

HELL SERIES



WORD 4 TODAY

WEDNESDAY, JULY 27, 2011

THURSDAY, MAY 24, 2012

HELL, NO!

Contrary to conventional religious teaching, **hell is A TEMPORARY PLACE, NOT a FINAL destination** (Psalms 16:10; 2 Peter 2:4).

Most people confuse **hell, which is temporary**, with **the lake of fire, which is eternal**. Or use "hell" as a general term to refer to the destination of those who are spiritually lost. I've been guilty of it myself.

Everyone who is in hell right now CAN STILL (potentially) GET SAVED (Psalm 139:8; Matthew 12:32).

While they still CAN get saved, **there's NO ASSURANCE that they will.**

It is still THEIR CHOICE.

I realize this is a controversial subject. I certainly don't part fellowship with those who believe differently. I also recognize that it's HARD to break free from religious tradition. So, those who have "problems" with this doctrine, and can't receive it, it's O.K.

This is NON-ESSENTIAL, meaning that no one's Salvation hinges on their hell doctrine.

On the other hand, for those whose loved ones died WITHOUT CHRIST, while I cannot give assurances that they will be saved, there's STILL a ray of hope.

Hell is known by several names in the Bible:

1. **Hell** (Psalms 9:17; Luke 16:23)
2. **The bottomless pit or "the pit"** (Psalms 88:6; Proverbs 1:12).
3. **The abyss** (Jeremiah 48:28; Luke 8:31; Revelation 9:2).

4. **The "nether parts of the earth"** (or netherworld) (Ezekiel 31:14; 32:18).

Geographically speaking, **hell is located BENEATH the surface of the earth, at its center, BELOW where we live** (Numbers 16:33; Deuteronomy 32:22; Isaiah 14:9).

They way in and out of hell, geographically speaking, **is thru the sea** (Ezekiel 28:8).

The way INTO hell, spiritually speaking, **is NOT RECEIVING Jesus Christ as Lord, Savior and God.**

Failure to RECEIVE Jesus is **THE ONLY sin**, -- repeat: **THE ONLY sin** -- THAT WILL SEND ANYONE TO HELL.

The way OUT of hell, is to receive Jesus as Lord, Savior and God.

Those in hell **can find Jesus**, as evidenced by Psalm 139:8:

"If I ascend up into heaven, you are there: if I make my bed IN HELL, behold, YOU ARE THERE".

If God is **EVEN IN HELL** itself, **then there is the**

POSSIBILITY to get saved since He IS Salvation
(Psalm 27:1; 118:21).

Psalm 116:3-4 say: "The sorrows of death compassed me, and **the pains OF HELL got hold on me... Then I called on the name of the LORD: "O LORD, save me"!**

If salvation in hell were utterly impossible, then calling on the Name of the Lord, and asking for His Salvation **from there** would be FUTILE and totally UNCALLED FOR.

Proverbs 15:24: "The WAY OF LIFE is above to the wise **THAT HE MAY DEPART FROM hell beneath**".

While escaping the lake of fire is IMPOSSIBLE, **clearly, it IS POSSIBLE to DEPART FROM "hell beneath"**.

Amos 9:2 is self-explanatory: "Though they go **DOWN TO HELL, THERE SHALL MY HAND BRING THEM OUT**".

Those in hell CAN STILL GET SAVED, regardless of what organized religion teaches, and DESPITE traditional Christian thinking.

That's why Jesus said "You have heard that it was said by them of old time, you shall not kill...

But I say unto you, that whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment... but whosoever shall say, you fool, **SHALL BE IN DANGER OF HELL FIRE.**

Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has anything against you; leave there your gift before the altar, and go your way; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift...

Verily I say unto you, **YOU SHALL BY NO MEANS COME OUT OF THERE, UNTIL** you have paid the last penny (Matthew 5:21-26).

If **COMING OUT OF** hell fire were impossible, Jesus would have never uttered those words.

