

“The Forgotten Fundamentals: Hell”

Selected Scriptures

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Hell—The most common English word to describe the place and state of the just retribution reserved for the finally impenitent after death.

Sheol—Hebrew OT word translated as “**grave**,” “pit,” or “hell” and refers most frequently to the abode of the dead, for the wicked and the righteous, before the final resurrection; the Greek OT translates this word using “hades.”

Hades—Greek word used 10 times in the NT; 3 times by Christ (Matthew 11:23, 16:18; Luke 16:23); closely associated with **death** and the immediate afterlife of the wicked where they face judgment, yet an **intermediate (temporary)** place until it is cast forever into the “lake of fire” (Revelation 20:14-15); has a loose correspondence to the Hebrew OT word “Sheol.”

Gehenna—Used 12 times in the NT; only in the Synoptics (always by Christ Himself) and James 3:6; derived from ‘Valley of Hinnom’ (2 Chronicles 33:6), a perpetually burning fire dump just south of Jerusalem in Jesus’ day; in the NT the word refers to the literal place of final, **eternal torment** for the wicked after the final judgment where soul and body are punished together; it is always distinguished from Hades; it is the “**lake of fire**” and the “**second death**” (Revelation 19:20; 20:10, 14-15; 21:8).

The King James translates all three words above as “hell.”

1. The Truth about Hell has been Revealed by God.

“The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our sons forever” (Deuteronomy 29:29)

2. God is in Charge of Hell.

“Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels” (Matthew 25:41)

“Do not fear those who kill the body, but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell” (Matthew 10:28)

3. Jesus Taught on the Reality of Hell.

“whoever shall say, ‘You fool,’ shall be guilty enough to go into the fiery hell [Gehenna]” (Matthew 5:22)

4. Hell is a Real Place.

“And in Hades he lifted up his eyes, being in torment, and saw Abraham far away, and Lazarus in his bosom” (Luke 16:23)

“these two were thrown alive into the lake of fire which burns with brimstone” (Revelation 19:20)

5. Hell is a Place of Torment.

“As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age...the fiery furnace where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth” (Matthew 13:40, 49-50; cf. 22:13)

6. Hell is Eternal.

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

“And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever, and they have no rest day and night” (Revelation 14:11)

“their worm shall not die, and their fire shall not be quenched” (Isaiah 66:24)

7. Hell is Deserved.

A. For those who reject Christ (John 3:18)

B. For those who reject the gospel
(2 Thessalonians 1:6-9)

C. For those who reject God (Isaiah 66:15, 24)

8. Hell is Motivational.

“For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone who dies,” declares the Lord GOD. “Therefore, repent and live!” (Ezekiel 18:32)

9. Jesus Came to Save Sinners from Hell.

“Confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead and you shall be saved” (Romans 10:9)

“you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God, and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, that is Jesus, Who delivers us from the wrath to come” (1 Thessalonians 1:9-10)