

A Biblical Examination Of Hell

Printed By
Christian Bible Press
3194 Spencer Dr.
Geneva, Ohio
A Ministry Of
Dr. Dan Arbogast

Pastor Of Christian Bible Church
27 South Lk. St.
Madison, Ohio

Definition Of Words

The word hell is used 56 times in the King James Bible.

33 times in the Old Testament, and it is translated from the Hebrew word *sheol*, = *the world of the dead*.

The word hell is used 23 times in the New Testament.

12 times it is translated from the word Geena, (to be discussed at length later) and 10 times it is translated from the Greek word *Hades* = *A place, or, state of departed souls*.

In 2 Peter 2:4 the word hell is translated from the Greek word *Tartaroo* = *the deepest abyss of Hades, or, incarcerate*.

It is important to note that the word grave is mistranslated 32 times in the Old Testament from the word *sheol*.

That is the reason for much confusion, which is not necessary if one studies the Bible.

Mark 9:43-44 And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched.

Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.

Also the same is said of the foot and the eye in verses 45 and 47, and in verses 46 and 48 Christ repeats verse 44.

Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.

The word hell in these verses is translated from the Greek word Geena. It is the Greek form of the Hebrew *Hinnom* or, *the valley of Hinnom*. In the Hebrew *Ge-Hinnom*.

Eleven times in the gospels Jesus Christ the Lord used the word Geena to describe hell.

The Jews knew the meaning of the word well.

It is more than just a place!

HINNOM

The Valley of Hinnom had many names in the Old Testament. According to Smiths Bible Dictionary, it was a deep narrow ravine with steep rocky sides.

1 Kings 11:4a,5 And it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods:

For Solomon went after Ashtoreth, the goddess of the Zidonians, and after Milcom, the abomination of the Ammonites.

1 Kings 11:7,8 Then did Solomon build a high place for Chemosh, the abomination of Moab, in the hill that is before Jerusalem, and for Molech, the abomination of the children of Ammon.

And likewise did he for all his strange wives, which burnt incense and sacrificed unto their gods.

Because of that evil, God divided Israel into two sections.

The northern tribes would be called Israel and the southern tribe would be called Judah. (Read 1 Kings 11:11-46)

Idolatrous Israel would adopt the practice of raising altars to false gods in the valley of Hinnom.

They would establish groves of trees, because they felt their false gods liked nature.

NOTE: Even today there is a place in northern California called Bohemian Grove. Important people from all over the world gather there. There is a large altar where they make sacrifices. We do not know if the sacrifices are real or imitation.

Later, King Ahaz adopted the same ritual, except, he made his children pass through the fire. (2 Kings 16:1-4 2 Chronicles 28:1-4)

King Manasseh adopted the same practice in the Valley of Hinnom. (2 Chronicles 33:1-7)

Finally, King Josiah rendered the Valley of Hinnom ceremonially unclean. He put a stop to idol worship and established the laws once again in Israel. (Read 2 Kings 22:1-23:27 with 2 Chronicles 34:1-35:27)

In Jeremiah chapter 19 God sent Jeremiah to warn Judah about their idol worship and forsaking the one true God of Israel. (See Jeremiah 19:1-5)

Jeremiah 19:6 Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that this place shall no more be called Tophet, nor the valley of the son of Hinnom, but The Valley of Slaughter.

God used king Josiah to fulfill these words in Jeremiah. The valley of Hinnom (Ge-Hinnom) became an abomination.

Ultimately, it became the city dump for Jerusalem. Bodies of vagrants, and unclaimed dead went to the fires of Geena.

Even the sewage went to the valley to be carried off by the waters of the Kidron.

The Jews knew what Jesus meant when He

likened hell to Geena. “Where the worm never dies and the fire is not quenched.”

SHEOL / HADES

33 times the word hell in the Old Testament is translated from the word *sheol*.

10 times in the New Testament it is translated from the word *hades*.

Sheol and Hades are the same place. There was two parts of Hades and it was divided by a large gulf.

In Luke chapter sixteen is the account of Lazarus and the rich man who died.

Luke 16:22-26 And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abrahams bosom: the rich man also died and was buried

And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.

And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that

He may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.

But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented.

