

Hell And Unquenchable Fire!

separate the wicked from the righteous (the weeds or tares from among the wheat); and throw the wicked (weeds) into the fiery furnace (unquenchable fire in hell), where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth (torment and agony until the fire consumes them and they become ash) (Lk 3:16-17). Then the righteous (wheat) will shine in the Kingdom of their Father: (Matthew 13:40-43 - "As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age. 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. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.

The LORD promises us that all evil will be completely destroyed, not through a worldwide flood, as in Noah's day, but through fire, in which:

1) The present heavens and earth will be destroyed by fire, and the heavens disappear with a roar. 2) The elements will be destroyed by fire and melt in the heat. 3) The earth and everything in it will be laid bare (2 Pet 3:10-11).

Those who disobey God's commandments, reject the gospel, and love the world (which has nothing good to offer), are on the road to death and destruction (Mt 7:13-14). The world corrupts a person - enticing, encouraging, pressuring, and influencing into evil and wrongdoing. There is nothing in common between believer and unbeliever, light and darkness, and no harmony between Christ and Belial. Therefore, we are to come out from among them, separate ourselves from unbelievers, and not be partners with them (2 Cor 6:17-18; 1 John 2:15-17).

It is shameful even to mention what the wicked do in secret. But they cannot hide their evil deeds from God, because everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of Him to whom they must give account (Eph 5:11-14; Heb 4:13). The price that the wicked will pay for rejecting Christ as Lord and Savior; and continuing in their evil ways, will be losing both their body and soul in unquenchable fire (permanent second death), because God can destroy both body and soul (the soul is mortal) in hell (Mt 10:28). 'It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God!' (Heb 10:31).

Therefore, to inherit the Kingdom of God (and avoid being cast into the lake of fire), it is crucial that you: 1) Repent. 2) Obey God's commandments. 3) Submit to and revere God, and live a life of holiness and godliness ...

What is your destiny? Will you suffer eternal punishment in the lake of fire, or will you inherit eternal life in the kingdom of God? Would you like to find out more about what the future holds for you ... ?

Scriptural References:

Joshua 18:16
2 Kings 22:17
2 Chronicles 28:1-4
2 Chronicles 33:6
2 Chronicles 34:25
Isaiah 1:31
Isaiah 34:10
Isaiah 66:15-18, 24
Jeremiah 4:4
Jeremiah 7:30-34
Jeremiah 17:27
Jeremiah 21:12
Jeremiah 32:30-35
Ezekiel 20:47-48
Matthew 3:10-12
Matthew 4:1-11
Matthew 5:22, 27-30
Matthew 16:18
Matthew 23:33
Matthew 25:31-46
Mark 9:42-48
Luke 12:5,49-50
Luke 16:23-24
John 15:6
John 16:11
Acts 2:27-31
1 Corinthians 15
2 Thessalonians 1:8-10
Hebrews 10:26-27
James 3:5-6
2 Pet 3:5-13
Revelation 1:18

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What is unquenchable fire? Is hell real? Is it Biblical? If so, what will it be like and who will go there?

In the Bible, there are references to sheol or hades (grave), tartarus (place of darkness), abyss (bottomless pit), and gehenna (place of burning - lake of fire). In the New Testament, there are three Greek words: gehenna (the destination of the wicked or unsaved), hades (grave), and tartarus (place of darkness), which are all translated as "hell," but with different meanings.

1) Sheol (Hebrew OT), or **hades** (Greek NT) - refers to the grave. This is the temporary place, or home of the dead. Death is a state of unconsciousness (*Ecc1 9:5*).

Ecclesiastes 12:7 mentions: 'and the dust returns to the ground it came from, and the spirit returns to God who gave it.'

All the people who have died since the beginning of time are found in the grave, with the exception of Jesus Christ.

Acts 2:31 - He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption.

Scripture makes it clear that no one is ascended to heaven, only Jesus who came down from heaven

John 3:13 - "No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man."

Furthermore, Christ was not abandoned to the grave, and His body did not decay. He was raised by God's mighty power (resurrected) after being in the heart of the earth, the grave, for three days and three nights.

Matthew 12:40 - "For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth."

Acts 2:31 - Seeing what was ahead, he spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to the grave, nor did his body see decay.

Note: Exceptional scripture: in the Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus, hades indicates the place of punishment for the wicked (*Lk 16:23*).

2) Tartarus - is where Satan and the fallen angels (demons) are now temporarily confined, or restrained until their final judgment, for rebellion against God. Their confinement is the "darkness of the material universe," or "prison."

2 Peter 2:4 - 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;

Jude 1:6 - And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.

3) Abyss (bottomless pit) - Satan is currently and temporarily the "god" of this world: *2 Cor 4:4 - In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.*

But Satan will be bound with chains, and thrown into the abyss (also called the bottomless pit). *Revelation 20:1-3 - And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years. And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.*

Then the millennial reign of Christ will begin with His true saints, who will be resurrected to glorious spirit beings and share the divine, eternal nature of God (*Rev 20:5-6*).

