

Annihilation vs. Eternal Torment



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ANNIHILATION VS. ETERNAL CONSCIOUS TORTURE

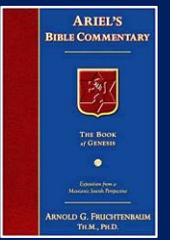
- I. Introduction to the Controversy
- II. Biblical Arguments Against Annihilation
- III. Theological Arguments Against Annihilation
- IV. Answering Annihilationist Biblical Arguments
- V. Answering Annihilationist Theological Arguments
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Dr. Arnold G. Fruchtenbaum

Footsteps of the Messiah, 707-8



“**Conditional immortality** means the soul is not inherently immortal; immortality is not part of the make-up of the soul. Rather, immortality is a gift for the saved only. So at death, the unbeliever simply becomes non-existent, and only the believer continues to exist...What **annihilationism** says is this: the unsaved soul is annihilated after a temporary period of punishment. These people do believe that the unsaved soul goes to Hell, but not for eternity, only temporarily. Eventually the unsaved soul is annihilated after suffering a duration of punishment.”

PROTESTIA

Kirk Cameron Denies 'Eternal Conscious Torment,' Is Now An Annihilationist?

Staff Writer December 6, 2025



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II. Anti-Annihilationist Texts

A. Dan. 12:2

B. Matt. 25:46

C. Mark 9:47-48

D. Matt. 8:12

E. Luke 16:19-31



F. 2 Thess. 1:9

G. Heb. 6:2

H. Rev. 14:11

I. Rev. 20:10

J. Rev. 19:20

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III. Theological Arguments Against Annihilation

- A. Underestimates sin's severity
- B. Contradicts humanity's nature
- C. Denies degrees of punishment
- D. Seeks to escape sin's consequences



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IV. Answering Annihilationist Biblical Arguments

- A. 2nd death (Rev. 20:14)
- B. Destroy (Rev. 11:18)
- C. Destruction (2 Thess. 1:9)
- D. Burning up (Matt. 3:12)
- E. Eternal results (Rev. 14:11)



IV. Answering Annihilationist Biblical Arguments

F. Perdition (2 Pet. 3:7)

G. Better to have never been born (Mark 14:21)

H. Wicked perishing (2 Pet. 3:9)

I. Blotted out of existence (Hebrews 9:25–26)

J. Life activity suspended in death (Eccles. 9:10)



Belief – God's One Condition for Justification

Gen 15:6

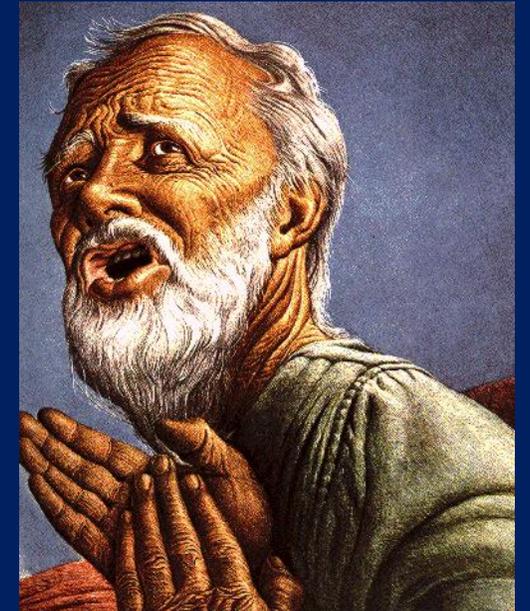
Then he believed in the LORD; and He reckoned it to him as righteousness.

John 3:16

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

Acts 16:30-31

"Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" They said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved..."



2 Peter 3:9

“The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.”



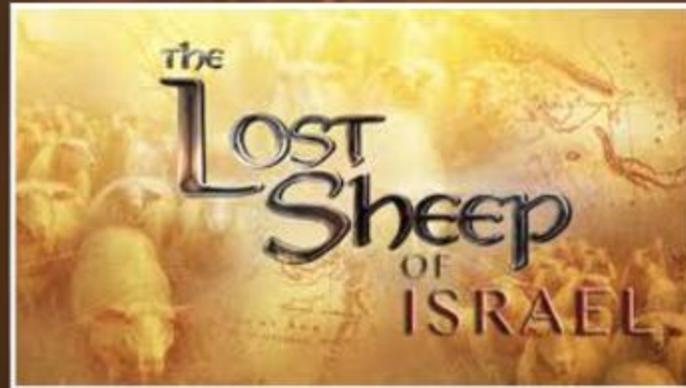
Matthew 10:5-7

“These twelve Jesus sent out after instructing them: “Do not go in *the* way of *the* Gentiles, and do not enter *any* city of the Samaritans; ⁶ but rather go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. ⁷ And as you go, preach, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’”



Matthew 15:24

“But He answered and said, ‘I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.’”



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Revelation 3:5

PROMISE TO THE OVERCOMERS

“He who overcomes will thus be clothed in white garments; and I will not erase his name from the book of life, and I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.”



