

“Facts or Fables: Is Hell a Real Place?” was published on YouTube by Hope Channel International on 4/28/21. Pastors Gary Gibbs and Diego Boquer try to explain Hell mostly with a fake bible. Notice how they do with a bible that is allegedly easier to read. Gary is president of the Pennsylvania Conference of Seventh-day Adventists and should know what his bible says but he doesn’t always. Diego is a pastor and author. Gary, being a president, outranks Diego.

Seventh-day Adventists believe that a person’s thoughts entirely cease when they die. The majority of what are called Christian denominations teach that the soul or spirit leaves the body at death and goes to heaven to enjoy eternal bliss or to hell to be tortured eternally. Roman Catholics believe there is an additional place called purgatory where some departed souls go to be cleansed and later admitted to heaven. If you show that the dead really know nothing, the problem of explaining that hell doesn’t burn forever vanishes. I don’t see much point in discussing the location of hell and how long it burns especially when using a fake bible for confirmatory verses.

At 1:43, Matthew 10:28 is quoted loosely by Gary. For reference, here is that verse.

“And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both the soul and body in hell.” Matthew 10:28 from the King James Version (KJV).

Notice that there are two separate entities, the soul and the body. Christians in general accept the fact that the body really dies at death. These gentlemen need to show that the soul that God can destroy does not remain conscious when the body dies.

At 3:29 Diego quotes Revelation 14:10-11 from the New King James Version (NKJV). Part of verse 11 says, “the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever” and is no help to him at all.

At 4:26 Gary says we need to answer the question of whether hell “is in the center of the earth.” Does anyone believe that? No one knows where heaven is; does any educated Christian today think hell is in the center of the earth?

At 4:31 Gary says, “So, really, what we wanna talk about tonight is the what, when, where and how long hell is, is. So, so, let’s just jump right into this, ah, because it’s facts or fables we’re discussing, right? And the Bible is the test that we say, that’s the facts and everything’s gotta line up with it.”

At 4:50 Gary starts to discuss Revelation 20:7-9 and has Diego read those verses from the NKJV. The meaning is the same in the KJV and the NKJV so, not wishing to use the fake bible, here is that passage from the Protestant Bible.

“And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. 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 20:7-9 (KJV).

This passage does describe what happens at the end of the millennium. Consider that thus far the resurrection of the wicked at the end of the 1,000 years hasn’t been discussed. Some might assume, without further scriptural evidence, that the passage is describing what happens to the wicked still living on the earth at the end of the millennium.

Gary believes the passage tells us where hell fire takes place. While it’s true hell fire is being described, it doesn’t say it’s hell fire. Gary says the fire “devours them.” Many Christians would take this to mean the body is devoured while the soul still lives. Furthermore, a passage has already been quoted that says, “the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever.” Gary once again seems to think it’s a common belief that hell is in the center of the earth. He says at 6:04, “So right there, you have the whole traditional belief of hell, that it’s in the center of the earth where lost people go as soon as they die; it’s contradicting this Bible text.”

I may check with some of my Protestant friends to see if any of them believe hell is in the center of the earth. I don’t have to ask any Catholics because I have a book with the nihil obstat of Rev. Msgr. James Calfone, STD, Censor Librorum and the imprimatur of Most Rev. John J. Myers, DD, JCD, Archbishop of Newark that tells me all I need to know about the Catholic view of hell.

“Ancient man believed that hell was underground, in the center of the earth, where it was hot. This belief was based on the erroneous notion that the earth was the center of the universe. When science proved that the sun was the center of the solar system, then what? Well, the Bible and Sacred Tradition never again tried to define the exact location of hell. Because God created hell as a place to incarcerate the devil and all the bad angels who rebelled with him, and because angels are pure spirits and have no bodies that take up space, hell isn’t a physical place. It’s as real as heaven or purgatory, but you can’t travel to it anymore than a spaceship can reach heaven.” From *Catholicism for Dummies* by Rev. John Trigilio, Jr., PhD, ThD and Rev. Kenneth Brighenti, PhD on page 307.

Gary needs to explain this verse from what he calls “the Bible.”

“then the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment.” 2 Peter 2:9 (NKJV).

“Under punishment” means the dead are being punished. It’s hard to meaningfully punish someone if they are completely unconscious. That verse clearly teaches the dead are being punished; it could be in purgatory or in hell. The Protestant Bible words it a bit differently.

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

The KJV says the punishing won’t start until “the day of judgment.”

