

WHERE DID HELL GO?

- The Church rarely talks about Hell anymore
- Western people don't like accountability
- Ben Witherington III: ***"We want no-fault relationships..."***
- *Nolo Contendere* = accepting conviction, without admitting guilt
- "Guilty, but with an excuse, sir!"





DID CHRIST JUDGE THE PHARISEES?

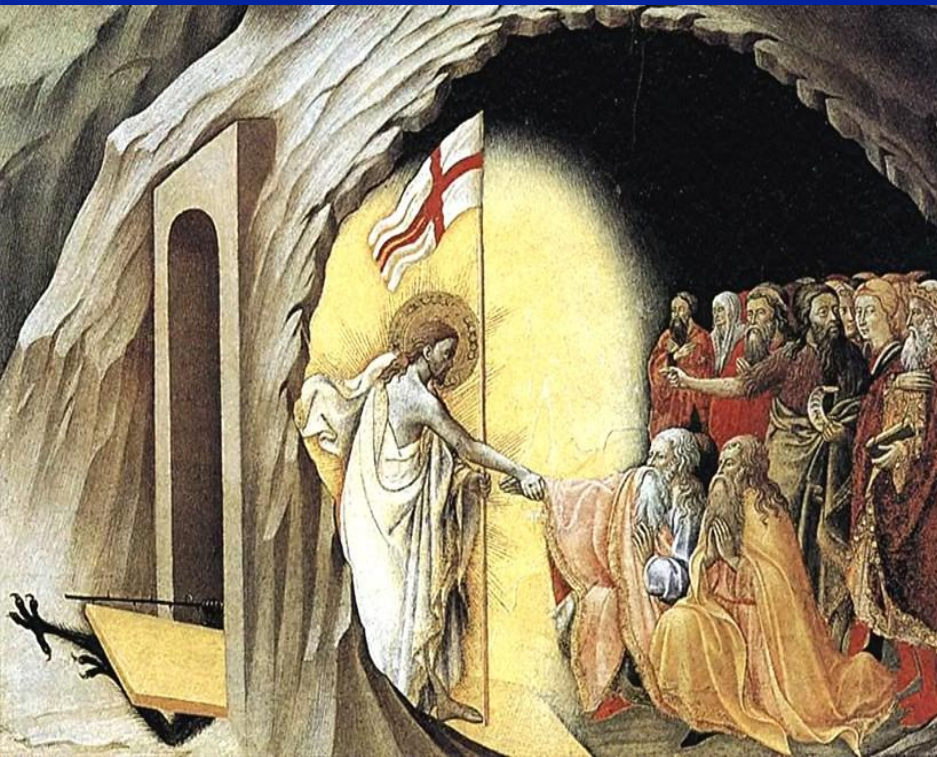
- Matt. 23:33 "... *can you escape being condemned to Gei-Hinnom?*"
- God knows before we're born who will and won't accept the free gift of salvation
- If God knows of those who won't, why bring them into this world?
- God uses the wicked for His purposes





THE HISTORY OF AFTERLIFE BELIEFS

- Does Gei-Hinnom = Hell?
- Early in the OT is ***She'ol***, the grave
- Ancestor worship also crept into the death beliefs
- The Bible (especially OT) has little to say about death and the afterlife
- Abraham's Bosom was morphed into Purgatory by Catholicism



PLACE OF THE UNRIGHTEOUS DEAD

- Place of Torments held the wicked souls
- Gei-Hinnom was a trash dump, full of the most disgusting things
- Gained a symbolic meaning of a place of fire for the wicked dead
- 2 biblical uses of fire:
To purge and thus to purify, and to destroy



