

Lesson 53: What and Where is Hell?, Part 1

Memory Verse: Malachi 4:1 "For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the Lord of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch."

I. Hell in the Bible

1. Many people talk about hell and they have some idea in their minds about what it is. They are taught that it is a place of eternal torment for the wicked. They are taught that when you die, you go to heaven, if you're good, but you go to hell if you're bad. A modern dictionary says hell is "*the abode of the dead souls condemned to eternal punishment; a place of evil, torment, or destruction.*" Where did this teaching come from? It did not come from the Bible!

"After the Fall, Satan bade his angels make a **special effort to inculcate the belief in man's natural immortality**; and having induced the people to receive this error, they were to lead them on to **conclude that the sinner would live in eternal misery**. Now the prince of darkness, working through his agents, **represents God as a revengeful tyrant**, declaring that He plunges into hell all those who do not please Him, and causes them ever to feel His wrath; and that while they suffer unutterable anguish and writhe in the eternal flames, their Creator looks down upon them with satisfaction."

"Thus the archfiend **clothes with his own attributes the Creator and Benefactor of mankind**. Cruelty is satanic. God is love; and all that He created was pure, holy, and lovely, until sin was brought in by the first great rebel." GC 534.1,2

Who taught men to believe that God puts sinners in "hell" to suffer eternal torment and misery? It is _____. This is **not** a Bible teaching.

What does the Bible teach about hell?

In Webster's 1828 Dictionary we find these definitions:

- a. "*The place of the dead, or of souls after death; the lower regions, or the grave; called in Hebrew, sheol, and by the Greeks, hades.*" Examples:
Psalm 16:10 "For thou wilt not leave my _____ in _____;
neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see _____."
Jonah 2:2 "And said, I _____ by reason of mine affliction unto the Lord,
and he heard me; out of the _____ of _____ cried I,
and thou _____ my voice."
- b. "*The place or state of punishment for the wicked after death.*" Examples:
Matthew 10:28 "And _____ not them which kill the _____,
but are not able to _____ the _____:
but rather _____ him which is able to destroy
both _____ and _____ in _____."
Luke 12:5 "But I will forewarn you whom ye shall _____:
Fear him, which after he hath _____
hath power to cast into _____; yea, I say unto you, Fear him."

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c. "The pains of hell – temporal death, or agonies that dying persons feel, or which bring to the brink of the grave." Examples:

Psalm 116:3 "The _____ of _____ compassed me,
and the _____ of _____ gat hold upon me:
I found trouble and sorrow."

Psalm 18:5 "The _____ of _____ compassed me about:
the _____ of _____ prevented me."

d. "The gates of hell – the power and policy of Satan and his instruments."

Example: Matthew 16:18 "And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter,
and upon this _____ I will build my _____;
and the _____ of _____ shall _____ prevail against it."

2. In the Bible there are 4 words that are translated "hell".

a. In the Old Testament there is one word: "**she'ol**". It is used 65 times.

Strong's Concordance tells us that this word means: "*the world of the dead (as if a subterranean retreat), including its accessories and inmates.*"

It is translated grave, pit, and hell. **Examples:**

Genesis 42:38 "And he said, My son shall not go down with you; for his brother is _____, and he is left alone: if mischief befall _____ by the way in the which ye go, then shall ye bring _____ my gray hairs with _____ to the _____ [she'ol]."

Job 17:16 "They shall go _____ to the bars of the _____ [she'ol], when our _____ together is in the _____."

Psalm 16:10; Jonah 2:2; Psalm 116:3; Psalm 18:5 (which we read in #1) all use the word "hell" for "she'ol"

b. In the New Testament 3 words are used.

1) "**Gehenna**" is used 12 times. *Strong's Concordance* tells us it means "*valley of (the son of) Hinnom; a valley of Jerusalem, used figuratively as a name for the place (or state) of everlasting punishment*" Gehenna was a place outside of Jerusalem where garbage and dead animals were burned. So the smoke and fire of this place was used to symbolize the lake of fire, which is the 2nd death (Rev. 20:14), when sin and sinners are burned up just like the garbage was burned up and turned to ashes in the fires of the valley of Hinnom. **Examples:**

Matthew 5:29-30 "And if thy right _____ offend thee, pluck it _____, and _____ it from thee: for it is _____ for thee that _____ of thy members should _____, and not that thy whole _____ should be cast into _____ [geh'-en-na].

And if thy right _____ offend thee, _____ it off, and _____ it from thee: for it is _____ for thee that _____ of thy members should _____, and not that thy whole _____ should be cast into _____ [geh'-en-na]."

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Matthew 10:28 "And fear not them which _____ the _____, but are not able to _____ the _____: but rather _____ him which is able to _____ both soul and body in _____ [geh'-en-na]."

