



(all text in green is in my words, and not that of Pastor Murray or Dennis Murray).

What is hell? Many of us have been threatened with it since we were children. Parents scare their children with it, spouses condemn their mates with it, and preachers hold their congregations in captive “righteous” fear by threat of God’s torment awaiting all souls who don’t obey the “church”. I would

like to dispel some of the myth and rumor that has become so ingrained in Christianity, and show you through linguistics what God's Word truly says about Hell.

In the parable of Lazarus and the rich man, we know that Lazarus was a poor, but righteous beggar that, upon dying, went to be with God in heaven. The rich man on the other hand died in his sinfulness and he was sent to "hell". Bear in mind, however, that they were in sight of each other, divided only by a great gulf that could not be crossed. On the side of paradise were those who returned to God upon death (of the flesh) because of their faith and God's grace and on the other were the non-believers who would not accept His grace and salvation through His beloved Son, Jesus Christ while they still lived on the earth. Neither of them were in a grave in the ground awaiting their judgment until the end of this age.

In Ecclesiastes 9, however, God does say that the "dead know nothing.." but this book was written to the "flesh" man, or the man that walks under the sun ([Ecclesiastes 4:15](#)). The entire teaching of Ecclesiastes is devoted to educating us in how to handle our flesh bodies while we inhabit them in this earth age. And in the realm of flesh, a "living dog is better than a dead lion". But, not for those whose spirit yearns for eternal life with its Creator because when the flesh is gone the breath of life immediately raises out and returns to its Father as Ecclesiastes 12 confers.

For those whose reward is not paradise it is a sad time. But the final “Hell” in Ezekiel 28 is one in which Satan and his followers will be brought to ashes, Utterly destroyed, blotted out. But, this hasn’t happened yet. In Revelation 12 we are told how Michael and his archangels will cast Satan out of heaven onto this earth, in person. So, not even Satan is in final “Hell” at this time. Where is he? Where are those who have died in Christ? Paul taught in II Corinthians 5 that to be absent from the flesh is to be present with the Lord. This is a fact for ALL who have departed this flesh age through death in the flesh, not just those that have overcome by the blood of Christ. And, to the Phillippians Paul writes.

Phillippians 1:20 According to my earnest expectation and *my* hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but *that* with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether *it be* by life, or by death.

Whether Paul’s body was dead or alive, it didn’t affect his ability to magnify his Saviour.

Phillippians 1:21 For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. **[22]** But if I live in the flesh, this *is* the fruit of my labour: yet what I shall choose I wot not.

Paul felt such a need and a desire to teach God's Word to others, yet he yearned for his home with Christ that if he were given the choice he wasn't sure which he would choose. Are these the words of a man who believed in soul sleep? No! On the cross, Christ Himself told the sinner that repented that he would be with Him in paradise, TODAY. Immediately! Not after the seventh trump of any other trump for that matter. So, Hell is not the grave.

Then what and where is Hell? To fully understand you must realize that there are mainly three¹ different words that are translated into the English word "Hell" and you need to know which one you are dealing with as you read them in the scriptures. One is Hebrew: "Sheol", and two are Greek: "Hades" and "Genna" (also "Gehenna"). I've always taught you to check your words in the Strong's Concordance to understand their meanings, and this is why. When you study in the Old Testament the word will usually be "Sheol" in the New Testament "Hades" or "Genna".

Here is another link to [Ap. 131](#) from "The Companion Bible" The Synonymous words for "HELL"

To distinguish which "hell" in the Greek is being used there are two rules. "Hades" always refers to a temporary resting place of souls. It is where the rich man was (the wrong side of the Gulf.) . The burning that was described is symbolic. We are in the flesh and we always tend to think flesh, but the torment comes

from the spiritual anguish. “Burning” with shame as they are held from crossing over to the rewards of Christ. “Hades” is where they will stay, separated from Yahshua, until the final judgment, at the end of the millennium. At that time, as Revelation 20 tells us, all will be judged, by their works only, and will enter either into the kingdom of God or perish into ash with Satan.

Jesus used “Genna” when he spoke in an eternal sense. “Genna” comes from the Hebrew word Hinnom which was the name of the valley in which Israel had a garbage pit that burned continuously outside the city of Jerusalem. They threw everything into it including animals. The visual picture drawn for us by most churches today is one of this type, the stench and worms crawling in and out of flesh, ect. Christ always used this word when He was referring to the eternal or everlasting abode of evil or ungodly souls such as Satan. Why did Jesus use this “pit” to describe “hell”? The following verse foretold of this.

Jeremiah 7:31 And they have built the high places of [Tophet](#), which is in [the valley of the son of Hinnom](#), to burn their sons and their daughters in the fire; which I commanded *them* not, neither came it into My [heart](#).