And beside all this, there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us that would come from thence.

Before Jesus Christ went to the cross everyone who died went to Hades/Sheol.

Those who looked forward to the Cross and having their sins paid for, went to the Paradise side, or, Abrahams bosom,

Like Lazarus, the beggar, they were comforted.

Those who, like many people today, rejected the Cross and the sacrifice of Christ for their sins, went to the torment side.

Christ died, was buried, and rose again, for our sins.

The Resurrection

Everyone dies. Yet, everyone, without exception, will have a resurrection.

Because Christ rose from the dead, everyone will receive a resurrected body someday.

Luke 23:43 And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with me in paradise.

The thief who hung on a cross next to Jesus, and acknowledged Him as Lord, was told he would be in paradise with Christ.

This was the paradise side of Sheol/Hades.

NOTE: Jesus Christ did not go to the torment side of Hades.

After three days Christ rose from the dead. This was a guarantee that everyone would have a resurrected body someday.

Those who hear and believe the gospel, will have eternal life with Christ in glory.

Those who do not will have eternal pain in the lake of fire.

The gospel is that Christ died, was buried, and rose again, for the forgiveness of sin.

The only requirement for humanity is to accept it by faith. (see John 3:15,16 6:47)

1 Corinthians 15:42,43 So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption.

It is sown in dishonour, it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power.

Paradise Taken

Fifty days after Christ rose from the dead, on the Jewish feast of Pentecost, He ascended in to heaven. (Acts 1:9,10)

A cloud received Him out of their sight. I personally believe this was paradise.

In 2 Corinthians 12:1-4 Paul gives the account of a man caught up into the third heaven, into paradise. (the third heaven is

where the throne of God is, and the man was Paul.)

Paradise is no longer in Hades/ Sheol. But the torment side remains.

The entire creation is waiting for their resurrection, even though most of them do not know it.

Those who are saved by simply believing the gospel are taken into heaven for eternity, and those who do not are taken into everlasting fire for eternity.

Everlasting Fire

Since Almighty God is eternal, He knows the past, the present, and the future.

Therefore, when He created, He created all things, including hell.

Matthew 25:41 Then shall he also say unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels.

‘Then shall the king say unto them on his right hand.’ In Matthew chapter twenty five, the Lord gives His account of the future judgment of the nations.

This will take place at the end of the seven year tribulation, just prior to the establishment of the kingdom.

Matthew 25:31-34 When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory.

And before him shall be gathered all the nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats.

And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.

Then shall the king say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

A special note: All prophecy will come to pass because it is settled in past history.

Matthew 25:41 Then shall he say also unto them on his left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels.

It is settled from the foundation of the world. The everlasting fire is the final abode of the lost, and is prepared for the devil and his angels.

At the end of the seven year tribulation, at Armageddon, Christ will separate the world into two groups; the saved and the lost.

The saved are left to enter the kingdom in their physical bodies. The lost are cast into the lake of fire prepared for the devil and his angels.

This is the first time it is mentioned in the Bible that people are cast into the lake of fire.

You will notice that, in the book of Revelation, hell, the final abode of the lost, is given a name. It is called the lake of fire, and the second death, as we will see.

The Second Death

As we have already seen Matthew 25 draws a picture of the judgment of the nations. This is a fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy, and it is fulfilled in Revelation. (Revelation 19:11-21 with Joel 3:2-16 and many more)

At this present time in history, the torment side of Sheol / Hades is still where the lost go upon death. It is not the final abode of the lost.

At the end of the seven year tribulation, at the judgment of the nations, the lost are cast into the lake of fire prepared for the devil and his angels. (Matthew 25:41)

Revelation 19:19 And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army.

This is what is referred to as the battle of Armageddon.

It is also when the judgment of the nations takes place.

Revelation 19:20 And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone.

At this time, just before Christ sets up His kingdom, Satan is chained in a bottomless pit for the duration of the 1000 year kingdom.
(Revelation 20:1-3)

At the end of the 1000 reign of Christ in the kingdom, Satan will be loosed and deceive the nations once again. (Revelation 20: 7 – 10)

Revelation 20:10 And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire burning with fire and brimstone, where the beast and false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night forever and ever.

