;

An informed church is an interested church;

An interested church is an acting church;

An acting church is a serving church;

A serving church is the Lord's church.

SELECTED

REVIVALS

July 8

RUSHING CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH - Camden, Tenn. Pastor Pete Kirby will be assisted by Evangelist Marshall Gurley. Services each evening at 7:30 p.m. The public is invited!

INDEPENDENT BAPTIST CHURCH - Huntingdon, Tenn. Evangelist Tom Armstrong of Mt. Juliet, Tenn. will be doing the preaching. Services each day at 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. We hope you will come.

July 15

MARLSBORO BAPTIST CHURCH - Vale, Tenn. Pastor Marshall Gurley will be assisted in the preaching by Bro. Harold Eubank of Huntingdon. Services each day at 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. except Sunday evening services which begin at 6:00 p.m. YOU ARE WELCOME!

MT. JULIET BAPTIST CHURCH - Mt. Juliet, Tenn. Pastor Charles Patterson will be assisted by Elder Kenneth Massey of Huntingdon. Services each evening at 7:00 p.m. EVERYONE IS CORDIALLY INVITED.

August 5

FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH - Bowling Green, Ky. Pastor Jimmy Hogue is to be assisted by Elder Doug Curtis of Westmoreland, Tenn. Services each night at 7:00 p.m. EVERYONE IS INVITED!

LORD'S WORK

To the staff of the "Voice of Baptists":

I am sending an offering to help on the paper. This is working for our Lord. May God bless the complete staff. This is a good way for spreading the gospel word of God to help the lost ones.

Sincerely yours,
Marlon L. Brown
Veedersburg, IN

What Saith The Scriptures?

by W. T. Russell
Goodlettsville, Tenn.

The following questions have been sent in to be answered through this column.

QUESTION NO. 1: What is the bottomless pit?

ANSWER: The bottomless pit is the common receptacle of the disembodied unregenerated souls of mankind at death. And it

is also the special abode of evil spirits or demons.

QUESTION NO. 2: Was Satan ever in heaven where God is?

ANSWER: Satan was in heaven in company with all the host of angels, an angel of beauty, it seems, above the rest of the angels. On account of this beauty, he became very proud and self possessed with a desire to rise above his creator and out of his unwillingness to remain in the capacity in which he had been placed, we are told in Jude 6, "And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day."

We learn from this that the angels kept not their first estate but left their own habitation.

QUESTION NO. 3: When was Satan cast out of heaven?

ANSWER: It is my belief that at first Satan left his place in heaven where God had placed him, together with the evil angels which followed him. My reason for this is that we find in the scriptures his having access back and forth from earth to heaven, even appearing before God accusing the saints day and night. Turning to Genesis 3, we have the record of Satan transforming himself into a serpent and appearing to Eve in the Garden of Eden. While in Job 1:6, "Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan came also among them." These sons of God, to my mind were angels which had continued faithful, and Satan, who was also an angel, came along in their midst. Reading on in Job, we find the many accusations made against Job before God. Now in Revelation 12:10, "And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ, for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before God day and night."

It is my belief that Satan was closed out of heaven when Christ went back to the Father and was seated at the right hand of authority, being given dominion and power according to Daniel 7:13,14. See also Rev. 12:12, "Therefore rejoice ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time."

SEND YOUR QUESTIONS TO:
W. T. Russell
805 Nella Drive
Goodlettsville, TN 37072

WILL YOU HELP?

Dear Bro. Massey and
Voice of Baptist readers,

Elder and Mrs. Jeffrey Elliott and their children have been called to Downey, California where Bro. Elliott will pastor the church there. After they get settled there he plans to be self-supporting and the church there intends to help them financially.

Bro. Elliott desires your prayers for him in this very needful work. He is a member of Beautiful Home Missionary Baptist Church in Milford, Illinois. He has three boys ages 8, 6, and 4 and a baby due in November. They are going on faith and must sell their home and furnishings and plan to make a new start in this field for the Lord.

Although Bro. Elliott does not plan to need continuing support, the cost of relocating is going to be very great. He is also quitting his job and it will be some time before he finds works in California. This is a very worthy missionary cause and an appeal is made for offerings from individuals and churches.

Since he is going to try to leave in July and will be changing addresses, please send offerings to:

Elder Larry Taylor
1936 Canterbury Ct. #2K
Washington, IL 61571

Elder and Mrs. Elliott had intended to make this move without asking for help from the churches and they have not made this request themselves. It is made on their behalf so that they won't have to make all the sacrifices and we can share in this most worthy missionary endeavor.

May God bless you all for your support in this great cause.