“Tophet” means a place of burning. (better check the Strong’s Concordance). This “hell” was created by man! God didn’t

have anything to do with it. Our Father never intended for hell to indicate a burning place, but Jesus picked this word because man could certainly identify with the “hell” he created for himself (through evil idolatry). The torment felt by one who is awaiting judgment in heaven, that can see what he forfeited, is worse than man’s vision of hell.

Mark 9:43 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:

This body is spiritual and refers to the many membered body of Christ. If one member is going to lead the body into hell, cut it off. Which “hell” is this referring to? “Genna”, because it refers to the eternal outcome.

The Apocrypha are a set of books that were included in the Original King James translation of 1611. They have since been removed because of some doubt as to their inspiration. However, I feel there is much good in part of them. If you find that does not agree with the canonized scripture you discount its authenticity also. Never let it dissuade or take away from what is in our books of the Bible today. I am going to use a portion from II Esdras to help explain what “hell” is. Esdras is the same person as Ezra, the priest, whose book

by the same name appears in the Old Testament. As you know I study from one of the few available sets of the Massorah and feel that it validates this portion of the apocrypha.

(This is taken from the Apocrypha translated by Edgar J. Goodspeed. These are a portion of those verses omitted from many translations of Edras Chapter 7 other than Goodspeed's) (other translations stop at verse 70.)

II Esdras 7:79-87 If it was one of those who scorned and did not observe the way of the Most High, and of those who have despised His law, and of those who hate those who fear God, such spirits shall not enter dwellings but wander about thenceforth in torment, always grieving and sad, in seven ways. The first way is that they have scorned the Law of the Most High. The second way is that they can no longer make a good repentance, so that they may live. The third way is that they will see the reward destined for those who have believed the agreements of the Most High. The fourth way is that they will consider the torment destined for them in the last days. The fifth way is that they will see that the dwelling places of the others are guarded by angels in profound silence [peace]. The sixth way is that they will see that some of them will pass over to be tormented henceforth. The seventh way, which is worse than all the ways that have been mentioned, is that

they will waste away in shame and be consumed in disgrace, and wither in fear, at seeing the glory of the Most High before whom they sinned while they lived, and before Whom they are destined to be judged in the last times.

You can see this is not speaking of a permanent place. The souls are only there until final judgment. The judgment of the last times which is after the Millennium. I am not teaching this book as scripture, because it is not canonized as such and you must only study these books with great discernment (*with our Father Proverbs 3:5-6 and 1 John 2:26-28*). However, the Massorah does back up that there is validity to these writings of Ezra. Let us go back to the word “Hades” in consideration of Paul’s writing to the Corinthians.

I Corinthians 15:54 So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. **[55]** O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?

This is the end of the Millennium and God’s plan has come to the point that “death” is blotted out. The “grave” is “Hades” and it has no victory because it cannot hold God’s children. The sting of death is sin, which gains its power by the law. By the

law we recognize it. Thanks be to God Who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

So is the final “hell” (Genna) that consumes the ungodly souls in existence today? Not one place in God’s Word does it say this place exist before the end of the millennium. Only in the analogy of Lazarus and the rich man is “fire” even mentioned in relation to the torment of those awaiting judgment. So what is the lake of fire? It appears after and only after the final judgment. The judgment that decides whether the mortal shall put on immortality. (There is no flesh at this time.)

As I have said before this final judgment is one of works only! Not by faith or hope because they aren’t necessary in the next age where all things are seen and apparent. Revelation 20:12 states and verse 13 reiterates, for emphasis that this final judgment is of works alone. After the judgment....

Revelation 20:14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

This is the final death, not of the flesh, but of the soul. It is the “blotting out” of the Lamb’s Book of Life. The Greek will bear me out when I say the existence will be blotted out so fully that you will not ever have known them. There will be no memory of those, as if they never existed.

Beloved, a glorious time is coming. The eternity that follows the millennium described in the 21st chapter tells of the earth being completely rejuvenated as the day it was created millions of years ago. All lakes are to be dried up, including the lake of fire. All things associated with death and sin will be no more.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

He loves you more than you love your own children. You are His child and He has given you this promise. Don't ever take it lightly, the price was more than you could ever have to offer. Don't listen to rumor and doctrine. Check it out for yourself. After all, our Father wrote a letter to each and every one of His children. Have you read/**studied** it?

ALL Praise to our Father in heaven (Proverbs Chapter 2; Proverbs 3:5,6; 1 John 2:26,27; Hebrews 11:6) credits to "men" is not needed for all works of "men" our Father sees.

