



# INVESTIGATION: What is Salvation?

## 22 – An Important Recap

*(This article includes summaries of segments from two videos)*

At this point, having gone through most of the investigation into salvation *per se*, it's essential that we realise that a lot more of what we were taught (and believe as truth) needs to be reassessed. Importantly, we must get into our heads that **everything we believe must align with Father's heart of perfect love**. He can't work outside of that – he just can't.

So, let's recap some information concerning what we once believed and have now rejected. This will help bring us around, full circle.

### VIDEO: "Hell? Journey Testimony Part 1"<sup>1</sup>

*(By: Mike Parsons)*

To begin with, what Mike decided to do was to look at all the scriptures that referenced what Jesus said in the gospels. He especially looked at the references that have been used to justify Eternal Conscious Torment (ECT)<sup>2</sup> and Hell. He did this without any confirmation bias<sup>3</sup>, as he wanted to understand what was said, without using a theological grid (his Christian belief system) to interpret them. He found that what Jesus stated was not what he had been taught it meant.

So, as it's wasn't in the Bible, he had to look elsewhere to see where all this Hell stuff came from.

He concluded that one source was Futurist Eschatology which looks at Revelation as prophetic of the future and one which makes factual statements. He knew, from a Preterist or Partial-Preterist view, that the book was written in symbols for 1<sup>st</sup> century believers, not as a factual outline of what was to occur in End Times. He also knew that the statements in Revelation had already been completed in 70AD. However, if Revelation is interpreted from a Futurist perspective, there'll be the Great White Throne Judgement, and we're all going to end up being assigned some place or other.

Mike analysed the meaning of the words used in Revelation. According to him, it's important to note that **the 'person' of the Devil isn't in Revelation** (just like the antichrist isn't a person, but a spirit)<sup>4</sup>. NT Greek doesn't have a capital D for devil<sup>5</sup>, just a word that means 'accuser'. It's the same for Satan<sup>6</sup>, as its use is not personified in the scripture, the word is just written. In the use of the words, it can mean 'accused', 'accuser', 'adversary', which is its actual meaning. In some places in the NT, it's translated as a person's natural 'adversary', where someone was against somebody else. Again, angel<sup>7</sup> means 'messenger', which can be a person, not necessarily a supernatural messenger. The meaning of words, then, have been defined by religious interpretation, not by context, nor by 1<sup>st</sup> century understanding.

Regarding the devil and his angels being thrown into the lake of fire, in context of the symbolism of Revelation, these could be symbolic of the High Priest and the Pharisees. These were the ones who were doing devilish work by opposing the gospel, and being the adversaries of Jesus. Mike insists that this is one way of interpreting Revelation, but it may not be what the vision was relaying to believers. It's just

1 – [www.youtube.com/watch?v=VZGMc7k\\_FXU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VZGMc7k_FXU) [16:23-35:48]

2 – READ: Peter Dunnet "Exploding the 'Hell' Mythology"  
[canberraforerunners.org/wp-content/uploads/Restoration-of-all-things-Ch7-Peter-Dunnet.pdf](https://canberraforerunners.org/wp-content/uploads/Restoration-of-all-things-Ch7-Peter-Dunnet.pdf)

3 – Confirmation Bias: The tendency of human beings to actively search for, interpret, and retain information that matches their preconceived notions and beliefs. [www.investopedia.com/terms/c/confirmation-bias.asp](http://www.investopedia.com/terms/c/confirmation-bias.asp)

4 – Bracketed comment added by me [LDS]

5 – 'diabolos' (Gk)

6 – 'satanas' (Gk)

7 – 'angelos' (Gk)

another way of looking at the text that's not from a ECT perspective.

