

Bible Thoughts

with
P.H.A.Hopkins

on
“Hell”

The thoughts and note material given on these pages are only a possible suggestion of the meaning, they must not be taken as inspired, however they are prayerfully prepared and compared with other similar material. There are many ways in which God's Word can be analyzed and none must be taken in place of the Word of God itself.

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"HELL"

The Bible talks about a place of eternal punishment created for the evil angels and those of Mankind who refuse to obey and worship God, this place is called "Hell." The place of punishment after death for all those who refuse to repent. Many people, including Christians say that as God is a God of love He would not create a place called "Hell" because all people will one day turn to worship God and so would not be sent to hell. There are two major problems with these ideas:-

If ultimately all people would end up in heaven, then hell would not be needed. If this was the case, then why did God send His Son to die on the cross in place of Mankind, to give a way of forgiveness and so escape punishment in hell? It would not have been needed.

Secondly, God gave Mankind a complete free will so they can choose what, who they want to worship and obey, that means many people will still choose to reject God and must therefore end up in a place of punishment, the place called Hell.

Hell is therefore needed and must exist.

The Bible text of the Authorized Version normally translates three words of the original text as "Hell", they are Sheol, Hades and Gehenna.

Sheol

Sheol meaning "the grave" is found in the Old Testament and is referring to the place of the dead, normally considered to be under the earth.

[Job 24:19](#): *"Drought and heat consume the snow waters: So doth Sheol(grave) those that have sinned."*

[Job 11:7,8](#): *"Canst thou by searching find out God? Canst thou find out the Almighty unto perfection? It is high as heaven; what canst thou do? Deeper than Sheol;(hell) what canst thou know?"*

[Psalms 16:10](#): *"For thou wilt not leave my soul to Sheol;(hell) Neither wilt thou suffer thy holy one to see corruption."*

[Isaiah 38:10](#): *"I said, In the noontide of my days I shall go into the gates of Sheol:(grave) I am deprived of the residue of my years."*

Hades

Hades is the Greek word for the underworld, the place of the dead. It is the word that is translated in the New Testament for Sheol.

[Matthew 16:18](#): *"And I also say unto thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it."*

[Matthew 25:41-46](#): *"Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into the eternal fire which is prepared for the devil and his angels:"*

[Revelation 1:18](#): *"I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death."*

[Revelation 20:13-14](#): *"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. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death."*

Gehenna

Gehenna, or hell, was named after the Valley of Hinnom near Jerusalem, it was where children were sacrificed by fire to the pagan gods and later it became the rubbish dump for Jerusalem, so there was a permanent burning of the rubbish.

[2 Kings 23:10](#): *"And he defiled Topheth, which is in the valley of the children of Hinnom, that no man might make his son or his daughter to pass through the fire to Molech."*

[2 Chronicles 28:3](#): *"Moreover he burnt incense in the valley of the son of Hinnom, and burnt his children in the fire, after the abominations of the heathen whom the LORD had cast out before the children of Israel."*

Gehenna is the place of eternal fire which was prepared for the devil, his angels, and now for all those who do not believe in God and accept His gift of forgiveness through Jesus.

When Jesus warns against unbelief, he is trying to save us from agonizing punishment.

[Matthew 5:22](#): *"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, RacaRaca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire."*

[Matthew 10:28](#): *"And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in 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:"

[Luke 12:5](#): *"But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell; yea, I say unto you, Fear him."*

[James 3:6](#): *"And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell."*

This is the final and eternal state of the wicked after the resurrection and the Last Judgment.

[Revelation 19:20](#): *"And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone."*

[Revelation 20:9-10](#): *"9 And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them. 10 And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever."*

Why does Hell exist

Read [Romans 1:18-32](#).

[Romans 1:18-25](#): *"For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;*

Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath showed it unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, And changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and four footed beasts, and creeping things. Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and

worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. "

The existence and punishment of hell is correct. In the above Bible reading Paul answers a question many people ask: "How could a loving God send anyone to hell, especially someone who has never heard about Christ? " Paul explains that God has revealed himself through his creation to all the world and the people. But all the people have done is to reject even this knowledge of God, they claim that there is no God!

