

DID GOD MAKE HELL?

Chuck Gianotti, February 2002

First of all, the Bible is clear that if anything exists, then God made it. To put it another way, if there is something that God didn't make, then that thing doesn't exist. John 1:3 (NIV) *Through him [that is, Christ] all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.* See also, Eph 3:9, Col 1:17. Hell is part of creation, therefore, God created it.

According to the Bible, hell is a place of suffering and torment that goes on for ever and ever (Luke 16:23, Matt 13:40-41, John 5:29, Mark 9:43). But, this raises another question. Why did God create such a terrible place and why would he send someone there?

The answer is spelled out very clearly in scripture:

- 1) God did not create hell to send men and women, boys and girls there. He created hell as a place to punish the devil (Satan) and the wicked angels that followed him (we call them demons).

Matthew 25:41 *Then he [that is, God] will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.'*

- 2) God doesn't want men or women or boys or girls to go there.

2 Peter 3:9 *The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.*

- 3) Because God doesn't want anyone to go there, he sent his Son Jesus Christ to die in our place.

John 3:16 *For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.*

- 4) It is our choice. We can choose to reject Christ and his salvation, and therefore side with the devil and his angels and spend eternity with them in hell. Or we can choose to believe in Christ and accept his salvation as a free gift – and spend eternity with God in heaven.

Romans 10:9 *if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved..*