

# The Lake of Fire

Hell is a place for judgment of all human good works of unbelievers (Hebrews 9:27, Matthew 10:15, Mark 11:22). Hell is the venue for the judgment of all human good of unbelievers for which reason man rejected the grace gift of salvation. Actually, hell will be full of good and righteous people of the world. People who tried to earn salvation by their good works and religious activities, rejecting the free gift of salvation, rejecting the works of Christ on the Cross on behalf of men.

Hell is the end of human rejection of Christ; it will terminate human rejection of Christ and Bible doctrines. Nobody else in eternity future will ever again reject Christ. Hell is the testimonial that God is sovereign Lord of all.

Hell was specially created for Satan and his demons that rebelled against God and challenged His sovereignty. The Bible is silent about the time of creation of hell. When and how it was created is not important to believers. The exact location of hell is second in importance to knowing the Lord Jesus Christ. The knowledge of how and when hell was created will contribute little to our growth. God created Satan and He created hell for him.

The location of hell becomes the center of various theological speculations and illogical assumptions. Some Christians support the ancient pagan view that hell is located in the center of the planet earth. Recently, they released a publication of their latest discovery utilizing modern technology. Their super microphones claimed that they were able to gather noises and voices from the bottom of earth.

Hell is an escape proof prison created most especially designed for the supernatural, superpower and super-intelligent angelic being, formerly known as Lucifer. The phrase bottomless pit for example denotes the size of hell. Let us first clarify several things:

- There are several biblical terms for hell
- Hell has several subdivisions
- There are numerous popular and widely accepted false doctrines about hell.

We must be familiar with the original terms used by the Scriptures for hell because the English Bible translation is misleading. We must be familiar with the teaching of the heretical reversionists; we must be familiar with the biblical concepts of hell to refute the idle, weak and struggling believers. Understanding the terms used by the original text for hell is of extreme importance to avoid the subtle infiltration of human viewpoint.

The translators of the English Bible have confused understanding of hell, which they rendered several different Hebrews and Greek words simply as hell, when they actually refer to different places. Sheol is the general designation for the abode of the dead for both unbelievers and believers in the OT. Hades is also the general designation for the abode of the dead both believers and unbelievers in the NT before the resurrection and ascension of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Hades contains three compartments:

- Paradise or Abraham's Bosom
- Torments
- Tartarus

Paradise (a Persian word, meaning Garden of the king) also called Abraham's Bosom was the designation of the souls of all OT believers (Luke 16:23-25). No human being entered heaven until Christ entered into the presence of the God the Father and was accepted as a true humanity the only perfect man.

The acceptance of Jesus in His humanity means the acceptance of the Father of his sacrifice for the sins of all humanity. His sacrifice was approved and serves as the only access to heaven. Only under these conditions could believers be admitted into the abode of God (Psa. 110:1, Heb. 1:13, 8:1, 10:12-20). Christ in His ascension transferred the souls of all believers who had died up to that time from Paradise to the New Paradise or heaven (Eph. 4:8-9).

Paradise remains empty from the time the souls of the OT believers were transferred to heaven. Today, believers who died go directly to the presence of the Lord (2 Cor. 5:8). At the Second Coming of Christ, we will return with Him to glorify Him in His millennial kingdom.

Torments is a temporary place of fire for the souls of unbelievers from Cain to the last person of the millennial kingdom who will reject the grace of Christ (Luke 16:23-25). Hades and Torments are synonymous, but the rendering of both term as hell creates confusion because there is yet a final hell designated as Tophet, Gehenna, the Lake of Fire or the Second Death.

The first two occupants of the Lake of Fire will be the beast and the false prophet of the Great Tribulation (Rev. 20:10), who will be thrown into this prison just before the start of the Millennial kingdom. At the second resurrection, at the end of the 1000 years reign of Christ, all unbelievers will be judged and sent to the Lake of Fire for their final punishment (Rev. 20:11-15).