Looking at the concept of Hell, he found that the atheist's annihilist view of the "afterlife" (i.e. Annihilationism<sup>8</sup>) is that there isn't anything more after death – everyone won't exist, they'll be annihilated instead. In other words, they just die, nothing more. That view came because people couldn't reconcile a loving God with someone who was going to torment people forever, all on the basis of what they'd done in their life. In that view, torment would not be any kind of justice, especially considering those who hadn't heard the gospel message. The totally opposite view of that is extreme Calvinism. In this case, God placed these people in locations where they wouldn't hear the gospel, because he was going to punish them anyway. There was no point in them hearing the gospel because he didn't choose them for 'Salvation'.

Mike definitely doesn't believe in the limited atonement of Calvinism, because Jesus died for everybody, for all time, as far as he's concerned.

Mike then investigated the word 'fire'<sup>9</sup>. In Greek, 'fire' means to 'purify' or 'refine'. That's where the word 'purification' comes from, as well as 'pyromaniac'. Fire can purify because it doesn't destroy (annihilate). Instead, it just changes the form of things. When wood is burnt, the end products are ash and smoke. Matter still exists after a fire, it just exists in a changed form after going through fire. In regard to refining, he noted that Malachi records this about the Lord, "For He is like a refiner's fire and like launderer's soap [which removes impurities and uncleanness]"<sup>10</sup> when he comes to his temple. He also noted that fire in the Bible often refers to refining or refinement. For example: The purifying coals of the altar in Isaiah 6, and the Seraphim who are called 'the burning ones'.

Mike then looked at the words 'torment'<sup>11</sup> ('torture') to see what they actually meant. He discovered, again, that the root word means 'testing', as by fire. It's a metallurgy word, not a punishment term.<sup>12</sup> The word actually means 'to be tested' like a testing stone<sup>13</sup>, to see whether it's pure or not. That's the original meaning of the word, but it's been adopted to mean 'torture', because of infernalists'<sup>14</sup> theology. 'Torture', as used in Revelation, means they're going into the fire of God to be refined.

He also looked at the literal translation of other words in the NT. He noticed that in Greek there's no 'forever' or 'everlasting' or 'eternal' – they don't exist in that language. They're actually English words, which have been translated for the word 'aeon'<sup>15</sup>, which really means 'age-enduring'. There's nothing in 'aeon' which infers 'eternal' or 'everlasting' or 'forever-&-ever'. 'Age-enduring' is totally different. So, when people say that the Bible says something is going to be forever and ever, it's not what the original Greek means. The English meanings are mistranslations. Mike believes that 'age-enduring life' is not talking about the quantity of life, but the quality of life. When the term relates to God, it's talking about his quality of life that we can have the Kingdom, not the age of it. That means that John 3:16 is not saying we'll have never-ending life, but we'll have the quality of life that Jesus had. And, we can have it right now, in relationship with him.

Mike discovered that so many misinterpretations of words in English translations of the Bible have come from confirmation bias. So, he then decided to look at what the early church believed, in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> centuries, before Orthodoxy was developed in the 4<sup>th</sup> century under Roman Catholicism. He studied the early church fathers of that time, because they were closest to Jesus and closest to the Apostles.

He found there were about six different schools of theological thought in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century, with various

8 – [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Annihilationism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Annihilationism)

9 – 'pýr', genitive 'pyros' (Gk)

10 – Malachi 3:2 (Amplified Bible)

11 – 'basanizō' (Gk)

12 – 'basanizō': to test (metals) by the touchstone, which is a black siliceous stone used to test the purity of gold or silver by the colour of the streak produced on it by rubbing it with either metal [www.bibletools.org/index.cfm/fuseaction/Lexicon.show/ID/G928/basanizo.htm](http://www.bibletools.org/index.cfm/fuseaction/Lexicon.show/ID/G928/basanizo.htm)

13 – testing stone: [eng.ichacha.net/zaqju/testing%20stone.html](http://eng.ichacha.net/zaqju/testing%20stone.html)

14 – From 'inferno'. Believers in Hell and eternal conscious torment

15 – 'aiōnos' (Gk)

schools of belief. Only one of these had a belief in God's torment punishment. That was the Roman school, who got their understanding from the Latin version of the Old Testament, the Septuagint. Tertullian and Augustine were both in that school, and they preferred Latin over Greek. Because of the Latin writings they used, they totally misunderstood the meaning of words that were originally written in NT Koine Greek<sup>16</sup>.