There is a bit of advertising in which Revelation 21:4 and then John 16:33 are quoted from the NKJV.

At 11:01 Gary starts again to discuss people thinking hell is in the center of the earth. Maybe there are some that believe that; maybe about as many as believe the earth is flat.

At 18:26 there is more advertising in which Revelation 21:4 and John 16:33 are quoted again from the NKJV.

At 20:14 Diego admits that “one verse here and there” seems to indicate that hell burns forever. He then claims this “is not really in the Bible” AFTER he has said some verses seem to indicate hell burns forever. We have just seen how in Diego’s fake bible, the wicked are held “under punishment” when they die.

At 21:07 Gary once again feels the need to inform people that hell isn’t in the middle of the earth. OK Gary. We heard you and I don’t think somewhat educated Protestant Christians in the United States of American currently believe that much after the first few grades of grade school; about as long as they believe in Santa Claus.

At 21:19 Gary gets around to discussing how long hell lasts. He notes that God is going to bring the New Jerusalem down and thinks this means the earth is where hell is and thus hell can’t last forever. That’s true but may not mean much to someone who thinks no one knows exactly where hell is and that the soul lives forever.

At 22:02 Diego reads Malachi 4:1-3 from the NKJV.

“‘For behold, the day is coming, Burning like an oven, And all the proud, yes, all who do wickedly will be stubble. And the day which is coming shall burn them up.’ Says the LORD of hosts. ‘That will leave them neither root nor branch. But to you who fear My name The Sun of Righteousness shall arise With healing in His wings; And you shall go out And grow fat like stall-fed calves. You shall trample the wicked, For they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet On the day that I do this,’ says the LORD of hosts.” Malachi 4:1-3 (NKJV).

At 23:12 Gary points out that the passage says the wicked will be “like ashes” and will be burned up.

At 24:21 Gary says, “It says the smoke of their torment will ascend up forever and ever.” You can find that verse in Revelation 14:11. That’s a bit of a problem when compared to other verses like 2 Peter 2:9.

At 24:34 Gary says, “and by the way, in Ezekiel 28 it says that Satan himself will be turned into ashes” and “Satan himself will be no more the Bible text says.” We need to look at Ezekiel 28 as it appears in what Gary calls “the Bible.”

“‘You were the anointed cherub who covers; I established you; You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones. You were perfect

in your ways from the day you were created, Till iniquity was found in you. You defiled your sanctuaries By the multitude of your iniquities, By the iniquity of your trading; Therefore I brought fire from your midst; It devoured you, And I turned you to ashes upon the earth In the sight of all who saw you. All who knew you among the peoples are astonished at you; You have become a horror, And shall be no more forever.” Ezekiel 28:14-15, 18-19 (NKJV).

Please notice that Gary said “Satan himself will be turned into ashes” and “Satan himself will be no more the Bible text says.” That is future tense. His “Bible” has everything in past tense. In other words, Satan has already been “devoured” by “fire” and has been turned to “ashes.” In talking about hell Gary thought “devoured” and “ashes” were important in showing that the wicked would be (future tense) completely consumed. It would appear that Gary and Diego’s bible says Satan is already dead.

I posted this in the comments section of the YouTube video. It was gone in a very short time.

Could you explain something for me? You said Ezekiel 28 said Satan would be turned to ashes. I looked up some of those verses in a bible. It says:

""You were the anointed cherub who covers; I established you; You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones. You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, Till iniquity was found in you. You defiled your sanctuaries By the multitude of your iniquities, By the iniquity of your trading; Therefore I brought fire from your midst; It devoured you, And I turned you to ashes upon the earth In the sight of all who saw you. And all who knew you among the peoples are astonished at you; You have become a horror, And shall be no more forever." Ezekiel 28:14-15, 18-19.

It would appear that if these verses are referring to Satan he has already been "devoured" by "fire" and turned to "ashes."

InfallibleBible.com
AdventistsToday.com

There is another thing of interest in Ezekiel 28. If you read that chapter all the way through you will find two different entities are described. Understanding who they are is the key to understanding why what happened to Satan is in past tense in the NKJV and other fake bibles. In the KJV what happens to Satan is in future tense as in “I will bring forth a fire” and “it shall devour thee” and “I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth.”

At 25:06 Gary says, “Well, the Bible uses the word forever fifty-six times to describe things that have already ended.” He then talks about the “original” Greek and Hebrew.

