

The Hell of Eternal Fire?

by **BOB CASEY**, preacher
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In **Matthew 13:41-43**, it is written, "The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear." And, there are many more scriptures that tell of the same thing.

How long has it been since you heard a strong message on the Hell of Fire? It doesn't seem to be very popular among all men, preachers not excluded! The very image of eternal fire is given in God's Word as a deterrent to warn all of mankind to shun that awful place. Still, it seems that most are still making an attempt to ignore it. Even at this, it is hard to ignore a place that all mankind knows about. So, to proclaim ignorance will not suffice when we stand before our Lord in Judgment. **Revelation 21:8** is a very fearsome verse given to open the eyes of the unprepared.

Just recently, I have been once again reading some of the writings of one **Josephus**, a Jewish scribe employed by the Romans to record the battles with the Jews during the final overthrow of the Jews as a nation, along with all their political, financial and religion under the Law of Moses. **And, this they did!** But something strange must have come over Josephus, who at the beginning did not believe that Jesus was the Messiah, but later wrote of his teachings concerning death resurrection and the Final Judgment. He includes the final destination of all unbelievers at this same time.

I give a paragraph here that Josephus wrote to the Greeks. "For all men, the just as well as the unjust, shall be brought before God the word: for to him hath the

Father committed all judgment: and he, in order to fulfill the will of his Father, shall come as Judge, whom we call Christ. For Minos and Rhadamanthus are not the judges, as you Greeks do suppose, but he whom God and the Father hath glorified: Concerning Whom We Have Elsewhere Given A More Particular Account, For The Sake Of Those Who Seek After Truth. This person, exercising the righteous judgment of the Father towards all men, hath prepared a just sentence for every one, according to his works; at whose judgment-seat when all men, and angels, and demons shall stand, they will send forth one voice, and say, Just Is Thy Judgment; the rejoinder to which will bring a just sentence upon both parties, by giving justly to those that have done well an everlasting fruition; but allotting to the lovers of wicked works eternal punishment. To these belong the unquenchable fire, and that without end, and a certain fiery worm, never dying, and not destroying the body, but continuing its eruption out of the body with never-ceasing grief: neither will sleep give ease to these men, nor will the night afford them comfort; death will not free them from their punishment, nor will the interceding prayers of their kindred profit them; for the just are no longer seen by them, nor are they thought worthy of remembrance. But the just shall remember only their righteous actions, whereby they have attained the heavenly kingdom . . ." **taken from the Letter of Josephus to the Greeks, p. 635.**

So, it seems that this man had a change of heart because he wrote the truth recorded in the New Testament. This is what we need more of today! Many have been lulled into sleep by philosophical sermonettes that make men feel good but do not arouse them to obey and make their lives count more effectively for Christ. Jesus is coming and his rewards are with him. See **Revelations 22:12**. What kind of reward would you receive if he came today? Remember, the reality of his coming is real!

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Sincerely, Bob Casey

Kitchen Diva Halftime Means Snack Time

by **ANGELA SHELF MEDEARIS**

I must admit, I love watching football games. We traditionally watch the Super Bowl at our friends' home while sitting in the same comfortable recliners, and with the same results ... my favorite teams loses!

The cheering, jeering and excitement can create a hearty appetite, and no one wants to miss a minute of the game while grabbing something to eat. These super snacks can be prepared ahead of time and will satisfy the biggest football fans without taking the host or hostess away from the game.

While I might not pick a winning team, I'm always voted MVC (Most Valuable Chef) when halftime rolls around and these snacks are served!

BUFFALO CHICKEN DIP

- 1 package (8 ounces) cream cheese, softened
- 1 cup cooked chicken breast
- 1/2 cup Buffalo wing sauce
- 1/2 cup ranch or blue cheese salad dressing
- 2 cups shredded Colby-Monterey Jack cheese
- French bread baguette slices, celery ribs, carrot sticks or tortilla chips

1. Heat oven to 350 F. Spread cream cheese into an ungreased shallow 1 quart baking dish. Layer with chicken, wing sauce and salad dressing. Sprinkle with cheese.

2. Bake, covered with foil, 20-25 minutes or until cheese is melted. Serve with baguette slices, celery or carrot sticks, or tortilla chips. Makes about 2 cups.



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SUPER BOWL MINI-FOOTBALL SANDWICHES

- 1 cup shredded cheddar and Monterey Jack cheese blend
- 1/3 cup pickled piquant peppers, such as peppadews, chopped
- 2 tablespoons mayonnaise
- 1 teaspoon yellow mustard
- 1 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 32 slices cocktail pumpernickel, sourdough, rye or whole-grain bread squares
- 2 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted
- 8 ounces thinly sliced pastrami
- 16 bread and butter pickle slices
- 1 to 2 slices (cut into 4-inch squares) white American cheese

1. Preheat the oven to 375 degrees F. Mix the shredded cheese, peppers, mayonnaise, mustard and pepper in a medium bowl.

2. Stack 4 slices of bread on a cutting board. Using a knife or 2 1/2-inch round cutter, trim the bread into football shapes, save the trimmings for another use. Continue with the remaining bread.

3. Lay the bread slices on a rimmed baking sheet and brush with the melted butter. Place in oven and toast until crisp, about 5 minutes.

4. Spread about 1 tablespoon of the pepper cheese mixture on the bread. Top with some pastrami, a pickle and another slice of bread.

