

**DURATION OF
JUDGMENT IN**

HELL

SURVEY - PERCEPTION OF HELL IN AMERICA

- **The latest survey says 75 percent of people living in America believe in hell.**
- **Only 4 percent believe there is any chance that they will ever go there.**
- **We have made our point that there is a hell.**
- **But we have not made the point that they are headed there already.**
 - **“condemned already” (Jn.3:18)**
 - **“wrath of God abides on him” (Jn.3:36)**

DESCRIPTIONS OF HELL

- **The Bible speaks of hell in very specific words.**
- **Agony, banishment, brimstone, curse, darkness, destruction, distress, fire, teeth grinding, guilt, hopelessness, loneliness, pain, suffering, prison, punishment, ruin, separation, shame, contempt, smoke, torment, trouble, weeping.**
- **All of these are deemed to be forever!**



THE TERMS OF HELL

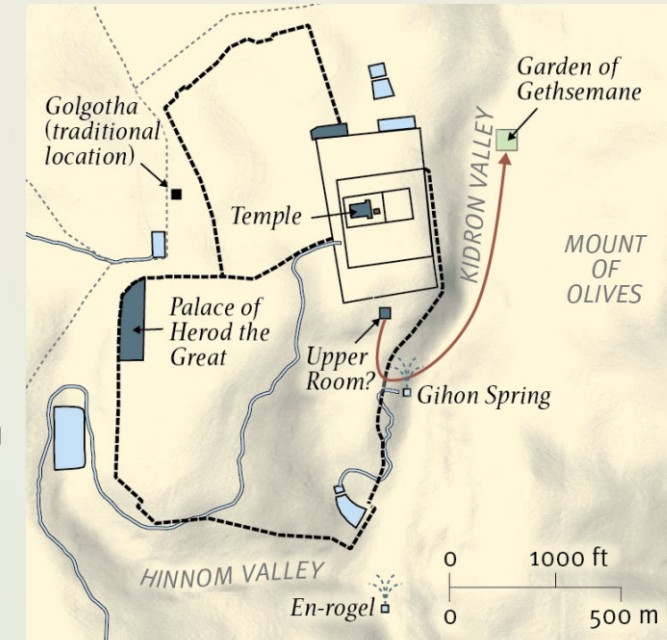
**For Tophet was established of old,
Yes, for the king it is prepared. He
has made it deep and large; Its pyre
is fire with much wood; The breath
of the LORD, like a stream of
brimstone, Kindles it.**

ISAIAH 30:33



“For Tophet was established of old, Yes, for the king it is prepared. He has made it deep and large; Its pyre is fire with much wood; The breath of the LORD, like a stream of brimstone, Kindles it.” (Is.30:33)

- **Tophet is a symbol for Hell.**
- **This is also called the “Valley of Hinnom” (2Ki.23:10).**
- **Later, it became known as Gehenna. It was a place of refuse for the city that constantly burned.**
- **In this imagery, God keeps the fire going by His breath. Why does God keep the fire going forever?**



THE AFTER LIFE

The Grave



BODY goes to the grave



SOUL goes to Sheol / Hades

PARADISE

Abraham's Bosom

Lk.16:19-31;
23:43



- 'Lazarus'
- O.T. Saints

COMPARTMENT

GREAT GULF FIXED

ABYSS

Rv.9:1; 20:1,3
"bottomless pit"



- 'Rich man'
- Unbelievers

COMPARTMENT

TARTARUS

2Pe.2:4, "hell"
Jude 6, "everlasting
chains"
1Pe.3:19, "prison"



- Fallen "sons of
God" from Genesis 6

COMPARTMENT

The Lower (or heart) of the Earth (Mt.12:40)

SHEOL - Grave (Hebrew)

HADES - Hell (Greek)

