

R12.2 August 2021 Blog

Hell

Hell, in most religions and tradition, is a place or state of torment and everlasting punishment in the afterlife. It is real and it is terrifying. Despite the Bible's clear teaching of both heaven and hell, it is not unusual for people to believe in the reality of heaven while rejecting the reality of hell. In part, this is due to wishful thinking.

The Bible uses three main terms to refer to the abode of the dead: Sheol (Hebrew), Hades (Greek), and Gehenna (a Greek word). Sheol conveys "place of the dead" or "the grave." Hades describes the "world beyond" as used by ancient Greeks. Gehenna and Hell have essentially the same meaning in the NT – "the place of future punishment". In the story of Lazarus, Sheol is mentioned as part of paradise. The term Hell is used 23 times in the NT. The following are verses where Jesus addresses Hell:

Mat 5:22 "But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother shall be liable to the council, and whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be liable to the hell of fire. (See also Mat 18:9, Mar 9:43, Mar 9:45, and Mar 9:47).

Mat 5:29 "If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and throw it away; it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell.

Matt 5:30 "And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell.

Mat 10:28 "And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear Him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.

Mat 11:23 “And you, Caper'na-um, will you be exalted to heaven? You shall be brought down to Hades. For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day.

Mat 16:18 “And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the powers of death shall not prevail against it.

Mat 23:15 “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for you traverse sea and land to make a single proselyte, and when he becomes a proselyte, you make him twice as much a child of hell as yourselves.

Luk 16:23 “and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes, and saw Abraham far off and Laz'arus in his bosom.

Luk 12:5 “But I will warn you whom to fear: fear Him who, after He has killed, has power to cast into hell; yes, I tell you, fear Him!

Fear is to frighten, that is, to be alarmed; to put to flight by terrifying (to scare away); by analogy to be in awe of, that is, revere: - be afraid, fear.

Mar 9:44 Hell – Where their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched.

Hell is a real place, and we should be eternally thankful to Jesus for rescuing us from our destiny as fallen creatures. It is terrifying and quite fearful, and a place I do not want to go.

Just think of it, we are betting our life and eternal existence on a person who lived over 2000 years ago, whom we never met; that is, I have met Him via the Holy Spirit and the Word. He paid the penalty I owe and gave me what He deserves. Therefore, it is a good gamble for me, a sure bet. He loved me, He chose me, and I trust in Him.

“Gehenna” in the New Testament, is described as a place where both soul and body could be destroyed (Mat 10:28). It is also known as the Lake of Fire (Rev 19:20), Everlasting Fire (Mat 25:41), Everlasting Punishment (Mat 25:46), and Outer Darkness (Mat 8:12).

[Acts 2:31](#) “he foresaw and spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption.

Christ must have visited Hell just after the crucifixion. Acts 2:31 confirms that Christ went to Hell. David, foreseeing this, spoke concerning the resurrection of Christ that His soul was not left in Hell, neither did His flesh see corruption (see Acts 2:25-36).

The Bible is clear. Hell is a real place and Christ spent three days in Sheol getting the believing saints out of the good side of Sheol and taking them to Heaven. Remember what Jesus said to the thief on the cross, “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise (Luke 23:43). Jesus said in Revelation 1:18, “and the living one; I died, and behold I am alive for evermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.”

Hell is mentioned 54 times in the Bible. Heaven is mentioned 582 times. Draw your own conclusions.

Applications:

1. Hell is real and most of us have friends and family in that location. There is no second chance after you take up residence in Hell. We must get this right the first (and only) time around. Jesus is the only answer!
2. I recall the Church teaching on “Hell, Fire and Damanation”. I don’t hear it anymore. Ask yourself which is the stronger motivator for you love or fear? We have lost the fear of going to Hell for eternity as a motivation for righteousness. Also, we are losing our fear of God. This is an injustice to the person and power of God. Application: Study and develop a fear of God in your thinking. This is one of the major reasons I wanted to author this blog.
3. What about babies and children? Are they subject to going to Hell? I have always heard of the age of accountability. But what about

babies? I embrace “the doctrine of election” so if they are chosen, they go to Heaven. The others I leave up to God.

4. The reality of Hell is an enormous motivation for us to be praying and witnessing and working with our family and friends who are not believers. Who is on your list?
5. When we curse /swear with the word Hell, we need to be careful. The word is bringing Satan’s domain into our life. I would encourage you to be careful rather than sorry.