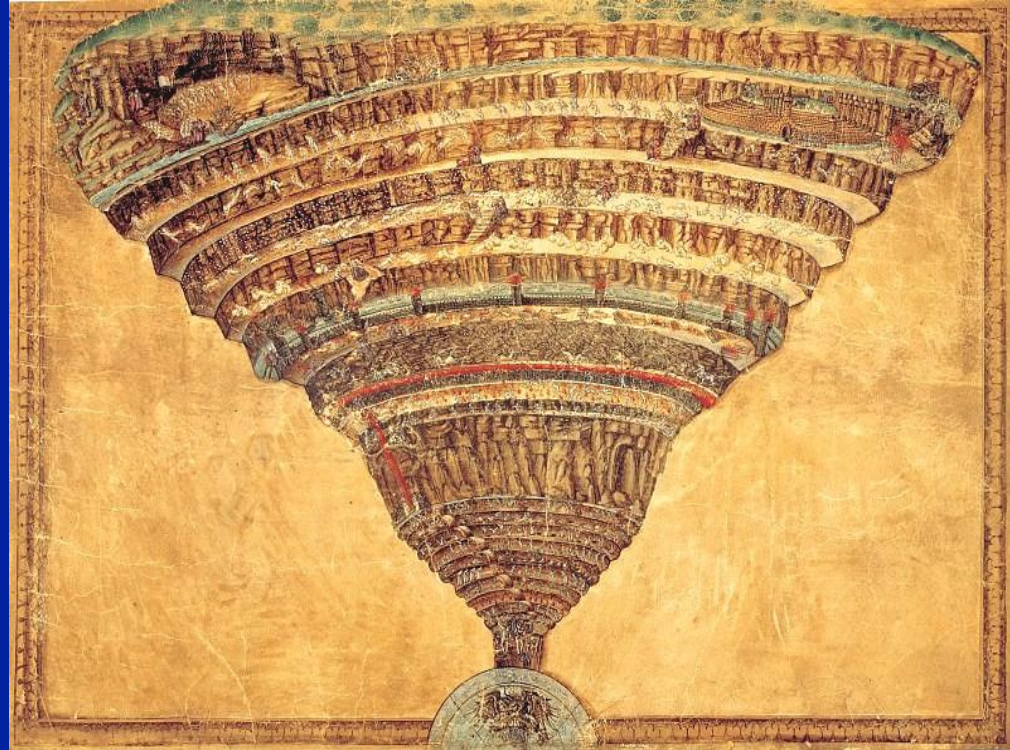
CHURCH'S HELL DEVELOPS



- In time, Hades got mixed with Gei-Hinnom
- Matt. 16:18 Yeshua could NOT have said Hades (or Hell)
- 14th century Dante wrote “The Divine Comedy”
- Gluttons lay on garbage that was putrefying
- Murderers flailed in boiling rivers of blood

