SINNERS In the Hands of an Angry GOD.
A SERMON Preached at Enfield, July 8th 1741.

By Jonathan Edwards, A.M.
Pastor of the Church of CHRIST in Northampton.

Amos ix. 2, 3. *Though they dig into Hell, thence shall mine Hand take them; though they climb up to Heaven, thence will I bring them down. And though they hide themselves in the Top of Carmel, I will search and take them out thence; and though they be hid from my Sight in the Bottom of the Sea, thence I will command the Serpent, and he shall bite them.*

DEUT. XXXII. 35. *Their Foot shall slide in due Time.*

---*Transcript of an audio recording of Jonathan Edwards’ sermon, as preached by Billy Graham in his Los Angeles crusade in 1949. Words of Edwards are in black, words omitted by Graham are struck out, words added by Graham are in red---*

No one, save Christ. Hear no voice, save God’s. We pray that this mighty sermon that thou didst use 200 years ago might be used again in this day to stir thy people, to convict sinners. And we pray tonight that we might see such an outbreak in this place that we prayed for and dreamed of and called upon God for. We pray that thou would vindicate thy word tonight. And we pray that on this night might be the night on which all America is praying. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

I’ve never stood before an audience in greater fear and trembling, and yet absolute dependence upon the Holy Spirit, as I now stand. And tonight, I covet, I request, the prayers of every child of God in this place. It was 200 years ago, it was the year 1740. It was a cold, blistered day in New England, in Northampton, Massachusetts, when an aging man stepped to the platform before a congregation of people. The people were expectant, there had been a semblance of revival throughout New England, people had been
praying, souls were being saved, thousands of Christians were being stirred, revival fires were spreading, very much as they are at the present time across America. Jonathan Edwards had his Ph.D. from Yale University. He was later to become the eminent President of Princeton University. Jonathan Edwards was one of the greatest scholars that America ever produced, one of the greatest preachers, a man of tremendous conviction, a man that we look back on today and revere, and pray that God might raise up again such men on the American scene, that will not compromise, but will preach the word of God seriously, like Jonathan Edwards preached to the (3:11)_____. He used to stand in front of the student body at Princeton University and preach to them the blessed gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, were to God that Yale and Princeton and these universities still had named that believed the old fashioned book and believed in old fashioned heaven-sent Holy Ghost revival.

George Whitefield was the founder of the University of Pennsylvania. George Whitefield was one of the founders of Princeton University. George Whitefield was one of the early founders of Yale University. George Whitefield, Jonathan Edwards, were used mightily of God in New England. When George Whitefield came over to stoke the revival fires in that day. And what has been considered one of the greatest sermons ever preached by a man since the days of Pentecost, was one of the sermons that was used of God to shake New England in that day and age. The sermon was entitled “Sinners in the hands of an angry God.” Jonathan Edwards stood before the crowd of people, hardly an eyelash moved, hardly a person moved a hand, and before he was through preaching, people gripped the front of the benches in front of them and screamed in mercy, and revival broke out that night.

Tonight, in the very strange providence of God, I’m doing something I’ve never done before in my ministry. I’m bringing to you that message that was preached 200 years ago by Jonathan Edwards, the president of Princeton University. I’m going to do as he did. He stepped to the platform, and with gestures he preached, but he read every word of it. It’s a very brief sermon, it’s not too long. I’m going to read it, and extemporize part of it, but I want you to feel the grip, I want you to feel the language. I’m asking tonight the same blessed Holy Ghost that moved in that day to move again tonight in 1949 and shake us out of our lethargy as Christians and convict sinners that we might come to repentance.
So tonight, we take our text. I want you to see that scene, I want you to see the little lanterns. The little old lanterns. I want you to see the candles in the windows. I want you to see the snow falling outside. I want you to see the people as they’re sitting in this little auditorium. I want you to see this eminent man as he stands to his feet. And his opening words were these: “Let us turn to Deuteronomy 32:35. Deuteronomy 32:35. These words: “Their foot shall slide in due time.” “Their foot shall slide in due time.” And if you’ve ever listened in your life, I want you to listen tonight. I want you to listen to the text. I want you to listen to the message. “Their foot shall slide in due time.”

In this Verse is threatened the Vengeance of God on the wicked, on the unbelieving Israelites, that were God's visible People, and lived under Means of Grace; and that, notwithstanding all of God's wonderful Works that he had wrought towards that People, yet remained, as is expressed, in ver. 28. void of Counsel, having no Understanding in them; and that, under all the Cultivations of Heaven, brought forth bitter and poisonous Fruit; as and in the next two Verses next preceding the Text. And The Expression that I have chosen for my Text tonight, Their Foot shall slide in due Time; seems to imply the following Things, relating to the Punishment and the Destruction that these wicked Israelites were exposed to because of their sins.

1. That they were always exposed to Destruction is number one, as one that stands or walks in slippery Places is always exposed to fall. This is implied in the Manner of their Destruction's coming upon them, being represented by their Foot's sliding. The same is express'd, Psalms 73:18. Surely thou didst set them in slippery Places; thou castedst them down into Destruction, says Psalm 73:18.

2. It implies, secondly, that they were always exposed to sudden unexpected Destruction. As he that walks in slippery Places is every Moment liable to fall; he can't cannot foresee one Moment whether he shall stand or fall the next; and when he does fall, he falls at once, without Warning. Which is also expressed in that, Psalms 73:18,19. Surely thou didst set them in slippery Places; thou castedst them down into Destruction. How are they brought into Desolation as in a Moment?

