

## Jesus and Hell Fire

Jesus often spoke of hell fire. Here is an example:

"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.

And if thy foot offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter halt into life, than having two feet to be cast into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched:

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

And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out: it is better for thee to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire:

Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched." (Mark 9:43–48)

In the above passage, (and nine other KJV New Testament verses) "hell" is from the original Greek word *γέεννα* or "gehenna." "Gehenna" was the valley (next to Jerusalem) used as a dump in Jesus' time. Constant fires and maggots in the dump were sure to destroy whatever was thrown in. This is how Jesus illustrated - figuratively - the certain, finished and irrevocable destruction of the wicked; they would be figuratively thrown into the dump.

Being cast into the lake of fire (Revelation 21:8) is a similar figurative illustration of the fate of the wicked:

"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)

What *actually, physically* happens to the wicked? After resurrection for judgment they suffer the "second death" (Rev 2:11; 20:6; 20:14; 21:8). After that "second death" they have no more hope of life or resurrection. It is the end of them. They're destroyed. They are just as much destroyed as trash thrown into the "gehenna" dump was destroyed.

"For yet a little while, and the wicked shall not be: yea, thou shalt diligently consider his place, and it shall not be" (Psalms 37:10).

"As the whirlwind passeth, so is the wicked no more: but the righteous is an everlasting foundation" (Proverbs 10:25).

How do the wicked suffer that "second death"? Many apparently die by physical fire after they surround Jerusalem in an attempt to overthrow the Kingdom of God here on earth. They are reduced to ashes. This is described in Revelation 20:7-9 and here in Malachi 4:1,3:

"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 . . .

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 this, saith the LORD of hosts."  
(Malachi 4:1,3)

After all have been resurrected for judgment, and the wicked have been destroyed through that "second death," death itself is destroyed:

"The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death." (1 Corinthians 15:26)

Only those who received eternal life will remain. Of course, they'll never die, so death is destroyed—never to happen again.

And the grave will be destroyed - never to happen again. Why? Because all will have been raised from the grave for judgment . . . and none of those who remain - having received eternal life - will ever go to the grave.

So both the grave and death are destroyed: cast into that figurative "lake of fire":

"And death and hell [Greek "hades" - the grave] 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." (Revelation 20:14,15)

Many are blocked from understanding the second death because they have been led to believe they have an immortal soul which is always alive, somehow, somewhere. The "immortal soul" is pagan doctrine which has crept into church doctrine over the centuries. Here's Plato, the pagan philosopher:

"Do we believe that there is such a thing as death? And is this anything but the separation of soul and body? And being dead is the attainment of this separation; when the soul exists in herself, and is parted from the body and the body is parted from the soul . . . beyond question the soul is immortal and imperishable, and our souls will truly exist in another world!" (Plato, in *Phaedo*, about 360 BC)

Salvation is not about *where* you'll "spend" eternity. You won't even *have* an eternity unless you receive from God the gift of eternal life. Otherwise, you'll perish via the "second death."

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."  
(John 3:16)

"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 6:23).

Jesus spoke of everlasting punishment":

"And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal" (Matthew 25:46)

The punishment – the second death – is everlasting: it stands forever. It is finished and irrevocable, like the execution of a criminal. It is not perpetual, ongoing, active punishing.

Still troubled by hell? Look up the 23 verses where "hell" appears in the KJV, New Testament. "Hell" was used in place of three different Greek words which have nothing to

do with a place of fiery, eternal torment. By using "hell" the translators paved over the meanings of the original Greek words. In that way they injected their fiery, eternal hell doctrine (inherited from the Catholic church) into the Bible. Some later translators have recognized this error. They have used the original Greek words instead of "hell," or have added footnotes referencing the original Greek words. Young's Literal Translation (YLT) never uses "hell."

— Here are all twelve verses in the KJV New Testament where "hell" is from **γέεννα** or "gehenna" —the dump outside Jerusalem:

Matthew 5:22; 5:29; 5:30; 10:28; 18:9; 23:15; 23:33

Mark 9:43; 9:45; 9:47

Luke 12:5

James 3:6

— Here are all ten verses in the KJV New Testament where "hell" is from **ᾗδης** or "hades" —the grave:

Matthew 11:23; 16:18

Luke 10:15; 16:23

Acts 2:27; 2:31

Revelation 1:18; 6:8; 20:13; 20:14

Note: **ᾗδης** or "hades" was correctly translated "grave" in 1 Corinthians 15:55

— Here is the one verse in the KJV New Testament where "hell" is from **ταρταρόω** or "tartarōō" —a "place" (a condition; not literal/physical location) where some of "the angels that sinned" are held in restraint, unable to meddle with mankind, awaiting their judgment:

"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;" (2 Peter 2:4)

Those who teach eternal, conscious torment are painting God as a sadistic monster. The damage from this false doctrine continues to this day. Millions are reasonably repulsed by the idea that God would pointlessly torment a person for eternity. So they dismiss Christianity as nonsense and walk away.