**Are There Different Degrees of Punishment in Hell? Luke 12:47-48**

**I. Introduction**

1. **Luke 12:47-48 Teaches that one who disobeys Christ upon His return will be “beaten with more stripes” and that another will be “beaten with s few”.**
2. **This notable disparity in punishments has led some to believe and teach (on the internet) that there are “different levels” in hell (the lake of fire) an Upper Level, a Middle level, and a Lower Level.**
3. **Are There “Different Levels” in Hell?...There are no scriptures that teach this idea.**
4. **However,** **there are some passages which suggest that there will be Varying Degrees of punishment although all of the disobedient will reside in Hell!**

**\*Some will receive “More Stripes” than others according to Luke 12**

**\*Some will receive “Much Worse Punishment” than others according to Heb 10**

**\*The Judgment will be “Worse” for some compared to others according to 2 Pet 2**

**\*The Judgment will be “More Tolerable” for some, compared to others according to Matt 11.**

**II. The Judgment To Come!**

1. **Who Is It that will Judge Us?...Jesus Christ The Son Of God! John 5:22-23**
2. **What Will He Judge us By?...His Eternal Word! John 12:48**
3. **What Kind of Judge will He be?...Perfectly Righteous and Just! Psa 89:14**

**III. There are 2 Important Qualities of A Righteous Judge!**

1. **A Righteous Judge Is Impartial (Blind Justice) Isa 11:3-5**

**\*He will not judge by the sight of His eyes-He will not judge based upon appearance, rank, class, gender or race! He is not a respecter of person Rom 2:11, Acts 10:34-35**

**\*He will not decide by the hearing of his ears”-He will not judge based upon eloquent speech, fancy arguments or cute rhymes!**

**\*How Will He Decide?...with equity, fairness, justice and impartiality!**

**\*He has knowledge of all things and will judge each according to his works- Heb 4:13, Rev 2:23**

1. **A Righteous Judge Measures out the Correct/Proportional Judgment-Rev 18:4-7**

**\*God always renders a penalty commensurate/proportional to the offense!**

**\*Notice that the word Double here does not mean = twice as much, the word Double means= the Equivalent! The Double = so much sin deserves so much punishment!**

**Render to her just as she rendered to you, and repay her double according to her works;**

**7 In the measure that she glorified herself and lived luxuriously, in the same measure give her torment and sorrow;**

**\*There were degrees of punishment written in The Law of Moses! Ex 21:22-25**

**IV. Four Examples of Varying Degrees Of Punishment To Come!**

1. **The Words Of Jesus-Luke 12:47-48**

**2 Souls were disobedient upon the return of Christ, one was to receive “many stripes” and the other a “few”**

**\*What was the difference between the 2 souls?....Knowledge and Understanding of the Word of God! The one who had knowledge was held more responsible!**

**\*What might “the stripes” represent?...The Mental Anguish of knowing the Master’s will and rejecting it!**

**\*Is there Mental and Physical Anguish in Hades (a precursor of Hell)?....Yes! Luke 16:24, 27**

**\*Notice that the penalty is commensurate/proportional to the offense!**

1. **The Words of Jesus-Matt 11:20-24**

**According to Jesus the Judgment will be “more tolerable” for certain cities: Tyre, Sidom and Sodom verses Chorazin, Bethsaida, Capernaum!**

**\*Why….Knowledge and Understanding of the Word of God! The Cities that Jesus had personally visited, spoken to, and performed miracles in would be held more responsible!**

1. **The Words of Peter-2 Pet 2:20-22**

**\*According to Peter, who will the Judgment be “worse” for?...Those with Knowledge and Understanding of The Word of God!**

* **V 21 States “21 For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them.**

1. **The Words of The Hebrew Writer-Heb 10:26-31**

**\*According to the Hebrew Writer, who will receive the “Most Worse Punishment”? …The One With Knowledge and Understanding of the Word of God and the responsibility given to Worship God as Commanded!**

**V29 Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace?**

**V. Are There Different Degrees of Punishment in Hell?**

**There are some passages which suggest that there will be Varying Degrees of punishment although all of the disobedient will reside in Hell! \*Some will receive “More Stripes” than others according to Luke 12 \*Some will receive “Much Worse Punishment” than others according to Heb 10 \*The Judgment will be “Worse” for some compared to others according to 2 Pet 2 \*The Judgment will be “More Tolerable” for some, compared to others according to Matt 11.**