3. Thirdly, Another Thing implied is that they are liable to fall of themselves, without being thrown down by the Hand of another. As he that stands or walks on slippery Ground, needs nothing but his own Weight to throw him down.
4. That the Reason why they are not fallen already, and don’t do not fall now, is only that God’s appointed Time is not come and for the mercy of Almighty God. For it is said, that when that due Time, or appointed Time comes, their Foot shall slide. Then they shall be left to fall as they are inclined by their own Weight. God won’t will not hold them up in these slippery Places any longer, but will let them go; and then, at that very Instant, they shall fall into Destruction; as he that stands in such slippery declining Ground on the Edge of a Pit that he can’t cannot stand alone, when he is let go he immediately falls and is lost forever.

The Observation from the Words that I would now insist upon is this,

There is nothing—listen to this—There is nothing that keeps wicked sinful Men, at any one Moment, out of Hell, but the mere Pleasure Mercy of Almighty GOD.

By the mere Pleasure Mercy of God, I mean his sovereign Pleasure Mercy, his arbitrary Will, restrained by no Obligation, hinder’d by no manner of Difficulty, any more than if nothing else but God's mere Will had in the least Degree, or in any Respect whatsoever, any Hand in the Preservation of wicked Men one Moment.

The Truth of this Observation may appear by the following considerations.

1. There is no Want of Power in God to cast wicked Men into Hell at any Moment. Men’s Hands can’t cannot be strong when God rises up: The strongest have no Power to resist him, nor can any deliver him out of his Hands.

He is not only able to cast wicked Men into Hell, but he can most easily do it. Sometimes an earthly Prince meets with a great deal of Difficulty to subdue a Rebel, that has found Means to fortify himself, and has made himself strong by the Numbers of his Followers. But it is not so with God. There is no Fortress, that there is any no Defense, from the Power and the wrath of Almighty God. Tho’ Hand join in Hand, and vast Multitudes of God's Enemies combine and associate themselves, they are easily broken in Pieces: They are as great Heaps of light Chaff before the Whirlwind; or large Quantities of dry Stubble before devouring Flames. We could find it easy to tread on and crush a Worm that we see crawling on the Earth; so ’tis easy for us to cut or singe a slender Thread that any Thing hangs on; oh listen to me—thus easy is it for God when he pleases to cast his Enemies down into Hell. What are we, that we should think to stand before him, at whose Rebuke the Earth trembles, and before whom the Rocks are thrown down?

2. They deserve, they deserve to be cast into Hell; so that divine Justice never stands in the Way, the only thing standing in the way of you and hell tonight is the mercy of
Almighty God; it makes no Objection against God's using his Power at any Moment to
destroy them. God’s justice makes no objection against it. Yea, on the contrary, Justice
calls aloud for an infinite Punishment of their Sins. Divine Justice says of the Tree that
The Sword of divine Justice is every Moment brandished over their Heads of the sinners,
and 'tis nothing but the Hand of the arbitrary Mercy, and of God's mere Will, that holds it
the justice of God back from dropping every one of us into hell at this moment.

3. They are already under a Sentence of Condemnation of God to go to Hell. They
don't only justly deserve to be cast down thither; but the Sentence of and the Law
of God, that eternal and immutable Rule of Righteousness that God has fixed between
him and Mankind, is gone out against them, and stands against them; so that they are
bound over already to Hell. John 3:18. He that believeth not is condemned already. So
that every unconverted Man properly—listen to this—every unconverted Man properly
belongs to in Hell; that is his Place; from thence he is. Jesus said, Ye are your father the
Devil. And he said in John 8:23. Ye
are from beneath. And thither he is the wicked man bound outside of Christ; 'tis the
Place that Justice, and God's Word, and the Sentence of his unchangeable Law assigns to
him man tonight.

4. They are now the Objects of that very same Anger & the Wrath of God that is
expressed in the Torments of Hell: and the Reason why they don't go down to Hell
at each Moment, is not because God, in whose Power they are, is not then at present very
angry with them; as angry as he is with many of those every miserable Creatures that he
is now tormenting ed in Hell, and do who there feel and bear the fierceness of his Wrath.
Yea God is a great deal more angry with great Numbers of people that are now on Earth
sitting before me, yea and doubtless with many some that are now in this Congregation
who hear this message, that it may be who are now at Ease and Quiet, than he is with
many of those that are now in the Flames of Hell.

So that it is not because God is unmindful of their Wickedness, and don't does not
resent it, that he don't does not let loose his Hand and cut them off. God is not altogether
such an one as themselves, tho' they may imagine him to be so. The Wrath of God burns
against them, their Damnation don't does not slumber, the Pit is prepared, the Fire is
made ready, the Furnace is now hot, ready to receive them, the Flames do now rage and
glow. The glittering Sword is whet, and held over them, and
the Pit hath opened her its Mouth under them.

5. The Devil stands ready to fall upon them and seize them as his own, at what Moment
God shall permit him. They belong to him the Devil; he has their Souls in his Possession,
and under his Dominion. The Scripture represents them as his Goods, in Luke 11:21, as his own possessions, and his own goods. The Devils watch them; they are ever by them, at their right Hand; they stand waiting for them, like greedy hungry Lions that see their Prey, and expect to have it, but are for the present kept back; if God should withdraw his Hand, by which they are restrained by his mercy, they would all in one Moment fly upon their poor Souls of the wicked. The old Serpent is gaping for them; Hell opens its Mouth wide to receive them; and if God should permit it, they would be hastily swallowed up and be lost in a moment.

