

# # Hell's Darkest Secret: Time Stops, Suffering Begins

By System Import | Sermon | March 13, 2026

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We have a saying on earth that brings comfort to millions: *"Time heals all wounds."*

When we suffer a heartbreak, we tell ourselves, "Give it time." When we lose a loved one, we say, "It will get easier with time." When we are in physical pain, we look at the clock, counting the minutes until the medication kicks in or the procedure is over.

On earth, Time is an agent of mercy. It is a river that carries us away from the epicenter of our trauma. As long as the clock is ticking, there is change. As long as there is a "tomorrow," there is hope that it might be better than "today."

But the Bible hints at a terrifying reality that the human mind struggles to comprehend. It describes a place where the clock stops. It describes a dimension where the river of time freezes.

Revelation 10:6 contains a cryptic and chilling proclamation by an angel: *"There will be no more delay!"* (or in some translations, *"Time shall be no more"*).

We often define Hell by its furniture—the fire, the darkness, the chains. But perhaps the most agonizing aspect of Hell is not its temperature, but its Timeline.

Hell is the removal of the mercy of Time.

It is a state where "Next" never comes. It is a state where the relief of "Tomorrow" is canceled.

If you take a moment of pain—a burn, a scream, a regret—and you remove the passage of time, that moment becomes eternal. It doesn't fade. It doesn't heal. It just *is*.

Today, we are going to walk through the heavy theology of The Death of Time. We are going to explore the 7 Aspects of a Timeless Hell. This is a dark subject, but it is necessary. We cannot appreciate the light of Eternity until we understand the darkness of the Void. We need to understand why Jesus warned us about this place with tears in His eyes.

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### Number 1: The Death of "Next" — The Terror of the Eternal Now

The human mind is built to process life in a sequence: Past, Present, Future.

The "Future" is our primary coping mechanism.

\* "I hate this job, but I'm retiring in 5 years."

\* "I'm sick, but I'll be better next week."

\* "I'm in prison, but my sentence ends in 2040."

Hope is functionally defined as the expectation of a better future.

But what happens if you remove the Future?

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If you enter a realm where there is no calendar, no clock, and no sunrise, you are trapped in the Eternal Now.

Hell is not a long time; Hell is a state where "time" as a measurement of progress ceases to exist.

Imagine a prisoner staring at a wall. If he knows he has 50 years, he marks the days. Every mark is a victory. Every mark means he is closer to the end.

But in Hell, you cannot mark the wall.

A million years is not a "dent" in eternity. A billion years is not "progress."

You are no closer to the end after a trillion years than you were the second you arrived.

This creates a psychological claustrophobia that is absolute. The soul realizes, *"This moment... this exact feeling... is my forever."*

There is no narrative arc. There is no plot twist coming. There is only the static, unmoving reality of separation from God.

This is why the Bible calls it "destruction" even though the soul continues to exist. It is the destruction of *\*narrative\**. It is the destruction of the possibility of "Next."

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## Number 2: The Stagnation of Character — The Fixed State

On earth, we are creatures of change. We are fluid.

A bad person can become good. A Saul can become a Paul. A thief can become a saint.

This is the Day of Grace. The door is open, and the heart is malleable.

But death brings a Calcification of Character.

Ecclesiastes 11:3 says, *"Whether a tree falls to the south or to the north, in the place where it falls, there it will lie."*

This is a spiritual principle: How you die is how you stay.

In Hell, time stops in the sense that Growth Stops.

C.S. Lewis famously suggested that the gates of Hell are locked from the inside. He meant that the sinner, having spent a lifetime rejecting God and choosing Self, eventually becomes *\*fixed\** in that choice.

In Hell, you do not repent. You do not get "better." You do not learn from your mistakes.

Why? Because repentance is a grace given by God, and in Hell, common grace is removed.

So, the sinner becomes *\*more\** of what they were.

*\* The angry person becomes eternally, purely angry.*

*\* The jealous person becomes eternally, purely jealous.*

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\* The selfish person collapses into a black hole of total selfishness.

Without the flow of time and grace to soften the heart, the character hardens into concrete.

The torment of Hell is not just what is happening *\*to\** you; it is what is happening *\*in\** you. You are trapped in the cage of your own fully developed, uninhibited sin nature. You become the absolute version of your worst self, forever.

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## Number 3: The Removal of Seasons — The Monotony of Suffering

God created the earth with a rhythm of relief.

\* We have Day (work) and Night (rest).

\* We have Winter (death) and Spring (life).

\* We have Storms and we have Calm.

Even in the worst prison camps on earth, the sun eventually goes down. The guards eventually sleep. The weather eventually changes.

This rhythm provides a psychological buffer. It breaks up the suffering.

But Jesus describes the outer darkness as a place where *"the worm does not die and the fire is not quenched"* (Mark 9:48).

Notice the continuity. The worm doesn't take a nap. The fire doesn't flicker out for a few hours. It is Monotonous.

It is a single, high-pitched note that never varies in volume or tone.

The horror of time stopping is the horror of Sameness.

Imagine a headache that never throbs or pulses, but simply presses with maximum intensity, unceasingly, for ten thousand years.

The human mind usually adapts to pain by "numbing out" or going into shock. But in the resurrected body of the damned, there is no shock. There is no biological failure. There is only the relentless, unvarying experience of the absence of God.

The loss of "Seasons" means the loss of relief. There is no "morning" to look forward to, because there is no night to get through. There is only the perpetual twilight of the void.

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## Number 4: The Memory Loop — The Worm That Dieth Not

If time stops in the external world, it speeds up in the internal world.