Tartarus is the prison for the fallen angels who conspired against God as recorded in Genesis chapter six. They were the only angels who had not seen the activities of the Son of God on earth and the defeat of Satan. They still entertained hopes that their leader would emerge victorious in his battle and keep Christ from going to the Cross and to free them (2 Peter 2:4). So the Lord Jesus Christ visited Tartarus in His glorious resurrection body to announce the defeat of Satan to these spirits in prison

"Now this expression, "He ascended," what does it mean except that He also had descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is Himself also He who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things (Ephesians 4:9-10)

"In which also He went and made proclamation to the spirits now in prison, who once were disobedient, when the patience of God kept waiting in the days of Noah..." (1 Peter 3:19). The captive followers of Satan received the bad news from the victorious Christ who defeated their leader. From Tartarus they will be transferred to the Lake of Fire after the Great White Throne judgment.

Those who will go to hell are unforgiven sinners because they rejected Jesus Christ who paid for the sins of the entire human race. They will be in hell not because of sins they committed but because they rejected the Christ. People will go to hell because of rejection of Jesus Christ and His Bible doctrine.

The purpose of the Lake of Fire is to torment the "Satanic Trinity" (the Devil, the Beast, and the False Prophet) day and night throughout eternity. The Lake of Fire is the Second Death, which denotes the kind of death that those in hell will experience forever and ever. Death (Sheol) and Hades (Torments and Tartarus) will be thrown into the Lake of Fire (Rev. 20:10, 14-15).

Take note also, that the justice of God will meticulously deal with every person. The omniscience of God knows the names of every unregenerate person, and yet He will search their names in the Book of Life. The Book of Life is the divine evidence against human rejection of the free gift of salvation in Christ, while the Book of Works is the divine evidence against human self-righteousness which they (all unbelievers) used to gain divine approbation and acceptance.

The last resurrection refers to all unbelievers of the entire human history (from Cain to the last person to reject Christ at the end of the Millennial Kingdom) to face the Great White Throne Judgment (GWT).

The issue in the GWT is not sin but the rejection of the free gift of salvation. "The sea (entire human race) gave up the dead who were in it (all the unbelievers from all dispensations)". Every person who will stand before the GWT is guilty of the unpardonable sin of rejection of Christ. Nobody will ever reason out or question the verdict of the Lord Jesus Christ. The GWT is the only court where every defendant is guilty and bound for the punishment. There is no reconsideration or lesser punishment but every defendant will face the full penalty (Rev. 20:11-13).

The Lake of Fire is the implementation of the spiritual death, in which the unbeliever will suffer the Second death. Spiritual death is separation from God during the individual's life in time while the Second death is eternal separation from God. God will set aside every unbeliever away outside space.

Second death will be a forgotten place including everyone in it. Satan has succeeded in making a fool out of hell. Because of too many deviating viewpoints majority of people thought of hell quite differently from its reality. Hell is not fictional but a reality because the Bible speaks about it more plainly than Heaven.

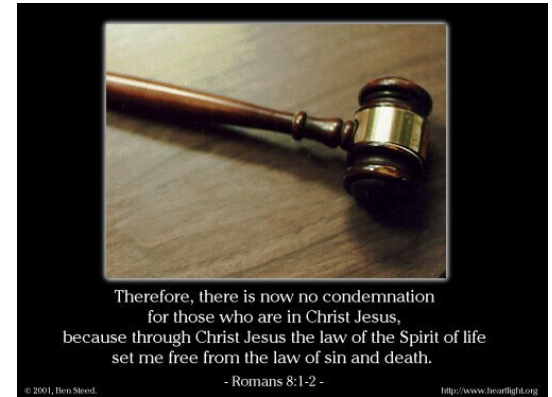
To say that God will not send anyone to Hell is contrary to what He has declared in the Scripture. The Scripture is the basis, the standard and the authority in any spiritual matter not human beings no matter how exalted they are.

The Scripture has provided more details about Hell more than the facts of Heaven. The pains of Hell are clearly described more than the blessings of the believers in Heaven. The Lord Jesus Christ spoke of Hell in more occasions more than He spoke about Heaven. Hell is not a tool that God uses to scare the little rascal to behave well. God created Hell not for people but for Satan and his demons. When God created Hell God was thinking about the super ability, super power and super arrogance of Satan.

The power, beauty, talents and arrogance of Satan will find their final resting place in the Lake of Fire where they will be forgotten by everyone else especially God. Nobody will ever remember or think of Satan again. History is something that previously exists and something you can recall back in your memory, but Satan and all those in Hell will become somebody that never has existed in eternity past, in time or in space. God will totally delete everything about Satan and everything about everyone in Hell. When the Bible says that the Second death is eternal separation with God, it means separation outside of His reach.

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Part 2