

GREAT DOCTRINES OF THE BIBLE (Special English Edition)

Prepared by William S.H. Piper, D.D.
For Rogma International, Inc.

Copyright 1989 by Rogma International, Inc. All rights reserved.

HELL

INTRODUCTION

The doctrine of HELL should cause us to be very sober minded or sorrowful. It can bring us to the point of weeping. Hell is the place where unbelievers live. It is a place of suffering and torture. It is the most frightening truth we can think about. No one should teach or preach this doctrine with a happy heart. A person must teach this doctrine with great seriousness and great love for sinners. It is the purpose of this study to present what the Bible teaches concerning this truth in detail and clearly. May God give us minds to grasp and hearts to understand the importance of this doctrine.

IMPORTANCE OF THIS LESSON

- ❑ Today most preaching is about the fact of God's love. People talk about love more than about punishment for sin.
- ❑ Man cannot escape God's anger and judgment. Preachers do not talk about everlasting hell fire much these days. Even in fundamental churches we do not hear much about it.
- ❑ The importance of this lesson is to show that the Bible pays a great amount of attention to this subject. Even the Lord Jesus talked about the subject of hell twice as much as He did about HEAVEN. This subject is even more important when we realize that all human beings who die without Christ will suffer in The Lake of Fire forever. Deliverance from HELL is part of "the great salvation" we have in Christ. Woe to the preacher who fails to warn sinners to run from God's anger which is coming.
- ❑ May the study of this lesson cause your heart to desire to see people come to know Christ as Savior.

THE LESSON

I. BIBLE WORDS WHICH USUALLY, THOUGH NOT ALWAYS, ARE TRANSLATED "HELL"

◆ *In the Authorized or King James Version of the Bible, four words are usually translated "hell."*

- A. SHEOL – This word is only found in the Old Testament. It is the same as the word HADES in the New Testament.

Illustrations:

- Psalm 18:5 The sorrows of hell (Sheol) surrounded me.
- Psalm 116:3 The pains of hell (Sheol) have a hold on me.

A person can translate the word SHEOL as "death" or "the grave" in many Old Testament references. In the Old Testament people thought of SHEOL as the place where the souls of godly or wicked people went after they died.

- B. HADES – This is a Greek word. It is used in the New Testament. This word is about the same as the Old Testament word SHEOL.

Illustrations:

- Matthew 11:23, Jesus said that the city of Capernaum will be brought down to HELL (Hades).
- Revelation 1:18, Jesus said that He has the keys of HELL (Hades).

HADES is the Greek word that means about the same as the Hebrew SHEOL. Hades has "Abraham's Bosom" and is "a place of torture" in it. It was the place for the souls of those who died before the resurrection of Christ.

- C. TARTAROS – This word is found only once in the New Testament in 2 Peter 2:4, This verse says that God did not save the angels that sinned, but put them in HELL (TARTAROS). These were the angels

Hell

who rebelled against God. They were placed in TARTAROS. This is not Sheol or Hades. It is a special place where it is dark. These angels are chained and waiting for judgment.

- D. GEHENNA – This was a real place in the Valley of Hinnom. Human sacrifices were offered in this valley at one time (2 Chronicles 33:6). It was the place where people burned their trash. The fire never went out in that place, therefore it reminded the Jews of the endless judgment of the wicked.

Illustrations:

- Matthew 10:28__We should be afraid of the one who is able to destroy the soul and body in HELL (Gehenna).
- Luke 12:5__We should fear the one, who is able to put us into HELL (Gehenna). after he has killed us.

II. THE USE AND MEANING OF BOTH “SHEOL” AND “HADES” IN THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS

A. SHEOL – This is an Old Testament word.

1. The Old Testament people considered SHEOL as the place for ALL the dead. It was the end which all human life moved. It is often called the grave (Genesis 42:38; Job 14:13).
2. Many unbelievers see Sheol as simply the grave or the end of life (Ecclesiastes 9:5,10). The Old Testament makes very clear that Sheol was a real place where:
 - a) God places the wicked person (Psalm 9:17).
 - b) A person sees sorrows (Psalm 18:5; 2 Samuel 22:6)\
 - c) A person feels pain (Psalm 116:4).
 - d) God will put Satan and the wicked people. They will have complete knowledge of their past life. (Isaiah 14:9-17).

