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Excerpt from *Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God* by Jonathan Edwards

You probably are not sensible of this; you find you are kept out of hell but do not see the hand of God in it: but look at 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 heavy as lead, and to tend downward with great weight and pressure toward hell; and if God should let you go, you would immediately sink and swiftly descend and plunge into the bottomless gulf, and your healthy constitution, and your own care and prudence, and best contrivance, 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 fallen rock...

The wrath of God is like great waters that are dammed for the present; they increase more and more, and rise higher and higher, till an outlet is given; and the longer the stream is stopped, the more rapid and mighty is its course, when once it is let loose. It is true, that judgment against your evil works has not been executed hitherto' the floods of God's vengeance have been withheld; but your guilt in the meantime is constantly increasing, and you are every day treasuring up more wrath;...

1. When Edwards says that "men are held in the hand of God," he means that---
 - A. All human beings can fit into the palm of God's hand.
 - B. God is a kind father.
 - C. The fate of human beings is determined by God.
2. In his sermon, Edwards *mainly* taps into his audience's fear of---
 - A. Their minister's wrath
 - B. Burning forever in a fiery pit
 - C. Associating with sinners
3. Edwards presents God as a being who ---
 - A. Continually redefines the universe
 - B. Is often angry and vengeful
 - C. Easily forgives repentant sinners
4. Edward's purpose in delivering this sermon is to ---
 - A. Frighten his listeners to such that they never return to church.
 - B. Jolt his congregation into mending their ways and seeking salvation.
 - C. Give such a memorable speech that his congregation will never forget him.
5. According to Edwards, the *only* thing that has saved his listeners from hell is God's ---
 - A. Hand
 - B. Compassion
 - C. Wrath
6. Which of the following quotations is the **BEST** example of a metaphor?
 - A. "the floods of God's vengeance have been withheld."
 - B. "your guilt in the meantime is constantly increasing."
 - C. "you find that you are kept out of hell."
7. The following quote is an example of what literary device?

"God is like great waters that are dammed for the present..."

 - A. Personification
 - B. Metaphor
 - C. Simile
8. Edwards makes which of the following comparisons in his sermon ---
 - A. The wrath of God to dammed waters
 - B. The withholding of hell to God's hand
 - C. Unsaved people to spiders
 - D. All of the above

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9. Jonathan Edwards *probably* uses the device of comparing God's fury to natural forces in order to ---
- A. Put abstract things into physical terms people can understand
 - B. Achieve a poetic effect
 - C. Suggest that it is nature, not God, that people should fear

10. Using context clues, choose the **BEST** definition for the word preservation:

*...and the means you use for your own
preservation...*

- A. Protection
- B. Disregard
- C. Ruin

11. Using context clues, choose the **BEST** definition for the word plunge:

*...you would immediately sink and swiftly descend and **plunge** into the bottomless gulf...*

- A. Dive
- B. Soar
- C. Rise