

Three “kinds of texts”

...that on “the face of them” seem to teach three different views of the end.

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ETERNAL TORMENT

(That some will be tormented without end. Eternal torment is their end.)

Isaiah 66:24 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. [All citations are from the ESV except where noted]

Daniel 12:2 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.

Matthew 5:22 But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, ‘You fool!’ will be liable to the hell of fire.

Matthew 5:29-30 If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell. ³⁰ And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell.

Matthew 7:13 Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many.

Matthew 10:28 And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

Matthew 13:38-42 ...The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. (v. 41-42)

Matthew 13:49-50 So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Matthew 25:31-46 ...Then he will answer them, saying, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.” (v. 45-46)

Mark 9:43-45 And if your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life crippled than with two hands to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life lame than with two feet to be thrown into hell.

Luke 12:5 But I will warn you whom to fear: fear him who, after he has killed, has authority to cast into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him!

Luke 16:19-26 ...And besides all this, between us and you (Lazarus) a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us.’ (v. 46)

ANNIHILATIONISM

(That God annihilates some... and never re-creates them. Annihilation is their end.)

Matthew 19:29-30 And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for my name’s sake, will receive a hundredfold and will inherit eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last first.

Matthew 25:46 And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.

John 3:16 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 3:36 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 4:14 ...but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”

John 5:24 Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.

John 6:40 For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.

John 6:47 Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life.

John 6:54 Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.

John 6:68 And he said, "This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father."

John 10:28 I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand.

Romans 5:21 ...so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

UNIVERSALISM—Christian Universalism, that is.

(That through Christ God reconciles all things to himself. Salvation is the end of all.)

John 12:32 And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.

Acts 3:21 ...whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began. (NKJV)

Romans 5:18 Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men.

Romans 11:32 For God has consigned all to disobedience, that he may have mercy on all.

1 Corinthians 15:22-28 For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive... When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things in subjection under him, that God may be all in all. (v. 22,28)

2 Corinthians 5:19 ...that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.

Philippians 2:9-11 Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

1 Timothy 2:4 ...who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Titus 2:11 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people...

Hebrews 2:9 But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

1 John 2:2 He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

Which view best explains the over all plot (the Logos) of Scripture?

Which view best reconciles all of these verses?

Which view allows me to believe all of these scriptures and not just some?

Key issues in answering the question above:

- Does "all" mean "all?"
- What is "Hell?" Sheol, Hades, Tartarus, Gehenna, eternal consuming fire or what?
- If God annihilates a thing, can He re-create that same thing?
- Does God create belief? Or is belief uncreated? And if so what is it... or is He?
- What does "eternal" (*aionios*), and forever (for *aion*), and never (not for *aion*) mean?
- What is the nature of time and eternity; can anything be "without end?"
- What did Jesus mean when He said, "I am the beginning and the end?"

