

## ~Hell~Would God really send people there?~

Many folks, including myself, find the topic of damnation repugnant. I can't help it, but I do. If I could erase one doctrine in the Bible, it would be this one. However, as a Christian, I am bound to declare "*all the counsel of God*".

What is hell? Hell, in the KJV translates the words: 'Sheol' in the Old Testament and 'Hades' in the New Testament. It can also mean the grave.

### The standard definition of SHEOL (OT) is: she'ol 7585

"Sheol." The 66 occurrences of this word are distributed throughout every period of biblical Hebrew. She'owl or sheol- the underworld, grave, Hades, pit

a) *The underworld*

b) *Sheol, the Old Testament designation for the abode of the dead*

1) The place of no return

2) Without the praise of God

3) Wicked people sent there for punishment

4) The righteous not abandoned to it

5) Used of the place of exile (figurative)

6) Used of extreme degradation in sin

**First**, the word means the state of death: "For in death there is no remembrance of thee: in the grave who shall give thee thanks?" <Ps. 6:5>; cf. <18:5>. It is the final resting place of all men: "They spend their days in wealth, and in a moment go down to the grave" <Job 21:13>. Hannah confessed that it was the omnipotent God who brings men to she'ol (death) or kills them <1 Sam. 2:6>. "Sheol" is parallel to Hebrew words for "pit" or "hell" <Job 26:6>, "corruption" or "decay" <Ps. 16:10>, and "destruction" <Prov. 15:11>.

**Second**, "Sheol" is used of a place of conscious existence after death. In the first biblical appearance of the word, Jacob said that he would "go down into the grave unto my son mourning" <Gen. 37:35>. All men go to "Sheol"-- a place and state of consciousness after death <Ps. 16:10>. The wicked receive punishment there <Num. 16:30; Deut. 32:22; Ps. 9:17>. ***They are put to shame and silenced in "Sheol"*** <Ps. 31:17>. ***Jesus alluded to Isaiah's use of she'ol <14:13-15> in pronouncing judgment on Capernaum <Matt. 11:23>, translating "Sheol" as "Hades" or "Hell," meaning the place of conscious***

***existence and judgment.*** It is an undesirable place for the wicked <Job 24:19> and a refuge for the righteous <Job 14:13>. Thus "Sheol" is also a place of reward for the righteous <Hos. 13:14>; cf. <1 Cor. 15:55>. Jesus' teaching in <Luke 16:19-31> seems to reflect accurately the Old Testament concept of she'ol; it is a place of conscious existence after death, one side of which is occupied by the suffering, unrighteous dead separated by a great chasm from the other side peopled by the righteous dead enjoying their reward.

*(from Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words)*

**The standard definition of HADES (NT) is: 1067 geenna-**

#1067 geena (gheh'-en-nah); of Hebrew origin [1516 and 2011]; valley of (the son of) Hinnom; ge-henna (or Ge-Hinnom), a valley of Jerusalem, used (figuratively) as a name for the place (or state) of everlasting punishment: Hades or the world of the dead (as if a subterranean retreat), including its accessories and inmates: KJV-- grave, hell, pit. (*Strong's*)

Hell is the place of the final punishment called "Gehenna" or "Gehenna of fire". This was originally the valley of Hinnom, south of Jerusalem, where the filth and dead animals of the city were cast out and burned--a fit symbol of the wicked and their destruction (*Thayer's*)

A) Where is it?

1) It is in the spiritual realm because Jesus said it is a place prepared for the Devil and his angels, who are spiritual beings.

Matt 25:41 "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire ***prepared for the devil and his angels. Notice, that it is a place 'prepared'!***"

B) What is it?

2) It is a place of torment.

Luke 16:28 "For I have five brothers; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this ***place of torment.***"

Rev 14:11 "And the smoke ***of their torment*** ascends up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receives the mark of his name."

3) It is a place of everlasting fire

Matt 18:8 "If your hand or your foot causes you to sin cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life maimed or crippled than to have two hands or two feet and ***be thrown into eternal fire.***"

Matt 18:9 "And if your eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than to have two eyes and ***be thrown into the fire of hell.***"

Matt 25:41 "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, ***into the eternal fire*** prepared for the devil and his angels. "

Rev 20:15 "And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was ***cast into the lake of fire.***"

### C) Who goes there?

- 4) Everyone who does not trust and follow the Lord Jesus Christ and has not repented and been cleansed by His blood for the forgiveness of their sins!

Rev 20:15 "If *anyone's name was not found written in the book of life*, he was thrown into the lake of fire."

### D) Why?

- 5) Because everyone sins and God punishes sin with everlasting punishment

Matt 13:41-42 "The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom *everything that causes sin and all who do evil. They will throw them into the fiery furnace*, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

Mark 9:43-47 " If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better *for you to enter life maimed than with two hands to go into hell, where the fire never goes out*. And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. *It is better for you to enter life crippled than to have two feet and be thrown into hell*. And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. *It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell,*"

### E) When?

- 6) Upon death, every person goes before the Lord Jesus and is judged.

Heb 9:27 "Just as man is destined to die once, and *after that to face judgment*"

### F) For how long?

- 7) Forever! As long as the saints will be in heaven, the damned will be in the lake of fire. It is never-ending The same Greek word that describes the **time** (#165) the damned spend in the lake of fire is the same word that describes the **time** (#165) the saints spend in Heaven.

Thayer's definition says: #165 aion-1) **forever, an unbroken age**, perpetuity of time, **eternity**

The sin of humanity against God is so great that the punishment has to be everlasting. Otherwise, the offender would eventually have paid the penalty and would be released. Where would he/she go? To heaven? That would mean that, *because the sinner could eventually pay his or her way out of the lake of fire*, Jesus did not have to die, after all!!

### G) How can I avoid this place?

- 8) Consider the death of Jesus for the sinner: The innocent, sinless Son of God was humiliated, mocked (at His 'trial'), had a 'crown' of thorns driven into His head, beaten, kicked, had the beard pulled out of His face, spat upon, punched, whipped with a leather whip with pieces of bone and metal embedded in it to cut Him open, forced to carry a heavy cross, then nailed in both wrists and feet to that cross and left to die. On top of this, and even more horrifying, He had to bear the wrath of His Father (Who punished HIM instead of you and me)!! This last event was the worst of all! THIS was for our pardon. Jesus our substitute, died in OUR place, so that we could be forgiven. The punishment He took on Himself was

what WE deserved. ALL of this was for us, as Jesus, the sinless Son of God, had no sins of His own to pay for.

**He was our PERFECT substitute! We are pardoned ONLY if we receive Him as our atoning sacrifice--nothing else will do!**

Do you think, for one moment, that after ALL the Son had to endure *for us*, the Father would let us into Heaven *other* than through His Son? The thought is blasphemous!

John 14:6 “Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

Let me use the Bible to tell you how to be saved from this place:

Acts 16:30-31 “He then brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved? They replied, "Believe (trust) in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved...!"