

Lesson 10

Hell

By Darrell Crow

Not So Basic Christianity — Study Guides For Discipleship

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Not So Basic Christianity:
Biblical Study Guides For Discipleship

By

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1.0 First Discussion Questions

1. How much thought have you given to hell? What will it be like? Do you remember when you first of hell? Describe.

2. The Bible says that Hell was created for Satan and the Fallen Angels. What does that men to evil people?

3. Why punish bad angels and bad people. Why not just end their existence. Why is God doing this?

4. What is purgatory? Do you believe you will have fun with friends in hell or male new friends there?

5. Does Hell scare you.....to the point of changing your behavior? Why punish bad angels and bad people. Why not just end their existence. Why is God doing this?

2.0 The Non-Watered Down View Of Hell

Hell or Gehenna as it is sometimes translated, means the place of punishment for sinners. Hell is a common doctrine in many religions today. It means we are accountable for the way we live, our actions and the decisions we make. Understanding hell will define how we live our lives today and our afterlife destination.

Let's begin with a real, real clear message.

God is real.

God Almighty created all things, has absolute authority over all things, and nothing exists without His permission.

God has established His rules, law, morality for all creatures. What He says goes.

Period.

End of discussion.

Heaven is real.

Hell is real.

Death does not end your existence.

You have an afterlife coming.

The only question is where will you spend your afterlife.

Its not just Christianity or Judaism that speaks of hell. Hell is a place regarded in various religions as a spiritual realm of evil and suffering, often traditionally depicted as a place of perpetual fire beneath the earth where the wicked are punished after death.

So there is a divine moral code, a moral set of laws that must be obeyed and a final accounting will occur at your life's end. A judgement, if you please, and if one is found unrighteous (not right by God's standards),

they will be punished forever without end in the afterlife.

According to Jesus Christ, Hell will contain the majority of humanity. Jesus taught that only a small percentage of humanity will find the way to eternal life, meaning that the majority of mankind will end up in hell. He said, "The gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it" (Matthew 7:14). "Hell" is the place where those who reject the Lordship of Jesus Christ will experience the wrath and justice of God for all of eternity. It is not sin that will send you to hell, but the rejection of God and the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

I can't state this strong enough. In fact in Luke 16:23, Jesus, Himself declared that hell is a place of **TORMENT**.

No fun and games.

No booze parties.

No friends.

No orgies.

Pure pain.

Pure **TORMENT**.

Jesus tells us of a man sentenced to hell in *Luke 16:23-28* "In Hades he lifted up his eyes, being in torment, and saw Abraham far away and Lazarus in his bosom. [24] And he cried out and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus so that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue, for I am in agony in this flame.' [25] But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that during your life you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus bad things; but now he is being comforted here, and you are in agony. [26] And besides all this, between us and you there is a great chasm fixed, so that those who wish to come over from here to you will not be able, and that none may cross over from there to us.' [27] And he said, 'Then I beg you, father, that you send him to my father's house-- [28] for I have five brothers--in order that he may warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.'

Three times "TORMENT" is used

It is not possible to comprehend the Biblical description of hell. Nothing on earth compares. No nightmare, no movie production with all their special effects, no writings can begin to describe the horrors of hell.



You'll see HELL. . . You'll smell HELL. . . You'll breathe HELL. . . You'll hear HELL . . . You'll feel HELL. . . Hell's Torment will consume you...

Forever.

And ever.

And ever.

Never stopping.

Ever.

Hell is beyond anything humanly imaginable!

If you don't PAY ATTENTION NOW TO God while you're still alive, YOU ARE IN BIG TROUBLE.

The Bible describes life in hell as one full of weeping (Matt 8:12), wailing (Matt 13:42), gnashing of teeth (Matt 13:50), darkness (Matt 25:30), flames (Luke 16:24), burning (Isa 33:14), torments (Luke 16:23 ever-

lasting punishment! And Revelation 14:11: tells us, "The smoke of their TORMENT ascends up for EVER AND EVER: and they have NO REST DAY NOR NIGHT."

And it goes on FOREVER!

It will never end.

Never.

Ever.

Jesus Christ says in Matthew 25:41, "*Depart from me, ye cursed, into EVERLASTING FIRE, prepared for the devil and his angels.*"

I want you to listen real close to what I am about to say. Anyone who enters hell — will lose all hope! The horror of hell — for even one little second is unbearable — and HELL IS FOREVER!