When you have no future to look at, you are forced to look at the Past.

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In Luke 16, Abraham says to the Rich Man in Hell: "Son, remember."

This is the specific torture of the Timeless State: The Memory Loop.

The "Worm" that Jesus speaks of is interpreted by many theologians as the Conscience.

On earth, we can drown out our conscience. We can turn on the TV. We can drink alcohol. We can bury ourselves in work. We can distract ourselves with "Time."

But in Hell, the distractions are gone. The noise is gone.

You are left alone in a dark room with your Memory.

\* You remember the gospel tract you threw in the trash.

\* You remember the sermon you laughed at.

\* You remember the face of the grandmother who prayed for you.

\* You remember the specific moments when the Holy Spirit tugged on your heart and you said, "Not yet."

Because time has stopped, these memories do not fade. They are as fresh as if they happened ten seconds ago.

You are forced to replay the "Game Tape" of your life, seeing every missed opportunity, every selfish choice, every rejection of grace.

The guilt does not dull with age because there is no age. The regret is always fresh. The "Worm" gnaws at the conscience, eating away at the soul, but never finishing the meal.

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Number 5: The Loss of Opportunity — The Ultimate "Too Late"

There is a terrifying finality to the concept of the "Door Shutting."

In Matthew 25, the Parable of the Ten Virgins, the five foolish virgins went to buy oil. While they were gone, the bridegroom came. They returned and knocked on the door, saying, "Lord, Lord, open to us!"

But the Master replied, "I do not know you."

And the text says: "And the door was shut."

On earth, time represents Opportunity.

\* As long as you have breath, you can repent.

\* As long as you are alive, you can fix your marriage.

\* As long as it is "Today," you can hear His voice.

But the moment time stops (death), opportunity evaporates.

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Hell is the land of Infinite Regret.

Regret is the realization that you could have chosen differently, but now you cannot.

If you are in prison on earth, you can appeal your case. You can hope for a new law. You can hope for parole.

But in the Supreme Court of Heaven, once the gavel falls, the sentence is final.

Why? Because the trial was fair. The evidence was conclusive. The offer of a pardon (Jesus) was available for 70 years, and it was rejected.

The realization that *"I can never, ever fix this"* is the deepest psychological wound of the damned. It is the ultimate "Too Late."

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Number 6: The Biology of Eternity — A Body Built to Burn

We must address the physical aspect of this timelessness.

Many people ask, "How can a loving God burn people forever? Wouldn't they just turn to ash and disappear?"

This view (Annihilationism) appeals to our human sentiment, but it ignores the doctrine of the Resurrection.

Scripture teaches that everyone is resurrected—the saved and the lost (John 5:29).

The lost are not thrown into Hell in their mortal bodies. If they were, they would burn up in seconds.

They are raised in Immortal Bodies.

These bodies are engineered for eternity. They are indestructible. They cannot die. They cannot age. They cannot disintegrate.

This is the dark miracle of Hell: The Sustaining Power of God.

God continues to give the sinner existence. He upholds their atoms. He knits their soul to a body that is designed to endure His wrath.

In the burning bush, Moses saw a bush that was "on fire but not consumed."

The sinner becomes the Burning Bush.

The fire of God's holiness surrounds them, the justice of God permeates them, but they are not consumed. They possess the power of an endless life (Hebrews 7:16), but without the connection to the Source of Life.

They are an engine running forever, red-lining at maximum RPM, but unable to blow a gasket. The release of death is the one luxury they crave, but the one luxury that the Resurrection body denies them.

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## Number 7: The Absence of God's "Kairos" — Separation from Purpose

Finally, time stops because Time is a construct of God's purpose.

The Greeks had two words for time: \*Chronos\* (ticking clock) and \*Kairos\* (purposeful moments).

God lives in \*Kairos\*. He is the God of "The Right Time."

Hell is the total absence of God; therefore, it is the total absence of \*Kairos\*.

There are no "God-moments" in Hell.

There are no epiphanies. There are no breakthroughs. There are no sudden moves of the Spirit.

It is a Static Void.

When we say "God is separated from them," we don't just mean a feeling of loneliness. We mean the withdrawal of the Force that drives the universe forward.

God is the Locomotive of History. He is pulling creation toward a destination (The New Jerusalem).

To be in Hell is to be uncoupled from the Locomotive.

You are left on a side track in the dark, while the train of purpose disappears into the distance.

You are not going anywhere. You are not becoming anything. You are simply... existing.

This aimlessness, this total lack of trajectory, is the definition of "Outer Darkness." It is an existence without a plot.

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## Conclusion: The Clock Is Still Ticking

Why share such a heavy, terrifying message? Is it to be morbid?

No. It is to make you look at the clock on your wall with a new appreciation.

Listen to the ticking.

\*Tick... Tick... Tick...\*

That sound is not just seconds passing. That sound is Mercy.

Every tick is an invitation.

Every tick is a reprieve.

Every tick is God saying, "The door is still open. The offer still stands. The Blood is still fresh."

You are currently living in the "Time of Favor" (2 Corinthians 6:2).

You have the luxury of "Next." You have the luxury of "Tomorrow."

But a day is coming when the angel will declare, "Time shall be no more."

Do not wait for that day to get your affairs in order.

You cannot repent in the timeless zone. You must repent in the time zone.

Jesus Christ entered the timeless zone of God's wrath on the Cross. He drank the cup of infinite

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suffering in a finite moment so that you wouldn't have to drink it for eternity.

He stopped the clock for Himself, so He could reset the clock for you.

Run to Him. Run while the clock is still ticking.

"Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near." (Isaiah 55:6)

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