That's why Jesus **ALSO** said "And whosoever speaks a word against the Son of man it shall be forgiven him but whosoever speaks against the Holy Spirit it **SHALL NOT BE FORGIVEN him neither in this age NEITHER IN THE AGE TO COME** (Matthew 12:32).

Jesus could have simply said "they'll NEVER be forgiven".

If salvation in "the age to come" (the Millennium) were impossible, then Jesus wouldn't have needed to clarify that those who commit that particular sin would not get forgiveness **NOW OR THEN**, and His statement would be **TOTALLY UNCALLED FOR**.

That's why Jesus **ALSO SAID**: "I AM the Resurrection, and THE LIFE: he THAT BELIEVES IN ME, THOUGH HE WERE DEAD, yet shall he live" (John 11:25).

Evidently, it is **STILL POSSIBLE** to believe in Jesus even **WHEN (AFTER) WE ARE PHYSICALLY DEAD**.

If people in hell **COULDN'T** get saved, Revelation 20:13-15 wouldn't say:

"The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades (hell) **GAVE UP THE DEAD THAT WERE IN THEM**, and each person was judged according to what he had done. Then death and Hades (**HELL**) were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death.

"Those, **whose names were NOT found written in the Book of Life**, were thrown into the lake of fire".

Such statement CLEARLY INDICATES that at the Great White Throne (Final) Judgment **SOME dead people, who had gone to hell, WERE found in the Book of Life, and were NOT cast into the lake.**

That, in turn, means that **they got saved IN HELL ITSELF.**

Those in hell will still have the OPPORTUNITY TO GET SAVED until the end of the Millennium. **Those who, by then, have not repented and received Jesus as Lord, Savior and God, will be tossed into the lake of fire, ALONG WITH HELL ITSELF** (Revelation 20:12-15).

The lake of fire **IS eternal. No one's coming out of there, EVER** (Matthew 25:41).

Salvation in hell is POSSIBLE, but **NOT CERTAIN.**

There is **no guarantee of Salvation** in hell.

There is **no guarantee of ANYTHING** in hell, except torment.

Why take chances in hell, when you CAN BE SURE?

Are you 100% SURE of your FINAL destination?

Salvation is ONLY guaranteed, 100%, to those who receive Christ NOW.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 16, 2013

ONE HELLUVA PLACE

English Bibles refer to ALL THE PLACES where unsaved beings are as “hell”. This oversimplification has led to much confusion, as well as doctrinal error.

The New Testament uses **FOUR different Greek words** for what we usually call “hell”:

1. Hades
2. Abussos
3. Tartarus
4. Gehenna

The first three are TEMPORARY places.

Gehenna is eternal, and THE FINAL destination of ALL THE UNSAVED.

Additionally, the terms Eternal Fire (*aionion to pur*, Matthew 25:41) and Lake of Fire (*limnen tou puros*,

in chapters 19, 20 and 21:8 of Revelation), are used to describe the same place depicted by Gehenna.

Let's take a closer look:

HADES – refers to the underworld and is equivalent to the Hebrew *Sheol*, **the grave, pit, the place of the dead.**

It is viewed as a place of stillness and darkness cut off from God.

PRIOR TO Christ's Resurrection, Hades was compartmentalized and ALL THE DEAD, both the righteous and the unrighteous, would go there, regardless of what they chose in this life.

According to Luke 16:23-26, there was A CHASM in Hades SEPARATING the righteous dead, in the bosom of Abraham, and the wicked dead who were in torment. It prevented any crossover from one area of Hades to the other.

ABUSSOS – Usually translated as “abyss” or “bottomless pit” (equivalent to Hebrew *tehom*) refers to the portion of the underworld, WHERE THERE'S A SUDDEN DROP or CHASM.

It's a place **VERY DEEP IN THE SEA**. It's the **abode of demons** (disembodied spirits of pre-Adamic civilization), as noted in Luke 8:31 where Legion begs Jesus **NOT TO** send them there.

According to Revelation 9:1, there's a shaft that leads in and out of the abyss, which can be opened or shut.

