

#27

Hell – What Is It?

Hell comes from the Hebrew word “*shâ’owl*”, which means grave, hell or pit. There are two Greek words translated as hell. For this reason, the Greek is not as clear as the Hebrew. These two Greek words are “*geenna*” and “*hades*”. “*Geenna*” can be translated as “hell fire” or a place of future punishment. This future punishment is “the lake of fire” described in Revelation 20. The *Enhanced Strong’s Lexicon* well states, that “the lake of fire” is “a fit symbol of the wicked and their future destruction.” The actual meaning of “*geenna*” is contrary to the popular mistaken belief that hell is a place of eternal torment of the wicked. The second Greek word for hell is “*Hades*.” It can be translated “hell” or “grave”. Despite two different words being translated as hell in the Greek, you’ll see God is quite clear about what hell is.

Jesus Holds The Keys of Hell

Revelation 1:17-18 – ¹⁷ ...Fear not; I am the first and the last: ¹⁸ I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.

The Wicked Shall Be Cast Into Hell

Psalm 9:17 – The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God.

Proverbs 15:24 – The way of life is above to the wise, that he may depart from hell beneath.

Matthew 10:28 – And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul [breath of life] and body in hell.

Mathew 23:15 & 33 – ¹⁵ Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves.... ³³ Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?

Lucifer Will Be Cast Into The Pit of Hell

Isaiah 14:12-15 – ¹² How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! ¹³ For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: ¹⁴ I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. ¹⁵ Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.

Hell – An Unquenchable Fire

Mark 9:43-48 – 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**: ⁴⁴ Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not 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: ⁴⁶ Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not 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: ⁴⁸ Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.

Fires That Could Not Be Quenched

An unquenchable fire can not be put out but that does not mean that it will burn forever.

Jeremiah 17:27 – But if ye will not hearken unto me to hallow the sabbath day, and not to bear a burden, even entering in at the gates of Jerusalem on the sabbath day; then will **I kindle a fire in the gates thereof, and it shall devour the palaces of Jerusalem, and it shall not be quenched.**

2 Chronicles 36:19-21 – And **they burnt the house of God**, and brake down the wall of Jerusalem, **and burnt all the palaces thereof with fire**, and destroyed all the goodly vessels thereof. ²⁰ And them that had escaped from the sword carried he away to Babylon; where they were servants to him and his sons until the reign of the kingdom of Persia: ²¹ To fulfil the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed her sabbaths: for as long as she lay desolate she kept sabbath, to fulfil threescore and ten years.

Jeremiah 4:4 – Circumcise yourselves to the LORD, and take away the foreskins of your heart, ye men of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem: **lest my fury come forth like fire, and burn that none can quench it**, because of the evil of your doings.

Ezekiel 20:47-48 – ⁴⁷ And say to the forest of the south, Hear the word of the LORD; Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, **I will kindle a fire in thee**, and it shall devour every green tree in thee, and every dry tree: **the flaming flame shall not be quenched**, and all faces from the south to the north shall be burned therein. ⁴⁸ And all flesh shall see that I the LORD have kindled it: it shall not be quenched.

Jeremiah 21:12-14 – ¹² O house of David, thus saith the LORD; Execute judgment in the morning, and deliver him that is spoiled out of the hand of the oppressor, **lest my fury go out like fire, and burn that none can quench it, because of the evil of your doings.** ¹³ Behold, I am against thee, O inhabitant of the valley, and rock of the plain, saith the LORD; which say, Who shall come down against us? or who shall enter into our habitations? ¹⁴ But I will punish you according to the fruit of your doings, saith the LORD: and I will kindle a fire in the forest thereof, and it shall devour all things round about it.

The Carcasses of The Sinner

A carcass is a dead body. A dead body has ceased to live. It does not think, it has no feeling and is not in torment. The punishment of the sinner is the everlasting loss of life.

Isaiah 66:22-24 – ²² For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before me, saith the LORD, so shall your seed and your name remain. ²³ And it shall come to pass, that

from one new moon to another, and from one sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me, saith the LORD. ²⁴ 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.