Prior to the Resurrection of Christ

TEMPORARY

PARADISE OF GOD HEAVEN

Rv.2:7; 1Pe.1:4;
Rv.21:25

- O.T. & N.T. saints
to heaven following
Christ's resurrection

BLESSING

GEHENNA LAKE OF FIRE

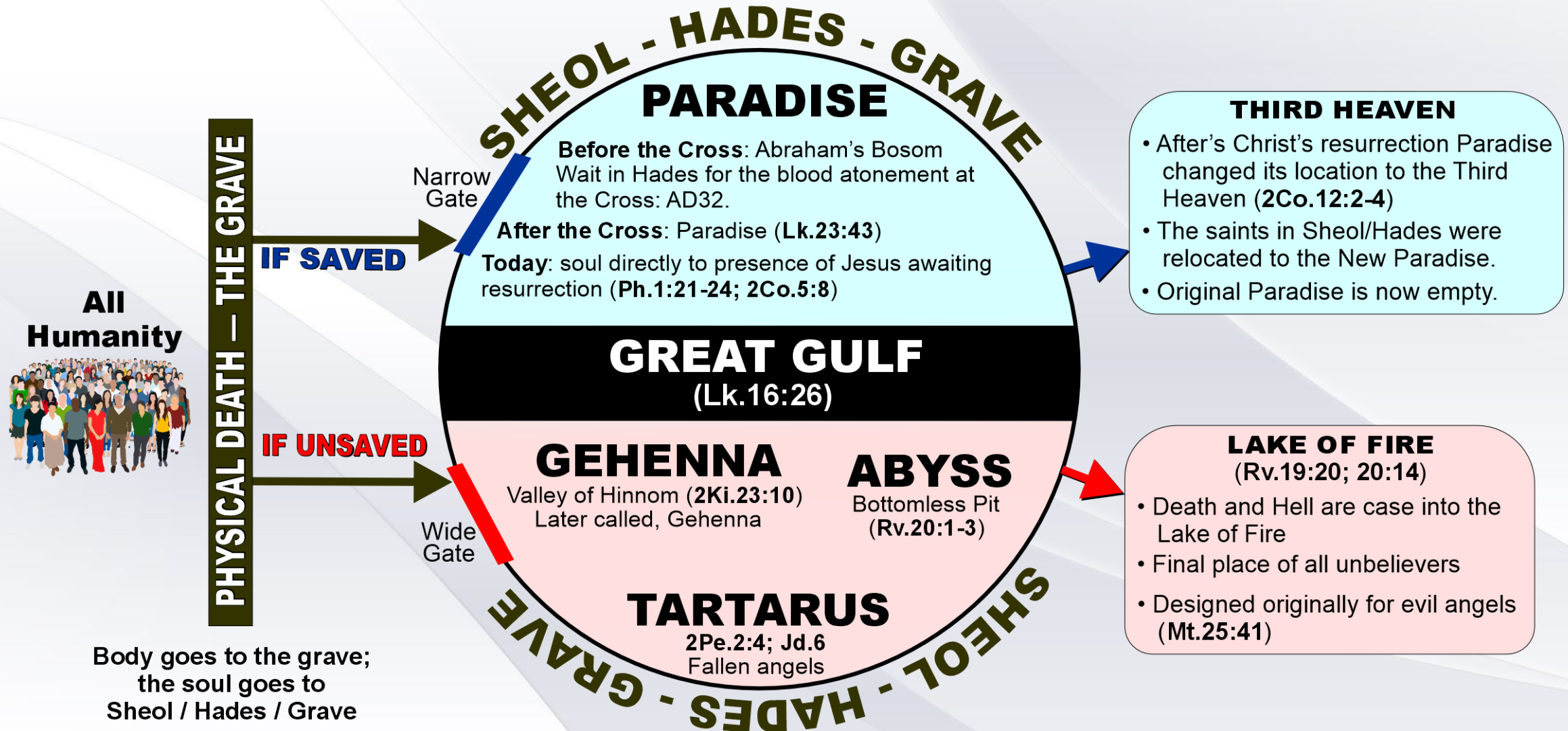
Rv.19:20; 20:15
Mt.25:41, "everlasting
fire"

- Death & Hell cast into
the Lake of Fire

JUDGMENT

ETERNAL

THE UNDERWORLD



ARGUING AGAINST ETERNAL CONSCIOUS TORMENT

- **The Bible does not talk about the eternality of the wicked.**
- **The Bible does talk about the eternality of the righteous through salvation in Christ.**
- **The only ones who have immortal souls are those who have been granted eternal life. And that is only believers.**
- **Jesus died so that we can have eternal life.**
- **Do the wicked have eternal life in Hell?**

**His winnowing fan is in His hand,
and He will thoroughly clean out
His threshing floor, and gather
His wheat into the barn; but He
will burn up the chaff with
unquenchable fire.**

MATTHEW 3:12



ARGUING AGAINST ETERNAL CONSCIOUS TORMENT

- **This imagery sees the fire as going on forever.**
- **When you throw wheat into the fire, what happens to it? It will get destroyed in the unquenchable fire.**
- **The fire is unquenchable, but the fuel is not. The fuel is destroyed eventually.**