You really do not want to hear Jesus tell you ". . . *Depart from me, ye cursed, into EVERLASTING fire, . . .*" (Matthew 25:41:)

What could possibly be worth eternity in hell?

No wonder Jesus never tired from warning us about hell. He wanted eternal fellowship with us, not banishment.

Jesus said in Mark 8:36, "*For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and LOSE HIS OWN SOUL?!*"



3.0 Jesus Took Hell Very Seriously

Jesus Christ says in Mark 9:43-47, *43 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: [45] 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: [47] 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:*

Jesus Christ took hell so serious — He could say without the slightest hesitation — better to remove an offending part of your body if that would keep you out of hell!

Jesus Christ knew exactly what He was talking about! And he spoke more on hell than any other subject.

Just look at the many ways Jesus described hell.

3.1 fire"

- *Matthew 7:19, Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.*
- *Matthew 13:40, So just as the tares are gathered up and burned with fire, so shall it be at the end of the age.*
- *Matthew 25:41" "Then He will also say to those on His left, 'Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels;*

3.2 "Everlasting Fire"

- *Matthew 18:8 If your hand or your foot causes you to stumble, cut*

it off and throw it from you; it is better for you to enter life crippled or lame, than to have two hands or two feet and be cast into the eternal fire.

- *Matthew 25:41" "Then He will also say to those on His left, 'Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels;*

3.3 "Eternal Damnation"

- *"Mark 3:29" but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin" --*

3.4 "Hell Fire"

- *Matthew 5:22 But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court; and whoever says to his brother, 'You good-for-nothing,' shall be guilty before the supreme court; and whoever says, 'You fool,' shall be guilty enough to go into the fiery hell.*
- *Matthew 18:9 If your eye causes you to stumble, pluck it out and throw it from you. It is better for you to enter life with one eye, than to have two eyes and be cast into the fiery hell.*
- *Mark 9:47 If your eye causes you to stumble, throw it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye, than, having two eyes, to be cast into hell,*

3.5 "damnation"

- *Matthew 23:14, [Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, because you devour widows' houses, and for a pretense you make long prayers; therefore you will receive greater condemnation.]*
- *Mark 12:40, who devour widows' houses, and for appearance's sake offer long prayers; these will receive greater condemnation."*
- *Luke 20:47"*

3.6 "shall be damned "

- *Mark 16:16* " He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned.

3.7 "damnation of hell"

- *Matthew 23:33* " You serpents, you brood of vipers, how will you escape the sentence of hell?"

3.8 resurrection of damnation"

- *"John 5:29"* and will come forth; those who did the good deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment.

3.9 "furnace of fire"

- *Matthew 13:42*, and will throw them into the furnace of fire; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth

3.10 "the fire that never shall be quenched"

- *Mark 9:43*, if your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life crippled, than, having your two hands, to go into hell, into the unquenchable fire,
- *Mark 9:45* "If your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame, than, having your two feet, to be cast into hell,

3.11 "the fire is not quenched"

- *Mark 9:44*, [where THEIR WORM DOES NOT DIE, AND THE FIRE IS NOT QUENCHED.]
- *Mark 9:46*, [where THEIR WORM DOES NOT DIE, AND THE FIRE IS NOT QUENCHED.]
- *Mark 9:48* " where THEIR WORM DOES NOT DIE, AND THE FIRE IS NOT QUENCHED.

3.12 "Where their worm dies not"

- *Mark 9:44*, [where THEIR WORM DOES NOT DIE, AND THE FIRE IS NOT QUENCHED.]
- *Mark 9:46*, [where THEIR WORM DOES NOT DIE, AND THE FIRE IS NOT QUENCHED.]
- *Mark 9:48* where THEIR WORM DOES NOT DIE, AND THE FIRE IS NOT QUENCHED.

3.13 "wailing and gnashing of teeth"

- *Matthew 13:42*, and will throw them into the furnace of fire; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth
- *Matthew 13:50* and will throw them into the furnace of fire; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.



4.0 Where Is Hell

When Jesus Christ died on the cross, His soul went into hell. In Acts 2, Peter is speaking, verse 31, ". . . seeing this before spoke of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in HELL"

And in Matthew 12:40, Jesus Christ says: "For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly: so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the HEART OF THE EARTH. "
Apparently the Bible says Hell is inside the earth!

I will tell you that irrespective of where hell is physically, it takes only one missed heartbeat. So we need to take care of business right now. Don't gamble with your future.