2) "**Haidēs**" is used 11 times (one of them is translated grave) *Strong's Concordance* tells us it comes from two Greek words:

a, [often used in the sense of privation] (as a negative particle -- {like **not**!})
and **eido**, [to see (literally or figuratively)]; by implication, to know]

Haidēs actually means "unseen", or not to be able to see or to know. It is used to refer to "the place (state) of departed souls". That agrees with the Bible teaching that the dead know not anything. The grave is the place where the dead (who know nothing) are. So literally hell is the grave. **Examples:**

Acts 2:27 "Because thou wilt not leave my _____ in _____ [haidēs, or the grave], neither wilt thou suffer thine _____ One to see _____."

Acts 2:31 "He seeing this before spake of the _____ of Christ, that his _____ was not left in _____ [haidēs, or the grave], neither his _____ did see corruption."

1 Corinthians 15:55 "O _____, where is thy sting? O _____ [haidēs], where is thy _____?"

Revelation 1:18 "I am he that _____, and was _____; and, behold, I am _____ for evermore, Amen; and have the _____ of _____ [haidēs, or the grave] and of _____." Only Christ can unlock the grave and raise the dead.

Revelation 20:13 "And the _____ gave up the _____ which were in it; and death and _____ [haidēs, or the grave] delivered up the dead which were _____ them: and they were _____ every man according to their works." The dead will be raised and judged according to their works.

Revelation 20:14 "And _____ and _____ [haidēs, or the grave] were _____ into the _____ of _____. This is the second _____. If "hell" is the lake of fire, how can it be cast *into* it?"

3) "**Tartaroo**" is used only 1 time – in 2 Peter 2:4

"For if God spared not the _____ that _____, but cast them down to _____ [tartaroo], and delivered them into _____ of _____, to be _____ unto judgment."

The wicked angels are not in the grave, but they are confined to this earth in spiritual darkness until the final judgment when they will be punished for their rebellion. At that time they will be cast into the lake of fire with Satan to be destroyed forever.

Note: As we have seen above, the word "hell" in the Bible does not always mean "the punishment of the wicked". Many times it simply means "the grave".

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But sometimes it is used to refer to the punishment of the wicked. People often read the Bible with their own ideas and so when they read the word "hell" they immediately think that it means a place of eternal torment for the wicked. But the questions to ask are these:

What is this punishment?

How long does it last?

What happens to the wicked?

When are they judged?

Where do they spend eternity?

We have seen that the righteous will receive eternal life at the time of the 2nd coming of Jesus. They will spend eternity in heaven with Him.

But **what about the wicked?** This is what we will study now.

II. The Judgment of the Wicked

3. 2 Peter 2:9 tells us that the the U _____ will be punished on the _____ of J _____. It says that he will R _____ them unto the _____ of _____ to be _____.

So are they being punished now? YES NO

4. Acts 17:31 tells us that God has "appointed a _____ in which He will _____ the _____."

5. When is this judgment? John 12:48 It is in the L _____.

6. Read Matthew 13:37-42 We learn several important things from the explanation that Jesus gives of this parable.

a. There are 2 kinds of people in the world:

The children of the _____

The children of the _____ one.

b. They are represented by the _____ seed and the _____.

c. The tares are separated from the wheat at the H _____.

d. The harvest comes at the _____ of the _____.

e. What happens to the tares at the harvest time?

They are _____ and _____ in the _____.

f. So, at the _____ of this _____, the _____ will gather out all things that _____ and them which do _____ and shall cast them into a _____ of _____.

So are the wicked burning now? YES NO

When will they start burning? At the E _____ of the _____. This is after the Judgment when the wicked have been separated from the righteous.

7. Where are the wicked now? John 5:28-29 All are in the G _____. They do not come out of their graves until they hear His _____. Those who have done E _____ will come forth unto the resurrection of _____.

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III. The Punishment of the Wicked

The Bible makes it very clear what the end of the wicked will be.

8. Romans 6:23 tells us that "the wages of _____ is _____."

9. James 1:15 tells us that "sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth _____."

10. When Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden, what did God immediately do? Genesis 3:22-24 tells us that God said that they cannot E_____ from the Tree of _____ any more, because if they did they would L_____ forever. "Therefore the Lord God _____ him _____ from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken." To make sure that no sinner would ever eat from the Tree of Life again, God "placed at the east of the garden of Eden _____, and a flaming _____ which turned every way, to _____ the _____ of the tree of _____." God placed a guard of angels to guard the way to the tree of life.

Has any sinner eaten from the Tree of Life? YES NO

Can any sinner live forever? YES NO

11. Psalm 37:20 says that "the wicked shall _____, and the enemies of the Lord shall be as the fat of lambs: they shall _____; into _____ shall they consume _____."