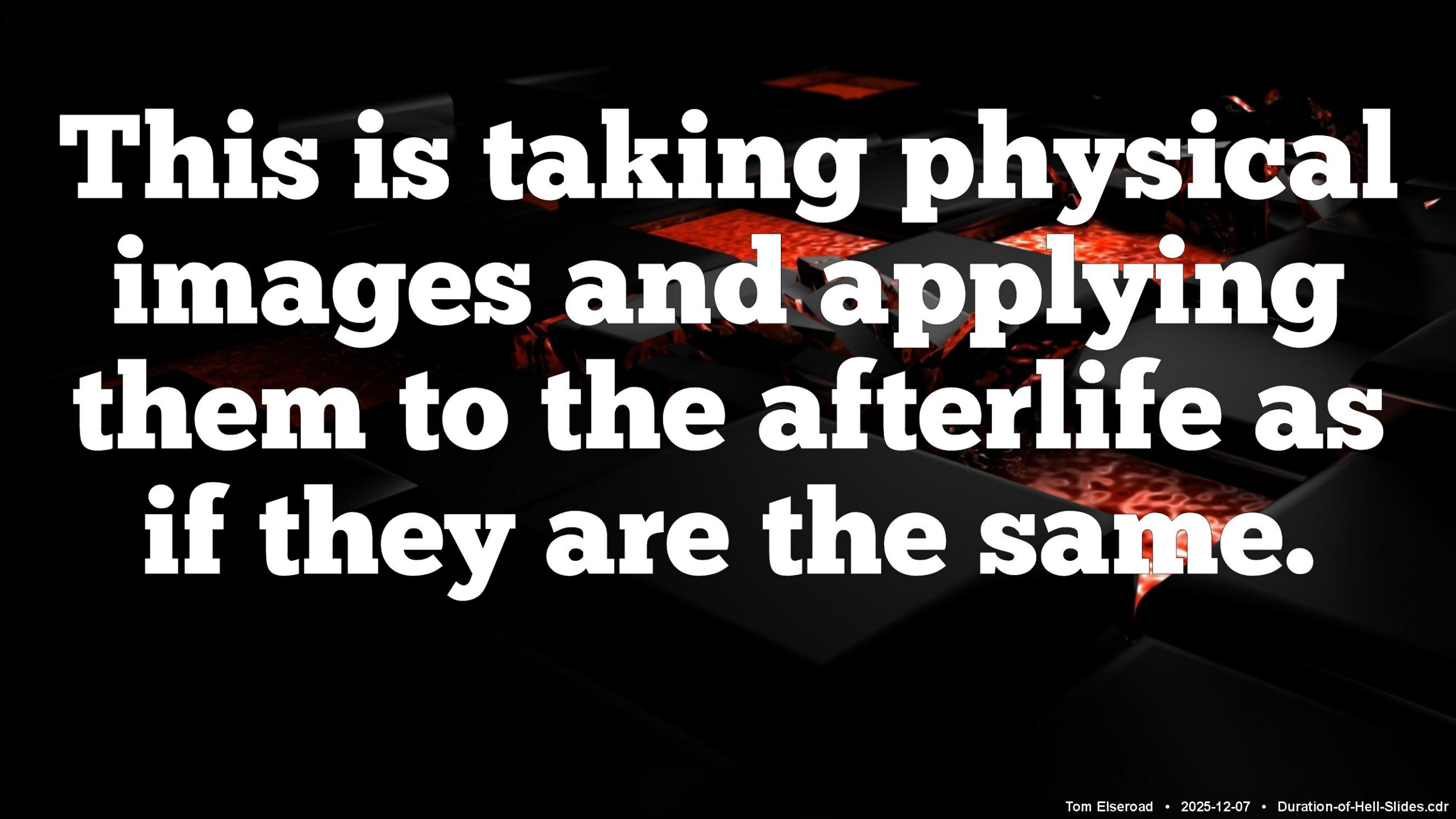
**But the wicked shall perish;
And the enemies of the
LORD, Like the splendor of
the meadows, shall vanish.
Into smoke they shall vanish
away.**

PSALM 37:20



ARGUING AGAINST ETERNAL CONSCIOUS TORMENT

- **This is talking about destruction when the enemies vanish away. This imagery is common in the OT.**
- **“Let us cut him off from the land of the living, that his name may be remembered no more” (Je.11:19)**
- **The wild beasts and owls will inhabit their land, and they are not coming back (Is.13:21).**



**This is taking physical
images and applying
them to the afterlife as
if they are the same.**

⁴¹"Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels:...' ⁴⁶And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