5. To make the laces, cut the cheese into 16 long strips. Cut each strip into 1 long and 3 short pieces. Lay the long strip lengthwise on the sandwich, and then the 3 short strips crosswise to make the laces. Repeat with all the strips. Put the sandwiches back into the oven for 2 minutes to set the cheese laces.

6. Secure the sandwiches with a toothpick and serve. Makes 16 mini sandwiches.

CHILI CORNBREAD BAKE

You can prepare this delicious combination of chili and cornbread ahead of time and keep it warm in the oven until you're ready to serve. Feel free to use a good-quality, packaged cornbread mix if you're pressed for time, and add in the serrano chiles as directed to the packaged mix.

- 1/4 cup vegetable oil
- 1 pound ground beef chuck (80/20 mix)
- 1 large onion, finely chopped
- 2 medium bell peppers, seeded, chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, chopped
- 1 tablespoon chili powder
- 1/4 teaspoon ground chipotle chile
- 1 can (14 ounces) fire-roasted diced tomatoes
- 1 can (14 ounces) kidney beans, rinsed and drained
- 1 can (14 ounces) refried beans
- 1 can (14 ounces) whole kernel corn
- 2/3 cup fine- to medium-ground cornmeal
- 2/3 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 large egg
- 2/3 cup milk
- 2 serrano chiles, thinly sliced
- Cilantro, for garnish

1. Heat oven to 400 F. In oven-safe 12-inch skillet, heat 1 tablespoon oil on medium. Add beef; cook 3 minutes or until browned, breaking up meat. With slotted spoon, transfer beef to bowl; discard excess fat.

2. To same skillet, add onion and peppers; cook 7 minutes, stirring. Add garlic, chili powder and chipotle chile. Cook 2 minutes, stirring.

3. Return beef to skillet. Stir in tomatoes, beans, corn and 1/2 teaspoon salt. Cook 3 minutes or until mixture is hot. Remove from heat.

4. Meanwhile, whisk cornmeal, flour, baking powder and 1/4 teaspoon salt. In separate bowl, whisk egg, milk and remaining 3 tablespoons oil; add to cornmeal, stirring to combine. Fold half of serrano chiles into batter. Pour over beef mixture, spreading to cover. Dot top with remaining serranos.

5. Transfer skillet to oven. Bake 25 minutes or until toothpick inserted into topping comes out clean. Let stand 10 minutes. Garnish with cilantro. Serves 6-8.

Angela Shelf Medearis is an award-winning children's author, culinary historian and the author of seven cookbooks. Her new cookbook is "The Kitchen Diva's Diabetic Cookbook." Her website is www.divapro.com. To see how-to videos, recipes and much, much more, Like Angela Shelf Medearis, The Kitchen Diva! on Facebook. Recipes may not be reprinted without permission from Angela Shelf Medearis.

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BIBLE WORD SEARCH

by Elie's Spiritual Treasures

1 CORINTHIANS 9:22-23

To the **weak** I **became** weak, to **win** the weak. I **have** become all **things** to all **people** so **that** by **all** possible **means** I might **save some**. I do all **this** for the **sake** of the **gospel**, that I **may share** in its **blessings**.

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Find the **bolded/underlined** words in the diagram. They run in all directions — forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

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1. Is the book of Song of Solomon in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. From Revelation 21, what perfectly square city is described as having walls made of jasper? New Damascus, Jericho, New Jerusalem, Philadelphia
3. Who became leader

of the children of Israel after Moses' death? Isaac, Joshua, Aaron, Abraham

4. Saint Luke said Jesus was about how old when he began to teach? 20, 30, 40, 50

5. What is the biblical word of "Didymus" translated as? Sinner, Heathen, Teacher, Twin

6. What was the trade occupation of Paul? Shepherd, Carpenter, Tentmaker, Tax collector

Answers on bottom of Page 9

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The Apostles Before the Council (Acts 5:27-32)

27 And when they had brought them, they set them before the council: and the high priest asked them, 28 Saying, Did not we straitly command you that ye should not teach in this name? and, behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this man's blood upon us. 29 Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men. 30 The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom ye slew and hanged on a tree. 31 Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins. 32 And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him.

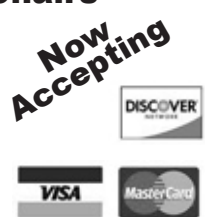
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Nearly all of us have some method for planning our daily activities. With no plan to follow, our time will likely be wasted and our days meaningless. Often, however, our carefully detailed plans can be completely disrupted by an emergency or unexpected demand. In Psalm 92, however, we find a simple way to open and close each day and bring God's presence into our lives.

The Psalmist suggests that we begin the day with a "proclamation" - we are to "proclaim the love of God." If we begin each day by proclaiming the love that God has for us, it will remind us that we are safe and secure in His love and that nothing or no one can destroy us. Then, as the day unfolds and when the unexpected occurs

and things seem upside down, we can know that He is holding us close to Himself and that He will protect us from that which might harm us. It is in His love that we are safe and secure. As Paul wrote, "Nothing can separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." It is His love that keeps us close to Him and no one or nothing can break this bond that comes from Him.

As we end each day, we are advised to praise God for His faithfulness. Indeed, by His grace He has brought us through another day and He has proven Himself to be trustworthy. Even when tragedy strikes or the light of His presence is dim, we have the assurance that He is with us.

If "things" look bad today, we can always look back at our "yesterdays" and see God at work in our lives and praise Him for His trustworthiness and faithfulness.

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