According to Romans 10:7, **it's from this place that Jesus rose from the dead.**

According to Job 41:32, the abyss is also **the home of leviathan, the sea serpent or dragon.**

It is from this abyss or bottomless pit **that the Antichrist will soon emerge, resurrected from the dead** (Revelation 11:7, 17:8).

Finally, according to Revelation 20:3, the pit is also where satan himself **will be bound for A THOUSAND YEARS.**

TARTARUS – A special place in the underworld where the wicked receive punishment (2 Peter 2:4; Jude 1:6).

In ancient Greek mythology Tartarus is **THE**

DEEPEST PART OF THE ABYSS (bottomless pit) that is used AS A DUNGEON OF TORMENT AND SUFFERING FOR THE WICKED.

The *Iliad* (c. 700 BC) says that Tartarus is "as far beneath Hades as heaven is high above the earth."

Tartarus is known in Hellenistic Jewish literature from the Greek text of 1 Enoch, written in 400–200 BC.

1 Enoch 20:2 states that God placed the archangel Uriel "in charge of the world and of Tartarus".

Tartarus is generally understood to be the place where 200 fallen Watchers (nephilim) are imprisoned.

GEHENNA – This word is made up of two Greek words *ge*, meaning earth and *henna* meaning “red”.

While its literal translation from Greek is “red earth”, it’s actually a derivation of the Hebrew Gehinnom, or Ge Ben Hinnom, and refers to a place in southern Jerusalem known as the Valley of the Son of Hinnom.

It was at that location that apostate Israelites who worshipped Baal, Moloch, and other Caananite gods, sacrificed their children by fire (2 Chronicles 28:3, 33:6).

Consequently, it was deemed to be A CURSED PLACE (Jeremiah 7:31, 19:2-6) and hence, **in Jesus' time, it was used as the place where refuse was continually burned, day and night.** For that reason, the fire at that place was never extinguished.

Jesus said it was better to go into eternal life with ONE eye than having BOTH EYES being cast into Gehenna (Matthew 18:9).

Jesus used THE LOCAL GARBAGE DUMP, WHERE THE FIRE NEVER WENT OUT, as vivid example of what the lake of fire is like.

This has been used as a convenient excuse by several cults to deny the existence of hell and of the lake of fire.

We will talk about that in the next message:

IS HELL REAL? Don't miss it.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 17, 2013

IS HELL REAL?

Today, the valley of Hinnom is a green and relatively tranquil place, and one must use his imagination to envision the horrendous acts that actually went on in this place 2,700-2,800 years ago:

Much of Israel was engaged in gross and extreme idolatry, to the point of offering **THEIR OWN BABIES** in sacrifice to the Cananite “gods”.

Jesus repeatedly used that place, which by the first century A.D. had become the local trash dump at the Hinnom Valley (Gehenna), just south of Jerusalem, to symbolize the final destination of unbelievers (the wicked).

The fact that the fire of Jerusalem’s Gehenna was eventually extinguished has led many religious opportunists to claim that such is the case with hell.

That people who are lost are simply destroyed and **CEASE TO EXIST:**

That there is **NO PLACE** of torment and eternal punishment for unbelievers (the wicked)...

That a LOVING GOD would never allow such thing, let alone designate a place for that purpose.

Are they right?

Not a chance in....

What do these jokers expect, anyway?

That Jesus would take everyone ON A GUIDED TOUR OF THE LAKE OF FIRE?

Since Gehenna's fire burned non-stop 24/7, it was the perfect example.

The fact Gehenna's fire eventually was extinguished and today it's nothing but a green valley is a poor argument.



Gehenna (Valley of Hinnom) in biblical times



Gehenna (Valley of Hinnom) today.

We live in a TEMPORAL realm where EVERYTHING – sooner or later – comes to an end.

Jesus simply used a local place, that everyone knew at the time, to illustrate THE ETERNAL PLACE.

Paul reminded us that “things which ARE SEEN are TEMPORAL, things which are NOT SEEN are ETERNAL” (2 Corinthians 4:18).