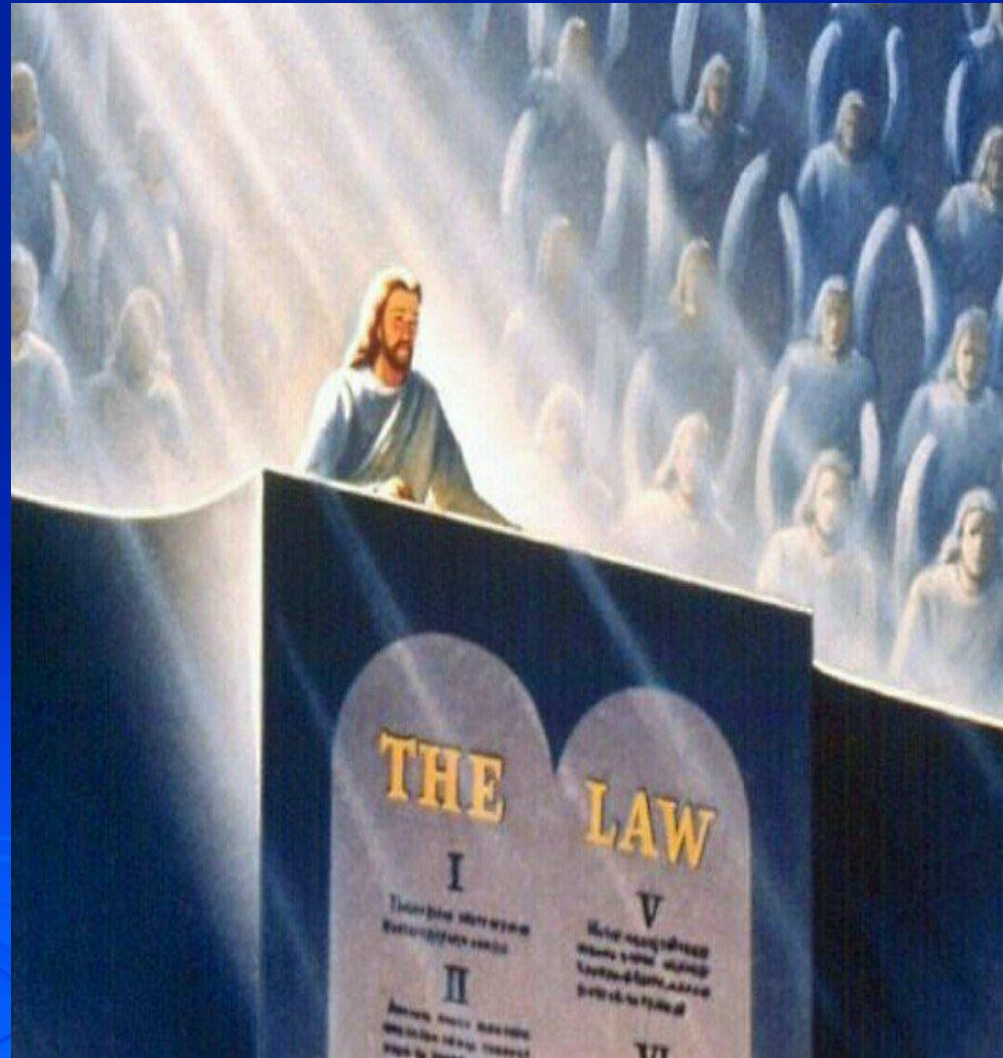
DANTE'S INFERNO

- Late 15th century Botticelli paints what Dante was describing
- This has become the foundation for Hell throughout Christianity
- Biblically, the righteous dead go immediately to Heaven to be with God
- The wicked dead go to a very unpleasant place
- Biblically, there is no middle ground



EITHER WE CHOOSE, OR GOD CHOOSES FOR US

- Only ONE way to be on the right side of judgment...
Trusting in God and His Son Yeshua
- No no-fault verdicts or various levels of punishment
- No do-overs after our death
- Our sins of the past and present CAN be forgiven



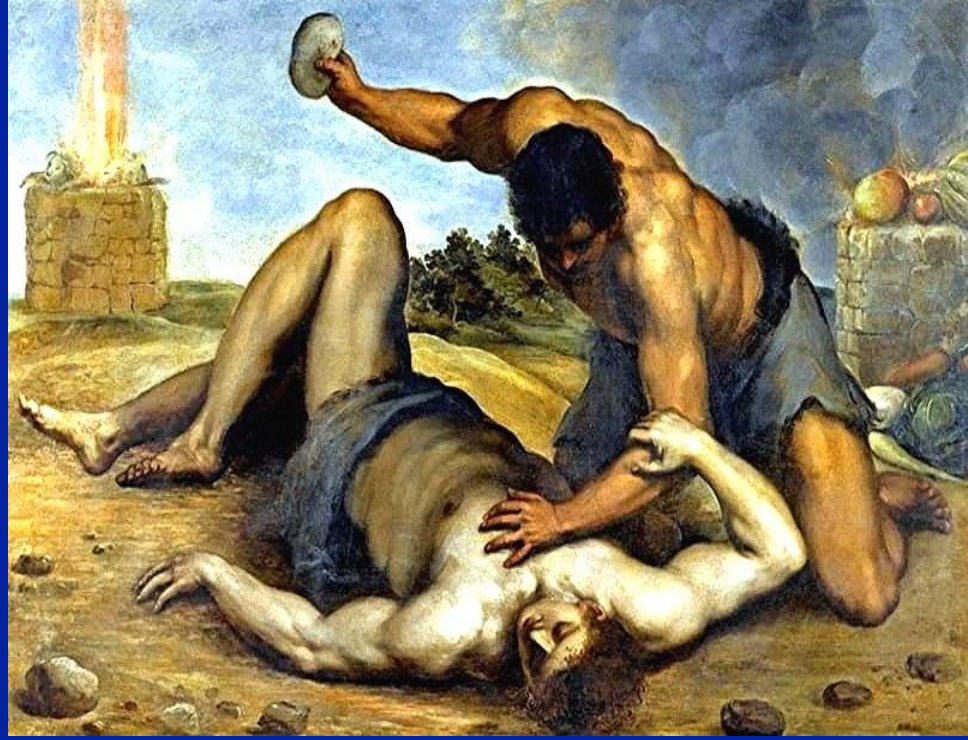
PHARISEES WILL REPEAT HISTORY



- Vs. 34 enters into the realm of prophecy
- Jesus says He will personally send messengers of truth
- Yeshua's messengers are meant to replace the manmade doctrines of the Pharisees
- "Your" Synagogues acknowledges that these men are indeed the leaders of the Synagogue system

LEX TALIONIS

- Yeshua says Pharisees are responsible for all the bloodshed on earth
- “Land” not “earth” (*eretz*)
- How are the Pharisees responsible for murders from centuries earlier?
- The religious leaders measured out wrath
- God’s leaders on earth have the Torah, and know better than to behave as they do