Yours in Christ,
Elder Larry T. Taylor

REALITY OF HELL*(Continued from Page 1)*

chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment." Contrary to natural prisons there is no escape from hell. No soul will ever leave hell except to be "judged every man according to their works," after which he will be cast soul and body, into the lake of fire, the second death, i.e. hell.

In hell will be torments, weeping, wailing and gnashing of teeth. Luke 16:19-31 gives us the unique account of two men's souls after death. The rich man, being unprepared to die, found himself "being in torments," saying "I am tormented in this flame." Hell is a place of torments designed by the all-powerful God. No words of any language have been able to describe the torments of hell. Perhaps our greatest understanding of hell comes as a feeling rather than an intellectual understanding. The burden a sinner feels is in a very small way a foretaste of the torments of hell. The Holy Spirit reproves the world of sin, pointing to the end or wages of sin which is death. To be saved the sinner must taste bitter repentance, or death to sin. The saint truly knows, from an experimental standpoint, what he was saved from — the eternal torments in hell.

While one of the chief joys in heaven will be the communion with God and fellow saints, hell will be a place of friendless companionship. Although we are told that "misery loves company," the rich man of Luke 16 sought a way that his brothers might avoid the torment he was experiencing. Hell will be populated with Satan, his angels, and the most unsavory characters the world has known. Revelation 21:8, "But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death."

This rich man was told by Abraham to "remember that thou in thy lifetime. . ." Hell is a place of memory, conscience, and despair. The rich man remembered the opportunities he'd had in life to be saved from that torment. Certainly added to the torments of hell will be the remembrance of the trampled mercies of God. Memory of every rejected draw upon the heart by the Holy Spirit will taunt the tormented sinner.

The saint on earth lives by hope; a hope in an unfailling God. But the sinner in hell has no hope that Christ or any lesser being will ever come to hell to give opportunity to repent. Hell is filled with total and complete despair. Hell is the place of death, but where the finality of death refuses to come. Those there "shall be punished with everlasting destruction." Hell is eternal. Although the human mind cannot easily comprehend one

million years, if hell lasted for that period avoidance of being condemned there would be a trivial matter. But, hell does not end after any length of time. Time will come to an end, but hell will continue for eternity.

Much of mankind lives today as if they will live forever, will not ever face the judgment of God, and as if there is no such thing as the wrath of God. Nevertheless it is appointed unto man once to die, but after this the judgment, and those counted as wicked will face the wrath of God. All mankind would face this wrath except that God has made a way of escape through grace. But men cannot see their need of the grace of God until they have a spiritual understanding of the wages of sin which is eternal death in hell.

Hush-a-by Pulpits

Pulpit directness has vanished into mists of sweet homilies that warm people to God's grace, but fail to drive them to their knees with an inward weeping and earnest repentance. . . . While the sermonic scalpel must be bathed in God's love, the pulpit must not fear to thunder forth God's searching, condemning Truth, no matter who sits in its presence. "Away with lullaby religion in hush-a-by pulpits!" God give us a generation of pulpit prophets who will cry aloud and spare not; who will "show my people their transgressions, and the house of Jacob their sins" (Isa. 58:1).

SELECTED

NEW SANCTUARY

The Independent Missionary Baptist Church of Huntingdon, Tennessee announces construction of a new worship sanctuary will begin within the next six weeks. Continental Church Builders of Nashville, Tennessee have been given the contract for the new facility.

Our present house of worship will only seat about 165 and the new one will seat 322. God has graciously smiled upon our feeble efforts for which we submit all glory to Him. The Lord has added 90 new members to our church during the past five years. Most of these have been saved in our services and have joined the church by baptism.

We ask that you remember our church in prayer. It is our desire to be "the salt of the earth" and "the light of the world." By God's grace we will press on trying to preserve the precious truth and cast the light of the glorious gospel of Christ upon the sin-darkened hearts of the unsaved.

MISSIONS

Roanoke, Virginia
Bro. Jerry Miller
2031 Dale Ave.
Roanoke, VA 24013

* * *

Albany, Oregon
Elder Steve Perrigo
2569 Ermine St.
Albany, OR 97321

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Batesville, Arkansas
Elder M. V. Hammack
Route 1, Box 180A
Bald Knob, AR 72010
c/o Reid Brock

* * *

Camden, Tennessee
Elder Roger Fowler
121 E. Frazier
Camden, TN 38320

* * *

Ventura, California
Elder James H. Smith
6600 E. Telephone Rd., Apt. 1508
Ventura, CA 93003

* * *

Davisville, West Virginia
Elder Jerry Reynolds
Route 1, Box 216-J
Davisville, WV 26142

* * *

Bro. Terry Lyles is going to begin mission work in Alaska in the near future. We will pass along his address after he is located.