12. Malachi 4:1 tells us what will happen to the wicked: "For, behold, the _____ cometh, that shall _____ as an _____; and all the _____, yea, and all that do _____, shall be _____: and the day that cometh shall _____ them _____, saith the Lord of hosts, that it shall leave them neither _____ nor _____."

Does this say that they will continue burning forever?

No, it says they will be burned _____. When something is burned up,

does it keep burning for ever and ever? YES NO

Malachi 4:3 even says that "ye shall tread down the _____; for they shall be _____ under the _____ of your feet in the _____ that I shall do this, saith the Lord of hosts."

When they are ashes, are they still living and suffering the punishment for their sin?

YES NO

13. What does Psalm 145:20 tell us that God will do with the wicked?

He will _____ them.

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14. We know that God will use F _____ to destroy the wicked.

We read it in Malachi 4: _____ (#12)

Revelation 20:9 tells us the same thing. "And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the _____ of the saints about, and the beloved _____: and _____ came down from _____ out of heaven, and _____ them." What does the fire do? It _____ them.
If something is devoured is it still there? YES NO

15. How hot will the fire be? 2 Peter 3:10 "But the _____ of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the _____ shall pass away with a great _____, and the elements shall _____ with fervent _____, the _____ also and the _____ that are therein shall be _____ up."

Here is another verse that tells us everything will be burned _____. The fire will be so hot that even the _____ will melt. It is hot enough to burn everything up.

Note: "Fire comes down from God out of heaven. The earth is broken up. The weapons concealed in its depths are drawn forth. Devouring flames burst from every yawning chasm. The very rocks are on fire. **The day has come that shall burn as an oven.** The elements melt with fervent heat, the earth also, and the works that are therein are **burned up**. The earth's surface seems **one molten mass** – a vast, seething lake of fire. FLB 357.3

"Satan and all who have joined him in rebellion will be cut off. Sin and sinners will **perish**, root and branch (Mal. 4:1 – Satan the root, and his followers the branches. ... 'They shall be as though they had not been.' Obadiah 16." FLB 357.4

16. What does Isaiah say about the fire that burns the wicked? Isaiah 47:14

"Behold, they shall be as _____; the _____ shall _____ them; they shall not _____ themselves from the _____ of the _____: there shall not be a _____ to _____ at, nor _____ to _____ before it."

Is there going to be any fire left? YES NO

There will not even be a warm C _____ left. Nothing will be left.

17. What is this fire called in the Bible? Revelation 20:15 "And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the _____ of _____."

Who will be burned in this lake of fire? It will be those who are not _____
_____ in the _____ of _____.

18. What else will be cast into the lake of fire? Revelation 20:14 "And _____ and _____ were cast into the _____ of _____."

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19. What does the Bible call the lake of fire? Revelation 20:14 "And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. **This is** the _____."

So the wicked who are not found in the book of life are burned up in the lake of fire and this is the second death. There is no resurrection from this death. It is eternal. So the wicked will spend eternity totally dead. They will be gone forever.

20. Who else is cast into the lake of fire? Revelation 20:10 "And the _____ that _____ them was cast into the _____ of _____ and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be _____ day and night for ever and ever." That sounds like the devil, at least, will burn for ever and ever. Is this what it means? The Bible itself tells us what the end of Satan will be.

Look in Ezekiel 28:18-19 "Thou hast _____ thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine _____, by the _____ of thy traffic; therefore will I bring forth a _____ from the midst of thee, it shall _____ thee, and I will bring thee to _____ upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee. All they that know thee among the people shall be _____ at thee: thou shalt be a _____, and _____ shalt thou be _____ more."

This tells us clearly that the fire will also D _____ Satan and he will become A _____ the same as all the wicked. It says that he will N _____ be (or exist) any _____. He will die the second death too.

In Lesson 55 we will study why the Bible uses phrases like

"for ever and ever",
"everlasting",
or "eternal".

In this lesson we learned:

1. Hell in the Bible often refers to the grave but it also refers to the punishment of the wicked.
2. The wicked are judged in the last day. John _____:_____
3. The punishment of the wicked will be death. Romans _____:_____
4. The punishment of the wicked is that they will burn up. Malachi _____:_____
5. They will be turned into ashes. Malachi _____:_____
6. The fire will devour the wicked. Revelation _____:_____
7. The fire will go out and there will not even be a coal left. Isaiah _____:_____
8. The Bible calls this the lake of fire. Revelation _____:_____
9. The lake of fire is the 2nd death. Revelation _____:_____
10. Satan will also be cast into the lake of fire. Revelation _____:_____
11. He will be devoured and turned to ashes and never be any more. Eze. 28:_____,_____

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