

HELL: THE JUDGMENT WE CAN'T IGNORE

Series: The Final Things – Week #3

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*“As surely as I live, says the Sovereign Lord, I **take no pleasure in the death of wicked people**. I only want them to turn from their wicked ways so they can live.” Ezekiel 33:11 (NLT)*

What Does the Bible Mean by “Hell”?

A. In the Old Testament: Sheol Was the Realm of the Dead

*“For you will not abandon my soul to **Sheol**...” Psalm 16:10 (ESV)*

B. In The New Testament: Hades Was The Greek Term For Sheol

*“For you will not abandon my soul to **Hades**...” Acts 2:27 (ESV)*

*“I assure you, today you will be **with me in paradise**.” Luke 23:43 (NLT)*

*“We should be cheerful, because we would rather **leave these bodies and be at home with the Lord**.” 2 Corinthians 5:8 (CEV)*

C. Gehenna: Began As A Real Valley Outside Jerusalem

*“He offered sacrifices in the valley of Ben-Hinnom, even **sacrificing his own sons in the fire**. In this way, he **followed the detestable practices of the pagan nations** the LORD had driven from the land ahead of the Israelites.” 2 Chronicles 28:3 (NLT)*

*“Manasseh also **sacrificed his own sons in the fire** in the valley of Ben-Hinnom. He **practiced sorcery, divination, and witchcraft, and he consulted with mediums and psychics**. He did much that was evil in the Lord’s sight, arousing his anger.” 2 Chronicles 33:6 (NLT)*

D. Gehenna: From A Physical Valley To An Image Of Final Judgment

*“Don’t be afraid of those who want to kill your body; they cannot touch your soul. Fear only God, who can destroy both soul and body **in hell**.” Matthew 10:28 (NLT)*

E. The Lake Of Fire: The Final Eternal Punishment

*“The sea gave up the dead people who were in it. **Death and hell gave up the dead people who were in them**. Each one was judged by what he had done. ¹⁴Then **death and hell were thrown into the lake of fire**. The lake of fire is the second death. ¹⁵If anyone’s name was not written in the book of life, **he was thrown into the lake of fire**.” Revelation 20:13–15 (NLT)*

F. The Abyss: The Place For Fallen Angels And Demons.

*“And they begged Jesus repeatedly not to order them to go into the **Abyss**.” Luke 8:31 (NIV)*

What Should We Understand About Hell From Scripture

1. Hell Reminds Us That This Life Is Not All There Is

*“And just as each person is destined to die once and **after that comes judgment**...” Hebrews 9:27 (NLT)*

*“...He has planted **eternity** in the human heart...” Ecclesiastes 3:11 (NLT)*

2. Hell Reveals the Seriousness of Sin

*“But the LORD God warned him, “You may freely eat the fruit of every tree in the garden— ¹⁷**except** the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. **If you eat its fruit, you are sure to die**.” Genesis 2:16–17 (NLT)*

*“When Adam sinned, sin entered the world. **Adam’s sin brought death, so death spread to everyone** ...” Romans 5:12*

- Physical Death = Separation Of Body And Soul
- Spiritual Death = Separation From God Now.
- Eternal Death = Final Separation From God.

*“For this is how God loved the world: **He gave his one and only Son**, so that everyone who believes in him **will not perish but have eternal life.**” John 3:16 (NLT)*

3. Jesus Taught That Hell Is Real

*“Jesus said, “There was a certain rich man who was splendidly clothed in purple and fine linen and who lived each day in luxury. ²⁰At his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus who was covered with sores. ²¹As Lazarus lay there longing for scraps from the rich man’s table, the dogs would come and lick his open sores. ²²“Finally, **the poor man died and was carried by the angels to sit beside Abraham at the heavenly banquet.** The rich man also died and was buried, ²³and **he went to the place of the dead. There, in torment,** he saw Abraham in the far distance with Lazarus at his side. ²⁴“The rich man shouted, ‘Father Abraham, have some pity! Send Lazarus over here to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue. I am in anguish in these flames.’ ²⁵“But Abraham said to him, ‘Son, remember that during your lifetime you had everything you wanted, and Lazarus had nothing. So now he is here being comforted, and you are in anguish. ²⁶And besides, there is a great chasm separating us. No one can cross over to you from here, and no one can cross over to us from there.’ ²⁷“Then the rich man said, ‘Please, Father Abraham, at least send him to my father’s home. ²⁸For I have five brothers, and I want him to warn them so they don’t end up in this place of torment.’ ²⁹“But Abraham said, ‘Moses and the prophets have warned them. Your brothers can read what they wrote.’ ³⁰“The rich man replied, ‘No, Father Abraham! But if someone is sent to them from the dead, then they will repent of their sins and turn to God.’ ³¹“But Abraham said, ‘If they won’t listen to Moses and the prophets, they won’t be persuaded even if someone rises from the dead.’” Luke 16:19–31 (NLT)*

A. Conscious Existence After Death

B. A Fixed Eternal Separation

4. Hell Reveals The Justice Of God

*“And they will go away into **eternal punishment**, but the righteous will go into **eternal life.**” Matthew 25:46 (NLT)*