The man in Luke 16:24 cries: ". . .I am tormented in this FLAME."

In Matthew 13:42, Jesus says: "And shall cast them into a FURNACE OF FIRE: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth."

In Matthew 25:41, Jesus says: "Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting FIRE, . . ."

Revelation 20:15 says, " And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the LAKE OF FIRE."



What Does Scripture Say About Hell

Revelation 9:1 The fifth angel blew his trumpet, and I saw a star that had fallen from heaven to earth. The key to the shaft of the abyss was given to him.

Revelation 9:2 He opened the shaft of the abyss, and smoke came up out of the shaft like smoke from a great furnace so that the sun and the air were darkened by the smoke from the shaft.

Revelation 9:11 They had as their king the angel of the abyss; his name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in Greek he has the name Apollyon.

Revelation 11:7 When they finish their testimony, the beast that comes up out of the abyss will make war with them, conquer them, and kill them.

Revelation 17:8 The beast that you saw was, and is not, and is about to come up from the abyss and go to destruction. Those who live on the earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world will be astonished when they see the beast that was, and is not, and will be present again.

Revelation 19:20 And the beast was seized, and with him the false prophet who performed the signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image; these two were thrown alive into the lake of fire which burns with brimstone.

Revelation 20:1 Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven with the key to the abyss and a great chain in his hand.

Revelation 20:3 He threw him into the abyss, closed it, and put a seal on it so that he would no longer deceive the nations until the 1,000 years were completed. After that, he must be released for a short time.

Revelation 20:10 And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

Revelation 21:8 But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”

Some apparently consigned there to await final judgment while

Others will be loosed to be active on the earth (vv. 1-3, 11, 14; 16:14).¹²

(emphasis mine)

Jude 6 And angels who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode, He has kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day,

2 Peter 2:4 For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to pits of darkness, reserved for judgment;

Luke 8:31 They were imploring Him not to command them to go away into the abyss.

Revelation 9 1-3 Then the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star from heaven which had fallen to the earth; and the key of the bottomless pit was given to him. (2) He opened the bottomless pit, and smoke went up out of the pit, like the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by the smoke of the pit. (3) Then out of the smoke came locusts upon the earth, and power was given them, as the scorpions of the earth have power.

Revelation 9:11 They have as king over them, the angel of the abyss; his name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in the Greek he has the name Apollyon.

Jude 1:6 And angels who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode, He has kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day.

In biblical times, this valley was a place where detestable, pagan rituals were conducted. In 2 Chr 28:3 we are told that King Ahaz “burnt incense in the valley of the son of Hinnom, and burnt his children in the fire, after the abominations of the heathen whom the LORD had cast out before the children of Israel.” Josiah put an end to the practices (2 Kings 23:10), but Gehenna continued to be an unclean place. During New Testament times, it was the place where trash was burned.

In the Greek manuscripts the word “gheh’-en-nah” appears 12 times: Bibles use “hell fire,” “fires of hell,” and “fires of Gehenna” to translate the word, so it’s clear that these references are speaking of a place of burning punishment, and not the Valley of Hinnom, which in our day is a happy tourist attraction. The Greek word “gheh’-en-nah” in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and James below speak of a place of eternal punishment.

Matthew 5:22, But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court; and whoever says to his brother, ‘You good-for-nothing,’ shall be guilty before the supreme court; and whoever says, ‘You fool,’ shall be guilty enough to go into the fiery hell.

Matthew 5:29-30, If your right eye makes you stumble, tear it out and throw it from you; for it is better for you to lose one of the parts of your body, than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. [30] If your right hand makes you stumble, cut it off and throw it from you; for it is better for you to lose one of the parts of your body, than for your whole body to go into hell.

Matthew 10:28, Do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

Matthew 18:9, If your eye causes you to stumble, pluck it out and throw it from you. It is better for you to enter life with one eye, than to have two eyes and be cast into the fiery hell.

Matthew 23:15, "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, because you travel around on sea and land to make one proselyte; and when he becomes one, you make him twice as much a son of hell as yourselves.

Matthew 23:33, You serpents, you brood of vipers, how will you escape the sentence of hell?

