

The background of the slide features a faded, light-colored illustration of two fencers in a sparring stance. One fencer is on the left, and the other is on the right, both holding their foils and ready for action. The overall tone is light and airy, with the text overlaid in a bold, black font.

EN GARDE!

A STUDY OF UNSEEN FORCES AT WORK IN OUR WORLD

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Lesson 11

VERSE FOR THE JOURNEY

- **Ephesians 6:10-13** Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual *forces* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*. Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.
- Struggle: *pale:* to wrestle; a close quarters combat
- Resist: *anthistemi:* withstand while opposing
- Stand: *histemi:* make a stand; be established

HELL: WHERE, WHAT, WHY?

- Jonathan Edwards: Enfield, Connecticut July 8, 1741
“Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God”
- **Universalism:** at death, all go directly to heaven
- Although the Bible clearly says otherwise, people persist in the belief that there simply cannot be a hell
- **1 Timothy 2:1-6** First of all, I urge that entreaties *and* prayers, petitions *and* thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, *and* one mediator also between God and men, *the* man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all, the testimony *given* at the proper time.

GOD DESIRES SALVATION

- Desires: *thelo*: to wish; to be willing; wants
- **BUT** everyone will NOT be saved
- God has a plan in place for those who are unsaved:
 - Part 1:** descend to hell
 - Part 2:** resurrection/Great White Throne judgment
 - Part 3:** lake of fire for eternity
- Hell itself is ultimately thrown into the lake of fire
- Question: why did God have to do something so extreme? If people don't want to accept Jesus, why can't God just send them someplace neutral, or even cause them to cease to exist?
- Hell is the punishment for sin
- **Romans 3:23** ...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...

THE WORD

- **Sheol:** Hebrew: usually used in the Hebrew form; alternately translated "grave" or "pit"
- Sometimes said as "depths of Sheol"
- Sometimes said to be farthest point from heaven
- The Bible always speaks of going down to Sheol (never going up)
- **Hades:** usually translated "hell;" in Greek mythology, Hades was the god of the underworld and his abode was also called Hades
- **Gehenna:** also meaning hell; the Greek form of the Hebrew "Hinnom;" the valley south of Jerusalem where people offered children to Molech
- **Tartaroo:** only used once in 2 Peter 2:4; likely only used for the place where fallen angels are held

THE CHOICE IS NOW

- Although we speak of God as a God of second chances, that only applies while we are alive and still have opportunity to repent or accept Christ for the first time
- There is not a second chance after death
- **Deuteronomy 30:19** I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. So choose life in order that you may live, you and your descendants...
- God is not neutral:
Mark 9:40 "For he who is not against us is for us."
- Your citizenship is either in the Kingdom of this World (ruler Satan) or the Kingdom of Heaven (ruler God)
- These rulers are not equal Satan ≠ God
- Ultimately Satan himself goes in the Lake of Fire

YOU'RE TRYING TO SCARE ME!

- **Luke 12:5** "But I will warn you whom to fear: fear the One who, after He has killed, has authority to cast into hell; yes, I tell you, fear Him!"
- **Matthew 10:28** "Do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell."
- **Matthew 13:49-50** "So it will be at the end of the age; the angels will come forth and take out the wicked from among the righteous, and will throw them into the furnace of fire; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."
- **Matthew 25:41** He will also say to those on His left, 'Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels;

A REAL PLACE

- **Matthew 18:8-9** "If your hand or your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it from you; it is better for you to enter life crippled or lame, than to have two hands or two feet and be cast into the eternal fire. If your eye causes you to stumble, pluck it out and throw it from you. It is better for you to enter life with one eye, than to have two eyes and be cast into the fiery hell."
- **Mark 9:43-44** "If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life crippled, than, having your two hands, to go into hell, into the unquenchable fire, where THEIR WORM DOES NOT DIE, AND THE FIRE IS NOT QUENCHED."
- **Isaiah 66:24** "...go forth and look on the corpses of the men who have transgressed against Me. For their worm will not die and their fire will not be quenched;

WHO ENDS UP THERE?

- **Psalm 9:17** The wicked will return to Sheol,
- Angels who didn't keep their domain
- People who didn't receive the redemptive work of Jesus

IS THAT FAIR? JUST?

- Our sense of fairness and God's sense of justice are often two different things
- God doesn't claim to be fair; He claims to be just
- **Matthew 23:23** "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cummin, and have neglected the weightier provisions of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness; but these are the things you should have done without neglecting the others."

CONCLUSIONS

- Hell is a real place; it isn't something we can currently see, but it is very real
- It seems to be accessed by "going down;" People have therefore assumed it to be in the center of the Earth; ancient people believed in "gates of hell" which were usually caves that were of great depth
- Hell is the place where the soul/spirit of people who have not received Christ as savior go at death
- Before the death and resurrection of Jesus, all people seem to have gone to hell, which apparently has two sides reserved for people:

Paradise or
Abraham's bosom



Place of
torment

HOW DO WE KNOW?

- **Luke 23:42-43** And he was saying, "Jesus, remember me when You come in Your kingdom!" And He said to him, "Truly I say to you, **today** you shall be with Me in Paradise."
- That day, Jesus wasn't going to heaven
- **Ephesians 4:7-9** But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore it says, "WHEN HE ASCENDED ON HIGH, HE LED CAPTIVE A HOST OF CAPTIVES, AND HE GAVE GIFTS TO MEN." Now this *expression*, "He ascended," what does it mean except that He also had descended into the lower parts of the earth?
- At death, carrying our sin, Jesus took our punishment by going into hell, there overpowering death!

WHAT JESUS DID

- **Matthew 12:39-40** But He answered and said to them, "An evil and adulterous generation craves for a sign; and *yet* no sign will be given to it but the sign of Jonah the prophet; for just as JONAH WAS THREE DAYS AND THREE NIGHTS IN THE BELLY OF THE SEA MONSTER, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.
- **Colossians 2:15** When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him.
- Disarmed: *apekduomai*: to strip off of oneself
- Those in paradise heard the gospel from Jesus
- The captives on the Paradise side of hell seemingly were released by Jesus and went to heaven