

Is There Fire in Hell?



We have been hearing preachers say for centuries that when people die who are not saved, they will go to Hell and burn forever. For generations, the emphasis has been placed on the unsaved being tormented with fire and brimstone throughout all eternity. The following Scriptures are used to justify this fiery Hell preaching. Let's take time to read them – **Revelation 14:10, 19:20, 20:14, 21:7-8**. Now, let's take a closer look at the context of each one of these Scriptures which will unlock their true meaning.

First, let's take a look at **Revelation 14:7-11** for a better understanding of the context. Notice in **verse 7**, it says the hour of God's judgment "**is come**". That great city "**Babylon**" is clearly identified as Jerusalem throughout the Book of Revelation. (**Revelation 18:8, 10, 20-21, 24, Revelation 17:5-6**)

It is very evident that the Book of Revelation is all about the judgment of God against the Covenant-breaking Nation of Israel, the harlot city, Jerusalem, and the Jewish Temple. (**Isaiah 24:5, Malachi 4:1, Matthew 24:2, Luke 21:20,22**)

Notice in **Revelation 14:11** it records that the judgment of God came only on those who had been deceived by the beast. This occurred in AD 66-70.

Remember, context is what is being said in a particular passage of Scripture and in other Scriptures on the same subject. The Bible does possess contextual consistency which brings clarity.

It is this consistency pertaining to person, places, and events that determine Biblical Truth. When context is right, content is right. It is the input of information that often determines the output of our faith and our theology about God.

You cannot believe in something that you know nothing about. The power of the influence of what you may already know about something can make it very challenging to embrace something that you have never heard before.

If what you believe cannot be scrutinized by Scripture, you need to throw it away. We must all make sure that what we believe is founded upon the sure foundation that cannot be changed, moved, shaken, or altered. **(Ephesians 2:20-22, 1 Corinthians 3:11, 2 Timothy 2:19, Hebrews 12:27)**

Understanding the word **“Hell”** in the Old Testament reveals a lot. The English word **“Hell”** comes from the Hebrew word **“Sheol”** which refers to **“a holding place for the dead or gravedom”**. **(Strong’s H#7585)** **“Sheol”** refers to a common silent grave for all the dead where both the righteous and wicked all go to await the coming Last Day resurrection and judgment.

The Hebrew word **“Sheol”** never denoted a place of torment. The Greek equivalent for the Hebrew **“Sheol”** is **“Hades”**. Like **“Sheol”**, **“Hades”** also refers to the realm of the dead or the grave. There was never any fire or torment associated with these two terms.

In the Old Testament, all who lived and died went to **“Sheol”** to await the resurrection and judgment of God on the Last Day. **(John 5:25, 28-29, John 11:23-24)** We can read about this at the establishment of The White Throne Judgment in the Book of Revelation. **(Revelation 20:11-13)**

This signifies that the **“abode of the dead or the grave”** were emptied out for judgment. This Judgment occurred in AD 70 at the Last Day Resurrection. Notice in **Revelation 20:14** that death and hell (Hades) were cast in the “Lake of Fire”.

This signifies the total destruction of death and of the **“underworld or abode of the dead, or grave”**. Death and the grave (Hades) were both done away with at the final judgment.

Jesus said that the Gates of **“Sheol”** or **“Hades”**, or **“the grave”** would not hold back the Church from Resurrection. **(Matthew 16:18)** Jesus said that people who believe and obey the Gospel would **NEVER** die. **(John 8:51)**

Born-again Christians today that physically die will never die spiritually. For all born-again believers, resurrection occurs when they believe and obey the Gospel Message. **(Romans 6:3-5)** This is the resurrection message now and will be forever.

In the Old Testament Scriptures, there was never any fire in **“Sheol”**. There are references to those who believed in the pagan god Molech. These followers of Molech did sacrifice their sons and daughters burning them with fire.

This practice was clearly condemned by God. The Scripture tells us that burning people was an abomination in the eyes of God. **(Deuteronomy 12:31)** The Scripture also tells us that it never entered into the heart of God to burn people. **(Leviticus 18:21)**

There is another Greek word used 12 times in the New Testament that represented a place of fiery destruction. This Greek word is **“Gehenna”**. Jesus used “Gehenna” to describe a place of fiery destruction for all who rejected God and chose to remain in their wickedness.

“Gehenna” is used metaphorically for Divine Judgment. **“Gehenna”** was never a place of eternal torture but rather represented the total annihilation or destruction of both body and soul.

It never represented **“eternal natural torment”** because this would mean that the wicked would have immortality. **“Gehenna”** is also translated as **“Hell”** in the New Testament. An example of this can be found in **Matthew 10:28**. **“Gehenna”** was never used to denote a **“holding place for the dead or the grave”**.

Conclusion

Let us refer back to our original question: “Is There Fire in Hell?” The burning flames of everlasting torment that preachers have been putting unsaved sinful people for centuries simply does not exist in the Bible.

According to the Word of God, no one has ever been put into a burning Lake of Fire to burn throughout all eternity. The Scriptures say that only through the Gospel can anyone achieve immortality. **(2 Timothy 1:10)**

Now, after AD 70, only those who have believed and obeyed the Gospel of Jesus Christ can receive immortality. **“Sheol”** and **“Hades” NEVER** did contain burning flames of tormenting fire. Today, **“Sheol”** and **“Hades”** still do **NOT** contain flames of eternal burning fire because they have both been destroyed.

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