Mark 9:43-47, If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life crippled, than, having your two hands, to go into hell, into the unquenchable fire, 44 [where THEIR WORM DOES NOT DIE, AND THE FIRE IS NOT QUENCHED.] 45 If your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame, than, having your two feet, to be cast into hell, 46 [where THEIR WORM DOES NOT DIE, AND THE FIRE IS NOT QUENCHED.] 47 If your eye causes you to stumble, throw it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye, than, having two eyes, to be cast into hell,

Luke 12:5, But I will warn you whom to fear: fear the One who, after He has killed, has authority to cast into hell; yes, I tell you, fear Him!

James 3:6, And the tongue is a fire, the very world of iniquity; the tongue is set among our members as that which defiles the entire body, and sets on fire the course of our life, and is set on fire by hell.

6.0 Names Of Hell

The KJV uses the word "hell" to describe the place where the fallen angels were cast to await judgment (2 Pet 2:4). However, the Greek word is not "Hades," which is translated as "hell." It is a different Greek word, "Tartarus," and it is differentiated from the place of torment referred to as Hades or Hell. Think of Hell as the eternal lake of fire.

The Bible uses several terms to identify the various purposes and descriptions of hell. Sheol, Hades, Hell, the Place of Torment, the Abyss, the Bottomless Pit, Tartarus, Gehenna, the Lake of Fire and Outer Darkness are all the names of places of punishment and death created for

the fallen angels by God.

What do we know about them? Where are they? None of them are visible on the face of the earth, but the Bible does give much information about where they are and the purpose of each.

First, note that there is a difference between "the Abyss" and the "lake of fire." When the unsaved die they go immediately to a place called the Abyss. Later, the Bible indicates that those in the Abyss are given up and cast into the lake of fire (Rev. 20:14).

Even though the Abyss and the Lake of Fire seem to be different places, the inhabitants are the same and the punishment of torment is the same. The place of judgment for the unsaved is called the Great White Throne and the lake of fire follows it.

Everyone without Christ will enter the first punishment, and no one who enters the Abyss can escape entering the Lake of Fire.

6.1 The Abyss, The Bottomless Pit, and The Deep

Abyss is an English translation of the New Testament Greek word *abyssos* is translated as "place of the dead," "depthless," "deep," "bottomless pit." It is a place of only torment now.

The word clearly denotes a pit or hole that is unbounded, immeasurable and a part of the underworld. The KJV translates *abyssos* as "the deep" in Luke 8:31 and Romans 10:7. We find the word translated as "The Bottomless Pit" in Rev 9:1, 2, 11, Rev 11:7, 17:18, 20:1, 3, which gives the idea that this place is in the deepest depths of the earth, probably spherical in shape and therefore without any "bottom."

This is perhaps more conjecture as scripture provides scant information. The Abyss, is said to be in the second heaven under the earth. This is a spiritual "holding tank," if you will for deceased humans and angels. Old Testament saints were in a portion of the Abyss known as the Bosom of Abraham. This is now gone since the resurrection of Jesus. We conclude that the rest of the Abyss is a place of total torment and the abode of Satan, His fallen angels and fallen mankind. The Bottomless Pit, and the Deep are different words for the same place or different sections of the Abyss. Irrespective, this portion of the Abyss is a literal place of constant torment for spiritual beings that have rejected God.

In Luke 8:31 the demons were imploring Jesus not to command them to be sent into the abyss as they feared being in the Abyss.

- *Revelation 9:1-2 Then the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star from heaven which had fallen to the earth; and the key of the bottomless pit was given to him. 2 He opened the bottomless pit, and smoke went up out of the pit, like the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by the smoke of the pit.*
- *Revelation 9:11 They have as king over them, the angel of the abyss; his name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in the Greek he has the name Apollyon.*
- *Revelation 11:7 When they have finished their testimony, the beast that comes up out of the abyss will make war with them, and overcome them and kill them.*
- *Revelation 20:1-3 Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand. 2 And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; 3 and he threw him into the abyss, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he would not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were completed; after these things he must be released for a short time.*

6.2 Abraham's Bosom

A figure of speech first used by Jesus in the parable of Lazarus and Dives indicating that a fixed gulf exists between the abode of the believers and the unsaved preventing either inhabitants to cross over. This is also an affirmation that the second heaven (under the earth) contains separate realms for the good and the evil. Jesus after His crucifixion led all believers from the second heaven to the third heaven where God and His angels abide. Therefore, in Luke 16:19-31, Jesus essentially described the abode of the dead as having two compartments. One, a place of torment; Sheol. The other, a place of comfort called Abraham's Bosom, which is no longer inhabited.

