1. About the pain

What does the Bible say about hell? How do we need to consider it in the light of the scriptures? In the times in which we are living now this topic has become a taboo (if we can call it so). There are persons, groups and even churches that don’t believe much in it and don’t speak much of it. My personal opinion is that obviously is not that we have to speak every time of it or we have to mention it every time when we take the message of the gospel to someone, but we need to be couscous that this place exist and the motivations for which we do things need to include the awareness of it. If God saves us, then we need to know from what is He saving us. It is not only from a wrong lifestyle, but from something much greater and this is hell, that in the Bible is also called by different names like Sheol, Gehenna, Hades. Jesus spoke of this place various times.

Let’s first see some verses.

“For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pants together until now.”

Romans 8:18-22

Here in this passage of Romans we see how the creation was subjected to futility and it says as well that one day it will be delivered from the corruption. Let’s keep this in mind and go to the next passage.

“And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.”

Revelation 21:4

Here we see how the heaven will be. With no pain and suffering.

“Your pomp is brought to down to Sheol, and the sound of your stringed instruments; the maggot is spread under you and worms cover you.”

Isaiah 14:11

Here in this verse instead is described the hell. It is about a Babylonian king, but in the same time is directed to Lucifer, as the whole of this chapter in Isaiah speaks about the judgement that will be upon him. We see the name used here is Sheol and the way this passage describes the place is pretty similar to how is it described in other places of the scriptures. Worms are mentioned. There is another place as well that mentions worms and this is in Mark 9:44 “where ‘Their worm does not die and the fire is not quenched.’” What does it come to our mind when we think about a worm? I usually think of putrefaction, of something rotten. We have to know that all of this is a fruit of the corruption that has invaded our world.

I mean that before everything, before the man’s downfall into the sin, everything was perfect. Altogether with the complete justice and the perfect relationship between God and man, there was also the consequence of this perfect harmony among them and that was that also the nature was bearing the signs of eternity. Nothing was dying, nothing was going off, nothing was getting rotten. Everything was perfect and eternal. That was God’s design for how everything was going to function. Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden were perfect. They were strong, they were always healthy. They were never getting tired. Everything was eternal. Nothing was aging, nothing was getting old. What happened then? A law was broken. The man and the women sinned by disobeying God. Many things went out of order then. And the corruption, as it is mentioned in Romans 8:21, came into the world and effected everything. Everything started dying. So, we see that when it comes to putrefaction of things, we can say that this is a consequence of the sin. This sin has infected all of us. We are born with it. Sin brings separation between us and God and the separation brings all of these consequences.

As we saw the verse in the book of Revelation speaking about the Heaven, we see that this corruption doesn’t exist anymore. There will be no pain and no tears there.

If heaven is in this way, we can see that hell will be completely opposite. It will be full of corruption. Speaking about a worm and a worm that never dies, means that the flesh of the people being there will decompose, because this is what happens when worms appear. It will decompose, but it will never finish or decompose at all. It will be eternal. Here in this life things decompose and then disappear, because this is just a passage. It ends. But there in heaven or in hell, it will be eternal. I am speaking about a flesh being rotten, because there are many passages and verses that let us know that we will have bodies over there. Just to have a better picture and just to imagine, you can think of how some of our cells regenerate here after we get injured and even after taking a long period of time, the wound heals. There they will probably regenerate much quicker, because we are speaking about something eternal, so there will be no time even in hell where our bodies will be totally consumed, but they will probably keep on regenerating even being harmed by everything that people will find there.

I don’t know if this is having to do with this topic, but there are some interesting facts. In another passage describing that place, is mentioned brimstone known as sulfur also. “… the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.” Revelation 21:8 Did you know that this component known as sulfur as well, is produced naturally by the decay of organic substances containing sulfur? In our body we naturally contain sulfur.

Paul speaks in 1 Corinthians 15 about a heavenly body that will be given to those who go in heaven, but there are also passages about hell that somehow describe being in hell as having a body there. We mustn’t think that everything is spiritual and invisible. It is spiritual, because God’s work in us is spiritual, but what is spiritual is manifested in the material world afterwards. But we will definitely not be floating spirits after our death. Yes, our soul departs from our body when we die, but it doesn’t remain just wondering somewhere. Any spiritual or ghost manifestations might be there, are not persons that have died, but other powers that want to distract us and manipulate our mind, coming often in different forms.

“And do not fear those who kill the body, but can not kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both **soul** and **body** in hell.”

