

The background is a dark, textured illustration of a night sky. A bright, multi-pointed star with a glowing orange and yellow core is positioned in the upper right quadrant, casting a long, vertical beam of light downwards. The sky is filled with faint, scattered stars and a subtle, swirling pattern of light. Below the sky, the silhouettes of a cityscape are visible, with various buildings and structures. In the foreground, there are dark, leafy plants, possibly palm trees or similar tropical foliage, rendered in deep blue and black tones. The overall mood is mysterious and serene.

SEASON'S MEETINGS
A Series for Advent

Matthew 25:34-46

³⁴ “Then the King will say to those on his right,
‘**Come**, you who are **blessed** by my Father; take
your **inheritance**, the kingdom **prepared** for you
since the creation of the world.

35 For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in,

36 I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

37 “Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? 38 When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? 39 When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’

40 “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these **brothers and sisters** of mine, **you did for me.**’

41 “Then he will say to those on his left, ‘**Depart** from me, you who are **cursed**, into the eternal fire **prepared** for the devil and his angels.’

42 For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, 43 I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.'

44 “They also will answer, ‘Lord, *when* did we see *you* hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?’

45 “He will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.’

46 “Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”



1. Hell follows judgment.



1. Hell follows judgment...but it also starts before.

“It might sound cruel to say such things to a person just sentenced to ten years in prison. It is not cruel. It is mercy. It is a mercy to tell someone that they live in a hell of their own making. It is a mercy to tell someone that the hell they live in can be unlocked from the inside by coming to a truth that can set them free. And it is a mercy to tell someone that the hell she’s chosen and the lies she’s living are worse than the sentence she’s serving.”

JONATHAN TRAN, ON VICTIM STATEMENTS
FOLLOWING CONVICTION IN DAVID GROTBORG’S
DEATH

“And that is why, at the end of all things, when the sun rises here and the twilight turns to blackness down there, the Blessed will say ‘We have never lived anywhere except in Heaven’, and the Lost, ‘We were always in Hell.’ And both will speak truly.”

C.S. LEWIS, *THE GREAT DIVORCE*



1. Hell follows judgment...but it also starts before.
2. Hell is the free spurning of a needed gift.

Hebrews 10

²⁶ If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, **no sacrifice for sins is left,** ²⁷ but only a **fearful expectation** of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God.



1. Hell follows judgment...but it also starts before.
2. Hell is the free spurning of a needed gift.
3. Hell is an achievement.

A dark, atmospheric night scene. The sky is a deep, dark blue with a prominent starburst in the upper right quadrant, casting a soft glow. Below the sky, a cityscape is visible, with buildings and structures silhouetted against the dark background. The overall mood is mysterious and contemplative.

**It's not hell unless you know
there's a Heaven.**



1. Hell follows judgment...but it also starts before.
2. Hell is the free spurning of a needed gift.
3. Hell is an achievement.
4. Hell is prepared for the devil and his angels (v. 41).

The background is a dark, atmospheric illustration of a city at night. The sky is a deep, dark blue with a bright, multi-pointed star or comet in the upper right quadrant, casting a soft glow. The city below is rendered in dark, muted colors, with some buildings and structures visible. The overall mood is mysterious and dramatic.

— HELL —

When the Devil Gets What's Due

SEASON'S MEETINGS: A SERIES FOR ADVENT

Revelation 20

7 When the thousand years are over, Satan will be released from his prison ⁸ and will go out to deceive the nations in the four corners of the earth—Gog and Magog—and to gather them for battle. In number they are like the sand on the seashore. ⁹ They marched across the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of God's people, the city he loves. **But fire came down from heaven and devoured them.** ¹⁰ And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be **tormented** day and night for ever and ever.



1. Hell follows judgment...but it also starts before.
2. Hell is the free spurning of a needed gift.
3. Hell is an achievement.
4. Hell is prepared for the devil and his angels.
5. Hell is the end of opposition to Heaven.

Revelation 20

¹⁴ Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. ¹⁵ Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.

“Consignment to the destroying fire is usually treated as the end of the story—not as the beginning of a new story.”