Abraham's Bosom was in the "heart of the earth" (*Matthew 12:40 for just as JONAH WAS THREE DAYS AND THREE NIGHTS IN THE BELLY OF THE SEA MONSTER, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth*), and was a type of holding cell for the righteous who died prior to Jesus' ascension back to Heaven when He opened the

way to Heaven for all who repent and trust in Him.

Abraham's Bosom is now empty. Ephesians 4:8 says that "WHEN HE ASCENDED ON HIGH, HE LED CAPTIVE A HOST OF CAPTIVES, AND HE GAVE GIFTS TO MEN." That means Jesus led those in Abraham's Bosom to their heavenly resting place.

Since that time, when someone in Christ dies, they go immediately to be with Jesus. 2 Corinthians 5:6-8 *Therefore, being always of good courage, and knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord-- 7 for we walk by faith, not by sight-- 8 we are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord.*

- *Philippians 1:23, But I am hard-pressed from both directions, having the desire to depart and be with Christ, for that is very much better;*
- *1 Thessalonians 4:14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus.*
- *Revelation 6:9 When the Lamb broke the fifth seal, I saw underneath the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God, and because of the testimony which they had maintained;*

6.3 Eternal Punishment

Hell is described as the place of eternal punishment. Jesus says of the lost, "And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal" (Matt. 25:46). The idea of punishment here is one of eternal duration. Punishment that will never end.

Eternity is incomprehensible. We cannot comprehend limitless time with no beginning and no end, but hell is eternal. It will never end. "Everlasting punishment" is used throughout the Bible to identify "duration without end." The worst part of hell is its inhabitants know it will never end. The best part of heaven is knowing it will never end.

“Eternal” is described by the Hebrew word “olam” in the Old Testament and the Greek word “anón” in the New. Both words are linked to God; he is called the “eternal God.” Therefore hell will last as long as the duration of God.

6.4 Gehenna

Gehenna is both a real geographical place outside of Jerusalem and a reference to a place of torment. Geographically, Gehenna is the Valley of Hinnom, a valley on the south-west side of Jerusalem.

Gehenna appears only twelve times in the New Testament and is translated “hell” each time. Jesus used this word eleven times.

During the reign of Ahaz, Israel participated in the worship of the false god Molech. In his attempt to please Molech, Ahaz engaged in human sacrifice, even sacrificing his own son to this lifeless idol. (2 Chron. 28:1-4). Archaeologists have learned that Molech was represented by a golden calf with the head of a bull, with outstretched arms. A fire burned in its hollow stomach and a child was sacrificed on the arms. Ahaz had his very own son sacrificed on those outstretched arms. Molech was a throwback to the false religions of Canaan.

This practice was stopped during the reforms of Josiah (2 Kings 23:10), then the valley became a dumping ground for the city of Jerusalem. During the time of Jesus it was used to burn garbage.

Hence, Jesus used the word Gehenna to describe the place of eternal punishment because it was a place of filth and stench, a place of smoke and pain, a place of fire and death and most definitely surrounded by evil memories. (Matt. 5:22; 18:8, 9; 23:33; John 5:36).

6.5 The Lake of Fire

The Lake of Fire is mentioned in reference to end-times judgment. It is found in Rev 19:20, Rev 20:10 and 20:14-15. The Lake of Fire is the place of final and eternal punishment for Satan, all unregenerate human souls (Rev 20:14), and all the rebellious angels (Matt 25:41). This eternal punishment is described in terms that we can understand, but it is likely different than what we think and probably much worse than we can comprehend. Rev 20:10 tells us that it burns with brimstone (sulfur) and that the torment will be unrelenting “day and night forever and ever.”

- *Revelation 19:20 And the beast was seized, and with him the false prophet who performed the signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped*

his image; these two were thrown alive into the lake of fire which burns with brimstone.

- *Revelation 20:10 And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.*
- *Revelation 20:14-15 Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. 15 And if anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.*

6.6 Outer Darkness

Very little is known about “outer darkness.” The Bible does not clearly define it. However, Jesus referred to it three times and He described outer darkness as a place of punishment. He said that in this place there will be “weeping and gnashing of teeth.” Weeping and gnashing of teeth describes a condition of great sorrow and painfully felt loss, distress, and anger.