Jesus clearly spoke about certain people who would go to “THE ETERNAL FIRE prepared for the devil and his angels” (Matthew 25:41).

And, in that passage, He DOES NOT use the word Gehenna, referring to the local (temporal) place, but *aionion pur* which **LITERALLY MEANS “ETERNAL fire”**.

Therefore, Jesus Himself refuted that shabby argument.

Others argue that such fire WOULD CONSUME the individuals in it, and thus they would CEASE TO EXIST.

These people need to read THE OLD TESTAMENT that THEY LOVE SO MUCH and STOP SETTING LIMITS ON GOD – as to what He “can” or “cannot” do.

Spirit beings are IMMORTAL and capable of experiencing such consuming fire (that would turn flesh into a crisp), **WITHOUT BEING CONSUMED.**

God gave Moses one such example in the bush that burned, yet IT WAS NOT CONSUMED (Exodus 3:2).

What about Ezekiel 18:4 that says “the soul that sins, IT SHALL DIE”?

If the soul DIES, doesn't that mean it CEASES TO EXIST?

No.

In this temporal world we think of dying in PHYSICAL terms: The body dies and we THINK they've CEASED TO EXIST.

Truth be told, that individual's spirit and soul STILL EXIST and are INDESTRUCTIBLE.

A dead spirit or dead soul DOES NOT CEASE TO EXIST. Spiritual death is MERELY BEING ALIENATED FROM Jesus WHO IS THE LIFE.

In Him ALL THINGS AND BEINGS **ARE.**

OUT OF HIM, all things and beings **ARE NOT.**

They are DEAD, although they still exist.

Those who EXIST ALIENATED FROM Christ, are TWICE DEAD (Jude 1:12).

That's WHY Revelation 20:14 calls it "the SECOND death".

There's PHYSICAL death where the PHYSICAL body disintegrates and goes back into the dust.

There's SPIRITUAL DEATH which is EXISTENCE WITHOUT CHRIST in torment.

There are A LOT OF HUMANS walking around this earth right now **WHO ARE PHYSICALLY ALIVE, yet SPIRITUALLY DEAD.**

If they want SPIRITUAL (ETERNAL) Life, they MUST invite Jesus INTO THEIR HEARTS and hook up with Jesus spiritually.

He is THE WAY, the Truth and **THE LIFE.**

There's NO LIFE APART FROM Him, even for those who exist.

NO ONE goes to the Father (ETERNAL Life) EXCEPT THROUGH Him (John 14:6).

But what about those WHO'VE NEVER HEARD OF Jesus?

God KNOWS each human heart. And every human REALIZES on some level that there MUST BE Someone MUCH GREATER THAN themselves who created everything around us.

God will move heaven and earth to reach those individuals who SEEK God the Creator with all their hearts, regardless of Whom He may turn out to be.

Last but not least, would A LOVING God send people to that place of torment?

Actually, THEY SEND THEMSELVES.

God gave EVERY HUMAN FREE WILL to choose his or her own eternal destiny.

If they CHOOSE NOT TO receive Him, if they want NOTHING to do with Jesus, they ARE CHOOSING ALIENATION FROM Him and instead of being purified and perfected by His consuming fire, they WILL BE TORMENTED.

In conclusion:

The word Sheol appears **64 TIMES** in the Bible.

Underworld or “lower parts of the earth” *beeretz tatyowt* appears **5 times**

The word Hades appears **11 TIMES**.

Abussos appears **11 TIMES**.

Tartarus occurs **ONCE**.

Eternal fire appears **ONCE**.

Gehenna appears **12 TIMES**.

Lake of fire appears **5 TIMES**.

Katachthoniōn meaning under the earth appears **ONCE**.

God TALKS ABOUT hell, in one fashion or another, a **TOTAL OF 111 TIMES**.

That's A LOT OF TALK about a place that "doesn't exist".