6. There are in the Souls of wicked Men—hey listen to this tremendous point, ladies and gentlemen—there are in the Souls of wicked Men those hellish Principles reigning, that would presently kindle and flame out into Hell Fire, if it were not for God's Restraints. Look at that—Jonathan Edwards said, 200 years ago, that hell would break loose tonight among sinful men, and this earth would be a hell were it not for the restraining hand of Almighty God. Because there is in us, as natural man, our hellish principles that would cause Los Angeles to be hell on earth were it not for the restraining hand of Almighty God. Now listen to this—this is the past President of Princeton University speaking, listen to him—There is laid in the very Nature of carnal Men a Foundation for the Torments of Hell: There are those corrupt Principles, in reigning Power in them, and in full Possession of them, that are the Seeds of Hell Fire. These Principles are active and powerful, and exceeding violent in their Nature, and if it were not for the restraining Hand of God upon them, they would soon break out, they would flame out after the same Manner as the same Corruptions, the same Enmity does in the Hearts of damned Souls, and would beget the same Torments in 'em as that they do and this would be a hell right here were it not for God. The Souls of the Wicked are in Scripture compared to the troubled Sea, Isai. 57–20. For the present God restrains their Wickedness by his mighty Power, as he does the raging Waves of the troubled Sea, saying, Hitherto shalt thou come, and no further; I want to comment there—God says tonight to the sinners, and to the people on Sunset Strip, and to the people in the gambling dens of iniquity in Los Angeles tonight, thus far and no further! And one of these days, God’s almighty patience is going to run out, and it will be too late for them, and the only way that they can keep on in their wickedness is because of the mercy of God. The justice of God demands that they die, and it’s only the mercy and love of God that keeps them alive tonight. Listen to this— but if God should withdraw that restraining Power, it would soon carry all afore it. Sin is the Ruin and Misery of the Soul; it is destructive in its Nature; and if God should leave it without Restraint, there would need
nothing else to make the Soul perfectly miserable. The Corruption of the Heart of Man is a Thing that is immoderate and boundless in its Fury; and while wicked Men live here, it is like Fire pent up by God's Restraints, whenas if it were let loose it would set on Fire the Course of Nature; and as the Heart is now a Sink of Sin, so, if Sin was not restrain'd, it would immediately turn the Soul into a fiery Oven, or a Furnace of Fire and Brimstone.

7. Now listen, he’s warming up to the subject—It is no Security to wicked Men for one Moment, that there are is no visible Means of Death at Hand. You say, but I’m feeling healthy, I’m feeling fine, everything’s getting along fine in my business, why I’m not going to die, I’m standing alone in a room, there’s nothing around me to kill me, I’m feeling fine. Listen to this: 'Tis no Security to a natural Man, that he is now in Health, and that he don't does not see which Way he should now immediately go out of the World by any Accident, and that there is no visible Danger in any Respect in his Circumstances. The manifold and continual Experience of the World in all Ages, shows that this is no Evidence that a Man is not now on the very Brink of Eternity, and that the next Step won't will not be into another World. I tell you, that’s tremendous. When I heard that the other day, and it gripped my soul I was frightened. (23:09)____________, they think that they’re in security tonight, they think everything’s going fine, and he says right here: that the mere fact that you’re in good health, and everything’s going fine, does not guarantee for one moment that the next minute you’ll be in eternity. Listen, The unseen, unthought of Ways and Means of Persons going suddenly out of the World are innumerable and inconceivable. Unconverted Men—listen to this—Unconverted Men walk over the Pit of Hell on a rotten Covering, and there are innumerable Places in this Covering so weak that they won't bear their Weight, and these Places are not seen. Walking in this tent, down that sidewalk, out on the street, every step you take, on every rock and cover, and underneath, is so weak that any step you might fall through and be into eternity, so says Jonathan Edwards, the President of Princeton University. The Arrows of Death fly unseen at Noon-Day; the sharpest Sight can't cannot discern them. God has so many different unsearchable Ways of taking wicked Men out of the World and sending 'em to Hell, that there is nothing to make it appear that God had need to be at the Expense of a Miracle, or go out of the ordinary Course of his Providence, to destroy any the wicked Man, at any Moment. All the Means that there are of Sinners going out of the World, are so in God's Hands, and so universally absolutely subject to his Power and Determination, that it don't does not depend at all less on the mere Will of God, whether Sinners shall at any Moment go to Hell, than if Means were never made use of,
or at all concerned in the Case, and the only thing that keeps them from falling into hell right now is the thin thread of God Almighty’s mercy.

8. Natural Men's Prudence and Care to preserve their own Lives, or the Care of others to preserve them, don't do not secure 'em any Moment. In other words, all the security you take to preserve your life. You can get in a room and lock every door. And nothing in the room can harm you. And Jonathan Edwards says that he believes Scripturally that that is no security, no matter what caution you take. I read about a man the other day that was so germ-conscious that he just stayed in a room all day long. And he kept netting around him all the time. And he had a germ phobia. That is no security that that man may not die at any moment of some dreaded germ or some disease, were it not for the mercy of Almighty God. For This divine Providence and universal Experience does also bear Testimony to. There is this clear Evidence that Men's own Wisdom is no Security to them from Death; That if it were otherwise we should see some Difference between the wise and the politick Men of the World, and others, with Regard to their Liableness to early and unexpected Death; but how is it in Fact? Ecclesiastes 2:16 says this: How dieth the wise Man? And then it answers: as the Fool.