- *Matthew 8:12 But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.*
- *Matthew 22:13 Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.*
- *Matthew 25:30 And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.*

“Outer darkness” is said to be the “blackest of darkness” reserved for condemned, ungodly men of the worst kind (Jude 1:4).

- *Jude 1:4 For certain persons have crept in unnoticed, those who were long beforehand marked out for this condemnation, ungodly persons who turn the grace of our God into licentiousness and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.*
- *Jude 1:13 wild waves of the sea, casting up their own shame like foam; wandering stars, for whom the black darkness has been reserved forever.*

How can the blackest of darkness exist within the lake of fire? Some have suggested that perhaps outer darkness refers to a black hole, and perhaps the Lake of Fire is cast into this black hole. If that be the case, then darkness would surround the Lake of Fire. No one in the Lake of Fire could see beyond the outer darkness that surrounds it, and, likewise, no one outside the outer darkness could see through it into the Lake of Fire.

That means the redeemed in eternal glory would have no ability to see those who experience eternal torment. Remember, this is only conjecture because the Bible does not explain the outer darkness.

Perhaps the outer darkness is more of a condition than a place. We know that spiritual darkness exists because of the absence of the true Light (1 John 1:5). In the Bible, light symbolizes God's purity, holiness, righteousness, and glory. The depravity of man and his sinful acts are spoken of as living and walking in darkness (Ps 82:5, Prov 4:19, Job 18:5-6).

The "outer darkness" Jesus spoke of is accompanied by "weeping and gnashing of teeth." Weeping describes a sorrowful soul, and gnashing of teeth describes a physical torment and an unrelenting anger. Together, they might be intended to tell us that the experience of "outer darkness" will be unspeakable, unfathomable, and unbearable suffering — the ultimate fate of all who reject Jesus.

- *John 3:18-20* "He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone practicing evil hates the light even though he has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed."

6.7 The Place of Torment

Before the cross, all unrepentant sinners who died went to the Place of Torment spoken of in *Luke 16:24*. *And he cried out and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me and send Lazarus, so that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue, for I am in agony in this flame.'*

This remains true after the cross. All unregenerate people go to the Place of Torment. Since Christ's crucifixion and resurrection, forgiven sinners, regenerated by God, go directly to Heaven, Abraham's Bosom (the place of comfort) is no longer inhabited and there only remains the place of torment in Hades.

So when we call this place Hell (or Hades), it no longer means simply the abode of the dead (as in Old Testament times). Hell clearly now means only the abode of the unrighteous dead. It is a holding place for the souls of those who rejected God, and one day those souls will be raised in a bodily resurrection and judged by their works.

- *Revelation 20:11-12*. *Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat*

upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them. [12] And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds.)

6.8 Second Death

The lake of fire is also called the "second death" (Rev. 20:14; 21:8). In the Bible, death always speaks of separation, not cessation of existence. The idea behind death is not annihilation but rather the concept of eternal separation from God. Physical death is the first, where a person suffers because he is separated from his loved ones (family and friends). The second death is the separation of a person from God.

6.9 Sheol, Hades, Hell

The common word for hell in the Old Testament is "Sheol" which means "the grave." Sheol is translated "hell" thirty-one times and "pit" three times. Hell is the English translation of Sheol. Prior to Jesus' atonement for the sins of man, the souls of all who died went to a place called Sheol (Hebrew). Again, Sheol is defined as the world of the dead, the underworld. In the English translation of the Old Testament, the word is translated as the pit, the grave, and hell. In the New Testament, the Greek word for Sheol is Hades.

When both the saved and unsaved died, they were said to go to Sheol, the place of the departed dead. The saved to Abraham's Bosom and the unsaved to the Abyss or pit. The Hebrew word "Sheol" was translated into Greek as Hades.

Jesus, in the parable of the rich man and Lazarus, said that Lazarus had gone to a place called "paradise" (Luke 23:43), and "Abraham's bosom" (Luke 16:22). Two people died, the rich man and Lazarus (Luke 16:19-31), but in their afterlife they were treated differently.

6.10 Tartarus

Tartarus is thought to be the deepest abyss of Hades/Hell. It is the place where God holds in chains those angels that left their first estate, the angels that chose to join Satan in his rebellion against God (Jude 6). The fallen angels are being held there until the day of judgment. Tartarus is conceived to be a place of absolute darkness because of Peter's reference to it in his second epistle: *"For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell [Tartarus], and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment..."* (2 Pet 2:4)

We know very little about Tartarus, but, what little the Bible does tell, can be summarized in:

There are no humans in Tartarus, only fallen angels.