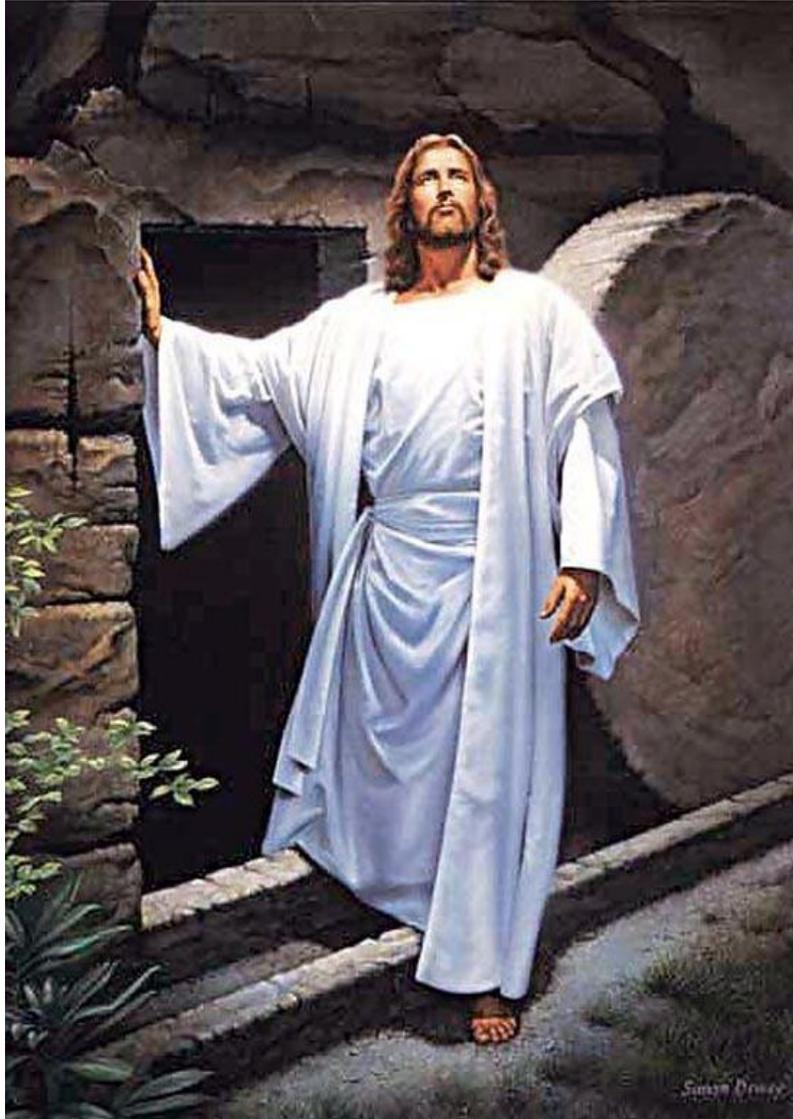
Perhaps the most ominous mention of a place of punishment, an eternal one, corresponding to the lake of fire, **bringing the TOTAL to 112**, is made in Revelation 14:10-11 concerning those who take the mark of the beast during the tribulation:

They "shall be **TORMENTED WITH FIRE AND BRIMSTONE** in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb:

And **THE SMOKE OF THEIR TORMENT** ascends up forever and ever: and **THEY HAVE NO REST, DAY NOR NIGHT**, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receives the mark of his name".

God says **AT LEAST 112 times** in His Holy **INERRANT** Word that there's a hell, or place of torment for the unsaved.

Either **HELL DENIERS ARE LIARS**, or **GOD IS**.



“I AM the Resurrection and THE LIFE: he that BELIEVES IN ME, THOUGH HE WERE DEAD, YET SHALL HE LIVE (John 11:25)

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SCRIPTURES THAT SAY PEOPLE IN HELL CAN STILL BE SAVED:

1. “For YOU WILL NOT LEAVE MY SOUL IN SHEOL; neither will you allow your Holy One to see corruption” (Psalm 16:10).

2. “O Lord, YOU HAVE BROUGHT UP MY SOUL FROM HELL: you have kept me alive, that I should not go down to the pit” (Psalm 30:3).

