

"SINNERS IN THE HANDS OF AN ANGRY GOD"
JONATHAN EDWARDS
DEUTERONOMY 32:35
JULY 8, 1741; ENFIELD, CONNECTICUT

I. THERE IS NOTHING THAT KEEPS WICKED MEN AT ANY ONE MOMENT OUT OF HELL BUT THE MERE PLEASURE OF GOD

- A. There Is No Want Of Power In God To Cast Men Into Hell At Any Moment
- B. All Men Deserve To Be Cast Into Hell At Any Moment
- C. Men Are Already Under A Sentence Of Condemnation To Hell
- D. Men Are Now The Objects Of The Very Same Anger And Wrath Of God That Is Expressed In The Torments Of Hell
- E. Satan And His Minions Stand Ever Ready To Seize Them At The Moment God Shall Permit
- F. The Human Heart Is Ruled By Hellish Principles That Would Presently Kindle And Flame Out Into Hell Fire At Any Moment Were It Not For God's Restraints
- G. It Is No Security To The Natural Man That He Is Currently In Health Or No Visible Danger With Respect To His Circumstances
- H. The Prudence And Care Of The Natural Man Nor The Care Of Others To Preserve His Own Life Provides Even One Extra Moment Of Security
- I. All The Pains And Contrivances Of Wicked Men Used To Escape Hell While Continuing To Reject Christ Will Not Secure Them From Hell One Moment
- J. God Has Laid Himself Under No Obligation, By Any Promise, To Keep Any Natural Man Out Of Hell One Moment Longer

II. FOUR MORE PARTICULAR CONSIDERATIONS

- A. Consider Whose Wrath It Actually Is: The One Almighty God
- B. Consider The Degree Of That Wrath In Its Fierceness
- C. Consider How God Will Use This As A Permanent Display To Extraterrestrial Angels
- D. Consider How The Suffering Is Eternal

Jonathan Edwards **(1703-1758)**

Jonathan Edwards is considered by many to be the first of the great American-born preachers. He was born the son of a minister in 1703 in East Windsor, Connecticut, and started on the road to distinction early. With ten older sisters to help teach him, Jonathan was only twelve when he attained a working knowledge of Latin, Greek, and Hebrew. He graduated from Yale University when he was seventeen. At nineteen he began preaching and was ordained as a Congregationalist minister five years later.

In 1727 Edwards became a pastor in Northampton, Massachusetts, where he remained for twenty-two years. During this time his preaching was a principal factor in the first Great Awakening. In 1750 he went to Stockbridge, Massachusetts, to serve as pastor and missionary to the Indians.

Edwards's voice and manner were not ideal for pulpit oratory. Poor eyesight forced him to hold sermons close to his eyes as he read them word for word. But his intellect and imagination enabled him to present truth in a powerful way. He was endued with Holy Spirit power and emotional fervor that distinguished him from the other Puritan leaders of his day. Edwards profoundly influenced George Whitefield, Thomas Chalmers, and David Brainerd (who was engaged to Edwards's daughter before his untimely death). A notable philosopher and deep thinker, Edwards ranks as one of the greatest preachers of colonial America.

The following sermon, "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God," is his most celebrated, and one of the most famous ever preached by anyone. It was a powerful impetus to the great revival in New England. He preached the sermon in Enfield, Connecticut, on July 8, 1741.

Edwards accepted the presidency of Princeton College in 1758. He died from a smallpox vaccination shortly thereafter.