MATTHEW 25:41,46

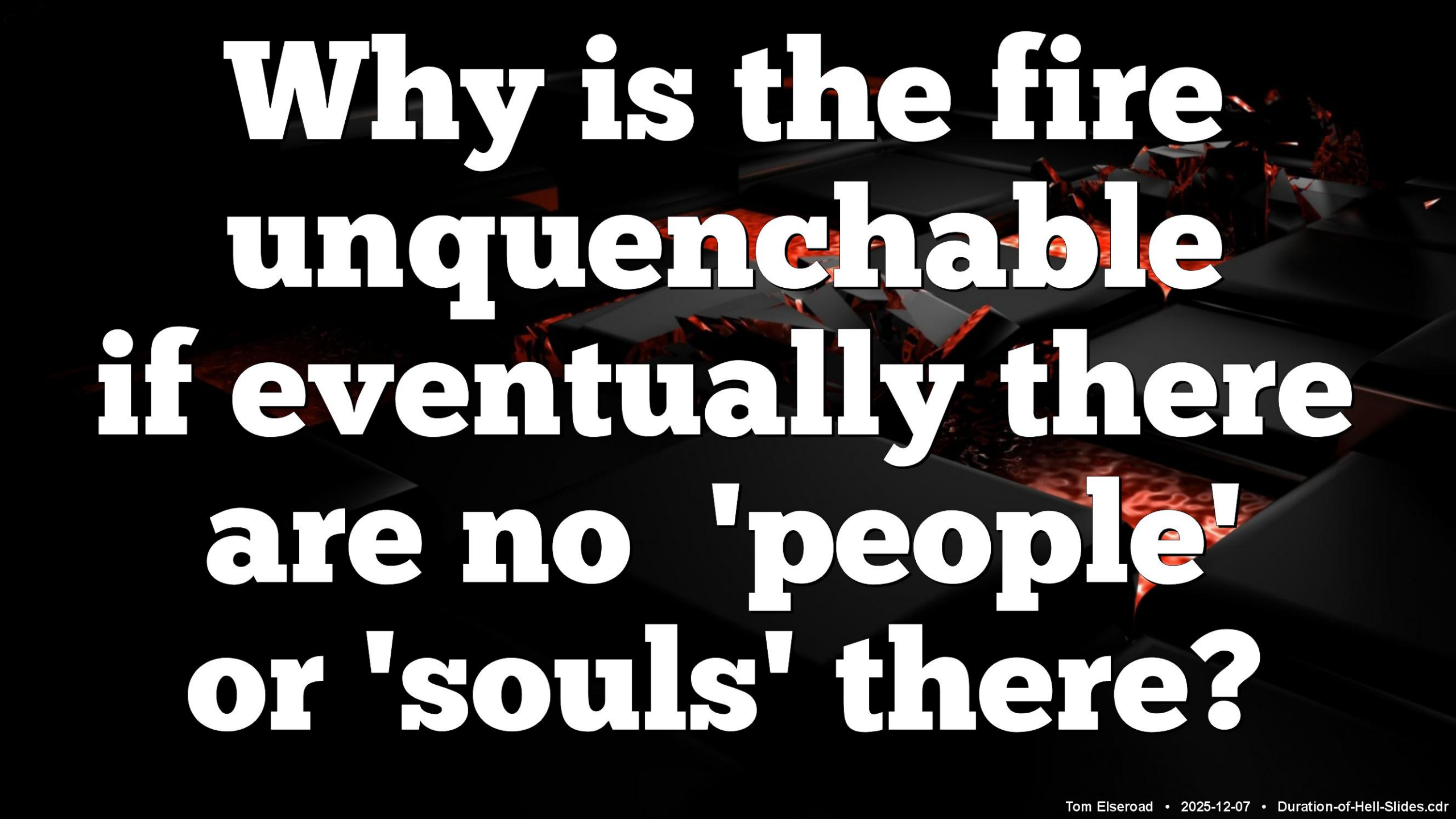


“⁴¹Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels:... ⁴⁶And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.'” (Mt.25:41,46)



-  **The contrast is between punishment and life, not life or death. Da.12:2, contrasts “life” with “contempt.”**
-  **The words “everlasting” and “eternal” are the same Greek word (G166, aiōnios)**
-  **The punishment of the wicked is as never-ending as the bliss of the righteous is never-ending.**
-  **The punishment of the wicked dead is described throughout Scripture as “everlasting fire” (Mt.25:41). It is the fire that causes the punishment.**





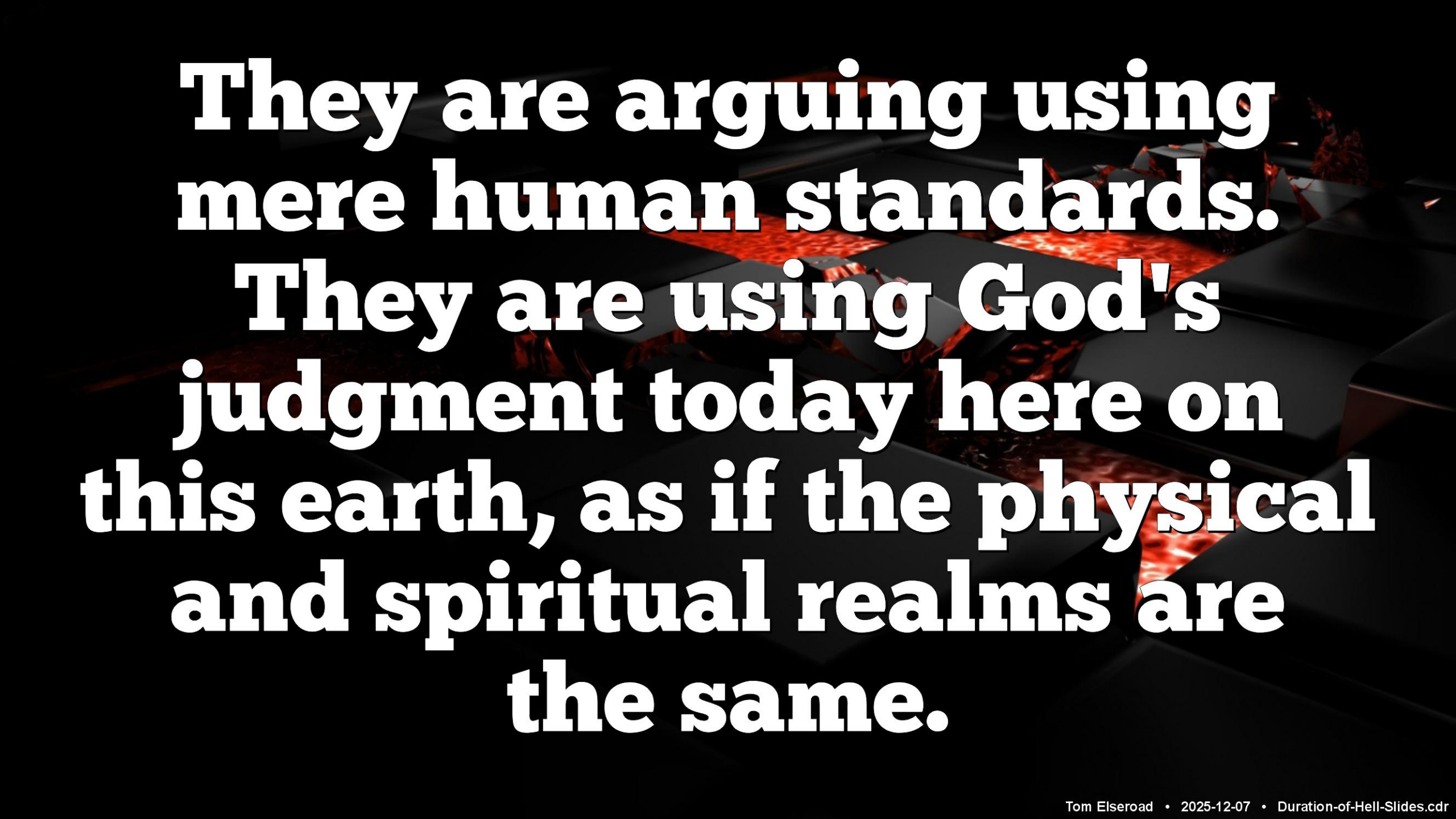
**Why is the fire
unquenchable
if eventually there
are no 'people'
or 'souls' there?**