Matthew 10:28

We can also see clear description of a body in other passages like “…there will be weeping gnashing of **teeth**.” Mathew 8:12 or “send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my **tongue**; for I am tormented in this flame.” Luke 16:24

All of this tells us that there will be physical pain too. Many times persons think that there someone will be tormented and separated just spiritually and they think and relate that anyway they are already separated from God in this life and over there will be the same, but according to the scripture it won’t be in this way. If in heaven it will be no tears and pain, then in hell it will be the opposite. There will be pain and tears and affliction and we cannot really imagine now how much it will be.

The wages of sin is death. This is the consequence of it. And with it comes pain and affliction and everything else. What happens is that here in this life we feel just in part this consequence of sin which is death, so that we can have the possibility to accept Him and to live in a way that it won’t be too heavy and unbearable for us. We were supposed to pay already for the wages of sin now, because this is how it goes. This is according to what is just. But if we had to bear now the consequences of sin in this life, the pain and the affliction will be too much and unbearable for us and we will not be able to live in a proper way and to accept Him. It will be too much for us and He knows it. **This is what the separation from God brings. Pain and affliction. We were meant to be part of Him and out of Him we are incomplete.** That’s why people will feel in this way when separated completely from Him.What I am trying to say is that we are not completely separated from Him now. We are separated from His glory as Romans 3:23 says, but He is still maintaining us and giving us every day’s life and strength, so that we can carry on. All of this with the purpose that we can have the opportunity to accept Him and live forever with Him. Just imagine if we had to feel now a pain that doesn’t ends. No one will be able to think and reason properly. If today you feel a certain physical pain, after a while it finishes. Even if a person not knowing God being afflicted by something, would find a way to forget it for a while and will feel fine for some time. But all of this is because of the presence of God that fills everything and thus sustaining every person, so that the pain and affliction won’t be too much for him not to be able to bear them. It happens in this way so that a person can feel fine and be able to seek for God. The pain can make him think and meditate on something, but if it is not too much so that he can’t bear it, it is because of this grace given to him. I’m saying that we were supposed to feel now fully the consequence of the sin and the separation from God, which is this pain and affliction in its full form, but because of His grace, He is still giving us a chance and we just feel it in part. Maybe just enough so that we can come aware of our sinful condition. The truth is that He doesn’t want us to perish, but to help us. Many times people perish because they are going into that direction. The moment in which we are now, is called a time of grace in the Bible. The problem is that many persons take life as something granted and still dear to blaspheme God or rebel against Him, when each grace we can experience in this life is because of Him. If a person is continually in this kind of attitude, he surely doesn’t know God. Nevertheless God makes His sun to rise upon everyone.

“God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things. And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and boundaries of their dwellings, so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; for in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, ‘For we are also His offspring.’ “

Acts 17:24-28

Here in this passage we clearly see that God has created everything and that in Him we move and live and He has made us and has placed us on the face of this world with the only purpose to seek for Him.

Pain is a consequence of the sin, but no one feels it continuously now. The same with the affliction. Persons can be sad for a while, but afterwards they get fine again and are even joyful. I am not speaking for a Christian, but for any common person not having Christ in His life. The life that he has is nothing else, but the demonstration of God’s grace and it is a gift from God, so that, that person can have the opportunity to know God in this life and not to pay what he deserves at this very moment. This is like time given to all of us. A time of grace. This is when we speak about life and the purpose of it. If any one has asked himself which is the purpose of life, this is it. To know God and glorify Him. This is everything we are born for and we exist for. To be part of Him. To connect with our Creator. We don’t realize it and we think that life is just given to us to rejoice over it and to have fun and pleasure as much as we can, and obviously God has included the pleasure when He was creating us, but is not all about it and we mustn’t abuse it as often we do.

1. About the diseases

Looking at the diseases as well, we also conclude that in heaven there will be no more diseases and that the ones we may have now are caused by the sin. Not necessary the sin that we have done, but the sin that already dwells in us, the one that we have inherited from our ancestors, Adam and Eve. We are born with it. This is the consequence of our corrupted body infected by the sin. There is not such a thing like a disease in God. Jesus was even healing people from their diseases.

“Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But we wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed.” Isaiah 53:4,5

“…. He Himself took our infirmities and bore our sicknesses.” Matthew 8:17

In Him and from Him is the health and the real wellbeing. Before Adam’s downfall there wasn’t any disease or any fatigue and in heaven it won’t be either. Explained by doctors and scientists the pain that we feel is like an alarm that something somewhere is wrong with our body. When someone is ill, there is definitely something wrong in him and he feels the pain.

