

Eternal Lake of Fire

One of the most misunderstood doctrines in the Bible is the doctrine of hell. There are several words for hell. From the OT, the Hebrew word Sheol is 31 times translated as hell in the English Bible. In the NT, the Greek word Hades is 10 times translated hell, Gehenna 11 times and Tartarus (2 Peter 2:4), once.

The biblical knowledge of hell comes almost exclusively from the teachings of Christ who spoke emphatically on the subject on several occasions. According to the Lord Jesus Christ, the punishment of hell is so severe than any punishment known to man.

The punishment of hell is much more badly than death (spiritual death of man) itself (Matthew 5:22, 29-30, 18:5). The Lord used figurative language to describe hell, but the figure stands for the most terrible reality. 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 (Matthew 10:28).

The human soul is immortal, eternal and indestructible on earth. In hell, the soul of the unregenerate will suffer the most severe punishment, which includes separation from God, torture of the soul with unquenchable fire, undying worms and many more.

The soul will not die in hell but will remain alive forever in pain and agony. The fire of hell is spiritual and unique; it is something not of this world. We cannot compare it with any human created fire or with any kind of fire we know in this world. (Mark 9:43, 45).

It is better to suffer the pains of divine discipline and rebound than to suffer the pains of hell. Satan is not the lord or master of hell, he will be its most notorious and popular prisoner. The Lord Jesus Christ is the Lord of hell. Satan will not hurt or punish anyone in hell, but he will be the subject of the most severe punishment (Luke 12:5).

Nobody is in-charge of hell or heaven except the Lord Jesus Christ. I am he that live, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death (Revelation 1:18).

Hell is originally created for fallen angels (Satan and his demons), not for human beings, but since men through Adam decided to follow Satan's rebellion, God assigned hell as the place of punishment for all who rejected the free gift of salvation. And death (the spiritually dead people of all generation) and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death (Rev. 20:14).

Contrary to popular notion, hell is the place of punishment for all self-righteous people not for the wicked or evil people. In the NT, the term wicked or unrighteous refers to those who have rejected the free gift of salvation through Jesus Christ. Religious people are more self-righteous than anyone else in the world, they are the genuine evil and wicked people, and they are not serving God but Satan. They are working for the kingdom of the world.

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 19:20).

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 forever and ever* (Revelation 20:10). Another misconception about hell is in its locality. The idea that hell is in the bottom of the earth originated from the rabbinical teaching not from the teaching of the Lord Jesus or his apostles

Indeed, there is fire in the middle of the earth, but that is not the Lake of Fire. The lake of Fire is not a geographical but a spiritual place. The cults who advocate such teachings borrowed it from ancient cults. The question now is "What is Hell?"

Hell is a place of perpetual burning with unquenchable, supernatural, eternal fire (Matthew 5:22, 29-30, and 9:44-45) that will torture the unbelievers forever. Hell is a Lake of Fire (Revelation 19:20, 20:10, 19:15, which describes the vastness of its suffering where all the prisoners have no possible escape. Hell is also called the Second Death because the first death is the spiritual death of Adam which was imputed to every human being (Rev. 2:21, 20:14-15, 21:8).

Hell is Eternal Separation from God, meaning, God will delete everything about him, no memory will remain as if he did not come to existence. He is absolutely forgotten forever. Hell is totally the opposite of heaven where the believers will enjoy the presence of God, fabulous inheritance, marvelous spiritual rewards and tremendous blessings.

Hell is the Released Wrath of God against human rejection of the Gospel and Bible doctrines. God cannot be angry with the sins of His people, for which He sent Christ to die and reconciled them back to Himself (Col. 3:6, 1 Thess. 1:10, Romans 2:5-8),

Hell is a place of Eternal Darkness (Matthew 8:12, 22:13, 2 Peter 2:17). It is darkness beyond comparison because we do not have anything like it in this world. It is darkness produced by human and angelic total negative volition toward God and His Word.

Hell is a Place of Destruction (Matt. 7:13, Rom. 9:22, Phil. 3:19, 2 Peter 2:1). The human soul is indestructible and created with a purpose to return back to God, and the soul that rejects Christ has lost that purpose. It served Satan, the world and its lusts. God has no use for that soul - it must be destroyed.

Hell is a place of Eternal pains and sufferings (1 Cor. 1:18, 2 Tim. 2:10). At the resurrection, God will provide all regenerate people with glorious bodies designed for eternal fellowship with Christ in heaven. All unbelievers will also receive their resurrection bodies designed for eternal suffering in hell. The suffering unbelievers may wish to die because of the severity of pains but death will not come.