ARGUING AGAINST ETERNAL CONSCIOUS TORMENT

- **Saint Augustine of Hippo is often referred to as a foundational figure in the development of liberal thought. [354–430AD]**
- **“When a very serious crime is punished by death [he is talking about here on earth] and the execution of the sentence takes only a minute, no law or person considers that minute as the measurement of the punishment. But rather the fact that the criminal is forever removed from the community of the living.”**

ARGUING AGAINST ETERNAL CONSCIOUS TORMENT

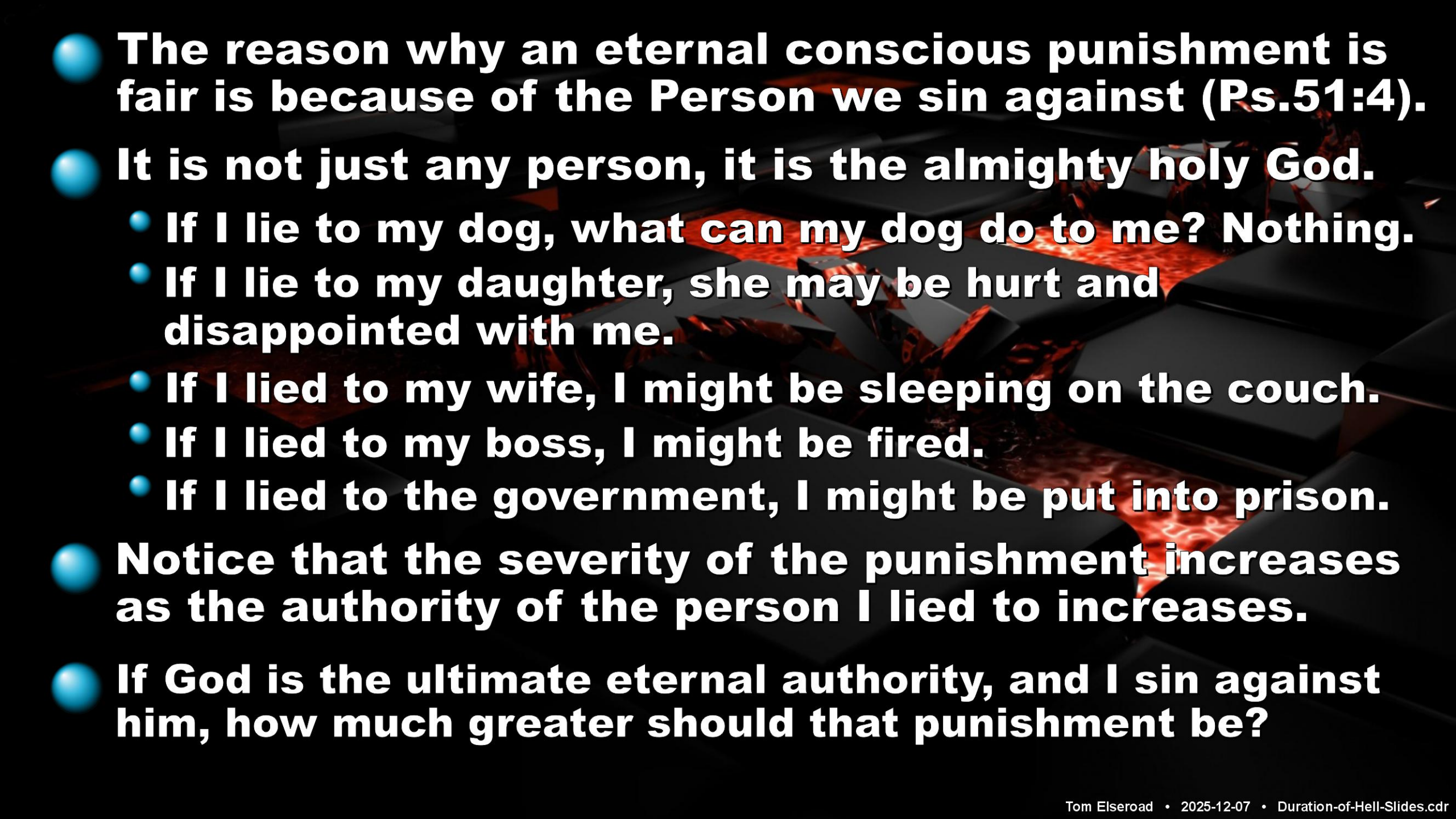
- **The span of the punishment is not the punishment itself.**
- **It is not the moment which is justice for all the crimes the man has committed, but it is the fact that he is removed from the community of the living.**
- **That removal is the actual punishment!**
- **How does one second adjust for a life of crime? Answer: Because he is dead.**