The question now is: can a godly man or woman get diseased? Of course they can. Someone can even pass away from a disease such as cancer or others. This doesn’t mean that they were not spiritual or not blessed. The disease is a consequence of the sin, but someone even being a true Cristian and believer can have it because of the corrupted by the sin body that he is already living in. To have a disease can be also an attack by Satan. As we know already from the scriptures, he attacked Job (Job 2:4-7) and Paul placing a torn in His flesh (2 Corinthians 12:7). All of this was with a purpose to test him and also to discourage him, but God also knows how to turn this into something good. And the other way if someone is sick is because he has sinned. The scripture also tells us something regarding this. Persons teach sometimes that a godly man has to be always fine and in perfect health and prosperous, but it is not always in this way according to scripture. So we conclude that a Christian can also become sick.

From the other side we also see that some persons that don’t care at all about God, can live in a complete well being and be always healthy and fine all their life. (Psalm 73) But in general we see that corruption, weakness, disease and affliction are consequence of the separation from God caused by sin and while we are on this earth, we will have to face them in one or another way. So when you feel a pain or you are sick, remember about the sin that you have inherited, remember that is because of this sin that can be redeemed only by the blood of Jesus who gave Himself for you.

1. About the gift of life

As we said before, from Him is the well being and the health. The reason that someone can now experience a wellbeing or joy or to feel fine is because it comes from God. We mustn’t understand this in the wrong way, but even persons that don’t care about God and don’t seek Him, still experience this, because there is His grace that gives them that. All of this is because they can have an opportunity. Instead of letting us pay now completely for our sin, He is still having this grace for us so that we can have this opportunity to accept Him. We were supposed to pay fully now for our sin, because this is what is right, but instead He is letting us pay in part. This is what happens in this life. Just imagine if we had to feel now fully all of this pain and affliction, produced by the separation with Him. We are meant to be with Him and that’s why out of Him, there is such an imbalance and everything goes wrong. Nevertheless He doesn’t let us pay now for all of this. This is like a time of grace given to us now. The life itself is a time of grace. If we had to feel the complete separation from Him, we wouldn’t be able to accept Him and we wouldn’t be able to live normally or survive. But He hasn’t abandoned us completely now. His grace is with us. I am not speaking about His glory and grace that saves, but about the grace of time given us in this life. A kind of grace that doesn’t leave us anyway to feel now the complete separation from Him and all the consequences caused by sin.

We can see some verses in Ecclesiastes.

“What profit has the worker from that in which he labors? I have seen the God-given task with which the sons of men are to be occupied. He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also He has put eternity in their hearts, except that no one can find out the work that God does from beginning to end. I know that nothing is better for them than to rejoice, and to do good in their lives, and also that every man should eat and drink and enjoy the good of all his labor-**it is the gift of God**.” Ecclesiastes 3:9-13

“Here is what I have seen: It is good and fitting for one to eat and drink, and to enjoy the good of all his labor in which he toils under the sun all the days of his life which God gives him; for it is his heritage. As for every man to whom God has given riches and wealth, and given him power to eat of it, to receive his heritage and rejoice in his labor-**this is the gift of God**.” Ecclesiastes 5:18,19

We see that it is a gift of God for a man to rejoice of his labor. The book of Ecclesiastes is not at all controversial as someone might state. It explains clearly the sense of life. It repeats various times that all is vanity. And it is so, because the most important and essential for man in this life is to know God. And here we see that God is the one that gives joy to man. We can obviously speak about a believer here, but to me it seems as well that it speaks about each man in general. If today someone can experience a simple joy or pleasure of something or can have certain passions and feelings is because God has put them in him. It is by His power that we feel that. And many times we take this as something granted, we don’t appreciate it and we misuse it. It is because we are not yet completely separated from Him now and we don’t yet feel the pain and affliction completely, but just in part. We still feel it, because this is what the inheritance of sin has brought to us in this life, but in a way God is still maintaining us. All of this is with the only purpose that we can have the opportunity to know Him. He is letting us know just the enough pain and affliction, so that we can see and recognize our sin. This is because we won’t be able to bear all of it now. This is a grace given to us by Him. We can laugh and we can cry and we can feel love and be loved and have passion because of Him. He has created us and has created our bodies in a perfect way. Scientists say that most of the good feelings in us come because our brain releases endorphin and they anyway still don’t know completely how our brain works. But God knows that already. He knows about this endorphin that our body releases, because He is the creator of it. In the hell probably our bodies will be so affected of corruption that they will not probably produce it anymore. This is because of this full separation that we will experience there. See something here. What I’m saying is that God is involved in everything and He perfectly knows how we and our bodies work chemically and medically speaking. He is the creator of it. That’s why I support the idea that we also find in the scriptures that our bodies will accompany us wherever we go. In heaven or hell. Not these bodies that we actually have, but the other ones that will be given to us. Because we are designed to have bodies. After death obviously our soul departs from this body, but then afterwards we will have some kind of a body, something with which we will be able to touch and feel.

