

Apologetics | Week 5

The Objection to Hell and the Problem of Hitler

- I. The Critique from Naturalism, Universalism, Emotivism
- II. The Evidentiary Approach
 - a. Evidence for Ultimate/Transcendent/Supernatural Evil
 - i. More evidence for "down" than there is for "up"
 - ii. Spirit of evil greater than the sum of its human actors
 - iii. The lack of complete justice in this world; attendant violence/nihilism
 - iv. The mystery of consciousness and the "openness" of the universe
 - b. Evidence for Meaningfulness/Consequences of Free Decisions
 - c. Evidence of the Resurrection and the Demand of the Gospel
 - d. Evidence for An Afterlife: Gary Habermas-NDEs
- III. The Presuppositional Approach:
 - a. Science: My soul conforms reality to it; Wisdom: my soul must conform to reality
 - b. The Bible's teaching on hell isn't reliable. Why not?
 - c. Hell is place of sanctimonious, sadistic, unjust, outsized torture
 - i. "Hell, then, is the trajectory of a soul, living a self-absorbed, self-centered life, going on and on forever" (TRG).
 - ii. A place from which God has removed his presence: Depart from Me
 - d. God should not be wrathful
 - i. Warrant for the claim that God should be a "God of love"? Jesus on hell
 - ii. How could a just God send anyone to heaven?
 - e. People should not be punished/experience consequences [eternally]
 - i. Infinite punishment for finite sins
 - ii. Which is the higher view of the reality of injustice?
 - f. People should not be free to rebel eternally
 - i. Rebellion writ-large, chosen willingly: Not thy will, be mine.
 - g. It is better not to exist after death

Hell begins with a grumbling mood, always complaining, always blaming others... but you are still distinct from it. You may even criticize it in yourself and wish you could stop it. But there may come a day when you can no longer. Then there will be no you left to criticize the mood or even to enjoy it, but just the grumble itself, going on forever like a machine. It is not a question of God 'sending us' to hell. In each of us there is something growing, which will BE Hell unless it is nipped in the bud.