Those in Tartarus are bound by chains of darkness, so one logical conclusion could be there are no flames of fire in Tartarus. It's dark there.

The demons restraints in chains are not forever. Instead they are "reserved unto judgment" when they will be released and judged.



7.0 Don't Be Caught Dead Without Jesus

We all have made some terrible mistakes in our lives. There may be some things in your life you would give anything to be able to change. But I assure you that if you die without Jesus Christ — it'll be your final, worst mistake you could possibly make!

Has there ever come a time and a place in your life, when you received Jesus Christ as your personal Savior?

If not, you are on your way to hell!

Don't let anyone convince you that at death, you cease to exist. That life was just a cosmic joke or accident, or the aberration of an out of control vibrating singularity. Death is not extermination, it is separation. Our physical death separates us from our families, our friends and everything we love. Our spiritual death separates us from God eternally.

The Bible says in Hebrews 9:27, "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this THE JUDGMENT." Revelation 20:15 says, "And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the LAKE OF FIRE."

If you've never received Jesus Christ as your Savior. Do it now. You are only ONE HEART-BEAT from hell.

7.1 THE Only Escape From Hell

NOTHING IS WORTH TAKING THE CHANCE!

There is only way to stay out of hell. You will need to become a believer in Jesus Christ in Spirit, Mind, and soul. This is not just an intellectual affirmation that God exists. You essentially recognize a few things, take an oath, and give your allegiance for the rest of your life to God Almighty, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit.

I simply cannot, in good conscious, tell you about the horrors of hell without sharing how to avoid hell. There are absolutely no second chances after death. Action must be taken while you are alive. Now.

The Salvation process is simple. Remember that God created you to fulfill His Will that He could fellowship with you throughout all eternity. He wants to spend eternity with you more than you want to live in eternal paradise. That is God's absolute, pure love. When Adam and Eve sinned, and passed their sinning nature down throughout the rest of mankind, God showed the greatest of all love. He did not abandon man.

God placed Adam after creation into the Garden and gave him tasks and one commandment. *Genesis 2:16 The LORD God commanded the man, saying, "From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; 17 but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die."* God is pretty specific defining the punishment for sin. Death. This is both physical and spiritual death.

Spiritual death is eternal separation from God. Man was therefore in a lost position before God because he could not live a sinless life and appear righteous on his own behalf before God ever. Thus man is doomed from birth to hell. So God developed a restoration plan whereby God would pay the price (penalty) for all of mankind's sins. God's only son, Jesus became a man, lived a sinless, perfect life. He was crucified, died, descended into hell and on the third day was resurrected. Through man's faith he was saved by the grace of God.

Ephesians 2:8-9 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; [9] not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

In this plan, man's sins were imputed to Jesus Christ and Jesus' righteousness was imputed to the new believer who is now justified before God and sanctified for glorification.

You can become a believer right now with the assurance you will spend eternity worshipping and fellowshiping with God in heaven, rather than separated from God for all eternity. by....



1. Realizing that you are indeed a sinner. *"As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:" Romans 3:10.* No man was born righteous. We have all sinned and we were all born with a human nature that automatically from birth sins and rebels against God. Realize that you are no different than any other human. *"... for there is no difference. For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;" Romans 3:23*
2. Realize that you cannot save yourself. You can't save yourself no matter how good of a life you or anyone else thinks you lived. No one is able to save themself. *"But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousness are as filthy rags; ..." Isaiah 64:6* *"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy He saved us, ..." Titus 3:5*
3. Realize that Jesus Christ lived a perfect, sinless life and died on the cross to pay the full penalty for your sins. *"Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, ..." 1 Peter 2:24,* also *"... Unto Him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood," Revelation 1:5*
4. By faith confess Jesus as Lord and Savior and receive Jesus Christ as your personal Savior. *Romans 10:9-10* says, *"that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; 10 for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation."*
5. Be sure to receive or if you will, welcome Jesus into your life as your personal Lord and Savior. *"But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:" John 1:12* *"...Sirs, what must I do to be saved? And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house." Acts 16:30,31* *"For God so loved the world, that He gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16*

7.2 WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE SAVED?

You can pray (talk) to Jesus to be your savior right now. Many times we just don't know what to say, so I've included a sample below. You can pray this prayer, one like it, or one entirely of your own making, just make sure you pray sincerely with all of your heart. God knows the sincerity of your heart and what you're doing.

