

Is Jesus Christ Eternal? Is Hell Real and Eternal?

Who is this verse talking about?

I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty. (Revelation 1:8)

You might think it is speaking of God the Father, Jehovah, but it is not. That becomes clear as you continue reading...

And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last: I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death. (Revelation 1:17-18)

Did God the Father (Jehovah) die? Of course not. This is Jesus speaking. Jesus equates Himself with God and states that He has always existed—Jesus is the Alpha and Omega.

In his gospel, John also states that Jesus has always existed:

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. ... And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth. (John 1:1-3, 14)

Verse 14 makes it clear that the Word that John writes about is Jesus. It is impossible that Jesus could be God's first creation, because everything that was created was made by Jesus Himself. John makes that very clear in verse 3.

Here are more verses that clearly show Jesus is God—that God the Father (Jehovah) and Jesus Christ are equal:

But Jesus answered them, My Father worketh hitherto, and I work. Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God. (John 5:17-18)

Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am. (John 8:58)

Jesus called Himself "I am", the name God gave to Himself when He was speaking to Moses in Exodus 3:14.

And in Hebrews we find the passage above where God the Father (Jehovah) calls Jesus "God".

But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom. Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, even thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows. And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands. (Hebrews 1:8-10)

And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory. (1 Timothy 3:16)

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:6)

There is no doubt that Jesus is equal with God the Father and was not merely God's first creation. This is an essential truth concerning the whole story of the Bible—God's redemptive plan for mankind, after Adam plunged us all into sin. The Bible is not merely a guide for life; it can be used for that, but it is so much more than just a guide. Most importantly, the Bible shows us our sin and our need of a Savior—the eternal Son of God, Jesus Christ, who died for undeserving sinners. None of us can enter heaven unless we are covered in the perfect righteousness of Jesus Christ (Matthew 5:20).

The Bible also clearly states that there is an eternal, conscious punishment for unbelievers. As humans, we may not like to think about someone we love going to an eternal hell, but that doesn't make it any less true or real. (continues...)

When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats ... And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal. (Matthew 25:31-32, 46)

And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power; when he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day. (2 Thessalonians 1:7-10)

And they shall go forth, and look upon the carcasses of the men that have transgressed against me: for their worm shall not die, neither shall their fire be quenched; and they shall be an abhorring unto all flesh. (Isaiah 66:24)

And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. (Daniel 12:1-2)

...he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name. (Revelation 14:10b-11)

Those verses are undeniable. Hell is real, and punishment for unbelievers is eternal. Even more, Jesus gives us a specific example of a man in hell begging for a single drop of water:

There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day: And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores, and desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; and in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.

And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame. But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented. And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence.

Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house: For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment. Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them. And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead. (Luke 16:19-31)

Hell is real and eternal; Jesus is also eternal and is not created. Unfortunately, well-intentioned Jehovah's Witnesses err on these two important matters. Jesus must be elevated to the position He deserves as Lord and Savior (Acts 2:36). Has Jesus saved you? Has God come in and changed your heart (Ezekiel 36:26-27)? Or are you merely attempting to follow Jesus' teachings and live morally on your own power?

We are sinners, filthy in God's sight (see Isaiah 64:6), who cannot do anything to earn our salvation (see Ephesians 2). Many people falsely believe that they're saved when they're not. You don't want to hear the sad, terrifying words of Matthew 7:21-23 on Judgment Day. Please prayerfully consider the verses that have been shared here and reflect on your true standing before God.

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