

## **SINNERS IN THE HANDS OF AN ANGRY GOD**

Reverend Jonathan Edwards

From a sermon preached at Enfield, Connecticut (1741)

Excerpt

**YOUR WICKEDNESS MAKES YOU AS IT WERE HEAVY AS LEAD, AND TO TEND DOWNWARDS WITH GREAT WEIGHT AND PRESSURE TOWARDS HELL, AND IF GOD SHOULD LET YOU GO, YOU WOULD IMMEDIATELY SINK AND SWIFTLY DESCEND AND PLUNGE INTO THE BOTTOMLES GULF...**

**O SINNER! CONSIDER THE FEARFUL DANGER YOU ARE IN: IT IS 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 GOD... YOU HANG BY A SLENDER THREAD, WITH THE FLAMES OF DIVINE WRATH FLASHING ABOUT IT, AND READY EVERY MOMENT TO SINGE IT, AND BURN IT ASUNDER...**

**AND NOW YOU HAVE AN EXTRAORDINARY OPPORTUNITY, A DAY WHEREIN CHRIST HAS THROWN THE DOOR OF MERCY WIDE OPEN, AND STANDS IN THE DOOR, CALLING AND CRYING WITH A LOUD VOICE TO POOR SINNERS...**

**AND LET EVERYONE THAT IS OUT OF CHRIST, AND HANGING OVER THE PIT OF HELL,... NOW HARKEN TO THE LOUD CALLS OF GOD'S WORD AND PROVINCE. THIS ACCEPTABLE YEAR OF THE LORD, A DAY OF SUCH GREAT FAVOURS TO SOME, WILL DOUBTLESS BE A DAY OF REMARKABLE VENGEANCE TO OTHERS....**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please answer these questions after you finish reading the excerpt from "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God."

To whom was the sermon delivered?

To what is the opening of Hell compared? What figure of speech is illustrated with this comparison?

Identify at least 2 similes used in this sermon.

What persuasive technique is used the most effectively in this sermon? Why do you say it is the most effective?

What is the purpose of this sermon? How are people meant to respond? How does this piece translate today? How might it have been received in 1741?

Consider your prior knowledge of Puritan life and belief systems. In what way might this sermon further support that knowledge? In what way does it change your perception of the Puritan culture?

What is the most striking part of the sermon (for you)? Why does it stand out/grab your attention?

**JONATHAN EDWARDS, SINNERS IN THE HANDS OF AN ANGRY GOD**

After reading the primary source, agree or disagree with the following statements. Next, find evidence in the reading that supports your decision.

1. Early American colonists were in control of their lives.
2. Listening to a minister brought salvation to sinners.
3. Ministers played an important role in the life of colonial America.
4. All colonists were wicked.