Pray your prayer, and mean it with all your heart.

Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner, and that unless You save me I will spend eternity doomed in hell. I believe Jesus that you are God's own son who became a man, lived a perfect and sinless life, was crucified, died, descended into hell, was resurrected on the third day and now sits at the right hand of Father God Almighty. I believe dear Jesus in your atoning work on the cross and confess that I am unable to save myself. Only you dear Lord Jesus are able to save me. I ask you to forgive me, to save me and to be my Lord and God. I believe in my heart that you lived a perfect, sinless life and have paid the penalties in full for mine and all of mankind's sins. Forgive me my sins, now, those I've already committed and those I commit in the future. Thank you dear Lord for all things and I now repent of my former life and give you full control of me.



8.0 Final Discussion Questions

1. Do You Want To Go To Hell? What Are You Going To Do About It?

2. How Has This Study on Hell helped you?

3. Anybody You Know That You Don't Want To Go To Hell? What Are You Going To Do About It?

4. Does The Idea Of Hell Scare You Yet?

5. How Far Away From Hell Are You Right Now?

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Creation

Lesson 8: Heaven

Lesson 9: Angels

Lesson 10: Hell

Lesson 11: Satan & Demons

Lesson 12: Earth & Man

Foreknowledge, Election, Predestina-

Lesson 13: God's Foreknowledge

Lesson 14: God's Election

Lesson 15: Predestination

The Elect

Lesson 16: Election of Man

Lesson 17: Election of Angels

Lesson 18: Election of Israel

Lesson 19: Election of Jesus

Restoration

Lesson 20: The Fall Of Man

Lesson 21: Salvation

Lesson 22: Eternal Security

Lesson 23: Order Of Salvation

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Lesson 41: Seven Seals, Two Interludes

Lesson 42: Seven Trumpets, Seven Interludes

Lesson 43: Seven Bowls and Seven More Interludes

Lesson 44: Antichrist, False Prophets, The Abomination That causes Desolation, Armageddon

Lesson 45: Israel, Tribulation Saints

Lesson 46: Marriage

Lesson 47 Pre-Millennial and the Millennial Kingdom

Lesson 48: The Final War and Judgement

Lesson 49: New Heavens & New Earth

Lesson 50: Restored



In a lay-leader class at Medway Community Church of Medway, MA a few years ago, I was challenged to defend my faith and the doctrines I held dear. I found myself embarrassed as it was quickly apparent that I was ill equipped to either defend or explain my beliefs.

Less than two weeks passed and I was again challenged in a local Men's Bible study. To my discredit, I once again was unable to defend my beliefs.

I resolved to correct this deficiency and set out to thoroughly study the Scriptures and document my findings on salvation and Jesus' teachings in an organized fashion. My original objective was to put together a short "white paper" to define and support my position and beliefs on predestination. God wanted me instead, to become His disciple in a life long pursuit of truth. I quickly found myself asking more and more questions that compelled me to constantly research, study and document. My goals expanded broader and faster. This study required me to put aside all my biases, read God's word freshly and intently, discuss with scholars and read numerous documents on Christian doctrines. I lost track of time, so involved were my studies. It has now been over a decade since I first undertook the quest to write a simple white paper.

God has been especially gracious in guiding my study of His revealed word. This study has been a true joy. The more I studied, the more in awe of our Almighty God I became. I was compelled from within to continue worshipping, studying, fellowshiping, and serving Him.

Quick Notes About the Author

- Married, father of three children, four grandchildren and two great grandchildren.
- Saved in 1974 at FBC Church, San Jose, CA
- Tutored by lay leaders, ministers, authors, teachers, scientists and philosophers
- Currently member of FBC Bellingham, MA under the ministry of Pastor Rodrigues
- Challenged in 2 bible studies by my lack of understanding biblical doctrines. I resolved to correct this deficiency and committed myself to becoming a disciple of Christ
- These study guides summarize God's teachings and chronicles God's plan to restore Man for eternal fellowship with Him.

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God's desire to share Himself and fellowship with mankind sparked God to plan, elect and create all things. Man was created for eternal fellowship and love with God. God elected (planned and made choices) all things prior to speaking the Universe, and all life into existence. And His Creation was "Very Good."

God

Creation

Foreknowledge, Election, Predestination

The Elect

Restoration

Discipleship

End Times