5 Non-Chronological Parenthetical Insertions

Seals (Rev 7) 144,000 JEWS

1 2 3 4 5 6 ↓ 7

Trumpets (Rev 10–11) No Delay; 2 Witnesses

1 2 3 4 5 6 ↓ 7 (Rev 12–14) Israel's flight

Bowls (Rev 16:13-16) Armageddon

1 2 3 4 5 6 ↓ 7 (Rev 17–18) Babylon falls

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Ecclesiastes 9:10

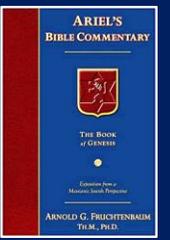
“Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might; for there is no activity or planning or knowledge or wisdom in Sheol where you are going.”





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Footsteps of the Messiah, 713-14



“Ecclesiastes 9:5 does speak about *the dead* not knowing *any thing*, but the context of Ecclesiastes 9:5 is simply drawing the conclusion of human philosophy. Indeed, from the standpoint of human philosophy, *under the sun*, that is the way it looks (v. 6). But again, Ecclesiastes 9:5 simply spells out what human philosophy feels *under the sun*. It is not a divine decree; it is not a positive affirmation of the Word of God.”

Psalm 146:4

“His spirit departs, he returns to the earth; In that very day his thoughts perish.”





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Footsteps of the Messiah, 713



“Another Old Testament passage that they use is Psalm 146:4, where it states that a man’s *thoughts perish* when he dies. But actually, verses 3 and 4 taken together and in context simply teach that a man’s devices, man’s plans, and man’s thoughts cannot be carried out on the earth after physical death. He has lost any opportunity to see his plans carried out; it does not teach a cessation of existence.”

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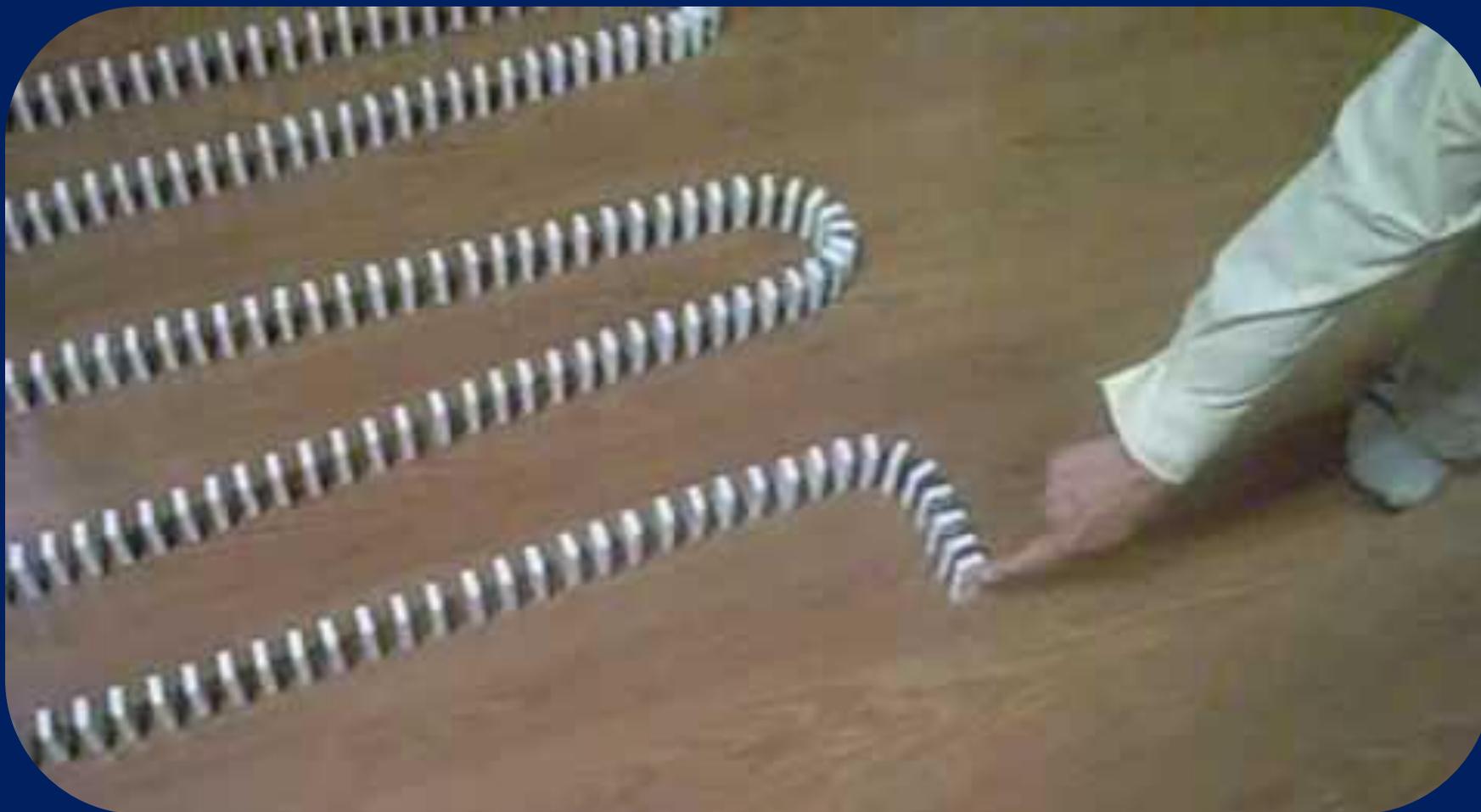


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Dominoes in a Row



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