For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

— Matthew 7:2

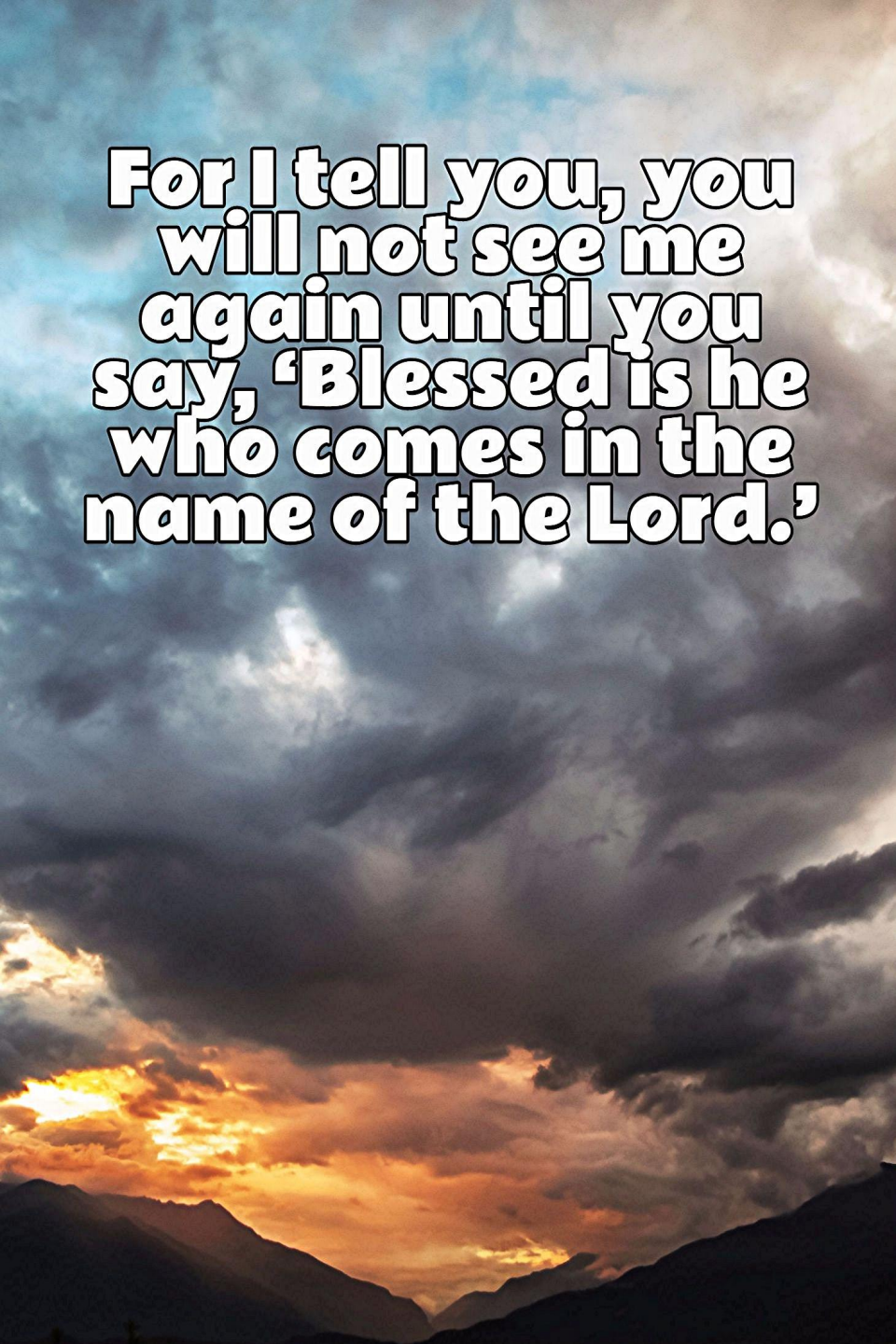
JERUSALEM! JERUSALEM!



- NOT “Israel, Israel!”
- Yeshua is extending accountability to the generation that saw His great works
- “Jerusalem” is not representative of all people of Israel
- “How often I wanted to gather your children” is referring mainly to the 10 Lost Tribes, but generally to all 12
- Christ was not talking about Gentiles



- The Temple is Jerusalem's "house"
- Jewish writers often conflated Jerusalem and the Temple
- The Ark of the Covenant was never in the 2nd Temple
- The Holy of Holies had been empty since the Babylonian exile



**For I tell you, you
will not see me
again until you
say, 'Blessed is he
who comes in the
name of the Lord.'**

- These are words from Psalm 118
- Part of the Hallel that was chanted at pilgrimage festivals
- Jesus was in Jerusalem for Passover
- Yeshua placed Himself as the center of the Psalm
- The Psalm is about both personal and national salvation
- National Israel must acknowledge Him before the nation of Israel can be delivered