**They are arguing using
mere human standards.
They are using God's
judgment today here on
this earth, as if the physical
and spiritual realms are
the same.**



**WHO DO WE
SIN AGAINST?**

- 
- **The reason why an eternal conscious punishment is fair is because of the Person we sin against (Ps.51:4).**
 - **It is not just any person, it is the almighty holy God.**
 - **If I lie to my dog, what can my dog do to me? Nothing.**
 - **If I lie to my daughter, she may be hurt and disappointed with me.**
 - **If I lied to my wife, I might be sleeping on the couch.**
 - **If I lied to my boss, I might be fired.**
 - **If I lied to the government, I might be put into prison.**
 - **Notice that the severity of the punishment increases as the authority of the person I lied to increases.**
 - **If God is the ultimate eternal authority, and I sin against him, how much greater should that punishment be?**

**⁹Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, “If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand,
¹⁰he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. ¹¹And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name.”**

REVELATION 14:9-11



“...He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. 11And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name.” (Rv.14:9-11)

-  **Divine wrath is not an impulsive outburst of anger aimed capriciously at people God does not like.**
 -  **It is the settled, steady, merciless, and graceless response of a righteous God against sin.**
 -  **Torment is mentioned twice in this section. And the smoke of that torment is forever. There is “no rest.” If they are taken out of existence that would be rest!**
 -  **Once a person or soul is dead why does God keep the fire going forever?**
- 

**The devil, who deceived them, was
cast into the lake of fire and
brimstone where the beast and the
false prophet are. And they will be
tormented day and night forever
and ever.**

REVELATION 20:10



“The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.” (Rv.20:10)

-  **These speak of the torment, not simply being snuffed out. Notice the timing involved.**
-  **This is not just the death sentence. This is not just annulism that cannot be reversed.**
-  **Notice that man and Satan get “forever torment” (at varying degrees). Is Satan eventually snuffed out of consciousness?**
-  **It is difficult to imagine this to mean annihilation. This is conscious awareness of “torment.”**



**DEGREES OF
JUDGMENT IN**

HELL

⁴⁷And that servant who knew his master's will, and did not prepare himself or do according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes. ⁴⁸But he who did not know, yet committed things deserving of stripes, shall be beaten with few. For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more.

LUKE 12:47-48



“⁴⁷ And that servant who knew his master's will, and did not prepare himself or do according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes. ⁴⁸ But he who did not know, yet committed things deserving of stripes, shall be beaten with few. For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more.” (Lk.12:47-48)



-  **The degree of punishment is commensurate with the extent to which the unfaithful behavior was willful.**
-  **Note that ignorance is nonetheless no excuse.**
-  **There will be varying degrees of punishment in hell (Mt.10:15; 11:22,24; Mk.6:11; He.10:29).**
 -  **“It will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment” (Mt.10:15; 11:22,24; Mk.6:11)**
 -  **“Of how much worse punishment... who has trampled the Son of God underfoot” (He.10:29)**