There are some problems with Gary’s logic. I got my NKJV concordance and counted the number of times the word “forever” appears in that version. My count could be off by a few but

I came up with 390 times for “forever.” That means that only about fourteen percent of the time does “forever,” as it appears in the NKJV, mean something that eventually ends. There is no reason to deprive someone of thinking “forever” means “forever” when your fake bible says Satan is dead.

Then comes a discussion about the “original” Greek and Hebrew. Neither Gary nor Diego has ANY “original” Greek or Hebrew manuscript. How do I know? Because all of the originals turned to dust long ago. It’s unlikely that either Gary or Diego could order a sandwich in Greece or Israel in the native language. It’s also unlikely that any of the forty-nine people who have watched this video thus far are close to fluent in Greek or Hebrew. The ploy of referring to the Greek and Hebrew is to make people think they have to be believed because they know Greek and Hebrew. Both members of this duo need to do a little more work on ENGLISH in order to know the difference between past tense and future tense.

Following this, to buttress his position, Gary talks about what lexicons say. I doubt Gary and Diego have a clue that one of the ways to change the meaning of the Bible is to change the meaning of some words in a lexicon. You don’t need to understand Greek or Hebrew or use a lexicon to understand the KJV; your KJV and a good English dictionary will do. The KJV was written so humble poorly educated people could understand it and you don’t need some blowhards to tell you that you’re too dumb to understand what God said unless you know Greek and Hebrew and have a Greek and Hebrew lexicon. If your brain is good enough to surf the internet and maybe even learn what a PDF is, it is good enough to understand the KJV. Remember, Ellen G. White hadn’t finished grade school, didn’t know Greek or Hebrew and seemed to do pretty well understanding the KJV.

At 25:27 Gary says, “So for instance, Diego, when the righteous are resurrected, the Bible says in first Corinthians, that they’re goin’ to be given new bodies. And these new bodies are goin’ to be heavenly bodies that are eternal in themselves. So they’ll be able to live forever because the nature of their bodies are eternal. But the wicked are not gonna be given eternal bodies.”

The passage in 1 Corinthians was not quoted but here it is from the Protestant Bible.

“So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption: It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power: It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.” 1 Corinthians 15:42-44 (KJV).

At 25:50 Gary starts to discuss Jonah in the whale’s belly his point being that “forever” doesn’t always mean a time that never ends. Here is the pertinent verse that was quoted.

“I went down to the moorings of the mountains; The earth with its bars closed behind me forever; Yet You have brought up my life from the pit, O LORD, my God.” Jonah 2:6 (NKJV).

I agree that in this verse, forever doesn't mean never ending but any "proof" for the meaning of "forever" that derives from ANY earthly example such as Jonah in the whale is entirely worthless in determining how long hell, that some don't know the location of, will last.

Gary gives another example. At 26:44 Gary says, "In Jude six, the Bible says that ah, Sodom and Gomorrah are an example; they suffered the vengeance of eternal fire. So what's this eternal fire? Look at second Peter two verse six and read that for us. It tells us what eternal fire does."

Second Peter 2:4 is briefly posted but not discussed and Jude 1:6 is neither quoted or posted. Here are all those verses from their fake bible.

"and turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned them to destruction, making them an example to those who afterward would live ungodly;" Jude 1:6 (NKJV).

"For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment;" 2 Peter 2:4 (NKJV).

"and turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned them to destruction, making them an example to those who afterward would live ungodly;" 2 Peter 2:6 (NKJV).

Do you see ANYTHING about "eternal fire" in those verses? The verse Gary wanted that doesn't help him a bit is:

"as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire." Jude 1:7 (NKJV).

Remember, this whole discussion is trying to show that hell isn't forever. Many Christians who believe in the immortality of the soul, believe the soul of a wicked person goes to hell at death and burns forever. Have you ever seen a building in a city committing sexually immoral acts with another building or "going after strange flesh?" Jude 1:7 and 2 Peter 2:6 refer to the PEOPLE of Sodom and Gomorrah and not to the buildings and other infrastructure of those cities. Those verses in no way prove that the souls of the PEOPLE of those cities aren't still burning in hell.

Diego says he's been to Sodom and Gomorrah and that "there's no fire burning right now." Yea, right Diego. There's no fire there right now.

Diego reads John 3:16 from the NKJV.

An update. I got my first bit of feedback from a Protestant regarding the location of hell. It was said not to be in the center of the earth but "a spiritual realm."

These guys are professional, paid, seminary-trained, purveyors of God's Word and they should do better than this.

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