

# THE DOCTRINE OF HELL

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**What follows is an extensive modification and expansion of a detailed outline on the doctrine of hell prepared by Pastor Robert Sargent in his Bible Prophecy course, Lecture 15, The Eternal State; Bible Baptist Publications; Oak Harbor, Washington.**

**Isaiah 33:14 says: “The sinners in Zion are afraid; fearfulness hath surprised the hypocrites. Who among us shall dwell with the devouring fire? who among us shall dwell with everlasting burnings? *Isaiah 33:14* asks the two most important questions we will ever answer. Those questions are: (1) Who among us shall dwell with the devouring fire? (2) Who among us shall dwell with everlasting burnings? That devouring fire and everlasting burnings is a description of the living conditions of that everlasting dwelling place called **HELL**. The all important question for you today is, if you were to die today do you know for a fact that you would not go to **HELL**?**

Biblical proof for **HELL** is overwhelming. Unbelief or any rejection of **HELL** by a Christ rejecter or cultist does not lower the temperature by one degree! It is amazing the number of people that will tell you that they believe in heaven. Heaven is the most pleasant topic in all languages and in all cultures. Though we quite readily believe in heaven, we are quick to doubt that there is an eternally burning place called hell. There was a secular song that was sung by a man that said he knew there was no heaven and he prayed that there was no hell. That man could not be more wrong. Hell is the most unpleasant place in all languages and all cultures. The fact is, that most folks in the world have a perverted view of heaven that has been fed to them from the plate of false religion. They also have a perverted view of hell. The Bible doctrine of hell is so frightful for the religionists of today’s apostate, effeminate Christianity that they have lessened its impact on the unbelievers of today by referring to it as “sheole”, “the grave”, and “gehenna”. These are nondescript terms that in no way convey to the unbeliever of today the harsh reality of hell. It is not “sheole”. It is a literal, eternally burning hell. It is not “the grave”. It is a literal, eternally burning hell. It is not “gehenna”. It is a literal, eternally burning hell. The terms “sheole” and “gehenna” have absolutely no meaning to the unbelievers that walk the streets of English speaking nations. That is the way that the Devil (Satan) would have it. But, if you mention the word hell to English speaking peoples they immediately connect hell with fire. Do the words “sheole” and “gehenna” bring fear to the hearts and minds of unbelievers? They definitely do not! The Bible says in *Jude 22-23*:

22 And of some have compassion, making a difference: 23 And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh. *Jude 22-23*

**HELL** and eternal punishment are mentioned at least 88 times in the King James Bible. The word **HELL** is used 54 times in the King James Bible. The physical instrument of man’s punishment in **HELL** is fire. Fire is the instrument of God’s judgement upon mankind. In the very first mention of fire in the King James Bible, God is using fire and brimstone to judge the wickedness and sexual perversion of Sodom and Gomorrah in *Genesis 19:24*. In the first mention of **HELL** in the Bible, in both the Old Testament and the New Testament, it is identified as a place of fire. Its first mention in the Old Testament in *Deuteronomy 32:22* says:

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<sup>22</sup> For a fire is kindled in mine anger, and shall burn unto the lowest hell, and shall consume the earth with her increase, and set on fire the foundations of the mountains.  
*Deuteronomy 32:22*

In **HELL'S** first mention in the New Testament, the Lord Jesus Christ said in *Matthew 5:22*:

<sup>22</sup> But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire. *Matthew 5:22*

During His earthly ministry, the Lord Jesus Christ preached and taught more on **HELL** than he ever did on heaven. In its final occurrence in our Bibles in *Revelation 21:8*, the doctrine of everlasting punishment is connected with fire and brimstone. Of the 550 occurrences of the word “fire” in our King James Bibles, at least 66 of those are connected either with the God’s then present use of fire in judgment or his promised use of fire in future judgements. Three different times the Bible says that our God is a consuming fire (*Deuteronomy 4:25, Deuteronomy 9:3, and Hebrews 12:29*). We do not need less preaching on **HELL**. We need more preaching on **HELL**. What ever happened to the fire and brimstone preachers of old. Many preachers will not preach on **HELL** because they are afraid of offending lost sinners and driving them away. To that we would reply, is it better to offend them or see them burn forever in **HELL**?!? If you will not preach and teach on **HELL**, you do not love lost sinners.