◆ *When Jonah was in the belly of the great fish he said that he cried out of the belly of Sheol (Jonah 2:2). He was in Sheol, yet very much alive.*

◆ *Remember, the Hebrew word Sheol is the same as the New Testament Greek word Hades, therefore, like Hades, it was divided between paradise (Abraham’s bosom), and the place of torment. We will see this later.*

B. HADES –This word came from the word “hado”. It meant “all-receiving.”

1. Like *Sheol*, *Hades* is a definite place to which ALL SOULS, saved and unsaved, went before Christ went back up to heaven. The believers in the Old Testament time who lived before the resurrection of Christ did not go to hell. They went to paradise (or Abraham’s bosom, Luke 16:22). It was a part of Hades and/or Sheol.
2. The word *Hades* is found four times in the Gospels: (Matthew 11:23; 16:18; Luke 10:15; 16:23).
3. Other uses:
 - a) It is used when it talks about the soul of Christ (Acts 2:27, 31).
 - b) Christ said He had the key to Hades (Revelation 1:18).
 - c) John said Hades will give up the people who are in it at the time of the final judgment. He said that Hades, and the sinners in it, will be thrown into The Lake of Fire (Revelation 20:13-14).
4. Hades must not be thought of as a place where lost souls live permanently. It is a temporary, stage between death and Gehenna, which is the Lake of Fire. Sinners are “kept” in Hades until the Day of Judgment (2 Peter 2:9).
5. From the passage in Luke 16:19-31, we learn that Hades, like Sheol is divided into two sections:
 - a) Abraham’s bosom (verses 22-23).
 - b) A place of suffering for the unsaved (verses 22-23).
 - i) This is a place of torment for unsaved.
 - ii) This is a place where the unsaved can see how God blessed the believers (verses 23-24).
 - iii) This is a place where sinners have the full use of their senses. The rich man could see, feel, hear, speak and remember while he was in torment.
 - iv) This is a place a person cannot escape from (verse 26).

Note: Hades, then, is a word that is used to show the awful condition of the unsaved between death and the final judgment. It also shows the happy condition of believers between death and the time when Jesus Christ returned to heaven after Pentecost.

III. THE MEANING OF GEHENNA AND HOW THE WORD IS USED

- ◆ *This is the word that means the real HELL, It means the everlasting HELL. It is the HELL of suffering and weeping, and sorrow. It is the HELL of judgment and condemnation.*
- ◆ *The word is used twelve times in the New Testament. It was the Lord Jesus who used the word "Gehenna" eleven times out of those twelve. (The word is found in Matthew 5:22,29,30; 10:28; 18:9; 23:15, 33; Mark 9:43,45,47; Luke 12:5 and James 3:6).*
- A. The Greek word *Gee'nna*, pronounced "gehenna," comes from the Hebrew *Ge-Hinnon*, which means the valley of Tophet (W.E. Vine).
- B. Gehenna is the place in The Valley of Hinnon (Scofield's notes), where in ancient times, human sacrifices were offered (Jeremiah 7:31). In that valley there was an endless burning of rubbish. For the Jewish people this endless fire was a picture of the eternal judgment of God upon the wicked.
- C. Gehenna, according to the Lord Jesus, is a real place:
 1. The soul and body of sinners will be will be thrown there (Matthew 10:28; Luke 12:5).
 2. It is a place of judgment and eternal condemnation (Matthew 23:33).
 3. The fire will never go out there (Mark 9:44). The phrase, "and the fire is not put out" is identical in meaning to *The Lake of Fire* (Revelation 19:20; 20:10, 14-15).