We can’t know how everything will be exactly and it won’t be surely in the way we are used to already, but there will be definitely something, looking at what the scriptures are saying. Our body is not a mistake or something for us to have just in this life. We are somewhere in the middle now, between two worlds (if we can say so). One of them is glorious and the other is corrupt.

“For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother’s womb. I will praise You, **for I am fearfully and wonderfully made**; marvelous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well.” Psalm 139:13,14

We are fearfully and wonderfully made. God has created and given us these perfect bodies that work to precision better than the best machine a man can create. The only reason that they get ill or tired is because of the sin. The sin provokes a separation with God and the diseases and the malfunctions are because of this separation that we just experience in part now. Same with what we experience in our soul on a spiritual level.

Verse 14 of psalm 139 finishes with the phrase “marvelous are Your works and that my soul knows very well.” It is the soul where God wants to work. He created our bodies. They are temple of His Holy Spirit, but where He wants to work and to create a relation is our soul. Our soul is lost and is the one that needs to be saved. We are created by Him and we are made of soul, spirit and body. We are soul and we are revived or inspired by a spirit and we have a body that expresses itself and acts according to what we feel.

1. The seal

The Bible speaks about a seal that He wants to place in us. He wants to put this seal in our heart and soul. In this way He creates this relationship with us. In this way we belong to Him. This is the relationship of love that He wants to have with us. Those who believe are marked by His love.

“who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.” 2 Corinthians 1:22

“In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise,” Ephesians 1:13

“And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.” Ephesians 4:30

“Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: “The Lord knows those who are His,” and, “Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity.” 2 Timothy 2:19

These are some of the verses of the Bible that speak about the seal that God places in those who believe in Him. He wants to make a connection with our spirit and soul. This is also for those who give more importance to believe in the healing of the body and miracles. These miracles would be nothing without God’s holy work in our hearts. All the purpose of Jesus while performing physical healings and miracles was to reach out the people’s hearts. Because this is what needs to be saved. Our soul.

There will be a day in which God is not going to look if me and you have been members of a church or have been with Christians in a christian environment (which is also important), but will look if we have this seal in our hearts. This is the testimony that we know Him and that He knows us.

“Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I say to you, will seek to enter and will not be able. When once the Master of the house has risen up and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and knock at the door, saying, Lord, Lord, open for us,' and He will answer and say to you, 'I do not know you, where are you from,' then you will begin to say, 'We ate and drank in Your presence, and You taught in our streets.’ But He will say, 'I tell you I do not know you, where are you from. Depart from Me, all you workers of iniquity.’ There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all of the prophets in the kingdom of God, and yourselves thrust out.”. Luke 13:24-28

1. About His grace and opportunity given to us.

So we can see that He created us with a purpose. And this purpose is to know Him. He wants to have a relationship with us. All the energy, all the well being in this life and the life itself is not with any other purpose, but to know Him. Obviously when we know Him, we receive a major strength and joy, but this common joy and strength given to people in this life is just a testimony of God’s mercy and chance He wants to give us. There is a parable that speaks about this. About this grace. We are not speaking now about the saving grace, but the common grace of life that everyone is having. The one that many times people take as granted, but it is not always in this way.

“There were present at that season some who told Him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. And Jesus answered and said to them, “Do you suppose that these Galileans were worse than all other Galileans, because they suffered such things? I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish. Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them, do you think that they were worse sinners than all other men who dwelt in Jerusalem? I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all like wise perish.” He also spoke things parable: “ A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. Then he said to the keeper of his vineyard, ‘Look, for three years I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree and find none. Cut it down; why does it use up the ground?’ But he answered and said to him, ‘Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and fertilize it. And if it bears fruit, well. But if not, after that you can cut it down.’ “ Luke 13:1-9