9. All wicked Men's Pains and Contrivance which they use to escape Hell, while they continue to reject Christ, and so remain wicked Men, don't do not secure 'em from Hell one Moment. Almost every natural Man that hears of Hell, flatters himself that he shall escape it; he depends upon himself for his own Security; he flatters himself in what he has done, in what he is now doing, or what he intends to do; and every one lays out Matters in his own Mind how he shall avoid Damnation, and flatters himself that he contrives so well for himself, and that his Schemes won't will not fail. They hear indeed that there are but few saved, and that the bigger greater Part of Men that have died heretofore before are gone to Hell; but each person and each one imagines that he forms plans to affect his escape better than others have done, and thinks that he’ll be the exception rather than the rule and that he can save himself. He does not intend to go to the Place of Torment; there is not a person here tonight in this tent, or standing out before me, that plans to go to Hell. Not a person. Everyone of you thinks that somehow by hook or by crook you’re going to go to Heaven. Bless your heart, there is only one road to heaven, and that’s through Jesus Christ. There is no other way. And Jesus says, the road is narrow. And if you want to go to Heaven, bless God, you’re going to have to get on Heaven’s highway, which is by the cross of the Lord Jesus Christ, there is no other way. Listen to this (that wasn’t in the sermon): lies out Matters
better for his own escape than others have done: He don't intend to come to that Place of Torment; he and says within himself, that he intends to take effectual Care that shall be effectual, and to order Matters so for himself as not to fail.

But the foolish Children of Men do miserably delude themselves in their own Schemes, and in their Confidence in their own Strength and Wisdom; they trust to nothing but a Shadow. The bigger Part of those who have lived under the same Means of Grace, and are now dead, are undoubtedly gone to Hell: and it was not because they were not as wise as those that are now alive: it was not because they did not lay out Matters as well for themselves to secure their own escape. If it were so, that we could come to speak with them, and could inquire of them, one by one, whether they expected when alive, and when they used to hear about Hell, ever to be the Subjects of that Misery, we doubtless should hear one and another reply, “No, I never intended to come here; I had laid out arranged Matters otherwise in my Mind; I thought I should could contrive well for my self; I thought my Scheme good; I intended to take effectual Care; but it came upon me unexpected; I did not look for it at that Time, and in that Manner; it came as a Thief in the night; Death outwitted me; God's Wrath was too quick for me; O my cursed Foolishness! I was flattering my self, and pleasing my self with vain Dreams of what I would do hereafter, and when I was saying Peace and Safety, then sudden Destruction came upon me, and I dropped into Hell, I didn’t mean to come to this place, oh God, why didn’t I take my chance with Jesus Christ?”

10. God has laid himself under no Obligation by any Promise to keep any natural Man out of Hell for one Moment if he rejects Jesus Christ. God certainly has made no Promises either of eternal Life, or of any Deliverance or Preservation from eternal Death, but what are contained in the Covenant of Grace, the Promises that are given in the Lord Jesus Christ, in whom all the Promises are Yea and Amen. But surely they have no Interest in the Promises of the Covenant of Grace that who are not the Children of the Covenant Grace, and that who don't do not believe in at any of the Promises of the Covenant, and have no Interest in the Mediator of the Covenant Jesus Christ and him crucified.

So that whatever some have imagined and pretended about Promises made to natural Men's earnest seeking and knocking, 'tis plain and manifest that whatever Pains a natural Man takes in Religion, whatever Prayers he makes, till he believes in Christ, God is under no manner of Obligation to keep him a Moment from eternal Destruction Hell at any moment.
Think of the Divine Justice and the wrath of God against sin, and God is under no obligation to keep you out of Hell right now. God has never made a promise to keep you out of Hell. Never made a promise if you reject Jesus Christ and turn down God’s way of salvation and don’t come to Christ, the next step that you take may be your last for eternity and you drop into the pit of Hell. That’s what he said. So that thus it is, that natural Men are held—listen to his—are held in the Hand of God over the Pit of Hell; they have deserved the fiery Pit, and are already sentenced to it; and God is dreadfully provoked, his Anger is as great towards them as to those that are actually suffering the Executions of the fierceness of his Wrath in Hell, and they have done nothing in the least to appease or abate that Anger, neither is God in the least bound by any Promise to hold ‘em up one moment minute longer; the Devil is waiting for them, Hell is gaping for them open, the Flames gather and flash about them, and would fain lay hold on them, and swallow them up; the Fire pent up in their own Hearts is struggling to break out; and they have no Interest in any Mediator rejected Jesus Christ, the son of God, there are no Means within Reach that can be any Security to them after they have rejected and turned down Jesus Christ. In short, they have no Refuge, nothing to take hold of, all that preserves them at this Moment is the mere arbitrary Will mercy of God, and that is, unavowed unoblige Forbearance of an incensed a wrathful God against sin. Oh ladies and gentlemen tonight, the only thing that keeps God from taking the oxygen out of the air and all of us going into hell is his mercy and love towards us. That’s all. And tonight, we’re sitting in our seats, and the next step we take might be that fatal step into eternity without God.

APPLICATION.

The Use of this awful subject may be of for an Awakening to of unconverted Persons in this Congregation for a conviction of sin and danger. This that you have heard is the Case of every one of you that are out of Christ. That World of Misery, that Lake of burning Brimstone is extended abroad under you. There is the dreadful Pit of the glowing Flames of the Wrath of God; there is Hell's wide gaping Mouth open; and you have nothing to stand upon, nor any thing to take hold of: there is nothing between you and Hell but the Air; and ‘tis only the Power and mere Pleasure the mercy of God that holds you up tonight.

You probably are not sensible of all this; you find you are kept out of Hell, but don’t you do not see that it’s the Hand of God in it that keeps you out, but look at the other Things, as the good State of your bodily Constitution, your Care of your own Life, and the Means you use for your own Preservation. But indeed these Things are nothing; if
God should withdraw his Hand, they would avail no more to keep you from falling, than the thin Air to hold up a Person that is suspended in it.