Hell is a place of Permanent Imprisonment (Matt. 11:21) where there is no escape, no parole, no pardon, and without release for those who have rejected Christ during their lifetime.

Hell is a place of woes (Matthew 11:21) and sorrows. The memory of the wasted life spent for the world and the things of the world bring much agony to the suffering souls in hell. Memory of past opportunities to believe and accept the free gift of eternal life will torture the soul of the unbelievers forever.

Hell is a place of torment (Luke 16:23, Revelation 14:10, 20:10). Torment refers to severe bodily tortures inflicted upon the victims. The Roman Empire was an expert of physical tortures, but the tortures of hell is much more severe and horrible beyond compare.

Hell is a place of weeping & wailing (Matthew 8:12, 13:42, Luke 13:28). The Jews were famous for their weeping and wailing during death of their loved ones, disaster, and calamity. The Lord Jesus Christ used these analogies to describe the sufferings of hell. The Jews mourned for the dead for several days but hell will be a place where people will weep and wail forever.

Hell is a place where worms do not die (Mark 9:43-48). The worms of hell are eternal and unique because their habitat is darkness and fire. The worms are associated with death and futility. The people in hell are in terrible futility; they are good for nothing except destruction.

Hell is a place of everlasting fire (Matthew 5:22, Mark 9:43-49, 2 Peter 3:7, Revelation 20:10, 14-15). Only in the Bible we find supernatural and spiritual fire like in the burning bush and at Elijah's sacrifice. The fire of hell is a real fire, but it is superior to any kind of fire we know on earth.

The wrath of God is not an impersonal retribution, an automatic and causal working out of an abstract law. In the OT wrath is the expression of the personal, subjective free will of Yahweh who actively punishes sin, as in the NT it is the personal reaction of God, not an independent hypostasis. In the face of evil the Holy One of Israel does not dodge the responsibility of executing judgment.

He demonstrates His anger at times in the most personal way possible. "I the Lord do smite" (Ezekiel 7:8-9). In such NT passages as John 3:36; Romans 1:18; Ephesians 5:6; Colossians 3:6; Revelation 19:15; 11:18; 14:10; 16:19; 6:16; Romans 9:22, wrath is specifically described as God's wrath, His wrath, thy wrath, or the wrath of the Lamb.

The wrath of God is being continually revealed from heaven, actively giving the wicked up to uncleanness, to vile passions, to reprobate minds, and punishing them in the day of wrath and revelation of the just judgment of God (Romans 1:18-2:6). In 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9 Paul writes as personal a description of the Lord Jesus' action in directly punishing the disobedient as can be penned.

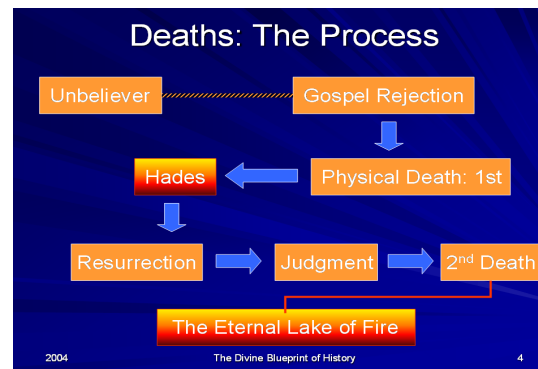
In the total biblical portrayal the wrath of God is not so much an emotion or an angry frame of mind as it is the settled opposition of His holiness to evil. Accordingly, the wrath of God is seen in its effects, in God's punishment of sin in this life and in the next. These inflictions include pestilence, death, exile, destruction of wicked cities and nations, hardening of hearts, and the cutting off of the people of God for idolatry or unbelief. They reach into the life to come in Jesus' descriptions of everlasting punishment, of a hell of fire, where the worm dies not and the flame is not quenched.

The day of wrath is God's final judgment against sin, his irrevocable condemnation of impenitent sinners. The OT description of God as "slow to anger and plenteous in mercy" is best understood as a blessed revelation full of wonder and awe. For only He who apprehends the reality of God's wrath is overpowered by the magnitude of His mercy, as it is declared in Isaiah 54:7-10 or in the reading of Psalm 30:5: "His anger is but for a moment, His favor is for a lifetime." As mercy gets the upper hand in these OT passages, so the ultimate NT word is the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father made ours in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit.



LAKE OF FIRE: HELL

PART 1



Cherreguine Bible Doctrine Ministries
www.dikaosune.com

Tract No. 67A
Hell: Eternal Lake of Fire