This is the parable of the barren fig tree. We can define ourselves as this fig tree and the same can do the whole human kind. Because here we are speaking about this universal opportunity given to people. Even though the tree was not bearing fruit, an opportunity was still given to it. Yes, we can see that from one side this parable is speaking about the nation of Israel, but in general it speaks about all people. This is the time of grace given to us in the form of this life. We need to know something. God is extremely just and He can not bear any sin and any injustice. **The only reason for which He now bears it, is because of the sacrifice that Jesus did.** He is the keeper of the vineyard that gives this additional opportunity to the tree. This is why God bears with us and the whole humanity now. This is why He doesn’t punish now the sin (which would be right), but waits patiently and gives us opportunity to repent. This is why He makes His sun to rise on the evil and on the good. He spreads His goodness upon all, so that they can have this chance. We were meant to pay now for our sin, but we won’t be able to bear it. This is why we are alive and live our life.

Why is it then that those who were before the time of Jesus were also alive and opportunity was given to them? Because His sacrifice was premeditated before the foundation of the world. That’s why God also had mercy and kept in life all of these people living before the time of Jesus. In His heart He had already done this sacrifice, He knew it was going to happen. The life given to us is a grace, but often happens that many people don’t acknowledge this opportunity and misuse it.

If we see the beginning of the parable we'll see that it actually speaks about people who lost their life, because they were killed by Pilate.

“There were present at that season some who told Him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.”

And some verses ahead, He tells them “I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish.”

We can see from these verses that beside the main meaning of the parable of the barren fig tree that is the mercy and opportunity given to men, Jesus told them (us) this parable also to let them know that if they were alive, it was for the mercy of God. Something like life is taken many times as something granted and people misuse it and sometimes even willingly interrupt it and in this way don’t fall under God's plan for their life.

We are speaking about a separation. In hell that separation will be complete and it will be because He can not stand at sin. It is against His nature. Naturally, by instinct, if we can say so, He can’t have a communion with it. We are speaking about a complete separation in hell, but to be more precise, we are speaking about a complete separation from **His grace**, because He is obviously everywhere and He fills everything, no one can escape from His sight and He will be in Sheol also as Psalm 139:8 says, but His grace won’t and can not be there.

Sometimes God doesn’t need to punish us for something. Obviously it will be a judgement and to everyone it will be contributed according to what he has done and he will be judged, but the worst punishment for man in hell will be the separation from God, beside the judgment that he will receive for his deeds. God sometimes doesn’t need to do anything to punish a man, it is just enough for Him to take away His hand from us. In Romans 1:24,25 says that God has abandoned certain people to their own passions and desires. This is what He does many times to punish, (if we can say so) someone. “Therefore God also **gave them up** to uncleanness, in the lust of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves,” The sin itself without the intervention of God is destructive. This is what He did according to these verses. He just left them to their own desires and passions. It is also to say that we mustn’t do much so that we can sin. The sin is already in us. We've inherited it from Adam and Eve and we are born with it. Obviously we are the ones that develop it and willingly follow it and that’s why we will be judged for our own sinful deeds, intentions and thoughts. But we can say as well that it is so much of it in us and around us that no one can escape it by his own strength. We need another kind of strength and grace which is found only in Jesus Christ and His sacrifice.

“for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” Romans 3:23

1. About His love

As we said before God gave those people up to their own desires and passions. He left them, but in hell this separation will be forever. God obviously doesn’t want us to believe or convert just because we fear, but because we accept His love. We can not of course leave aside the reality of hell, but in the same time we see a loving Father God who made a sacrifice for us to save us from that place. A place that He sends people to, just because He can not bear and can not stand at sin. This is His nature, but in the same time He is displeased when He sees someone going to that place. He was ready to suffer so that people won't go to that place. In the same time, there are some rules and order and a way that things need to be and He can not just change that. That is a part of His all powerful being that fills everything. That is His justice. But we have to be glad that He provided a way for His love to be shown. We can enter into this love and this promise only by believing it. Whoever believes in Him shall not perish.

It is in His love shown by His Son in which we have to believe. The real believers and Christians love God, because they believe and feel His love. He loved them first. Today they serve willingly to their master, not just because they fear hell. In the same time they are conscious that hell exist and want to spread the message of His love to more people possible, so that they can have opportunity as well.

In the last time in which I am living I realize that I don’t love people as much as I thought I do. Yes I am trying to be kind, but to how many people I actually give the good news. To how many of them I tell that Jesus died for them. It is not just a question if I tell them about hell, but if I tell them that someone died to save them, if I tell them of His love. This is our task as believers if we know that hell is real. Not just to scare someone of what can happen, but to tell people of God who is willing to save them if they believe.