

## **The Final Judgment and its Outcome**

### **Isaiah 45:20-25**

#### **What is Isaiah saying in these verses?**

45:1-19 — God has displayed who He is through fulfilled prophecies

45:20-22 — Therefore turn to God and be saved

45:23 — Because at the end of history everyone will — willingly or unwillingly — submit to God's Final Judgment

45:24 — Some will end up not saved (compare how "ashamed" is used in Isa 41:11)

45:25 — and the rest will end up saved.

#### **What does the Bible teach about eternity?**

Two views that are not taught in the Bible:

Universalism — the idea that in the end everyone ends up saved and in heaven. Matt 25:46 shows that there are two different eternal destinies: eternal life and eternal punishment. See also Dan 12:2; Matt 12:32; Mark 9:43-48; Rev 20:11-15.

Annihilationism — the idea that unbelievers do not suffer forever in hell, but end up ceasing to exist. The Greek word "destroy" can mean "cease to exist," but it also can mean to be lost, ruined, or continue to exist in a ruined state. See Rev 17:8; 20:10. Also Luke 16:19-31; Rev 14:9-11; Matt 25:46; 2Thess 1:9.

The Bible teaches that those who trust Christ will go to heaven forever, and those who persist in rebellion against God will go to hell forever.

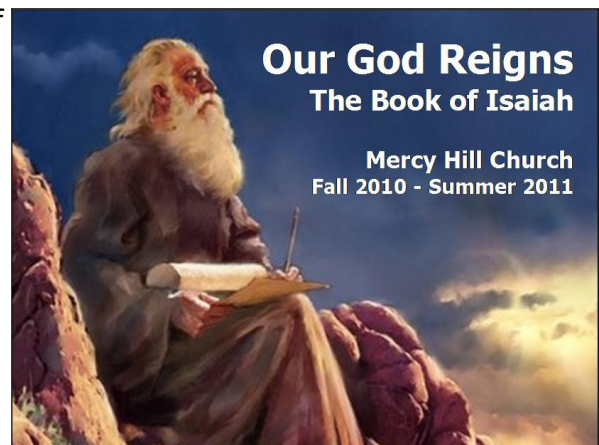
#### **How is God just to do this?**

We have all persistently desecrated the infinite glory of God. Since justice means the punishment must fit the crime, the infinite crime of desecrating infinite glory requires infinite punishment.

#### **What does this mean for us?**

Flee to Christ and be saved.

Live in light of eternity.



## **HOME GROUP DISCUSSION OF SUNDAY'S TEACHING**

*(Sometimes in our home groups we talk about Sunday's teaching, so we can work together on responding to God's Word — asking questions, sharing insights, talking together.)*

What was the Holy Spirit saying to you Sunday through this passage?

What questions, ideas, objections, encouragements did you come away with?

Can you see how Isaiah 45:23 teaches that all humanity will bow before God, without teaching that all humanity will be saved? Does Zephaniah 1 help? Why or why not?

Does it make sense that Jesus denies universalism in Matt 25:46? Why or why not?

How about the argument that "destroy" does not have to mean "cease to exist" based on Rev 17:8 and 20:10? Did that make sense?

Do you believe that God is just to send those who continue in rebellion to eternal hell? Why is this important?

What's your take-away from this message? What are you going to do differently? When? How?

Share prayer requests that come up in the discussion, jot them down below, and pray for each other.