The beast and false prophet, and all humanity that rejected the gospel, and made war with Christ, have been in the lake of fire, waiting for the arrival of the devil, who is Satan.

Now they all will spend eternity in the lake of fire. But, there is more to come.

The Great White Throne

After Satan is cast into the lake of fire, and the 1000 year kingdom comes to an end, Christ the Lord sits on a Great White Throne.

Revelation 20:12-15 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

There are three important things to note in these verses.

1. Everyone who is saved by faith in the finished work of Christ as payment for their sins has their name written in the book of life. Every one has their name written in the book of life. If they do not believe the simple gospel it will be erased upon death. (acquire the book Let it be Written from this ministry)
2. The word hell in these verses is translated from the word Hades. Those who have been in Hades, like the rich man, will be taken and cast into the lake of fire.
3. This is called the second death. It is eternal death, without being dead. It is bad enough to die once.

The lake of fire is the final hell.

Revelation 20:9 Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

Revelation 21:8 But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

For a Biblical description of these people read Jude 5-19, and notice the words ‘twice dead,’ in verse 12.

Everyone who puts their faith in Christ as their Savior will keep their name in the book of life and take part in the first resurrection.

Notice... “the second death hath no power.”

Christ died, was buried, and rose again, for the forgiveness of sin. Just believe it, and you will be forgiven of your sins. Your name will remain in the book.

Isaiah 14:4-17 is the account of the doom of Satan. He is called the king of Babylon, because of his influence over Babylon.

He is also called the king of Assyria, and Tyre, and so forth, because of his influence.

Matthew 25:41 Then shall he also say unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels.

The old devil, who is Satan, has the ability to warp the minds of humanity into rejecting the truth.

Those who listen to his lies will spend eternity with him in the lake of fire.

Tartaroo

11 Peter 2:4 For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment.

The word hell in this verse is translated from

the Greek word tartaroo, and means to incarcerate. Notice the words, “delivered into chains of darkness.”

I know many will not agree with me, but I believe these are the angels who possessed humanity in Genesis chapter six.

Because they indwelt and possessed men and women, they had children who were called giants. They were giants against God.

Genesis 6:4a There were giants in the earth in those days; and also after that, when the sons of Go came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare children to them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown.

The word giant is translated from the word *nephiyl* and it means; *bully, tyrant, and comes from the root word nephel = fallen ones.*

It does not mean they were 8 feet tall and 12 toed, one eyed monsters.

It simply means they were giants against God.

In the Old Testament the sons of God were angels. (read Job 1:6 and 2:1) In this case they were the fallen angels who rebelled against God and were cast out of the third heaven with Satan. (read Revelation 12:3,4 and Matthew 25:41)

Genesis chapter six records that the earth was corrupt and wicked, and evil. (Gen. 6:5, 11,12)

Therefore, God brought the flood upon the earth. Since the angels were not human, they were not subject to physical death.

So they were incarcerated in tartaroo.

Jude 6 And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.

I would like to give my interpretation of the meaning of these verses. You may disagree if you like.

In Revelation chapter nine, God gives John a vision of the bottomless pit.

In Revelation 9:1- 6 the bottomless pit was opened, and locusts came out of the bottomless pit, to torture humanity.

And in verses 7 -10 we are given a description of these locusts.

And in verse 11 they had a king over them, whose name was Abaddon, or Apollyon, which means destroyer.

Personally, I believe these are the angels that are incarcerated unto the Day of judgment, mentioned in 11Peter 2:4 and Jude 6.

The judgment is the seven year tribulation, or the wrath of God, poured out on an evil world.

Revelation 14:7a Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him, for the hour of his judgment is come.....

It is the “Great day of Gods wrath”

We only point this out to show that tartaroo, which means ‘incarceration,’ and the bottomless pit, are not hell, and we have no idea where they are.

But we know they exist.

The devil and his angels, and all humanity that rejects the simple gospel, will ultimately spend eternity in the lake of fire burning with brimstone.

Christ died, was buried, and rose again, for the forgiveness of sin. If you believe he did that for you, you will avoid the lake of fire, and spend eternity with Christ.

(John 3:15-18 esp. 3:16 6:47 Acts 10:43 Acts 13:39 Acts 16:31)