

Hell: The Second Death
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Word of His Grace
Christian Ministry

Sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ through the exposition of God's Holy Word, the Bible.

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Gnashing
of teeth!

One of the strongest taboos in modern society is the topic of *Hell*. Traditionally, it is described as a place of eternal conscience torment. Is Hell real? If so, where is it? Is hell and the second death the same thing? Will God torment people eternally? The Bible is not silent on the issue. Let us consider this sobering topic from the pages of Scripture.

Is Hell a literal place?

“The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and *them* which do *iniquity*; And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth” (Matthew 13:41-42).

“And whosoever was *not found* written in the book of life was cast into *the lake of fire*” (Revelation 20:15).

NOTE: Jesus most certainly spoke of Hell as a literal place in time. From these two passages, it's obvious that Jesus taught there will be a literal Hell, prepared for the unjust, at the end of time. *Gnashing of teeth* is an expression of anger, see Ps. 35:16, 112:10; Lam. 2:16; Acts 7:54.

So, is Hell now burning?

“When the Son of man *shall come* in his glory, and

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**”The Unjust Are Reserved
To Be Punished”**

all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: And before *him shall be* gathered *all 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” (Matthew 25:31-33).

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

“So shall it be at the *end of the world*: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just, And *shall cast* them into the furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth” (Matthew 13:49-50).

“The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to *reserve the unjust* unto the day of judgment *to be punished*” (2 Peter 2:9).

NOTE: No. Contrary to popular belief, judgment upon the unjust occurs at the end of time.

People receive their reward at death, right?

“Marvel not at this: for the hour is, in the which *all that are in the graves* shall hear his voice, And shall *come forth*; they that have done good, unto the *resurrection of life*; and they that have *done evil*, unto the *resurrection of damnation*” (John 5:28-29).

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"They will be ashes under your feet"



“That the *wicked is reserved* to the day of *destruction*? they shall be brought forth to the day of wrath... Yet shall he be brought *to the grave*, and shall *remain in the tomb*” (Job 21:30, 32).

“So *man* lieth down, and *riseth not*: till the heavens be no more, they shall *not awake*, nor be raised out of *their sleep*” (Job 14:12).


“And, behold, I come quickly; and *my reward* is with me, *to give* every man according as his work shall be” (Revelation 22:12).

NOTE: As stated in a previous lesson, the doctrine of the *immortality of the soul* was chiefly taught by ancient Greek Philosophers such as Plato and Socrates. This doctrine greatly influenced the early world and seeped into the early church. It was adopted and taught by some early church fathers like Augustine.

Will those who are lost suffer torment throughout all eternity?

“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*. But unto you that fear my name shall the *Sun of righteousness* arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall. And ye shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be *ashes* under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do

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**The fire of God's righteous judgment is used:
to destroy
to burn to ashes
and to consume
the unrighteous**

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this, saith the LORD of hosts” ([Malachi 4:1-3](#)).

“For yet a little while, and the *wicked shall not be*: yea, thou shalt diligently consider his place, and it shall *not be*” ([Psalm 37:10](#)). See also ([Psalm 21:9](#), [37:20](#), [28](#), [112:10](#), [145:20](#); [Jude 1:7](#)).

What did Paul declare the wages or payment of sin to be?

“For the wages of sin is *death*; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord” ([Romans 6:23](#)).


NOTE: The payment for sin is death, not eternal life in hell. Eternal life is the gift of God bestowed only upon the righteous.

By what other name in the Bible is Hell known as?

“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 with fire and brimstone: which is the *second death*” ([Revelation 21:8](#)). See also, [Revelation 2:11](#), [20:6](#), & [14](#).

What about references of “everlasting fire”, “eternal punishment”, & “no rest day nor night”?

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Carcases Burn Not
Immortal Souls
(Isaiah 66:23).

See (Matthew 25:41, 46 & Revelation 14:11; 20:10).

NOTE: Matthew 25:41, 46 - Notice that the 'fire' is everlasting not that which is cast into the fire. Verse 46 describes the *permanent result of this event*; not the continuing process of it. In other words, the outcome of everlasting fire is in fact a punishment whose *effect will be everlasting*. It is death, not eternal life in Hell that will be the reward of the unjust. Revelation 14:11; 20:10 – “*No rest day and night*” indeed refers to the event *while it lasts or fulfills* its purpose. There is a limit of time meted out for punishment; however, it will eventually come to an end.

The language chosen by the New Testament authors echo the prophets of the Old Testament. A prime example of this is found in the book of Isaiah:

“And they shall go forth, and look upon the *carcasses* of the men that have transgressed against me: for their *worm shall not die*, neither shall their *fire be quenched*; and they shall be an abhorring unto all flesh” (Isaiah 66:23).

NOTE: Notice that Isaiah also uses similar language, “*their worm shall not die*” & “*neither shall their fire be*

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quenched” but applies it to *carcasses*, not to immortal souls in Hell. The idea is, both the worm and the fire will finish its work. The finality of the punishment upon the wicked will be permanent, it will be irreversible.

Will there be degrees of punishment for the unjust?

“And that servant, which knew his lord’s will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be *beaten with many stripes*. But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with *few stripes*...” (Luke 12:47-48).

When exactly does this event take place?

“And when the *thousand years* are *finished*, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: *the number of whom is as the sand of the sea*. And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and *devoured them*” (Revelation 20:7-9).

NOTE: According to Revelation 20:9, the unjust are resurrected after the Millennium and as they attempt to take “*the camp of the saints*” or New Jerusalem, it is then that fire comes down and consumes them.

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HELL IS NOT
ETERNAL,
CONSCIOUS
TORMENT



How much will this fire consume?

“But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the *earth* also and the works that are therein shall be *burned up*. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be *dissolved*, and the *elements shall melt with fervent heat*? Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for *new heavens and a new earth*, wherein dwelleth righteousness” (2 Peter 3:10-13).

What will become of Satan?

“Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffick; therefore will I bring forth *a fire from the midst of thee*, it shall *devour thee*, and I will bring thee *to ashes* upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee” (Ezekiel 28:18). See *verses 14-19* for context.

NOTE: God addresses the arrogant king of Tyre through Ezekiel; however, the transcendent language used addresses Satan, the spiritual power behind this king. Unlike popular notions of the Devil overseeing Hell, God declares that Satan will be brought to “*ashes*” (v 18) and “*never shalt thou be any more*” (v 19). Collectively, the testimony of scripture does not teach *eternal conscious torment*.