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# Erasing Hell: What God Said About Eternity, And The Things We Made Up



## Synopsis

How could a loving God send people to Hell? Will people have a chance after they die to believe in Jesus and go to heaven? With a humble respect for God's Word, Francis Chan and Preston Sprinkle address the deepest questions you have about eternal destiny. They've asked the same questions. Like you, sometimes they just don't want to believe in Hell. But, as they write, "We cannot afford to be wrong on this issue." This is not a book about who is saying what. It's a book about what God says. It's not a book about impersonal theological issues. It's a book about people God loves. It's not a book about arguments, doctrine, or being right. It's a book about the character of God. Erasing Hell will immerse you in the truth of Scripture as, together with the authors, you find not only the truth but the courage to live it out.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Francis Chan and Preston Sprinkle's book is clearly written for accessibility. Francis Chan's approachable and honest voice is clear throughout the book as the authors state that it is in his voice that they have chosen to pen Erasing Hell. While dealing with the weighty subject of hell, Erasing Hell maintains the vernacular of any believer looking more carefully into a topic that they heard frequently discussed. Yet both Chan and Sprinkle bring much more to the discussion. Francis Chan brings his years of ministry experience and gift to communicate with power the passion he has for Christ. Preston Sprinkle brings the perspective of a scholar at the PhD level in the New Testament. The overall conclusion of the book is that hell is indeed a literal place of punishment for

those who reject God in the person of Jesus Christ. The authors are firm on this point and decidedly reject notions of universalism. On the topic of annihilation, Chan and Sprinkle, are undecided whether for either endless torment or an unknown period of punishment in hell for the condemned. The book appears to be a counter argument to Rob Bell's Love Wins. Rob Bell is frequently cited in responses or discussions about the various debates surrounding the topic of hell. One of note is the Greek term "Gehenna." The authors take exception to Bell's explanation of Jesus' use of this word as referring to a possible garbage dump outside Jerusalem in the Hinnom Valley. They contend that first if such a place existed, Jesus was simply using the term as an inspired image. Second, they question whether such a dump existed as there is a lack of archeological evidence and the idea itself seems to only have been first mentioned in a commentary of Rabbi David Kimhi in 1200 AD. Erasing Hell holds several strengths for me personally. The honest approach of Francis Chan speaks strongly to my heart and I feel he has no agenda save to bring glory to God and call people to behold Jesus. Even when in disagreement with other believers, particularly Rob Bell, he writes with a charity that reveals his desire is not to win an argument, but rather see the truth of God declared and all (including his opponent) have a deeper love and understanding of God. There is a profound example evident in this book of two men willing to wrestle with God on difficult things contained in His word, yet ultimately willing to accept their finite reasoning. Both are honest about the reality of hell as they understand it and the struggle it presents to them. Yet each time when they are presented with a roadblock to their complete understanding, the authors offer a willingness to accept they they are but the pot and God is the Potter. They also challenge the readers to take a similar attitude reflected in the Prophet Isaiah that God's ways and thoughts are far above our own. The third strength is the passion that this fuels in their hearts for the love of others. I see this work, in comparison to others on the topic, rather light. I believe it was designed to approach hell in a less scholarly manner and present something more akin to a coffee shop conversation. While light in approach, there is evidence that research had been done and many points addressed in other works on the topic were touched upon. Overall the book does draw one into a deeper consideration of Jesus' own words concerning hell and causes one to not only ponder, but also respond with action to the reality contain in scripture.

Hell is a real place, a terrible place and the Bible clearly states that many even countless people will go there. But there is a sure way to avoid it.

Excellent book. Hell is real.

This is a relatively quick read that will give a well thought discourse on a very uncomfortable topic with eternal consequences.

A+

A sobering book that presents the various views different groups have of hell. Ultimately, he provides scriptural references to support his position. It is an important read for every Christian.

I can see why Mr. Chan has not sold anywhere as many books as his contemporary Mr. Bell. While Mr. Chan does have lots of beautiful and often well stated arguments, his repeated refrain that "This is not an academic book" is patently untrue and he often fails to make the emotional argument. All in all, an excellent book that really reflects a man of deep faith who respects God and lets him be God.

Great book

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