In addition mankind seems to have a conscience of what is good and evil, yet most choose not to live according to this conscience. If people, knowing the truth, ignore and suppress this knowledge of God and his truth, so that they can live how they want, then they have no excuse if God insists that they suffer the consequences of their action.

What is the future for those in Hell?

[Revelation 20:1-15;](#)

The key verses are *"14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. 15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire, "* [Revelation 20:14,15.](#)

There are no second chances for those who are in hell because Death and Hell are thrown into the lake of fire. God's judgment is final and finished. The lake of fire is the final destination of anything which has rejected God, is evil and wicked, this includes Satan, the beast, the false prophet, the demons, death, Hades, and because they did not place their faith in Jesus Christ, all those whose names are not recorded in the book of life. If by faith we do not confess Jesus as Lord, then we have no hope, there is no second chance, no other appeal, there is no get out in God's judgment. Any person who ends up in hell will be going there as an intruder because Hell was originally created for the devil and his angelic followers, [Matt. 25:41.](#) *"Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels."* The Lord does not want any of Mankind to suffer eternity in Hell, [2 Peter 3:9.](#) *"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. "* Punishment in hell is not desired by God for a single person. Note [John 3:18.](#) *"He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."* Whoever does not believe in Jesus the Son of God is already

condemned. God does not send people into hell; they choose that place for themselves.

Some Bible references on the subject of Hell.

[1 Samuel 2:9.](#) 9 He will keep the feet of his saints, and the wicked shall be silent in darkness; for by strength shall no man prevail.

[Psalms 88:5-7.](#) 5 Free among the dead, like the slain that lie in the grave, whom thou rememberest no more: and they are cut off from thy hand. 6 Thou hast laid me in the lowest pit, in darkness, in the deeps. 7 Thy wrath lieth hard upon me, and thou hast afflicted me with all thy waves.

[Psalms 9:15-17.](#) 15 The heathen are sunk down in the pit that they made: in the net which they hid is their own foot taken. 16 The LORD is known by the judgment which he executeth: the wicked is snared in the work of his own hands. 17 The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God.

[Psalms 18:4,5.](#) 4 The sorrows of death compassed me, and the floods of ungodly men made me afraid. 5 The sorrows of hell compassed me about: the snares of death prevented me.

[Job 11:7,8.](#) Canst thou by searching find out God? canst thou find out the Almighty unto perfection? 8 It is as high as heaven; what canst thou do? deeper than hell; what canst thou know?

[Job 21:30.](#) 30 That the wicked is reserved to the day of destruction? they shall be brought forth to the day of wrath.

[Job 18:5.](#) 5 Yea, the light of the wicked shall be put out, and the spark of his fire shall not shine.

[Job 24:20.](#) 20 The womb shall forget him; the worm shall feed sweetly on him; he shall be no more remembered; and wickedness shall be broken as a tree.

[Ezekiel 7:25.](#) 25 Destruction cometh; and they shall seek peace, and there shall be none.

[Matt. 8:12.](#) 12 But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

[Matt. 13:41.](#) 41 The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; 42 And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

[Matt. 18:8,9.](#) 8 Wherefore if thy hand or thy foot offend thee, cut them off, and cast them from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life halt or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet to be cast into everlasting fire. 9 And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire.

[Matt. 5:22.](#) That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, RacaRaca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire.

[Matt. 5:29,30.](#) 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.

[Matt. 10:28.](#) 8 And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

[Luke 13:3.](#) 3 I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.

[2 Thess. 1:8,9.](#) 8 In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: 9 Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;

[Acts 2:31,32.](#) 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. 32 This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses. 3

[James 3:6.](#) And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell.

[2 Peter 2:4.](#) 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; 5

[Rev. 14:9-11.](#) 9 And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, if any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, 10 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: 11 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.

[Rev. 1:18](#). 8 I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.

[Rev. 20:13-15](#). 13 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. 14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. 15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.