IV. THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN GEHENNA AND THE LAKE OF FIRE

- A. Jesus described Gehenna as a place where the worm does not die, and where the fire does not go out (Mark 9:43-47). This is the same as The Lake of Fire (Revelation 20:14). Gehenna and The Lake of Fire are the same place.
- B. Gehenna and The Lake of Fire
 1. The Lake of Fire is the place the unbelievers will live forever. They will live in a condition of suffering forever.
 - a) Hades and every one who is in it will be thrown into Gehenna or The Lake of Fire. This will happen after the millennium and after the judgment of The Great White Throne (Revelation 20:11-15).
 - b) The Lake of Fire will burn "for ever and ever" (Revelation 14:11; 20:10). In the Greek language of the Bible it says "*unto the ages of the ages*".
 - ◆ *The phrase "unto the ages of ages" is also used when it tell us what the glory of God is like (Galatians 1:5). The same words are used in speaking about the dominion and reign of God (1 Peter 4:11; Revelation 1:6). The same phrase "unto the ages of ages" is used of God himself (Revelation 1:18; 4:9-10). Therefore it plainly means ETERNAL with the idea of never ending.*
 - ◆ *2 Thessalonians 1:9 says that sinners will receive punishment that will last forever.*
 - ◆ *2 Peter 2:17 and Jude 13 state clearly that the judgment of false teachers is FOREVER.*
 - ◆ *There are some who teach that after death a person will go completely out of existence. He will be no more in any condition. Others teach that the soul will only sleep. Still others teach that there is a place after death where a person will suffer the punishment of his own sin first and after that he goes to heaven. The verses above clearly show that this is not so. It is false teaching.*
 2. The Lake of Fire is also called the SECOND DEATH (Revelation 2:11; 20:6, 14; and 21:8).
 - a) The Second Death is different from the first or physical death. Sinners go to Hades in the first or physical death. In Hades they wait for the judgment of The Great White Throne (Revelation 20:13).
 - b) The Second Death is the same as the death spoken about in 2 Corinthians 1:10.
 - c) The Second Death is the ETERNAL separation from God. Sinners who die in their sins will be separated from God forever (John 8:21, 24).

Hell

- ◆ *If you compare Revelation 19:20 with Revelation 20:10 you will see more proof that in HELL a person does not go out of existence, his soul does not go to sleep. After 1000 years, The Lake of Fire is a place where the Beast and the False Prophet ARE, not WERE.*

V. WHAT THE LORD JESUS TAUGHT US ABOUT HELL

- A. When God made Hell he planned it for Satan and his angels (Matthew 25:41). Hell is a real place (Luke 16:28), It is a place where people live. For example, the Pharisees (Matthew 23:33); and hypocrites (Matthew 24:51).
- B. It is a place with FIRE that never goes out (Mark 9:43; Matthew 5:22; 13:42).
- C. It is a place where sinners will weep and wail and grind their teeth with pain (Matthew 13:42; 8:12; 22:13; 24:51 and 25:30).
- D. It is a place of complete darkness (Matthew 25:30; 8:12).
 - ◆ *Sinners are already living in the darkness of sin (Ephesians 5:8; Acts 26:18). Sinners are a part of the rule of darkness, (Colossians 1:13). Complete darkness, a characteristic of “the second death”, is that eternal separation of the sinner from the light of TRUTH. The light of TRUTH is the light of Christ and His Gospel. It is the light of God. THERE WILL BE NO DAY THERE!!!*
- E. Hell is a place of judgment and condemnation (Matthew 23:33; 25:46). Hell will be a proper sentence for those who reject the Gospel of Christ and fail to repent.
- F. Hell is a place that will never change (Luke 16:26). Hell is a place that will continue forever (Matthew 25:41, 46). Nobody will ever escape from hell. (Luke 16:26; Matthew 23:33).
- G. Hell is a place where “the worm does not die” (Mark 9:44). This may be talking about a person’s ability to remember (Luke 16:25). Hell is a place where sinners will be able to use all of their senses while they are tormented without end (Luke 16:19-31).
- H. Hell is a place where there will be no fellowship, no family ties, no freedom, no forgetting about the things on earth, no pleasure, no faith, and no forgiveness. (My personal thoughts taken from Luke 16:19-31).
 - ◆ *If the words used seem sharp or more like an illustration, keep in mind that the reality is usually sharper than what it illustrates.*