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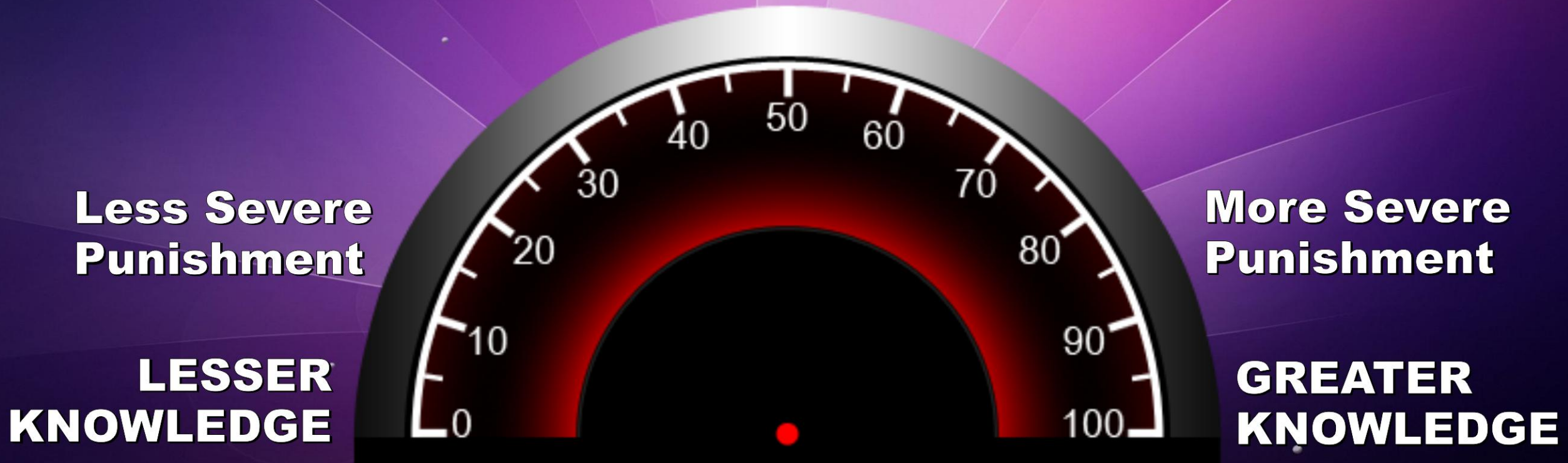


-  **There is room for increased levels of judgment in the eternal conscious torment camp.**
-  **Sweet grandma and Hitler can have very different degrees of torment.**
-  **The destiny of both the wicked and righteous are described with the same word, “eternal” (Mt.25:46).**



GOD WILL BE JUST

JUDGMENT BASED ON AMOUNT OF KNOWLEDGE:



REBELLION AFTER PHYSICAL DEATH

FOR

REBELLION AFTER PHYSICAL DEATH

-  **It seems many assume that every person who dies as a rebel against God is changed into a saint when they die?**
-  **The assumption many make is that when we die we stop sinning.**
-  **The only way you can stop sinning is when you are sanctified.**



REBELLION AFTER PHYSICAL DEATH



The reality is that those who die rebelling against Christ not only continue in that state upon their death, they also discover that now they are separated from God and are under His wrath.



But now the restraint that was placed upon them in this life is removed from them.



From every indication they remain in a condition of rebellion?



REBELLION AFTER PHYSICAL DEATH



The imagery used in Scripture is that we are alone in this condition.



But now the restraints have been removed from you. Your hatred of God becomes self consuming.



**If you are consumed with your hatred of God, and you are now separated from everyone else that reflects the image of God, what is left?
More rebellion!**



REBELLION AFTER PHYSICAL DEATH

-  **The assumption to the annihilation (eradicated) view assumes that the person is no longer a sinner. So God can simply take you out of existence.**
-  **That hatred of God after death is not considered something that requires punishment to the eradication group.**
-  **If death (eradication) is the punishment, but also provides “rest,” then death is what they will seek. They “win” by death!**