Your Wickedness makes you as it were as heavy as Lead, and to tends you downwards with great Weight and Pressure towards Hell; think of it—your own wickedness is so heavy that it causes you to be a dead weight, as a piece of lead in water, that drives you and pushes you down towards Hell at any moment. How awful, and if God should let you go, you would immediately sink and swiftly descend & plunge into the bottomless Gulf, and your healthy Constitution, and your own Care and Prudence, and all your Righteousness, would have no more Influence to uphold you and keep you out of Hell, than a Spider's Web would have to stop a falling Rock. Were it not that so is for the sovereign Pleasure mercy of God, the Earth would not bear you one Moment; for you are a Burden to it; the Creation groans with you; the Creature is made Subject to the Bondage of your Corruption, not willingly; the Sun don't does not willingly fully shine upon you to give you Light to serve Sin and Satan the Devil; think of it—the Sun doesn’t even want to shine on us; it’s only by the mercy of God that the Sun comes up tomorrow morning. And the Earth don't does not willingly yield her Increase to satisfy your Lusts—Brother, the Earth doesn’t bring forth its fruit to satisfy for you to go and satisfy your lusts on the Devil, and the ways of the Devil; it’s only by the mercy of God that you have anything to eat or wear, or shelter over your head, or air to breathe, or water to drink, according to the Word of God; nor is it willingly a Stage for your Wickedness to be acted upon; the Air don't does not willingly serve you for Breath to maintain the Flame of Life in your Vitals, while you spend your Life in the Service of God's Enemies. God's Creatures are Good, and were made for Men to serve God with, and don't do not willingly subserve to any other Purpose, and groan when they are abused to Purposes so directly contrary to their Nature and End. And the World would spew you out, were it not for the sovereign Hand of him who hath subjected it in Hope. There are the black Clouds of God's Wrath now hanging directly over your Heads, full of the dreadful Storm, and big with Thunder; stricken with lightning; and were it not for the restraining Hand of God it they would immediately burst forth upon you. The sovereign Pleasure of God for the present stays his rough Wind; otherwise it would come with Fury, and your Destruction would come like a Whirlwind, and you would be like the Chaff of the Summer threshing Floor.

The Wrath of God is like great Waters that are dammed restrained for the present; but they increase more and more, & rise higher and higher, till an Outlet is given, and the longer the Stream is stop'd, the more rapid and mighty is its Course, when once it is let loose. 'Tis true, that Judgment against your evil Works has not been executed hitherto
before; the Floods of God’s Vengeance have been with-held; but your Guilt in the mean Time is constantly increasing, and you are every Day treasuring up more Wrath against your souls; the Waters are continually rising and waxing more and more mighty; and there is nothing but the mere Pleasure mercy of God that holds the Waters back that are unwilling to be stopped, and press hard to go forward; if God should only withdraw his Hand from the Flood-Gate, it would immediately fly open, and the fiery Floods of the Fierceness and Wrath of God would rush forth with inconceivable Fury, and would come upon you with omnipotent Power; and if your Strength were ten thousand Times greater than it is, yea ten thousand Times greater than the Strength of the stoutest, sturdiest Devil in Hell, it would be nothing to withstand or endure it the wrath of Almighty God.

I’ll tell you tonight, the wrath of God is something. And God says, that judgment is coming upon this world. And God says, the wages of sin is death. And God says, the soul that sins shall die. Ladies and gentlemen, tonight, men and women, tonight every one of us are hanging over the pit of hell and the only thing that keeps us from dropping in is the mercy of Almighty God. And tonight, I’m glad to tell you something, because I’m glad to tell you this, that the Lord Jesus Christ died on the cross of Calvary, and that God loves you with an everlasting love, and the mercy of God is everlasting to everlasting. And I don’t care who you are tonight, man, woman, boy, or girl, it makes no difference who you are tonight, the Lord Jesus Christ can cleanse you from sin, and you can be assured that you’re going to heaven, and every man, woman, boy, and girl in this place to know they’re saved before they leave this place.

Wouldn’t it be wonderful to walk out with peace in your heart, and that you walk alone not be afraid of the next step, not be afraid that some place along the way tomorrow you’re going to drop? Wouldn’t it be wonderful to have that glorious peace and joy in your heart, knowing that your sins are cleansed, and you’re ready to meet God? Well you can know it right now. Right this minute. You say, how long does it take? Only an instant. You say, what do I have to do? All you have to do is let Jesus in, right now where you sit. You can make certain that you are ready to meet the Lord God.

Shall we pray? Nobody leaving, nobody moving. You can leave while we were speaking, but not now. Not a person. Every head bowed. Every eye closed. While our heads are bowed, our eyes are closed, nobody’s looking, I wonder how many people down in this place will say, “Billy, I’m not certain that I’m saved, I’m not certain if I died I’d go to heaven, I’m not sure how I stand before God, but I’d like to settle it, I’d like to know how I stand, I’d like to be certain that I’m on the road to heaven, I’d like to be sure that Christ lives in my heart. I don’t want any doubts, I don’t want any uncertainty, I want
to know tonight that I’m on the road to heaven.” All over this place—outside, nobody moving—all over this place, lift your hand tonight and say, “I want to be sure.”

---Here ends the transcript of the audio recording of Billy Graham’s sermon; the following is the remainder of Jonathan Edwards’ sermon---

The Bow of God’s Wrath is bent, and the Arrow made ready on the String, and Justice bends the Arrow at your Heart, and strains the Bow, and it is nothing but the mere Pleasure of God, and that of an angry God, without any Promise or Obligation at all, that keeps the Arrow one Moment from being made drunk with your Blood.