VI. ARGUMENTS THAT SAY THAT HELL IS NOT A REAL PLACE

- A. *Fire always comes to an end.* Remember, HELL is a special place with special fire. Moses viewed a burning bush that did not burn up (Exodus 3:2). The three Hebrew boys were thrown into a fire and they were not even scorched (Daniel 3:19-27).
- B. *Hell does not fit with the love of God.* It is true that God loves the sinner, he hates sin. Unbelievers seem to forget all the time that God is righteous and holy, therefore He demands repentance and faith. Sinners must choose. God considers every person the same way. (Romans 11:32; 2:11). In the Bible Jesus and John talked about love more than anyone else. They also talked about hell more than anyone else. Also, bear in mind that God could not show grace and mercy toward the sinner, until someone satisfied His justice.
- C. *Some people believe in a place called purgatory.* The Bible does not speak about any place between heaven and hell where a soul may go for a short time after death. Everyone who is in Hades will be cast into The Lake of Fire (Revelation 20:13-14).
- D. *Some people believe that the soul will go to sleep.* Others say that the soul will go out of existence. We have already answered the question. Remember that hell is a **punishment** (Matthew 25:46). You cannot punish a person who does not exist or one who is sleeping. Furthermore, there would be no reason for God to resurrect the unbeliever if his soul did not exist (John 5:29).
 - ◆ *There are people who died without ever hearing the Gospel. Some people say that those people do not go to Hell. Remember that God is a RIGHTEOUS God. He will hold such people responsible for obeying the light they have (Romans 1:19-20).*

VII. THE REASONS FOR HELL AS A REAL PLACE COMES OUT OF SOUND REASONING

Hell

- A. Dr. William Evans, a famous preacher and writer, said that it is beyond question that there must be payment for sin and reward for those who are right with God. This is recognized as an unchangeable law.
- B. If there is no HELL, then Christ must be a liar. If He is a liar he is not God and He has no power.
- C. If there is no HELL, then God was so foolish that He sent Jesus to die to save us from a place that does not exist.
- D. If there is no HELL, the Bible is incorrect. If the Bible is incorrect, there is no absolute authority about right and wrong and about salvation.
- E. If sin is a fact, there must be a HELL. Only the willfully blind can deny it. Sin results in death (Romans 6:23). Hell is the second death (Revelation 20:14). Sin and sinners are to be in hell forever (Revelation 20:13-15 and 21:8).
- F. If man lives forever, There must be a HELL. Man is a living soul (Genesis 2:7). Everyone lives forever, somewhere (Matthew 25:46; John 5:28-29). There must be a hell for those who reject heaven.
- G. If God is righteous, there must be a HELL. (Revelation 15:3). Since God is righteous He judges all sinners (Romans 14:12; Hebrews 9:27; Acts 17:30-31; Psalm 9:17; 2 Peter 2:9; Matthew 13:40-42).

VIII. CONCLUSION

The truth in this lesson should cause us to get on our knees to thank God for His great salvation. Not one of us deserves heaven. We are sinners who are saved through God's love and kindness. I have prepared and written these lessons with much serious prayer. I pray that God will use them to give you a burning love for lost souls. Whether we understand it completely or not, hell is a fearful fact. As we preach the Gospel, let us be faithful to warn sinners of God's anger that is coming.

