

Why Einstein Rejected Christ

Einstein was one of the most intelligent men in history. He lived from 1879-1955. It is thought he had an IQ of around 160. Although he was of Jewish ancestry, he didn't believe in a personal God. He stated: "I cannot imagine a God who rewards and punishes the objects of his creation, whose purposes are modeled after our own — a God, in short, who is but a reflection of human frailty." "The concept of hellfire is a relic of a bygone age. It is a cruel and unjust punishment that is incompatible with my understanding of the universe." "I cannot imagine that a just and loving God would condemn people to eternal suffering."

Thus we see that a large factor in Einstein's rejecting Christ as a personal Savior was his understanding that Christianity was a religion motivated by the idea of eternal hell. Other philosophers echo this concern.

"Belief in a cruel God makes a cruel man."—Thomas Paine 1736-1809. Paine was an English-born American [Founding Father](#), political activist, philosopher. (<http://tentmaker.org/Quotes/hellquotes.htm>)

"Religion is based, I think, primarily and mainly upon fear" — Bertrand Russell 1872 – 1970. Russell was a British mathematician, philosopher, and prominent atheist.

"One of the possible reasons why we might be good is that we're frightened, frightened of God. We want the reward in Heaven, we don't want to go to Hell. That would be an ignoble, ignominious reason for being good, and I think that if anybody was good to you just because they hoped for a heavenly reward, you wouldn't respect them, you'd probably give them a wide berth. I am persuaded that 'child abuse' is no exaggeration when used to describe what teachers and priests are doing to children whom they encourage to believe in something like...eternal hell." — Richard Dawkins

"I thought that the fate of the condemned sinner would be mine, to endure the flames of hell forever, even as long as God himself existed. This impression deepened upon my mind until I feared that I would lose my reason. I would look upon the dumb beasts with envy, because they had no soul to be punished after death. Many times the wish arose that I had never been born." — testimony of a 19th century Christian

What would be gained to God should we admit that He delights in witnessing unceasing tortures; that He is regaled with the groans and shrieks and imprecations of the suffering creatures whom He holds in the flames of hell? Can these horrid sounds be music in the ear of Infinite Love? ... can we wonder that our merciful Creator is feared, dreaded, and even hated? The appalling views of God which have spread over the world from the teachings of the pulpit have made thousands, yes, millions, of skeptics and infidels.

"And they built the high places of the Ba'al... to cause their sons and their daughters to pass through the fire to Molech; which I did not command them..."

What is passing through the fire? There was a heathen practice of causing their children to pass through the fire, —to leap over the altar upon which a fire was burning before their idol. If a person could do this without injury, the people received it as evidence that the god accepted their offerings, and favored especially the one who had passed through the fiery ordeal.

"... nor did it come into my mind that they should do this abomination..." — Jeremiah 32:35

God here specifies that it never even entered into His mind to have a child pass through the fire in this way. How can it be then, that it could enter into the mind of God, that every child of his, every man and woman, every old or young person who does not obey him, would be consigned not merely to pass through the fire of Molech, but to be tormented in a fire a million times hotter than the fires to Molech, and to be tormented in this way for ever and ever?

When does hell burn?

“As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world.” (Matthew 13:40 KJV)

Hell burns at the end of the world! It is not burning now.

Where are the wicked who have died then?

“Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.” (John 5:28–29 KJV)

The wicked who have died are in their graves.

Where does hell burn? It burns on the earth:

“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)

“But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the **earth also and the works that are therein** shall be burned up. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.” (2 Peter 3:10–13 KJV)

How long does hell burn?

Not forever! - “Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.” (Matthew 5:5 KJV).

We just read that hell burns on earth. God would not give the meek the gift of an eternally burning hell!

“...justice and abundant righteousness he [The Almighty] will not violate.”
(Job 37:23 ESV)

“Shall mortal man be more just than God? shall a man be more pure than his maker?”
(Job 4:17 KJV)

God is more just than any man. Eternal hell is not just.

“The wages of sin is DEATH.” (Romans 6:23 KJV)

“The soul that sinneth, it shall DIE.” (Ezekiel 18:4 KJV)

It says the wages of sin is death. Not eternal life in hell.

“And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die.”
(Genesis 3:4 KJV)

The devil’s first lie was that sinners would not surely die. But God says they will die. If the wicked were punished in hellfire throughout the ceaseless ages of eternity, then the wicked also have eternal life, Jesus would be wrong, and Satan would be right.

The following verses show that hell will last a limited amount of time:

“Therefore I brought fire from your [Satan’s] 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 28:18–19 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. 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)

“A little while, and the wicked will be no more; though you look for them, they will not be found.” (Psalm 37:10 NIV11-GK)

“by turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to ashes he condemned them to extinction, making them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly” (2 Peter 2:6 ESV)

“...and they shall be as though they had not been.”
(Obadiah 1:16 KJV)

Hell lasts a short amount of time. Many may be consumed instantly and not suffer at all. Others who have committed heinous crimes against humanity may suffer longer. But finally justice is served, the wicked are consumed completely, and the fire of hell goes out. After the fire goes out, God will re-create this earth where hell burned, into a paradise so wonderful the the former earth as it was will not be remembered, and all the saved will dwell there forever!