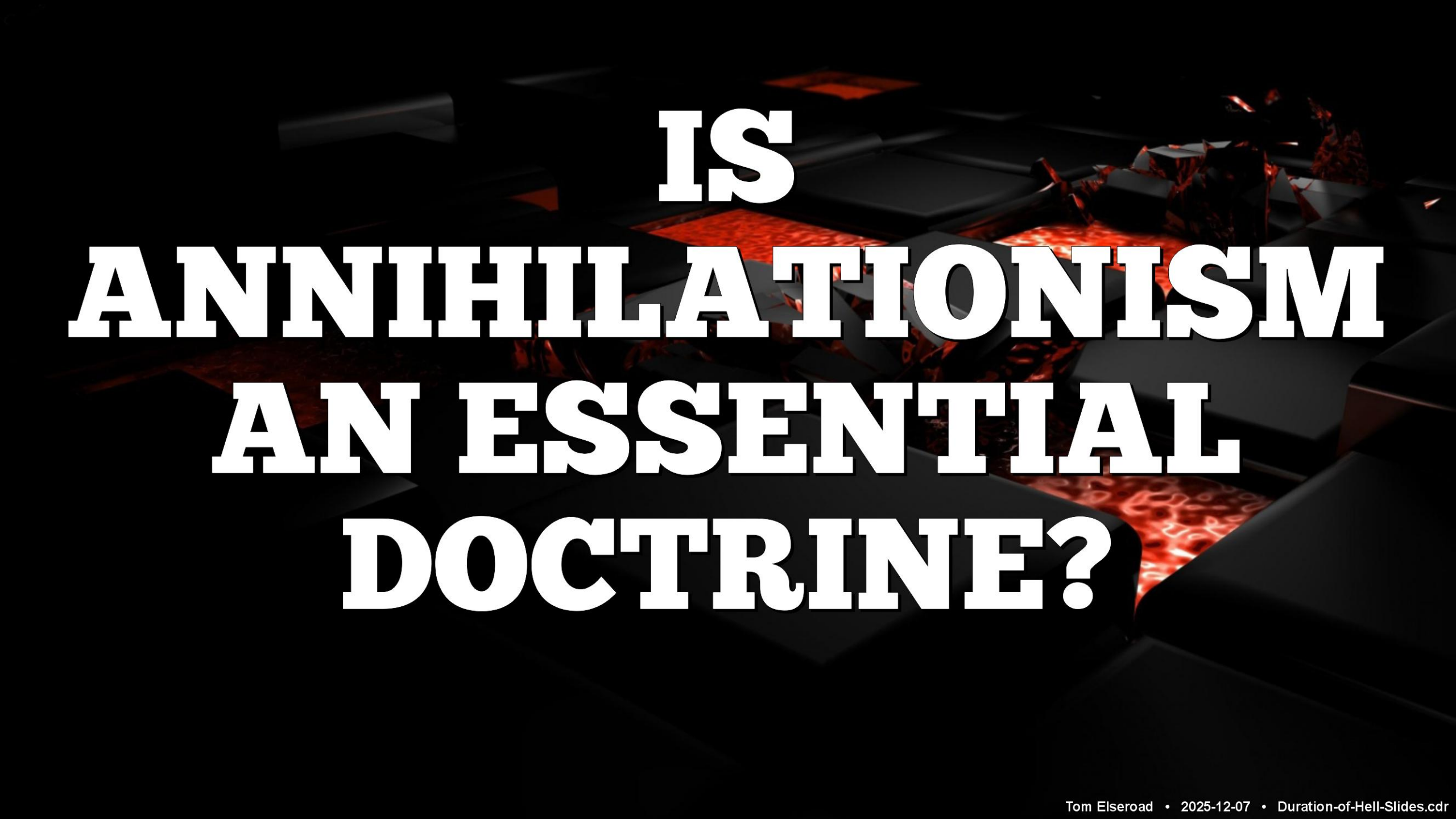


ARGUING FOR ETERNAL CONSCIOUS PUNISHMENT

- ① **The contrast is between punishment and life, not life or death. Conditional immortality essentially makes ‘punishment’ equal to ‘death.’**
- ② **Why is the “fire” unquenchable if eventually there are no ‘people’ or ‘souls’ there? (Mt.3:12). God Himself keeps the fire going (Is.30:33).**
- ③ **The concept of degrees of punishment in Hell (Lk.12:47-48) leans toward the Eternal Conscious Punishment view.**
 - **The idea of God taking the life of the wicked appears to weaken God's justice by giving all the wicked the same end result. That is, death by eradication (taken out of existence).**

ARGUING FOR ETERNAL CONSCIOUS PUNISHMENT

- 4 The unsanctified wicked will still rebel against God. We do not assume the wicked in Hell change and stop rebelling against God, so that He can then snuff them out of existence.**
- 5 Parallel language seems to show that the righteous and the wicked have eternal, but different, destinies.**
- 6 Humanity is born spiritually “dead” in trespasses and sins. We are ‘dead man walking.’ Though we are dead we are aware of our environment.**



IS ANNIHILATIONISM AN ESSENTIAL DOCTRINE?

IS ANNIHILATIONISM AN ESSENTIAL DOCTRINE?

- **Being wrong is not necessarily heretical.**
- **In order to be put into the camp of heretic, the belief has to compromise an essential doctrine of the faith.**
- **That is, the person must believe something that will damn him or her.**
- **You have to get the essential doctrine right or you are not a Christian.**

ESSENTIAL DOCTRINE OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH

- **Trinity (One God who is Triune)**
- **Deity and humanity of Christ**
- **The Incarnation of Christ (Virgin birth)**
- **Substitutionary Atonement**
- **The Resurrection of Christ**
- **Salvation by grace, faith, and Christ alone**
- **Necessity of repentance and faith**
- **Scripture (Infallibility, inerrancy, inspiration, Sufficiency)**

NON-ESSENTIAL DOCTRINES

- **Mode of Baptism**
(immersion, sprinkling,
believer's baptism)
- **Church Polity**
- **Eschatology**
- **Worship Style**
- **Musical preference**
- **Demonology**
- **Covenantalism vs.
Dispensationalism**
- **Day of worship (Lord's
Day or Sabbath)**
- **Age of the earth**

IS ANNIHILATIONISM AN ESSENTIAL DOCTRINE?

- **On which list does annihilation fall?**
- **Officially, it falls under non-essentials.**
- **Someone could go to heaven being wrong concerning the duration of Hell.**
- **For this belief we cannot label someone as a heretic.**
- **Though this error may not be heretical, this could place them on a caution list concerning doctrine.**

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