

HELLFIRE

After the millennium there will be a resurrection of the unjust and we are told in Revelation 20:9 that fire will come down from heaven and devour them. This is what many people picture hell as. The word "hell" is only mentioned 54 times in the King James Version Bible, yet it is probably one of the most widely misunderstood and misrepresented topics in all the Bible. Today we will clear up the confusion on hell.

1. **The word "hell" is mentioned only 31 times in the Old Testament. The Hebrew word is "sheol." What does it mean? Look it up in the Strong's Concordance.**

Bible Text – Deuteronomy 32:22

"sheol" =

2. **The word "hell" is mentioned 23 times in the New Testament. There are three Greek words which are "hades," "gahenna" and "tartaroo." What do they mean? Look them up in the Strong's Concordance.**

Bible Text – Matthew 11:23

"hades" =

Bible Text – James 3:6

"gahenna" =

Bible Text – 2 Peter 2:4

"tartaroo" =

Note: Everyone who dies the mortal death goes to the first hell – the grave. But the second meaning of the word hell, which is the place of burning, is for a select group.

3. **Who was hell made for?**

Bible Text – Matthew 25:31-34, 41

4. **When will hell (the place of burning) occur?**

Bible Text – Revelation 20:14, 15

5. **Where is hell?**

Bible Text – Revelation 20:9

6. **How long does hell last? Consider the following scenarios.**

Scenario 1

Let's use the understanding of hell as we know it today. After we die, if we are not in Christ we go straight to hell and suffer eternal torment. Let's pretend it's true and has nothing to do with Greek mythology at all.

Therefore, Cain would be burning for 6,000 years because he was the first murderer. In the 1940's a man by the name of Adolf Hitler killed millions of Jews and many others. It will not be fair to Cain because he only murdered one person and he will always be burning 6,000 years longer than Hitler.

Scenario 2

We know that hell will be on earth. But we are also told that God will make a new heaven and a new earth. But if hell burns forever, when will the saints inherit the new earth according to **Matt 5:5**?

Scenario 3

What is the devil's favorite thing to do? To make our life uncomfortable. If the wicked were to burn forever, that means that they have eternal life right? And Satan would also enjoy it because those in hell are being tormented. And we know that God alone has immortality (**1 Tim 6:16**). We're also told in **1 John 3:15** that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. Therefore, it is impossible that the fires of hell would be burning a person forever.

7. What does the Bible mean when it talks about eternal fire?

Bible Text – Jude 1:7; 2 Peter 2:6

8. What do the following Bible texts tell us about the wicked and their final end (which we know will be in the lake of fire)?

Bible Text – Malachi 4:1; Psalms 37:9-11, 20; Obadiah 1:16

9. What does the Bible mean when it talks about everlasting punishment?

Bible Text – 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9; Jeremiah 17:27

10. What about the smoke that ascends forever and ever? What does the Bible mean when it uses the word forever?

Bible Text – Revelation 14:11; Exodus 21:6; Jonah 2:6, 1:17; 1 Samuel 1:22, 28

11. What will happen to Satan?

Bible Text – Ezekiel 28:13-15, 18; Hebrews 2:14; 1 John 3:8

Note: You cannot scare anyone into going to heaven. God doesn't force anyone. The one reason why we will want to go to Heaven is because we love Him.

12. Who will end up in hell?

Bible Text – Rev. 21:8; 1 John 2:4

The first death is not a respecter of persons. But for the second death you will either face it yourself or let Jesus' death atone for yours. There are four things we can learn clearly from this lesson.

1. No one is burning now.
2. No one will burn eternally.
3. Hell is fair.
4. You don't have to be there.

Christ would rather go to hell for you than to not have you in heaven with Him. Even in the act of hell, God is love.