4) Gehenna or lake of fire - refers to the 'Valley of Hinnom,' or the 'Valley of Ben Hinnom,' which is outside ancient Jerusalem (*2 Kings 23:10-11; Neh 11:30; Jer 19:6*). A deep and narrow ravine with steep, rocky sides to the south and west of Jerusalem, where all the rubbish from the entire city of Jerusalem was dumped and burnt. It was a place of idolatrous, human sacrifices, and other detestable abominations. For example, King Ahaz burned sacrifices and sacrificed his children in the fire. Manasseh King of Judah also sacrificed his children in the fire. The people of Israel and Judah built high places for Baal to sacrifice their sons and daughters to Molech. Gehenna is described as a place where *"their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched"* (*Mk 9:44*). No one can extinguish this fire. In other words, the worms will eat the flesh of all the wicked until there is nothing left of their dead bodies, and the fire will

eventually go out by itself, once it has consumed everything (combustible material). The fire is eternal punishment (eternal death - the results are permanent); not eternal punishing (because all the wicked will vanish once the fire and the worms have consumed them).

Isaiah 66:24 - "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."

The wicked will be stubble and consumed with fire, because they are evildoers, who have rejected God. The phrase: *"Not a root or a branch will be left to them,"* means that the wicked will be as nothing, as though they never existed on the face of the earth, and the memory of them will be forgotten. They are compared to a fruitless tree which is uprooted, leaving nothing - no root or branch. They will be ashes under the soles of the feet of the righteous who will go out leaping as calves led out of a stall. Therefore, the wicked will not suffer eternal torment.

Malachi 4:1-3 mentions: "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. 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. 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."

In scripture, there are other illustrations as to how the wicked will perish. For example, they will vanish like smoke, as wax melts before the fire, as smoke is blown away by the wind, like chaff that the wind blows away.

Who will be in the lake of fire? Scripture mentions those whose names were not found written in the book of life will be in the lake of fire, which is the second death, and the final, eternal punishment and destiny of unrepentant sinners, from which there is no hope of resurrection or eternal life in the Kingdom of God.

Revelation 21:8 - But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars—their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death."

The final destination of the devil, beast and false prophet is also the lake of burning sulfur. At the beginning of Christ's millennial reign, the beast and false prophet will be cast into the lake of fire (*Revelation 19:20*). Since they are human beings, the flames will utterly consume them and they will cease to exist. Satan (spirit being) and his demons (evil spirits) will be cast into the lake of fire, and be tormented day and night, forever and ever. This will happen after the millennium. Their punishment will last throughout eternity, but since they are spirit beings they cannot die (*Revelation 20:10*). Satan will see all he has striven toward, worked and plotted for, burned up as the Earth is purified by fire. This will cause him great mental anguish. The lake of fire will be quenched at the time of the establishment of the new heavens and new earth (*Revelation 21:1*).

There are other references to the fires of hell. For example, false prophets who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves - hungry for your money! You will know them by their fruit (deeds, actions, conduct and behavior). They are a bad tree bearing bad fruit, and cut down and thrown into the fire (*Mt 7:15-20, 21-23*).

Also, figuratively speaking, if any part of your body causes you to sin, then it would be better for you to lose that part of the body, than to have your whole body thrown in hell (*Mt 18:7-9*). In other words, you must make extraordinary efforts to get rid of the cause of sin in your life, and stop using your bodies to commit sin! It is crucial that one keeps watch over what he speaks, because life and death are in the power of the tongue, and he who loves it will eat its fruit (*Pr 18:21*). Therefore, one will reap the consequences of his words. For example, anyone who says to his brother, "You fool!" will be in danger of hell fire (*Mt 5:22*).

Does God take pleasure in the death of the wicked? No! (*Ezek 33:11*). That is why there are strong warnings to repent, and for the wicked to turn from their evil ways, so that they will live, because the *'the soul that sinneth, it shall die'* (*Ezek 18:4, 20; Lk 17:29*). The incorrigibly wicked—those who persistently rebel against God, His commandments and the true Gospel, will be thrown in the lake of fire. This is the only way to rid the earth of all evil. Righteousness and justice are the foundation of God's throne (*Ps 89:14; 97:2*). The lake of fire is an act of justice and mercy, where God will not allow unrepentant sinners to cause themselves and others great pain and suffering. It is also an act of compassion, where God will not permit the wicked to suffer torment for all eternity. God is always faithful to His promises: When He speaks, He acts! When He promises, He fulfills! The Bible clearly says that a man reaps what he sows (*Galatians 6:8*).

There are also references to 'baptism with fire' in scripture, where Christ's winnowing fork is in His hand to clear His threshing floor, and to gather the wheat (righteous) into His barn, and burn up the chaff (wicked) with unquenchable fire. The harvest is at the end of the age. Christ will send His angels who will