Ecclesiastics 9:5-6 – ⁵ For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know not any thing, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten. ⁶ Also their love, and their hatred, and their envy, is now perished; neither have they any more a portion for ever in any thing that is done under the sun.

Psalm 115:17 – The dead praise not the LORD, neither any that go down into silence.

Hell – An Everlasting Fire

Matthew 25:40-41 – ⁴⁰ And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me. ⁴¹ 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:

Hell - Everlasting Destruction

Matthew 25:46 – And these shall go away into **everlasting punishment**: but the righteous into life eternal.

2 Thessalonians 1:8-9 – ⁸ In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: ⁹ **Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction** from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;

The Wicked Melt As Wax – They Become Smoke And Ash

The punishment of hell is everlasting but the suffering is momentary. The Bible reveals that the wicked (unsaved) are consumed away as chaff into smoke; they melt as wax; they become ashes and they are no more.

Psalms 37:20 – But **the wicked shall perish**, and the enemies of the LORD shall be as the fat of lambs: **they shall consume; into smoke shall they consume away**.

Psalms 68:2 – As smoke is driven away, so drive them away: **as wax melteth before the fire**, so let **the wicked perish at the presence of God**.

Psalms 104:35 – **Let the sinners be consumed out of the earth**, and **let the wicked be no more**. Bless thou the LORD, O my soul. Praise ye the LORD.

Malachi 4:1-3 – ¹ 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. ² 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. ³ 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.

Satan Himself Turned Into Ash – Never To Exist Again!

Ezekiel 28:14-19 – ¹⁴ Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. ¹⁵ Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee. ¹⁶ By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. ⁷ Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee. ⁸ 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. ⁹ All they that know thee among the people shall be astonished at thee: thou shalt be a terror, and **never shalt thou be any more.**

Sodom And Gomorrah Were Burned With Eternal Fire

Jude 7 – Even as **Sodom and Gomorrah**, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, **suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.**

Sodom And Gomorrah Are Now Ashes

2 Peter 2:4-6 – ⁴ 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; ⁵ And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly; ⁶ And **turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes** condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly;

Luke 17:29-30 – ²⁹ But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and **destroyed them all.** ³⁰ Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed.

The Beast And False Prophet Thrown In The Lake of Fire

Revelation 19:11-13 & 19-21 – ¹¹ And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. ¹²

His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. ¹³ And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.... ¹⁹ And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army. ²⁰ **And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet** that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both **were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.** ²¹ And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh.

The Wicked Are Dead And Live Not

Revelation 20:4-6 – ⁴ And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. ⁵ **But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished.** This is the first resurrection. ⁶ Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

The Wicked Cast Into The Lake of Fire

Revelation 20:5 & 12-15 – ⁵ But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison... ¹² And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. ¹³ And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. ¹⁴ And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. **This is the second death.** ¹⁵ And **whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.**

The Wicked Devoured By Fire

Revelation 20:7-10 – ⁷ And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, ⁸ 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. ⁹ 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.** ¹⁰ And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

Death And Hell Cast Into The Lake of Fire

Revelation 20:14-15 – ¹⁴ **And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire.** This is the second death. ¹⁵ And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

Summary

The wicked shall remain in the grave (hades) until they are resurrected for the judgment at the end of the millennium. After the judgment they shall be totally consumed in the lake of fire (“geenna”) and shall cease to exist. The punishment of the wicked is death (Revelation 20:14); they shall be consumed away into smoke; they shall melt as wax; and “they shall be ashes”. This happens when they are thrown into the lake of fire. In the lake of fire they are burned up and they experience the second death. God is a loving God; he does not eternally torment the wicked. But because God is loving, he cannot let sin continue, he must put an end to it. When the wicked are put to death in the lake of fire, sin dies with them. At the same time, the grave (hell) is consumed in the fire as well. There will be no need for the grave any longer because the righteous shall inherit eternal life.