There are at least 6 principles that make hell a reasonable fact. Those 6 principles are:

- A. The Principle Of Separation.  
“Every garbage dumpster is an argument for **HELL**.” Why? Life is built upon separating good from bad.
- B. The Principle Of Consequence.  
**HELL** is the logical outcome of sin. The principle of “sowing and reaping” is applicable to this life and the next.
- C. The Principle Of Restraint.  
If there were no **HELL**, if there were no eternity separated from God, man would feel free to live as he pleases. (The fact that many now reject this doctrine is reflected in the behavior of society!)
- D. The Principle Of Justice.  
God is just. For God to have no **HELL** would be contrary to Himself and His holiness.
- E. The Principle Of Calvary.  
If **HELL** is a myth, then why did God send His Son to die for our sins on the cruel cross?
- F. The Principle Of Missions.  
If there is no **HELL**, then why did the Lord Jesus Christ command the church on four

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occasions to take the Gospel to the world?

What is the nature of **HELL**?

A. **HELL** Is A Place.

There are those who say simply, “**HELL** is where God is not.” **HELL** is a place — e.g. *Matthew 13:49,50*. We are not told where **HELL** is located, except that the Bible says it is “**down**” — *Isaiah 14:9,15; Ezekiel 31:14; Numbers 16:33*.

B. **HELL** is A Prepared Place.

God deliberately prepared this awful place for fallen angels — *Matthew 25:41-46*. **HELL** was not prepared for man, for God is ‘not willing that any should perish.’ In fact, God never sends anyone to **HELL** — it is sin uncovered by the blood of Christ that will do that.

C. **HELL** Is A Painful Place.

In *Luke 16:19-31*, the Lord Jesus Christ described the real case of a rich man dying and going to **HELL**. This passage states:

<sup>19</sup> There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day: <sup>20</sup> And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores, <sup>21</sup> And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man’s table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. <sup>22</sup> And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham’s bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; <sup>23</sup> And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. <sup>24</sup> And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame. <sup>25</sup> But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented. <sup>26</sup> And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that *would come* from thence. <sup>27</sup> Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father’s house: <sup>28</sup> For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment. <sup>29</sup> Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them. <sup>30</sup> And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. <sup>31</sup> And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead. *Luke 16:19-31*

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Do not be deceived. *Luke 16:19-31* is not a parable. **HELL** is a literal place of everlasting pain and torment. The pains of **HELL** are described as:

A. Conscious Pain.

The man in **HELL** could see, hear, feel, and thirst. All five senses are seen in this passage.

B. Physical Pain

See: *Psalm 116:3; Matthew 5:29-30; Luke 16:24:*

<sup>3</sup>The sorrows of death compassed me, and the pains of hell gat hold upon me: I found trouble and sorrow. *Psalm 116:3*

<sup>29</sup> And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast *it* from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not *that* thy whole body should be cast into hell. <sup>30</sup> And if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and cast *it* from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not *that* thy whole body should be cast into hell. *Matthew 5:29–30*

<sup>24</sup> And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame. *Luke 16:24*

C. Mental Pain.

See: *Luke 16:25:*

<sup>25</sup> But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented. *Luke 16:25*

This man was told to “remember.” How the lost in **HELL** will remember! If you are lost and reject the Lord Jesus Christ, you will remember every sin, every opportunity, every church service, every sermon, every song, every prayer, every tear, every tract, every invitation, and every warning! What everlasting regret and anguish!