Thus are all you that never passed under a great Change of Heart, by the mighty Power of the Spirit of God upon your Souls; all that were never born again, and made new Creatures, and raised from being dead in Sin, to a State of new, and before altogether unexperienced Light and Life, (however you may have reformed your Life in many Things, and may have had religious Affections, and may keep up a Form of Religion in your Families and Closets, and in the House of God, and may be strict in it,) you are thus in the Hands of an angry God; ’tis nothing but his mere Pleasure that keeps you from being this Moment swallowed up in everlasting Destruction.

However unconvinced you may now be of the Truth of what you hear, by & by you will be fully convinced of it. Those that are gone from being in the like Circumstances with you, see that it was so with them; for Destruction came suddenly upon most of them, when they expected nothing of it, and while they were saying, Peace and Safety: Now they see, that those Things that they depended on for Peace and Safety, were nothing but thin Air and empty Shadows.

The God that holds you over the Pit of Hell, much as one holds a Spider, or some loathsome Insect, over the Fire, abhors you, and is dreadfully provoked; his Wrath towards you burns like Fire; he looks upon you as worthy of nothing else, but to be cast into the Fire; he is of purer Eyes than to bear to have you in his Sight; you are ten thousand Times so abominable in his Eyes as the most hateful venemous Serpent is in ours. You have offended him infinitely more than ever a stubborn Rebel did his Prince: and yet ’tis nothing but his Hand that holds you from falling into the Fire every Moment: ’Tis to be ascribed to nothing else, that you did not go to Hell the last Night; that you was suffer’d to awake again in this World, after you closed your Eyes to sleep: and there is no other Reason to be given why you have not dropped into Hell since you arose
in the Morning, but that God's Hand has held you up: There is no other Reason to be
given why you han't hone to Hell since you have sat here in the House of God, provoking
his pure
Eyes by your sinful wicked Manner of attending his solemn Worship: Yea, there is
nothing else that is to be given as a Reason why you don't this very Moment drop
down into Hell.

O Sinner! Consider the fearful Danger you are in: 'Tis a great Furnace of Wrath, a wide
and bottomless Pit, full of the Fire of Wrath, that you are held over in the Hand of that
God, whose Wrath is provoked
and incensed as much against you as against many of the Damned in Hell: You hang by a
slender Thread, with the Flames of divine Wrath flaming about it, and ready every
Moment to singe it, and burn it asunder; and you have no Interest in any Mediator, and
nothing to lay hold of to save yourself, nothing to keep off the Flames of Wrath, nothing
of your own, nothing that you ever have done, nothing that you can do, to induce God to
spare you one Moment.

And consider here more particularly several Things concerning that Wrath that you are
in such Danger of.

I. Whose Wrath it is: It is the Wrath of the infinite GOD. If it were only the Wrath of
Man, tho' it were of the most Potent Prince, it would be comparatively little to be
regarded. The Wrath of Kings is very much dreaded, especially of absolute Monarchs,
that have the Possessions and Lives of their Subjects wholly in their Power, to be
disposed of at their mere Will. Proverbs 20:2. *The Fear of a King is as the Roaring of a
Lion: whoso provoketh him to Anger, sinneth against his own Soul.* The Subject that very
much enrages an arbitrary Prince, is liable to suffer the most extreme Torments, that
human Art can invent or human Power can inflict. But the greatest earthly Potentates, in
their greatest Majesty and Strength, and when clothed in their greatest Terrors, are but
feeble despicable Worms of the Dust, in Comparison of the great and almighty Creator
and King of Heaven and Earth: It is but little that they can do, when most enraged, and
when they have exerted the utmost of their Fury. All the Kings of the Earth before GOD
are as Grasshoppers, they are nothing and less than nothing: Both their Love and their
Hatred is to be despised. The Wrath of the great King of Kings is as much more terrible
than theirs, as his Majesty is greater. Luke 12:4,5. *And I say unto you my Friends, be not
afraid of them that kill the Body, and after that have no more that they can do: But I will
forewarn you whom ye shall fear; fear him, which after he hath killed, hath Power to cast
into Hell; yea I say unto you, fear him.*
2. 'Tis the Fierceness of his Wrath that you are exposed to. We often read of the Fury of God; as in Isaiah 59:18. According to their Deeds, accordingly he will repay Fury to his Adversaries. So Isaiah 66:15. For behold, the Lord will come with Fire, and with Chariots like a Whirlwind, to render his Anger with Fury, and his Rebukes with Flames of Fire. And so in many other Places. So we read of God's Fierceness. Revelation 19:15. There we read of the Winepress of the Fierceness and Wrath of Almighty God. The Words are exceeding terrible: if it had only been said, the Wrath of God, the Words would have implied that which is infinitely dreadful: But 'tis not only said so, but the Fierceness and Wrath of God: the Fury of God! the Fierceness of Jehovah! Oh how dreadful must that be! Who can utter or conceive what such Expressions carry in them! But it is not only said so, but the Fierceness and Wrath of ALMIGHTY GOD. As tho' there would be a very great Manifestation of his almighty Power, in what the fierceness of his Wrath should inflict, as tho' Omnipotence should be as it were enraged, and exerted, as Men are wont to exert their Strength in the fierceness of their Wrath. Oh! then what will be the Consequence! What will become of the poor Worm that shall suffer it! Whose Hands can be strong? and whose Heart endure? To what a dreadful, inexpressible, inconceivable Depth of Misery must the poor Creature be sunk, who shall be the Subject of this!