Then there was Jerome's Vulgate Bible, a Latin version of the Bible, which was used from the 4<sup>th</sup> century up to the King James Bible<sup>17</sup> (KJV), produced by the Church of England<sup>18</sup> (AKA Anglican Church). Mike believes that since then (1611), a lot of the English translations have been produced out of the KJV message, which was Tertullian's and Augustine's message.

Mike looked at the lives of those who believed in ECT, to see the effect of the theology. He noted that Augustine was wracked with guilt, shame and condemnation for the whole of his life, because he couldn't overcome sexual sin. That's why he had the 'punishing God' view. He believed that his guilt was God punishing him for his sins. He didn't have a revelation of a loving God. The Roman Empire, with Constantine, took on this infernalist version of the Christian faith, made it the state faith, and began using the legions to convert people. Mike discovered that when they came into the British Isles, the Roman legions killed many Celtic believers who had believed the gospel of a loving God. They forced the remainder into the Latin version of the gospel with its afterlife of punishment and torment.

So, Mike found that the early church didn't believe in ECT at all. They didn't believe in Penal Substitution Atonement (PSA), either. It's PSA that leads to all these other punishment errors. If a person believes that God's wrathful anger against humanity was appeased by Jesus' sacrificial death, and that God killed Jesus, then they are of the view that God is angry and he needs appeasement, and that Jesus' atonement appeased his anger.

Mike struggled with the evangelical, biblical view of an angry God in the OT, when compared with the really nice Jesus in the NT. He understood that his view of God was experiential and very different to the 'angry God' view, because he talked with him personally, and he was nothing like that in his relationship with Mike. Father started to challenge him about what he'd discovered in his research. He said to Mike that he wasn't the angry God of the OT, and that the Bible even says he's not like that. The NT says that Jesus was Father's "express image"<sup>19</sup>, in that he totally represented him. Mike objected, saying that the OT was full of him doing all sorts of bad things. Father told him to go and have a closer look at what was written there. He said that the stories were written by the victors of events and they all attributed their victory to the fact they were doing things on God's behalf. That's why they wrote that God wiped out certain people because he brought his judgement against them and punished them.

According to Mike, the Hebrew idiomatic form of writing attributed everything to God. That's how they saw everything. When Mike had a closer look, the OT shows that God took his hand off the Israelites, removing his protection from them, so that they suffered the consequences of going their own way. For example: They'd destroyed Jericho, doing what God said to them, but then at Ai, they assumed they had his authority to do the same thing. But they didn't succeed, because they didn't do what God said. They did it in their own strength. Many times the Israelites went back to foreign gods, so God removed his hand of protection from them and they were conquered and occupied by the Philistines and the Amorites, etc. But, when they turned back to God, he welcomed them back, sent them a new judge, and gave them victory in battle again.

Mike believes in the Atonement, and he believes in substitution, but not Penal Substitutionary Atonement (PSA). He can't, because he doesn't believe that Jesus' Substitutionary Atonement was retributive or punitive, but restorative. He knew that Jesus died our death, and that it was mankind who put him on the cross and killed him, not Father. In that regard, the worst torture of that time was used on Jesus, and

16 – [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Koine\\_Greek](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Koine_Greek)

17 – [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/King\\_James\\_Version](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/King_James_Version)

18 – [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Church\\_of\\_England](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Church_of_England)

19 – Hebrews 1:3 (NKJV)

Father even turned that around to bring good out of it. That's because he's restorative by nature. He's also loving by character, so he didn't forsake Jesus on the cross. The statement, "My God, my God. Why have you forsaken me?" is another cornerstone to PSA, but that's a wrong interpretation of the text. Jesus quoted Psalm 22:24, which in full says:

*"For He has not despised nor abhorred the affliction of the afflicted;  
Nor has He hidden His face from Him;  
But when He cried to Him, He heard."*

In that reference, Mike noted that it says that God heard him and responded. Therefore, Jesus was crying mankind's cry because he was fully identifying with fallen Adam and all the descendants. They had lost their identity as sons and their intimate relationship with God. In 2 Corinthians 5:19 it says that, "God was reconciling the [cosmos]<sup>20</sup> to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them." That means, if God doesn't count people's sin against them, as a consequence of the cross, then surely he cannot punish them.

