

Where the Hell is Gehenna?

Jesus said it would be better to lose a body part that caused us to sin rather than have our *whole body* cast into Gehenna (usually translated "Hell"). [see [Matthew 5:29,30](#)] The fact that a mortal physical body can be thrown into a place analogous with the fiery dump of Gehenna tells us a lot. It is a visible, physical place as opposed to an invisible, spiritual place. Further, it is also very revealing that this place does not have its own name but is described by borrowing the name of Jerusalem's local dump. What's important is what happens there.

The New Testament gives us more than enough information to draw a clear conclusion of this place's location. The first place to look is other end time descriptions where fire destroys the wicked and see if there are any clues. Probably the most complete description is found in 2 Peter chapter three. Peter said, in the last days people would scoff at the promise of the Lord's coming saying things will continue as they have since the beginning; Willingly overlooking that the earth was originally formed by water and in the days of Noah it was destroyed by water. This same earth (and heavens) have now been reserved for the day of judgment and destruction, this time by fire instead of water. The timing of this judgment and destruction is when the Lord returns unexpectedly to the earth and everything here is destroyed by fire and I mean everything! After that, as promised there will be a new heavens and earth. [see [2 Peter 3:3-13](#)] Another good description is found in 1Thessalonians chapter one. There Paul said, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in flaming fire with his angels he will deal out retribution to the ungodly. They will pay the penalty of eternal destruction never to be in the Lord's presence at the time he comes to be glorified in his saints. [see [1Thessalonians 1:7-10](#)]

I hope you are beginning to realize that the location of this Gehenna like place, is the earth upon which the living ungodly and resurrected ungodly stand when the Lord returns and appears in the sky with all his holy angels. That is the time of judgment and destruction of the ungodly by the fire of Gehenna. Well if the earth is the place where the ungodly experience the fire of Gehenna there is another important issue to be resolved. On earth these fires cannot burn forever because this same earth that is burned up will be made new again. Yet there are plenty of verses that call both the fire and the punishment it brings as everlasting and eternal.