C.S. LEWIS, THE PROBLEM OF PAIN



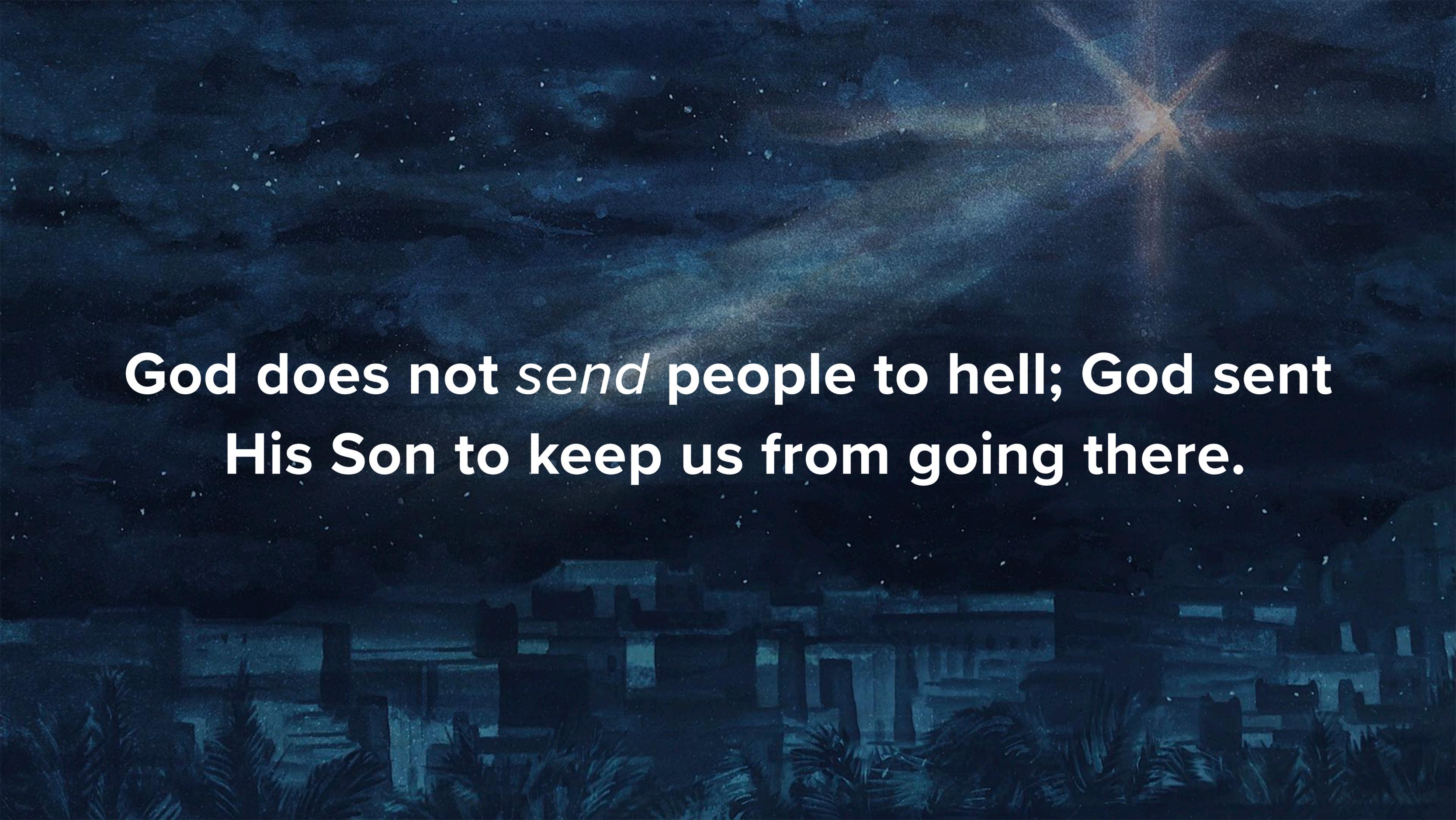
**Hell does not spoil Heaven; Hell assures us
that Heaven cannot be spoiled.**



1. Hell follows judgment...but it also starts before.
2. Hell is the free spurning of a needed gift.
3. Hell is an achievement.
4. Hell is prepared for the devil and his angels.
5. Hell is the end of opposition to Heaven.
6. You were not designed for hell.

“We recognize [God’s saving] love...
not from the depths of hell we were bent on
creating for ourselves, but from the
perspective of the heaven that God is
preparing for us.”

FLEMING RUTLEDGE

A dark, atmospheric night scene. The sky is a deep, textured blue with a prominent starburst or comet-like light source in the upper right quadrant, casting a soft glow. Below the sky, a cityscape is visible, with buildings and structures rendered in dark, muted tones. The overall mood is somber and contemplative.

**God does not *send* people to hell; God sent
His Son to keep us from going there.**

“It has been seven years, four months, and two days since I entered this new life. You will at some point leave your prison cell. I will live in grief for the rest of my life. But let me be clear, as Paul says in 1 Thessalonians 4:13, we ‘do not grieve as others do who have no hope.’ I believe with everything I have that someday God will take the pieces of my shattered life and put them back together. ***And He is waiting to do that for you.***”

DIANE GROTBORG, DAVID’S MOTHER

We were naked and needed clothes, so He came naked and clothed us in His righteousness.

We were strangers, so He came to make us friends.

We were sick, so He took on vulnerable flesh to make us well.

We were imprisoned, so He came to set us free.

We were hungry and thirsty, so He gave us His body and blood—His very life.