D. Spiritual Pain.

The man in **HELL** suddenly became concerned for his lost brothers. He wanted to be an evangelist, but could do nothing about it.

E. Eternal Pain.

The **HELL** of the Bible is not a reform school. There is no “second chance” when eternity begins. A “great gulf” is fixed. **HELL** is eternal — *Matthew 25:46* — as *everlasting* as our

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salvation.

Several cults believe in the false doctrine of annihilation. They teach that at death a person ceases to exist forever. This view is based on a misconception of the meaning of “death.” Many think of death as being ‘the end,’ but in the Bible death means “separation.” Physical death is the separation of the soul and spirit from the body (*James 2:26*); spiritual death = the separation of the sinner from God in this life; and eternal death = the separation of man from God for ever (*Revelation 20:14*). *Luke 16:22-31* proves that man’s does not cease to exist after physical death. *Matthew 25:41* and *Jude 7,13* (“everlasting,” “eternal,” and “for ever”) prove that the second death is a constant, never-ending fiery punishment.

There is a difference between “**HELL**” and the “**LAKE OF FIRE**.” *Revelation 20:13,14* plainly states that there is a difference when it states that those in **HELL** will be brought to the Great White Throne Judgment, judged, and then cast into the **LAKE OF FIRE** with **HELL** itself. The casting of **HELL** and death into the **LAKE OF FIRE** is described as the SECOND DEATH. The term “THE SECOND DEATH” is used 4 times in the book of Revelation. The distinction between **HELL** and **THE LAKE OF FIRE** is best explained by comparison to men’s courts of law:

**HELL** = the local jail where the criminal awaits trial.

GREAT WHITE THRONE = the trial.

**LAKE OF FIRE** = the everlasting penitentiary; the place of no escape where the sentence is executed.

A criminal, once captured, is “locked up” before and after his trial. A Christ-rejecting sinner is in torment before and after the great and terrible day of judgment.

### A. **HELL** Before The Ascension Of Christ.

Scripture also indicates a difference in **HELL** prior to the resurrection and ascension of the Lord. **HELL** was initially the place of departed souls and spirits of all men, whether saved or lost, and consisted of two sections — the place of ‘*Torments*’ and ‘*Paradise*.’ A great gulf was fixed between the two — *Luke 16:22,23,26*; *Luke 23:43*.

This explains the passage concerning the Lord Jesus Christ going to **HELL** — *Acts 2:27,31*. During the 3 days in the tomb, the Lord went to the Paradise section of the region of the dead — as He had promised the thief on the cross — *Luke 23:43*.

### B. **HELL** After The Ascension Of Christ.

Since the apostle Paul was “caught up” into the third Heaven (the abode of God), or Paradise — *II Corinthians 12:2-4*. This indicates a change in the location of Paradise. The souls of dead saints are now “with the Lord.”

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This change in the location of Paradise occurred at the ascension of Christ — *Ephesians 4:8* says: “Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.” We will close our meeting today with *Revelation 14:10-11*, *Revelation 20:11-15*, and *Revelation 21:8*:

<sup>10</sup> The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: <sup>11</sup> And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name. *Revelation 14:10-11*

<sup>11</sup> And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. <sup>12</sup> 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. <sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup> And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. <sup>15</sup> And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire. *Revelation 20:11-15*

<sup>8</sup> 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*

I strongly beseech each of you here today to earnestly consider what I have said while you still have the breath of life in you. There is something worse than death itself and that is **THE LAKE OF FIRE. THE LAKE OF FIRE** is the grim reaper that will devour death and **HELL** itself! I want to close today by urging those of you who can to listen to a seven part sermon series called “Warnings Of Wrath To Come” preached by my Pastor Jeff Ledbetter at Calvary Baptist Tabernacle in Newport, Tennessee. It is uploaded to my website at [earnestlycontendingforthefaith.com](http://earnestlycontendingforthefaith.com) .