Consider this, you that are here present, that yet remain in an unregenerate State. That God will execute the fierceness of his Anger, implies that he will inflict Wrath without any Pity: when God beholds the ineffable Extremity of your Case, and sees your Torment to be so vastly disproportion'd to your Strength, and sees how your poor Soul is crushed and sinks down, as it were into an infinite Gloom, he will have no Compassion upon you, he will not forbear the Execution of his Wrath, or in the least lighten his Hand; there shall be no Moderation or Mercy, nor will God then at all stay his rough Wind; he will have no Regard to your Welfare, nor be at all careful lest you should suffer too much, in any other Sense than only that you shall not suffer beyond what strict Justice requires: nothing shall be with-held, because it's so hard for you to bear. Ezekiel 8:18. Therefore will I also deal in Fury; mine Eye shall not spare, neither will I have Pity; and tho' they cry in mine Ears with a loud Voice, yet I will not hear them. Now God stands ready to pity you; this is a Day of Mercy; you may cry now with some Encouragement of obtaining Mercy: but when once the Day of Mercy is past, your most lamentable and dolorous Cries and Shrieks will be in vain; you will be wholly lost and thrown away of God as to any Regard to your Welfare; God will have no other Use to put you to but only to suffer Misery; you shall be continued in Being to no other End; for you will be a
Vessel of Wrath fitted to Destruction; and there will be no other Use of this Vessel but only to be filled full of Wrath: God will be so far from pitying you when you cry to him, that 'tis said he will only *Laugh and Mock*, Proverbs 1:25,26, &c.

How awful are those Words, Isaiah 63:3. which are the Words of the great God, *I will tread them in mine Anger, and will trample them in my Fury, and their Blood shall be sprinkled upon my Garments, and I will stain all my Raiment*. 'Tis perhaps impossible to conceive of Words that carry in them greater Manifestations of these three Things, viz. Contempt, and Hatred, and fierceness of Indignation. If you cry to God to pity you, he will be so far from pitying you in your doleful Case, or shewing you the least Regard or Favour, that instead of that he'll only tread you under Foot: And tho' he will know that you can't bear the Weight of Omnipotence treading upon you, yet he won't regard that, but he will crush you under his Feet without Mercy; he'll crush out your Blood, and make it fly, and it shall be sprinkled on his Garments, so as to stain all his Raiment. He will not only hate you, but he will have you in the utmost Contempt; no Place shall be thought fit for you, but under his Feet, to be trodded down as the Mire of the Streets.

3. The Misery you are exposed to is that which God will inflict to that End, that he might *shew* what that *Wrath of JEHOVAH* is. God hath had it on his Heart to shew to Angels and Men, both how excellent his Love is, and also how terrible his Wrath is. Sometimes earthly Kings have a Mind to shew how terrible *their* Wrath is, by the extreme Punishments they would execute on those that provoke 'em. *Nebuchadnezzar*, that mighty and haughty Monarch of the *Chaldean* Empire, was willing to shew *his* Wrath, when enraged with *Shadrach, Meshech, and Abednego*; and accordingly gave Order that the burning fiery Furnace should be het seven Times hotter than it was before; doubtless it was raised to the utmost Degree of Fierceness that humane Art could raise it: But the great GOD is also willing to shew *his* Wrath, and magnify his awful Majesty and mighty Power in the extreme Sufferings of his Enemies. Romans 9:22. *What if God willing to shew HIS Wrath, and to make his Power known, endured with much Longsuffering the Vessels of Wrath fitted to Destruction?* And seeing this is his Design, and what he has determined, to shew how terrible the unmixed, unrestrained Wrath, the Fury and Fierceness of JEHOVAH is, he will do it to Effect. There will be something accomplished and brought to pass, that will be dreadful
with a Witness. When the great and angry God hath risen up and executed his awful 
Vengeance on the poor Sinner; and the Wretch is actually suffering the infinite Weight 
and Power of his Indignation, then will God call upon the whole Universe to behold that 
awful Majesty, and mighty Power that is to be seen in it. Isaiah 33:12,13,14. *And the People shall be as the burning of Lime, as Thorns cut up shall they 
be burnt in the Fire. Hear ye that are far off what I have done; and ye that are near 
acknowledge my Might. The Sinners in Zion are afraid, fearfulness hath surprized the 
Hypocrites &c.*

Thus it will be with you that are in an unconverted State, if you continue in it; the 
infinite Might, and Majesty and Terribleness of the Omnipotent God shall be 
magnified upon you, in the ineffable Strength

of your Torments: You shall be tormented in the Presence of the holy Angels, and in the 
Presence of the Lamb; and when you shall be in this State of Suffering, the glorious 
Inhabitants of Heaven shall go forth and look on the awful Spectacle, that they may see 
what the Wrath and Fierceness of the Almighty is, and when they have seen it, they will 
fall down and adore that great Power and Majesty. Isaiah 66:23,24. *And it shall come to 
pass, that from one new Moon to another, and from one Sabbath to another, shall all 
Flesh come to Worship before me, saith the Lord; and they shall go forth and lock upon 
the Carcasses of the Men 
that have transgressed against me; for their Worm shall not die, neither shall their Fire 
be quenched, and they shall be an abhorring unto all Flesh.*

4. *Tis everlasting Wrath. It would be dreadful to suffer this Fierceness and Wrath of 
Almighty God one Moment; but you must suffer it to all Eternity: there will be no End to 
this exquisite horrible Misery:

