



Pillar Events of Salvation

Part 5a

The Eradication of Sin

John 3:16 (KJV) — 16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him *should not perish*, but have everlasting life.

Perish: suffer death, typically in a violent, sudden, or untimely way: a great part of his army perished of hunger and disease. (*New Oxford American Dictionary*)

ἀπόλλυμι (*apollumi*):

“to destroy fully.” (Strong’s)

to destroy or to cause the destruction of persons, objects, or institutions . . . (*Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament based on Semantic Domains*, vol.1, p. 231)

to cause or experience destruction . . . ruin, destroy . . .

(*A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature*, 3rd ed., p. 115)

Matthew 8:25 (KJV) — 25 And his disciples came to him,
and awoke him, saying, Lord, save us: we perish.

John 10:28 (KJV) — 28 And I give unto them eternal life;
and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck
them out of my hand.

Matthew 2:13 (KJV) — 13 And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him.

Luke 9:25 (KJV) — 25 For what is a man advantaged, if he gain the whole world, and lose himself, or be cast away?

Luke 19:10 (KJV) — 10 For the Son of man is come to seek
and to save that which was lost.

Exodus 10:7 (KJV) — 7 And Pharaoh's servants said unto him, How long shall this man be a snare unto us? let the men go, that they may serve the LORD their God: knowest thou not yet that Egypt is destroyed?

Leviticus 23:30 (KJV) — 30 And whatsoever soul it be that doeth any work in that same day, the same soul will I destroy from among his people.

1 Corinthians 1:18 (KJV) — 18 For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.

John 14:6 (KJV) — 6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

Revelation 20:12–15 (KJV) — 12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. 13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. 14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. 15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

Matthew 13:40–42 (KJV) — 40 As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world. 41 The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; 42 And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

2 Peter 2:9 (KJV) — 9 The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:

Ecclesiastes 9:5 (KJV) — 5 For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know not any thing, . . .

Isaiah 24:21 (KJV) — 21 And it shall come to pass in that day, that the LORD shall punish the host of the high ones that are on high, and the kings of the earth upon the earth.

Deuteronomy 32:22 (KJV) — 22 For a fire is kindled in mine anger, and shall burn unto the lowest hell, and shall consume the earth with her increase, and set on fire the foundations of the mountains.

2 Peter 3:10 (KJV) — 10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

2 Peter 3:7 (KJV) — 7 But the heavens and the earth,
which are now, by the same word are kept in store,
reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and
perdition of ungodly men.

Revelation 20:9 (KJV) — 9 And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.

Revelation 21:1–2 (KJV) — 1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. 2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

Revelation 21:3–4 (KJV) — 3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. 4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

Romans 6:23 (KJV) — 23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Satan is seeking to overcome men today, as he overcame our first parents, by shaking their confidence in their Creator and leading them to doubt the wisdom of His government and the justice of His laws. Satan and his emissaries represent God as even worse than themselves, in order to justify their own malignity and rebellion. The great deceiver endeavors to shift his own horrible cruelty of character upon our heavenly Father, that he may cause himself to appear as one greatly wronged by his expulsion from heaven because he would not submit to so unjust a governor.

He presents before the world the liberty which they may enjoy under his mild sway, in contrast with the bondage imposed by the stern decrees of Jehovah. Thus he succeeds in luring souls away from their allegiance to God. (*The Great Controversy*, p. 534.3)

How repugnant to every emotion of love and mercy, and even to our sense of justice, is the doctrine that the wicked dead are tormented with fire and brimstone in an eternally burning hell; that for the sins of a brief earthly life they are to suffer torture as long as God shall live. Yet this doctrine has been widely taught and is still embodied in many of the creeds of Christendom.

Said a learned doctor of divinity: “The sight of hell torments will exalt the happiness of the saints forever. When they see others who are of the same nature and born under the same circumstances, plunged in such misery, and they so distinguished, it will make them sensible of how happy they are.” Another used these words: “While the decree of reprobation is eternally executing on the vessels of wrath, the smoke of their torment will be eternally ascending in view of the vessels of mercy, who, instead of taking the part of these miserable objects, will say, Amen, Alleluia! praise ye the Lord!” (*The Great Controversy*, p. 535.1)

Ezekiel 33:11 (KJV) — 11 Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?

What would be gained to God should we admit that He delights in witnessing unceasing tortures; that He is regaled with the groans and shrieks and imprecations of the suffering creatures whom He holds in the flames of hell? Can these horrid sounds be music in the ear of Infinite Love? It is urged that the infliction of endless misery upon the wicked would show God's hatred of sin as an evil which is ruinous to the peace and order of the universe.

Oh, dreadful blasphemy! As if God's hatred of sin is the reason why it is perpetuated. For, according to the teachings of these theologians, continued torture without hope of mercy maddens its wretched victims, and as they pour out their rage in curses and blasphemy, they are forever augmenting their load of guilt. God's glory is not enhanced by thus perpetuating continually increasing sin through ceaseless ages. (*The Great Controversy*, p. 536.1)

It is beyond the power of the human mind to estimate the evil which has been wrought by the heresy of eternal torment. The religion of the Bible, full of love and goodness, and abounding in compassion, is darkened by superstition and clothed with terror.

When we consider in what false colors Satan has painted the character of God, can we wonder that our merciful Creator is feared, dreaded, and even hated? The appalling views of God which have spread over the world from the teachings of the pulpit have made thousands, yes, millions, of skeptics and infidels. (*The Great Controversy*, p. 536.2)

