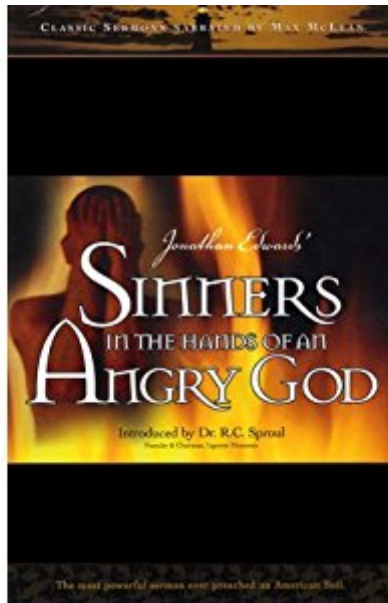


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Sinners In The Hands Of An Angry God



Synopsis

Delivered 250 years ago, this is the most famous sermon ever preached in the history of America. Far more than a depiction of the punishments of hell, it is a call to personal salvation through Christ and spiritual revival in our time. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 44 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Fellowship for the Performing Arts

Audible.com Release Date: November 1, 2004

Language: English

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Customer Reviews

This particular sermon from Edwards has been trumpeted by some as the greatest sermon given on American soil, while being vehemently attacked by others as puritanical fire and brimstone of a backwards age. Oddly enough, there are elements of truth in both sentiments, more the former than the latter however. While unquestionably hitting on many timeless truths that are relevant in any period of time, the genius of the sermon really comes out when one considers the historical context in which the sermon was given. Contrary to many negative reflex and often revisionist reactions we tend to hear today about puritanism and Edwards, Edwards was not a constant fire and brimstone preacher. The writings of Edwards reveal a man who spoke much more on the grace and mercy of God than of His wrath. But really, the two go hand in hand. There's no need for God to be merciful if there's no eternal wrath to fear. There's no need for God to show grace to human beings if there's nothing bad enough in human beings to warrant divine punishment. It is impossible to adequately discuss God's mercy and grace without also dwelling very intently on the wretchedness of man and the divine justice that must be exacted if we believe that God is perfectly holy. This is the context in which this sermon by Edwards was given. He was invited to preach at a church that was spiritually dead and dominated by a spirit of skepticism and a deeply entrenched disbelief in the need for radical personal conversion. Such is the attitude that can be found in many churches today.

Along with John Cotton and George Whitfield, Jonathan Edwards was one of the most important

preachers in American history. The grandson of Solomon Stoddard, the famous revivalist preacher from Northampton, Massachusetts, Edwards entered Yale in 1716 at the age of thirteen and received his first ministry in New York at the age of nineteen. In 1729, at the age of twenty-six, he succeeded his grandfather at the important Northampton Church, where he preached the need for a return to the rock-ribbed Calvinism upon which the "New World" had been founded. The Calvinist creed entailed absolute and unquestioned commitment to beliefs in the total depravity of man as a sinner, unconditional election, predestination, divine revelation and conversion, and eternal suffering for sinners. Edward's ministry had an immediate and dramatic effect, increasing the size of his church, producing over four hundred converts by 1734. The Northampton Revival foreshadowed The Great Awakening--the popular religious movement of 1740-1741 based on the idea that "opening of the spirit to the divine" was more important than a trained intellect--that rocked the very foundations of colonial society. Edward's most famous sermon, "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God," was delivered as a guest sermon to the parish in Enfield, Connecticut, on July 8, 1741, at the very peak of The Great Awakening. Edward's text for the sermon was Deuteronomy 32:35: "Their foot shall slide in due time." Edwards, who typically spoke in an unemotional and relatively plain style, took advantage of the recent prophecy of the end of the world that no doubt weighed upon his listeners minds. Reaching to the depths of his emotional spirit, he preached a sermon designed to terrify his audience into conversion.

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