

## Hell

### WHAT DOES THE BIBLE TEACH ABOUT HELL?

- I. What words in the Bible reference the destination of the soul/spirit after the death of the physical body?
  - A. (O.T.) Hebrew - *Sheol*; the unseen world; the grave or pit
  - B. (N.T.) Greek - *Hades*; the N.T. equivalent of *Sheol*; the abode of departed spirits

\*It appears that the Bible teaches that there exists in *Sheol/Hades* a temporary “torment compartment” that is commonly referred to as *hell* where wicked souls have always gone and will always go until the end of the Millennium. Then the wicked will be brought out of here to be reunited with their resurrected and immortal bodies and to be cast into the final hell or *lake of fire* for eternity (Luke 16:19-31; Revelation 20:11-15).

- C. (N.T.) Greek - *Gehenna*; the valley of Hinnom used by Jesus to symbolize the final place of punishment of unbelievers (Matthew 10:28). This valley lies south and east of Jerusalem and was called the *valley of lamentation* because of the cries of the infants who were thrown into the fiery arms of the bull-like idol Molech. The Jews so abhorred the place after these horrible sacrifices had been abolished by King Josiah (2 Kings 23:10) that they cast into it not only all manner of refuse, but also the dead bodies of animals and of criminals who had been executed. It is believed that it was a place where fires burned perpetually. *Gehenna* is synonymous with the *lake of fire* and the *second death* (Revelation 2:11).

\*“The word death as applied to man in Scripture means *separation* or a cutting off from realizing God’s purpose for which he was created. One can logically substitute the word separation for death in every scripture where it is used. It will clarify many passages to do so.” FINIS DAKE

- II. Who will suffer the punishment of *hell*?
  - A. The devil (Revelation 20:7-10)
  - B. His demons [fallen angels] (2 Peter 2:4)
  - C. Human beings who have failed to trust in Jesus Christ (John 3:36; 2 Thessalonians 1:8, Hebrews 10:28-31)

III. What is it like? *hell* is characterized by:

- A. A total absence of God's presence (Psalm 88:3-5; 2 Thessalonians 1:9)
- B. Anguish from the punishment of eternal fire (Luke 16:24; Jude 7)
- C. Weeping from terrible regret and despair (Matthew 25:30)

IV. How long does *hell* last?

- A. It is a place of eternal, conscious punishment for the wicked (2 Thessalonians 1:8-9)

V. When will the final assignment to the *lake of fire* take place?

- A. After the Great White Throne Judgment (Revelation 20:11-15)

VI. Will there be degrees of judgment?

- A. Apparently (Matthew 11:20-24)

\*(N.T.) Greek - *Tartarus*; this prison is a special one for fallen angels who sinned before the flood. (1 Peter 3:19-20; 2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6)

*"Hell is God's great compliment to the reality of human freedom and the dignity of human choice."*

G.K CHESTERTON

*"How could a good and loving God impose His eternal presence on someone who was not interested in spending roughly seventy-five years in relationship with Him here on earth?"* FMN