Mike's investigation contributed to the process of him realizing how loving Father really is, and that he "desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth". All of the scriptures concerning Father's desire to restore things, to reconcile everything, and to bring everything back into relationship with him, made total sense to Mike. That was because it exactly matched his own relationship with Father and the things he was talking to him about.

Once Mike realized that 'Hell' was not a biblical word, and neither was the concept of Hell in either the OT or the NT, he was left with the need to find out what really happens after we die. He knew that everyone has a free will and that people can choose to separate themselves from God, but he didn't believe the God would ever separate himself from us. He believed that the concept of our separation was based on the scriptural interpretation that God can't look at sin,<sup>21</sup> (that's from an erroneous interpretation<sup>22</sup>) which means he can't look at sinners, therefore they're separated from him. He knew that God loved the whole world [cosmos], so he couldn't believe that God ever separated himself from us. But, we can choose to walk our own way, separate from him, on the path of the Knowledge of the Tree of Good and Evil.

With Adam and Eve, Mike noted that God wasn't nasty to them when they disobeyed him. He showed them his love, not anger, when he spoke to them. He simply asked them where they were (even though he already knew). He didn't vent his anger and say, "What have you done? You bad people, I'm now going to punish you for disobeying my command." They responded to him that they'd hidden from him because they were now afraid of him and covered themselves up. Today, we're still covering ourselves, by doing things our way, in an attempt to appease him. We're doing this religiously, to cover up our shame and our 'nakedness'. He did prevent them from accessing the Tree of Life, because sin had entered the Garden of God, which was not permitted. If they had chosen to, they could have gone through the cherubim and the fiery sword, been purified, and then returned to the garden.

Mike discovered that there's a huge disconnect between what the early church believed, what the Bible actually says and the concepts that we've adopted as the truth. We've all bought the messages of PSA, ECT and Hell, through teaching, peer pressure and because it's the Orthodox position. We think that if everyone's always believed it, it must be true. However, when Mike looked at what they actually believed in NT times, they didn't believe any of them. He believes it's an evangelical perspective on the afterlife, mostly Protestant, which was stressed by Calvin. PSA, as a technical term, only existed from about the 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> century through Saint Anselm of Canterbury<sup>23</sup>, a Benedictine monk. He developed the terminology, because he was influenced by Jerome's Bible, Augustine and Tertullian. Anselm was a very hateful person, who scorned anyone who disagreed with him, saying God would throw them into the fire

20 – 'kosmos' (Gk) The word used in the text.

21 – Habakkuk 1:13 (NKJV)

22 – NOTE THIS: "And You cannot look *favorably* on wickedness. Why then do You look favorably on those who act treacherously?" (AMP) READ: "Who Said God Can't Look At Sin" [canberraforerunners.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Who-Said-God-Cant-Look-At-Sin.pdf](http://canberraforerunners.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Who-Said-God-Cant-Look-At-Sin.pdf)

23 – [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anselm\\_of\\_Canterbury](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anselm_of_Canterbury)

of Hell to be tormented forever. He is the root of infernal theology, because he didn't like people, especially those he called heretics because they disagreed with him.