“For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind.” (Isaiah 65:17 KJV)

The idea of a non-eternal hell is not as odd as some may think. It is becoming more accepted in many Christian denominations:

The Church of England's Doctrine Commission reported in 1995 that “Hell is not eternal torment, but it is the final and irrevocable choosing of that which is opposed to God so completely and so absolutely that the only end is total non-being.” <http://www.spokesman.com/stories/1996/jan/18/church-of-england-updates-idea-of-hell/> (National & International Religion Report, Jan. 22, 1996).

The Evangelical Alliance was formed in 1846, and represents Christians from all denominations, including many Anglicans. It claims to represent a million Christians, and campaigns on contemporary social issues. The study, written by a party of five people - including an Oxford theologian and a senior lecturer at the London Bible College - details the fates that sinners can expect to face in the next world.

“There has been a growing disagreement for some time among evangelical Christians about the nature of hell. The traditional position was that hell is eternal, but that has changed in recent years. Now the common view is that hell lasts for a period of time relating to the sins of the individual.” http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/699929.stm

Baptist professor Clark Pinnock was Professor Emeritus of [Systematic Theology](#) at [McMaster Divinity College](#). “Let me say at the outset that I consider the concept of hell as endless torment in body and mind an outrageous doctrine. ... How can Christians possibly project a deity of such cruelty and vindictiveness whose ways include inflicting everlasting torture upon his creatures, however sinful they may have been? Surely, a God who would do such a thing is more nearly like Satan than like God” (Clark Pinnock, *Criswell Theological Review*, April 2, 1990).

Presbyterian minister and professor George Buttrick, was minister of the Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church in New York City. Professor at Harvard, Vanderbilt University, and the Southern Baptist Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky. He was president of the Federal Council of Churches: “A God who punishes men with fire and brimstone through all Eternity would hardly be Godlike. He would be almost satanic in cruelty and childlike in imagination -- like a nasty little boy pulling off the wings of a fly. The Christian faith is that God and hereafter is like Christ” (Buttrick, *The Christian Fact and Modern Doubt*, 1935, p. 283).

Methodist Gerald Kennedy wrote in NAE magazine: “Speaking of eternal punishment of an everlasting state of agony for the wicked, I can say that I am sure that God is at least as good and merciful as men. I certainly would not banish any man to a place of punishment forever because of his faults or his state of mind when he left this life. I am sure God is not less fair or merciful than I” (National Association of Evangelicals) magazine, Aug. 15, 1951).

FAQ:

Unquenchable Fire

“It shall not be quenched night nor day; the smoke thereof shall go up for ever” (Isaiah 34:10 KJV)

“Unquenchable” fire is a fire that cannot be “extinguished” while there is still material left to burn. But such fire can go out by itself when there’s no more fuel left. The Bible says Jerusalem was destroyed with unquenchable fire (Jer 17:27). But Jerusalem’s unquenchable fire went out when there was nothing more to burn. The Bible is simply saying no one will be able to extinguish hell fire before it has finished its work.

For Ever and Ever

“And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.” (Rev 20:10 KJV)

What does “for ever and ever” in the Bible mean?

“He [a servant] shall serve him [his master] for ever.” (Exodus 21:6 KJV) In this context, for ever simply meant as long as the servant lived.

Samuel was brought as a little boy to the tabernacle and the Bible says he would “there abide for ever.” (1 Samuel 1:22) But then the Bible clarifies that he would be in the tabernacle “as long as he liveth” (1 Sam 1:28)

When Jonah was swallowed by the fish, he said: “I went down to the bottoms of the mountains; the earth with her bars was about me for ever” (Jonah 2:6 KJV). But then it clarifies that “Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.”(Jonah 1:17 KJV) It no doubt felt like for ever!

Several Bible translations (Darby Translation, Weymouth Translation, and Young’s Literal Translation) translate “for ever and ever” as “for ages of ages”. Even a short time in hell might seem like ages of ages!

“For ever” in the Bible is like the word “tall,” which can mean something different when describing people, trees, or mountains.

Eternal Punishment

“And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.” (Matthew 25:46 ESV)

Note, the **punishment** will last forever, not the **punishing**. Hell is an eternal **punishment**, one whose results are eternal and can never be reversed. But it is not an eternal **punishing**.

Eternal Fire

“Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.’ (Matthew 25:41 ESV)

Notice that the Bible says Sodom and Gomorrah also experienced “eternal fire”. “Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities... serve as an example by undergoing a punishment of eternal fire.” (Jude 1:7 ESV)

But Sodom and Gomorrah are not burning today, they are believed to be under the Dead Sea. The Bible says that Sodom and Gomorrah were turned “to ashes”: “by turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to ashes he condemned them to extinction, making them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly” (2 Peter 2:6 ESV)

Eternal fire is simply a fire that destroys sin eternally. Its effect is eternal, but not its duration! Eternal fire will go out after it has turned the wicked to ashes (Malachi 4:3). The effect of the fire is eternal and irreversible, but not the burning itself.

For more information and access to helpful resources please see www.HellTruth.com.