When you look forward, you shall see a long Forever, a boundless Duration before you, 
which will swallow up your Thoughts, and amaze your Soul; and you will absolutely 
despair of ever having any Deliverance, any End, any Mitigation, any Rest at all; you will 
know certainly that you must wear out long Ages, Millions of Millions of Ages, in 
wrestling and conflicting with this almighty merciless Vengeance; and then when you 
have so done, when so many Ages have actually been spent by you in this Manner, you 
will know that all is but a Point to what remains. So 
that your Punishment will indeed be infinite. Oh who can express what the State of a 
Soul in such Circumstances is! All that we can possibly say about it, gives but a very 
feeble faint Representation of it; 'tis 
inexpressible and inconceivable: for what knows the Power of God's Anger?
How dreadful is the State of those that are daily and hourly in Danger of this great Wrath, and infinite Misery! But this is the dismal Case of every Soul in this Congregation, that has not been born again, however moral and strict, sober and religious they may otherwise be. Oh that you would consider it, whether you be Young or Old. There is Reason to think, that there are many in this Congregation now hearing this Discourse, that will actually be the Subjects of this very Misery to all Eternity. We know not who they are, or in what Seats they sit, or what Thoughts they now have: it may be they are now at Ease, and hear all these Things without much Disturbance, and are now flattering themselves that they are not the Persons, promising themselves that they shall escape. If we knew that there was one Person, and but one, in the whole Congregation that was to be the Subject of this Misery, what an awful Thing would it be to think of! If we knew who it was, what an awful Sight would it be to see such a Person! How might all the rest of the Congregation lift up a lamentable and bitter Cry over him! But alas! instead of one, how many is it likely will remember this Discourse in Hell? And it would be a Wonder if some that are now present, should not be in Hell in a very short Time, before this Year is out. And it would be no Wonder if some Person that now sits here in some Seat of this Meeting-House in Health, and quiet & secure, should be there before to morrow Morning. Those of you that finally continue in a natural Condition, that shall keep out of Hell longest, will be there in a little Time! your Damnation don't slumber; it will come swiftly, and in all probability very suddenly upon many of you. You have Reason to wonder, that you are not already in Hell. 'Tis doubtless the Case of some that heretofore you have seen and known, that never deserved Hell more than you, and that heretofore appeared as likely to have been now alive as you: Their Case is past all Hope; they are crying in extreme Misery and perfect Despair; but here you are in the Land of the Living, and in the House of God, and have an Opportunity to obtain Salvation. What would not those poor damned, hopeless Souls give for one Day's such Opportunity as you now enjoy!

And now you have an extraordinary Opportunity, a Day wherein CHRIST has flung the Door of Mercy wide open, and stands in the Door calling and crying with a loud Voice to poor Sinners; a Day wherein many are flocking to him, and pressing into the Kingdom of God; many are daily coming from the East, West, North and South; many that were very
lately in the same miserable Condition that you are in, are in now an happy State, with
their Hearts filled with Love to Him that has loved them and washed them from their Sins
in his own Blood, and rejoicing
in Hope of the Glory of God. How awful is it to be left behind at such a Day! To see so
many others feasting, while you are pining and perishing! To see so many rejoicing and
singing for Joy of Heart, while
you have Cause to mourn for Sorrow of Heart, and howl for Vexation of Spirit! How can
you rest one Moment in such a Condition? Are not your Souls as precious as the Souls of
the People at * Suffield, where
they are flocking from Day to Day to Christ?
   Are there not many here that have lived long in the World, that are not to this Day born
again, and so are Aliens from the Common-wealth of Israel, and have done nothing ever
since they have lived, but treasure up Wrath against the Day of Wrath? Oh Sirs, your
Case in an especial Manner is extremely dangerous; your Guilt and Hardness of Heart is
extremely great. Don't you see how generally Persons of your Years are
pass'd over and left, in the present remarkable & wonderful Dispensation of God's
Mercy? You had need to consider your selves, and wake throughly out of Sleep; you
cannot bear the Fierceness and Wrath of the infinite GOD.

   And you that are young Men, and young Women, will you neglect this precious Season
that you now enjoy when so many others of your Age are renouncing all youthful
Vanities, and flocking to CHRIST? You especially have now an extraordinary
Opportunity; but if you neglect it, it will soon be with you as it is with those Persons that
spent away all the precious Days of Youth in Sin, and are now come to such a dreadful
pass in blindness and hardness.

   And you Children that are unconverted, don't you know that you are going down to
Hell, to bear the dreadful Wrath of that God that is now angry with you every Day, and
every Night? Will you be content to be the Children of the Devil, when so many other
Children in the Land are converted, and are become the holy and happy Children of the
King of
Kings?

   And let every one that is yet out of Christ, and hanging over the Pit of Hell, whether
they be old Men and Women, or middle Aged, or young People, or little Children, now
hearken to the loud Calls of God's Word and Providence. This acceptable Year of the
LORD, that is a Day of such great Favour to some, will doubtless be a Day of as

* The next neighbour Town.
remarkable Vengeance to others. Men's Hearts harden, and their Guilt increases apace at such a Day as this, if they neglect their Souls: and never was there so great Danger of such Persons being given up to hardness of Heart, and blindness of Mind. God seems now to be hastily gathering in his Elect in all Parts of the Land; and probably the bigger Part of adult Persons that ever shall be saved, will be brought in now in a little Time, and that it will be as it was on that great out-pouring of the SPIRIT upon the Jews in the Apostles Days, the Election will obtain, and the rest will be blinded. If this should be the Case with you, you will eternally curse this Day, and will curse the Day that ever you was born, to see such a Season of the pouring out of God's Spirit; and will wish that you had died and gone to Hell before you had seen it. Now undoubtedly it is, as it was in the Days of John the Baptist, the Ax is in an extraordinary Manner laid at the Root of the Trees, that every Tree that brings not forth good Fruit, may be hewn down, and cast into the Fire. Therefore let every one that is out of CHRIST, now awake and fly from the Wrath to come. The Wrath of almighty GOD is now undoubtedly hanging over great Part of this Congregation: Let every one fly out of Sodom: Haste and escape for your Lives, look not behind you, escape to the Mountain, least you be consumed.

FINIS.