

Who Will be Sent to Hell?

Speaking of those who are going to hell, John wrote, *“But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death”* (Revelation 2:18). He also says, *“For outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie”* (Revelation 22:15). Some others who will be sent to hell will be those who do the works of the flesh, the sinful, the ungodly, unbelievers in God and Christ, people who are trying to be saved by their own righteousness, the hypocrites, religious people who are in error — and on and on the list goes. These are people who are lost and are not prepared to meet God, because they have not obeyed Him.

Do You Want to Go to Hell?

If you don't want to spend eternity in hell, you must repent of your sins and obey God. You don't have to die lost. But to escape certain destruction you must believe in God, repent of your sins, confess Christ as the Son of God, and be baptized for the remission of your sins (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38). Having done so, the Lord

will save you and add you to His church, and as a faithful Christian — and a member of the Lord's family — you will be blessed and protected and kept, so that one day you may live with God forever (Ephesians 1:3; 1 John 1:7; Revelation 22:14).

In Conclusion

My prayer is that you will obey the Lord while you have the time and the opportunity. Remember, God's word says, *“Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away. For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him?”* (Hebrews 2:1-3).

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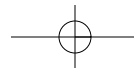
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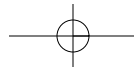
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What Is Hell Like?

J.C. Choate





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What is hell? This question, along with its answer, should be of interest to everyone. I am saying this on the basis that unless we know what hell is, and put forth every effort possible to avoid going there, we could very easily spend eternity in a devil's hell.

Many think of hell only as a mythical place. Others don't like to hear about it because it frightens them. Even some so-called Christians find fault with those who preach "hell-fire and damnation" for the wicked, as though somehow God would be unjust to have such a place of punishment.

In the religious world, some have attempted to define hell as simply a place where the evil are spiritually annihilated, or instantly destroyed. That is, once they go to hell, their souls are blotted out, and they cease to exist. But this is not true, as we are going to see.

Hell, as set forth in the Bible, is a place that was created for the devil and his angels, but it will also be the place, or state, of eternal punishment for the wicked and ungodly humans after their deaths. It is described as a lake of fire of unbearable punishment, eternal or everlasting.

Hell Is a Real Place

Hell is spoken of in the scriptures as a real place. Christ said, "*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 10:28). Speaking of a city that had rejected Him, Christ said, "*And you, Capernaum, who are exalted to heaven, will be brought down to Hades*" (Luke 10:15). Some who were religious, but who were in error, the Lord rebuked by saying, "*Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel land and sea to win one proselyte, and when he is won, you make him twice as much a son of hell as yourselves*" (Matthew 23:15). That is, those hypocritical religious leaders had taught error, and once people had accepted those false beliefs it would be extremely difficult to lead them to the truth, even though that error would result in their being lost in hell.

Going further in that chapter, Jesus added, "*Serpents, brood of vipers! How can you escape the condemnation of hell?*" (Matthew 23:33). Now it is true that the word translated "hell" was sometimes used to refer to death, as in the case of the Lord promising that the gates of hell or Hades — death — would not keep Him from building His church (Matthew 16:18). But in the verses to which we have been referring, the term hell has reference to a place of eternal

damnation. We could reference many other such verses, but be assured that the Bible talks about a literal hell, a place where the wicked will be punished forever and forever. In fact, Jesus warned of hell even more than He talked about heaven!

Christ spoke in detail about the wicked and their reward on the day of judgment: "*Then He will also say to those on the left hand, Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels*" (Matthew 25:41). This passage makes it very clear that existence in hell is just as everlasting as the existence of the righteous in heaven. As comforting as the false doctrine of "instant annihilation" might be for the wicked person, it has no support in Scripture.

What Is Hell Like?

Hell is, therefore, a place where the wicked will be punished forever and forever. Paul says that the Lord is coming back to take vengeance on those who know not God and obey not the Gospel, and that they will be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power (2 Thessalonians 1:7-9). Hell is called the second death, which means a place of eternal separation from God. It is said to be a "*lake which burns with fire and brimstone*" (Revelation 21:8). It is described as a place where there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth (Matthew 25:30).

