

***Isn't It True that God Creates  
Billions of People Just to  
Send Them to Hell?***

***“Isn't It True?” series***

**Emmanuel Baptist Church**

**February 25, 2018**

***1 Peter 3.15 – In your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, ready at any time to give a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you.***

# 1. The dilemma:

*Isn't it true that God creates billions of people, just to send them to hell?*

- **Three attempts to resolve this dilemma:**

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2. **“Fix” the requirements for salvation.**
3. **“Fix” God.**

- **But if we take the Bible as our authority, and at face value:**



**1. “Yes, Virginia, there is a hell.”**

**Matthew 25:41 (CSB) - *“Then he will also say to those on the left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels!’”***

**Matthew 25:46 - *“Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”***

**Matthew 13:42 (CSB) – *“They will throw them into the blazing furnace where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”***

**Matthew 13:49–50 (CSB) – “So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will go out, separate the evil people from the righteous,<sup>50</sup> and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”**

**Revelation 20:13–15 (CSB) - *Then the sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them; each one was judged according to their works. <sup>14</sup>Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. <sup>15</sup>And anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.***

**2 Thessalonians 1:9 - *They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might.***

***Jude 7 (CSB) - Likewise, Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding towns committed sexual immorality and perversions, and serve as an example by undergoing the punishment of eternal fire.***



**Mark 9:47–48 (CSB) – “And if your eye causes you to fall away, gouge it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell, <sup>48</sup>where their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched.”**

**Revelation 14:9–11 (CSB) - *“If anyone worships the beast and its image and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand, <sup>10</sup>he will also drink the wine of God’s wrath, which is poured full strength into the cup of his anger. He will be tormented with fire and sulfur in the sight of the***

*holy angels and in the sight of the Lamb, <sup>11</sup>and the smoke of their torment will go up forever and ever. There is no rest day or night for those who worship the beast and its image, or anyone who receives the mark of its name.”*

**Luke 12:47–48 (CSB) - *And that servant who knew his master's will and didn't prepare himself or do it will be severely beaten. <sup>48</sup>But the one who did not know and did what deserved punishment will receive a light beating. From everyone who has been given much, much will be required; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, even more will be expected.***

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**2. Repentance and faith are  
necessary for salvation.**

***Acts 4:12 (CSB) - There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to people by which we must be saved.”***

***Acts 11:18 (CSB) - When they heard this they became silent. And they glorified God, saying, “So then, God has given repentance resulting in life even to the Gentiles.”***

**3. God is absolutely  
sovereign over His  
universe.**



**Ephesians 1:11 (CSB) - *In him we have also received an inheritance, because we were predestined according to the plan of the one who works out everything in agreement with the purpose of his will.***

# **2. Four considerations:**

- **First, it's inadvisable for humans of limited knowledge to pass judgment on God about how He runs His universe.**

**Romans 9:19–24 (CSB) - *You will say to me, therefore, “Why then does he still find fault? For who can resist his will?”* <sup>20</sup>*But who are you, a mere man, to talk back to God? Will what is formed say to the one who formed it, “Why did you make me like this?”* <sup>21</sup>*Or has the potter no right over the clay, to make from the same lump one piece of pottery for honor and another for dishonor?* <sup>22</sup>*And what if God, wanting to display his wrath and to make his power***

*known, endured with much patience  
objects of wrath prepared for destruction?  
23 And what if he did this to make known  
the riches of his glory on objects of mercy  
that he prepared beforehand for glory—  
24 on us, the ones he also called, not only  
from the Jews but also from the Gentiles?*

- **Second, God chose to create a universe where humans had moral choices to make.**

- **Third, innocent people don't need salvation, but there's no such thing as an "innocent person."**

**Romans 2:15 (CSB) - *They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts. Their consciences confirm this. Their competing thoughts either accuse or even excuse them***



**Romans 1:18–25 (CSB) - *For God's wrath is revealed from heaven against all godlessness and unrighteousness of people who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth, <sup>19</sup>since what can be known about God is evident among them, because God has shown it to them. <sup>20</sup>For his invisible attributes, that is, his eternal power and divine nature,***

*have been clearly seen since the creation of the world, being understood through what he has made. As a result, people are without excuse. <sup>21</sup>For though they knew God, they did not glorify him as God or show gratitude. Instead, their thinking became worthless, and their senseless hearts were darkened.*

***22 Claiming to be wise, they became fools <sup>23</sup>and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man, birds, four-footed animals, and reptiles.***

***24 Therefore God delivered them over in the desires of their hearts to sexual impurity, so that their bodies were degraded among themselves.***

***25 They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served what has been created instead of the Creator, who is praised forever. Amen.***

- **Fourth, what about someone who does seek God?**

**Acts 10:1–5 (CSB) - *There was a man in Caesarea named Cornelius, a centurion of what was called the Italian Regiment. <sup>2</sup>He was a devout man and feared God along with his whole household. He did many charitable deeds for the Jewish people and always prayed to God. <sup>3</sup>About three in the afternoon he distinctly saw in a vision an angel of God who came in and said to him, “Cornelius.”***

***<sup>4</sup>Staring at him in awe, he said, “What is it, Lord?”***

***The angel told him, “Your prayers and your acts of charity have ascended as a memorial offering before God. <sup>5</sup>Now send men to Joppa and call for Simon, who is also named Peter.”***

**Acts 10:34–35 (CSB) - *Peter began to speak: “Now I truly understand that God doesn’t show favoritism,<sup>35</sup> but in every nation the person who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him.***



**Acts 17:27 (CSB) – *“He did this so that they might seek God, and perhaps they might reach out and find him, though he is not far from each one of us.”***

**Jeremiah 29:13 (CSB) – “*You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart.*”**

**John 4:23 (CSB) – *“But an hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in Spirit and in truth. Yes, the Father wants such people to worship him.”***