3. “For God WILL REDEEM MY SOUL FROM THE POWER OF HELL: For He shall receive me. Selah” (Psalm 49:15).

4. “For great is your mercy toward me: and YOU HAVE DELIVERED MY SOUL FROM THE DEPTHS OF HELL” (Psalm 86:13).

5. “The sorrows of death surrounded me, AND THE PAINS OF HELL GOT HOLD ON ME: I found trouble and sorrow.

THEN CALLED I UPON THE NAME OF THE LORD; O LORD, I beseech you, DELIVER MY SOUL” (Psalm 116:3-4).

6. “If I ascend up into heaven, you are there: **IF I MAKE MY BED IN HELL, BEHOLD, YOU ARE THERE.**” (Psalm 139:8)

7. “The LORD kills, and makes alive: **HE BRINGS DOWN TO HELL, AND BRINGS UP AGAIN**” (1 Samuel 2:6).

8. “**THE SORROWS OF HELL SURROUNDED ME; THE SNARES OF DEATH CONFRONTED ME;**

IN MY DISTRESS I CALLED UPON THE LORD, and cried to my God: **AND HE DID HEAR MY VOICE** out of his temple, and my cry did enter into his ears.

Then the earth shook and trembled; the foundations of heaven moved and shook, because he was angry.

There went up smoke out of his nostrils, and fire out of his mouth devoured: coals were kindled by it.

He bowed the heavens also, and came down; and darkness was under his feet.

And he rode upon a cherub, and did fly: and he was seen upon the wings of the wind.

And he made darkness pavilions round about him,
dark waters, and thick clouds of the skies.

Through the brightness before him were coals of fire
kindled.

The LORD thundered from heaven, and the most
High uttered his voice.

And he sent out arrows, and scattered them;
lightning, and vanquished them.

And the channels of the sea appeared; the
foundations of the world were discovered, at the
rebuking of the LORD, at the blast of the breath of
his nostrils.

**HE SENT FROM ABOVE, HE TOOK ME; HE
DREW ME OUT OF MANY WATERS**” (2 Samuel
22:6-17).

9. “The way of life leads above to the wise, **THAT HE
MAY DEPART FROM HELL BENEATH**” (Proverbs
15:24).

**10. I WILL RANSOM THEM FROM THE POWER
OF HELL**; I WILL REDEEM THEM FROM DEATH:

O death, I will be your plagues; O hell, I will be your destruction"... (Hosea 13:14)

11. "Though they dig INTO HELL, THERE SHALL MY HAND PULL THEM OUT" (Amos 9:2).

12. "You have heard that it was said by them of old time, You shall not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment:

22But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, You fool, **SHALL BE IN DANGER OF HELL FIRE.**

23Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has anything against you;

24Leave there your gift before the altar, and go your way; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.

25Agree with your adversary quickly, while you are in the way with him; lest at any time the adversary deliver you to the judge, and the judge deliver you to the officer, and you be cast into prison.

26Verily I say unto you, **YOU SHALL BY NO MEANS COME OUT OF THERE, TILL YOU HAVE PAID THE LAST PENNY"** (Matthew 5:21-26).

13. “And whosoever speaks a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, IT SHALL NOT BE FORGIVEN HIM, NEITHER IN THIS WORLD, NOR IN THE WORLD TO COME” (Matthew 12:32)

14. “Jesus said to her, I am the resurrection, and the life: HE THAT BELIEVES IN ME, THOUGH HE WERE DEAD, YET SHALL HE LIVE” (John 11:25)
Clearly, people can believe in Christ, and be saved (live) EVEN AFTER THEY HAVE DIED.

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.
13And the sea gave up the dead who were in it; and **DEATH AND HELL GAVE UP THE DEAD WHO WERE IN THEM**: and they were judged every man according to their works.

14And DEATH AND HADES WERE CAST INTO THE LAKE OF FIRE. This is the second death.

15And **WHOEVER WAS NOT FOUND WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF LIFE** was cast into the lake of fire” (Revelation 20:12-15).