GREAT DOCTRINES OF THE BIBLE
EXAM—LESSON 16

Questions to be answered by every student enrolled in the Rogma International Free Bible Study Course

Name _____

Address _____

1. The lesson on hell is important because: (Value 3 points)
 - a. God would never send anyone there.
 - b. a person who dies without receiving Christ goes to hell.
 - c. hell is not a real place.
2. The meaning of *Sheol* is: (Value 3 points)
 - a. “death” or “the grave.”
 - b. the place where God put the rebellious angels.
 - c. the place for the souls of everyone who died until the resurrection of Christ.
3. The meaning of *Hades* is: (Value 3 points)
 - a. the place of endless judgment.
 - b. the place God put rebellious angels.
 - c. the place for the souls of everyone who died until the resurrection of Christ.
4. The meaning of *Tartaros* is: (Value 3 points)
 - a. “death” or “the grave.”
 - b. the place where God put the rebellious angels.
 - c. a place of endless judgment.
5. The meaning of *Gehenna* is: (Value 3 points)
 - a. a place where rebellious angels are chained.
 - b. a place of endless judgment of the wicked.
 - c. a place where the dead souls of all believers stay until Christ comes again.
6. The Old Testament used the word *Sheol* because it: (Value 4 points)
 - a. is the most accurate description of hell.
 - b. means the end of life.
 - c. was considered the place toward which all human existence flowed.
7. **Mark** the verse that shows us *Sheol* was an actual place where pain is felt. (Open Bible) (Value 3 points)
 - a. Matthew 11:23
 - b. Psalm 116:3
 - c. Revelation 1:18
8. How many sections were there in *Hades*? (Value 3 points)
 - a. one
 - b. four
 - c. two

9. The residence of the wicked in Hades will terminate at the time of the: (Value 3 points)
- a. Rapture.
 - b. Tribulation.
 - c. Great White Throne Judgment.
10. Who has the key to *Hades*? (Value 3 points)
- a. Satan
 - b. Christ
 - c. The Holy Spirit
11. What other place is identical to *Gehenna*? (Value 3 points)
- a. Hades
 - b. Lake of Fire
 - c. Tartaras
12. *Gehenna* is called “the Second Death” because: (Value 4 points)
- a. people will die two times.
 - b. it is in contrast to the first or physical death.
 - c. it is the time a person goes from *Gehenna* to heaven.
13. God prepared *Gehenna* (hell) for: (Value 3 points)
- a. unbelievers.
 - b. very wicked sinners.
 - c. Satan and his angels.
14. Matching: Place the letter in the Bible reference column in front of the correct description. (Open Bible) (Value 16 points)
- | | | |
|--|----|---------------|
| _____ place of fire that never goes out | a. | Matthew 25:30 |
| _____ place of darkness | b. | Matthew 23:33 |
| _____ place of judgment | c. | Mark 9:43 |
| _____ place of wailing and gnashing of teeth | d. | Matthew 13:42 |
15. What three things do we learn about Hades from Luke 16:19-31? (Open Bible) (Value 15 points)
(Fill in the blank spaces)
- a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____

16. Answer each of the following arguments against hell being a real place by filling the blank spaces in the answers with choices from these words: **(Not all these words will be used) *burning house; four; burning bush; holy; anger; ashes; three; repentance, righteousness; scorched; faith.* Not all the words need to be used!**

a. Argument: *A fire burns things up until there is nothing left.* (Value 16 points)

Answer: Moses saw a _____, but it did not burn into _____.

The _____ Hebrew boys were thrown into a fire, but their clothing was not _____.

b. Argument: *God is a God of love and would never put people in hell forever.* (Value 12 points)

Answer: God is also _____ and He demands _____ and _____.

Decision Time

Where will you go when you die? You cannot escape the fact of death. You will go either to heaven or hell. You may deny hell but it still exists. You may deny that $2+2=4$, but your denial does not change that fact. Your denial of hell does not change the fact that hell exists.

You can make sure you will go to heaven when you die by accepting Jesus Christ as your Savior.

You might say something like this to Him:

Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner and will go to hell. Today I believe that you died on the cross for my sin and that you rose again from the dead. I believe that you are God and therefore I confess the following sins to you _____ and ask you to forgive me. I repent from my sins and with your help I will turn away from them. I am now committing myself to you and I am asking you to save me today.

On this _____ day of _____ 20__ I have accepted Christ as my Savior and now I know for sure that when I die I will go to HEAVEN and NOT HELL

Signed _____