Some additional content from Mike's talk is recorded in "Mike Parsons on 'Hell'" – [LINK](#)

(Resources are over the page)

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(Readers will need to look up for themselves any scriptures alluded to in this document)

## RESOURCES

- **BOOK:** “The Mirror Study Bible” (Francois du Toit)  
[www.amazon.com.au/Mirror-Study-Bible-Francois-Toit-ebook/dp/B07LBPKMVF](http://www.amazon.com.au/Mirror-Study-Bible-Francois-Toit-ebook/dp/B07LBPKMVF)
- **BOOK:** “My Journey Beyond Beyond” (Mike Parsons)  
[www.amazon.com.au/My-Journey-Beyond-autobiographical-intimacy-ebook/dp/B07K1LYTTF](http://www.amazon.com.au/My-Journey-Beyond-autobiographical-intimacy-ebook/dp/B07K1LYTTF)
- **BOOK:** “The Restoration of all Things: My continuing journey beyond beyond” (Mike Parsons)  
[www.amazon.com.au/Restoration-all-Things-continuing-journey/dp/1789632005](http://www.amazon.com.au/Restoration-all-Things-continuing-journey/dp/1789632005)
- **BOOK:** “An Adventurer's Guide To The Next Age: A prophetic Journey out of religion into union with God” (Kriston Couchey)  
[www.amazon.com.au/ADVENTURERS-GUIDE-NEXT-AGE-prophetic/dp/B097BSKTKS](http://www.amazon.com.au/ADVENTURERS-GUIDE-NEXT-AGE-prophetic/dp/B097BSKTKS)
- **BOOK:** “The Mystery of Christ: Life in Death: Life in Death” (John Behr)  
[www.amazon.com.au/Mystery-Christ-Fr-John-Behr-ebook/dp/B07S95LXNQ](http://www.amazon.com.au/Mystery-Christ-Fr-John-Behr-ebook/dp/B07S95LXNQ)
- **ARTICLE:** “168. The Fire of Transformation” (Mike Parsons)  
[freedomarc.blog/2014/09/03/the-fire-of-transformation/](http://freedomarc.blog/2014/09/03/the-fire-of-transformation/)
- **ARTICLE:** “261. The Final Judgment” (Mike Parsons)  
[freedomarc.blog/2019/03/16/261-the-final-judgment/](http://freedomarc.blog/2019/03/16/261-the-final-judgment/)
- **ARTICLE:** “262. Life and Immortality” (Mike Parsons)  
[freedomarc.blog/2019/04/12/262-life-and-immortality/](http://freedomarc.blog/2019/04/12/262-life-and-immortality/)
- **ARTICLE:** “245. What Jesus Did” (Mike Parsons)  
[freedomarc.blog/2018/04/13/245-what-jesus-did](http://freedomarc.blog/2018/04/13/245-what-jesus-did)
- **ARTICLE:** “285. God is Love...BUT” (Mike Parsons)  
[freedomarc.blog/2022/05/23/285-god-is-love-but](http://freedomarc.blog/2022/05/23/285-god-is-love-but)
- **ARTICLE:** “286. Unconditional Love in Action” (Mike Parsons)  
[freedomarc.blog/2022/05/29/286-unconditional-love-in-action](http://freedomarc.blog/2022/05/29/286-unconditional-love-in-action)
- **BLOG SERIES:** List of Mike Parsons’ articles  
[canberraforerunners.org/?page\\_id=9725](http://canberraforerunners.org/?page_id=9725)
- **BLOG SERIES:** “The Errors of Inerrancy” (postbarthian)  
[postbarthian.com/tag/the-errors-of-inerrancy](http://postbarthian.com/tag/the-errors-of-inerrancy)
- **VIDEO:** “God is Love...BUT” (Mike Parsons)  
[youtu.be/SxivAE9GVil](https://youtu.be/SxivAE9GVil)
- **VIDEO:** “The Flood Story” (Matt Lynch)  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=zjPOuMAsSgw](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zjPOuMAsSgw) &  
[vimeo.com/101828240](http://vimeo.com/101828240)
- **VIDEO:** “The Gospel in Chairs - Session 1” (Brad Jersak)  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=N7FKhHScgUQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N7FKhHScgUQ)