

Topical Study: *Always Be Ready to Give a Defense*

Life application of the truths of God's Word as it applies to us and our families today

Part 10 – *What Does the Bible Teach about Heaven and Hell? (Part 2)*

Sunday, April 3 2011

Luke 16:19-31 (S-909-KL)

(All Scriptures are from the New King James Version unless otherwise indicated.)

What is Hell like?

Three Greek words used for Hell:

1. Hades – Holding place for the dead.
2. Gehenna or Geena – place of constant (eternal) burning, Lake of Fire
3. Tartaroo – Used only once, in 2 Peter – The place of early judgment for fallen angels.

Strong's Dictionary - Tartaroo (tar-tar-o'-o); from Tartaros (the deepest abyss of Hades); to incarcerate in eternal torment.

For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell [tartaroo] and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment. 2 Peter 2:4

Jesus used the Greek Word Gehenna when talking about eternal judgment:

“You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell [Greek word is Geena]. And if your right hand causes you to sin [prone to murder due to hatred], cut it off and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell [Geena].” Matthew 5:27 – 30

Strong's Concordance NT:1067: Geena (gheh'-en-nah); of Hebrew origin [OT:1516 and OT:2011]; Valley of (the son of) Hinnom; Ge-henna (or Ge-Hinnom), a valley of Jerusalem, used (figuratively) as a name for the place (or state) of everlasting punishment.

Jesus teaches that refusal to repent from the sin of lust (causing the rejection of God and God's law) results in being cast into the burning pit of Geena – forever.

How could it be better to cut out our eye since we would lose our ability to see in this life? If everyone goes to heaven (as some teach), why not keep both eyes and lust at times since you can reject God and his laws now and then after you die you get to go to heaven anyway because God will win you over with his love?

“Whatever I tell you in the dark, speak in the light; and what you hear in the ear, preach on the housetops. And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.” Matthew 10:27 – 28

Compare to the Message Bible which corrupts what Jesus taught:

“Don’t be bluffed into silence by the threats of bullies. There’s nothing they can do to your soul, your core being. Save your fear for God, who holds your entire life — body and soul — in his hands.” Matthew 10:28

*He answered and said to them: “He who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world, the good seeds are the sons of the kingdom, but the tares are the **sons of the wicked one**. The enemy who sowed them is **the devil**, the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are the angels. Therefore as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of this age. The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness, and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be **wailing and gnashing of teeth**. Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!” Matthew 13:37 – 43*

Strong’s Dictionary for gnashing NT: 1031 brucho (broo’-kho); a primary verb; to grate the teeth (in pain or rage).

Jesus teaches that Hell (Geena, the Lake of Fire) will be an everlasting place of suffering with wailing and gnashing teeth.

*“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet that was cast into the sea and gathered some of every kind, which, when it was full, they drew to shore; and they sat down and gathered the good into vessels, but threw the bad away. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come forth, separate the wicked from among the just, and cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be **wailing and gnashing of teeth**.” Jesus said to them, “Have you understood all these things?” They said to Him, “Yes, Lord.” Matthew 13:47 – 51*

Then Jesus called a little child to Him, set him in the midst of them, and said, “Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Whoever receives one little child like this in My name receives Me. Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea. Woe to the world because of offenses! For offenses must come, but woe to that man by whom the offense comes! If your hand or foot causes you to sin, cut it off and cast it from you. It is better for you to enter into life lame or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet, to be cast into the everlasting fire. And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you. It is better for you to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes, to be cast into hell fire.” Matthew 18:2 – 9

Why would Jesus teach that it would be better for a person to commit suicide before deceiving a child away from salvation in Jesus’ name?

There must be an eternal consequence for rejecting God and causing others to do so. Other passages reinforcing the above: Matthew 22:1-14 (with Revelation 7:14), Matthew 23:29-34, Matthew 24:48-51, and Luke 13:22-30.

What happened to the souls of people who died before Jesus?

“There was a certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously every day. But there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, full of sores, who was laid at his gate, desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man’s table. Moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. So it was that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham’s bosom. The rich man also

*died and was buried. And being in torments in Hades [sometimes translated hell – but literally a holding place for the dead], he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. Then 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.’ But Abraham said, ‘Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are tormented. And besides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, so that those who want to pass from here to you **cannot, nor can those from there pass to us.**’”*
Luke 16:19 – 26

Rob Bell’s book says that God makes a way for people to get to heaven after the unbeliever dies. This not what Jesus taught!

“Then he said, ‘I beg you therefore, father, that you would send him to my father’s house, for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them, lest they also come to this place of torment.’ Abraham said to him, ‘They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.’ And he said, ‘No, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’ But he said to him, ‘If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.’” Luke 16:27 - 31

From this passage, we learn what happened to the souls of people who died before Jesus:

Rejecters of God are assigned to the tormenting side of Hades

The rich man of Luke 16 is still there waiting for the final judgment of God before going to the eternal lake of fire,

Those who believed in God’s promises were in the comforting arms of Abraham on the other side of Hades until Jesus paid the price and now they are in heaven with Jesus.

I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death. Revelation 1:18

But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ’s gift. Therefore He says: “When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men.” (Now this, “He ascended” — what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.) Ephesians 4:7 – 10

What happens to the souls of people who die after Jesus?

Unbelievers continue to fill up the tormenting side of Hades until the Great White Throne Judgment of Revelation 20 (next study)

Believers - go directly to Paradise (the presence of God)

*The soldiers also mocked Him, coming and offering Him sour wine, and saying, “If You are the King of the Jews, save Yourself.” And an inscription also was written over Him in letters of Greek, Latin, and Hebrew: **THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.** Then one of the criminals who were hanged blasphemed Him, saying, “If You are the Christ, save Yourself and us.” But the other, answering, rebuked him, saying, “Do you not even fear God, seeing you are under the same condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we receive the due reward of our deeds; but this Man has done nothing wrong.” Then he said to Jesus, “Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom.” And Jesus said to him, “Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in **Paradise.**”* Luke 23:36 – 43

Greek word for Paradise used only two other times in the New Testament

And I knew such a man, (whether in the body, or out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;), how that he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter. 2 Corinthians 12:3, 4 KJV

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God. Revelation 2:7 KJV

Paul taught that as soon as believers die, we go to be with the Lord Jesus.

For we who are in this tent groan, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed, that mortality may be swallowed up by life. Now He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who also has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. So we are always confident, knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord. For we walk by faith, not by sight. We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord. 2 Corinthians 5:4 – 8

For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain. But if I live on in the flesh, this will mean fruit from my labor; yet what I shall choose I cannot tell. For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better. Nevertheless to remain in the flesh is more needful for you. Philippians 1:21 – 24

Summary

What is Hell?

- **It is a place of eternal suffering, like fire, for those who reject God's salvation plan**
 - There is wailing and gnashing of teeth – forever.
 - Those who disagree are calling Jesus a liar.

What happened to the souls of people who died before Jesus?

- Damned – Torment
- Saved – Comforting arms of Abraham waiting for Jesus to pay the price for sin

What happens to the souls of people who die after Jesus?

- Damned – Torment in Hades until the Great White Throne Judgment, then Hell forever
- Saved – With the Lord in Heaven