

HELL

I. Scriptures referring to "hell"

A. Greek word *gehenna* -

1. From Heb. *gehinnom*, meaning "valley of Hinnom"
 - a. II Chron. 28:3; II Kgs. 23:10; Josh. 15:8; 18:16
 - b. Valley of Hinnom used for pagan rites - II Kgs 23:10; II Chron. 28:3
 - c. Jeremiah prophesied God's judgment there - Jere. 19:6
 - d. Came to refer to place of judgment, or hell
2. New Testament differentiates between *hades* as intermediate place of the dead, and *gehenna* as the place of final judgment.
3. KJV, RSV, NASB translate as "hell," whereas many others transliterate as "Gehenna"
4. New Testament usages
 - Matt. 5:22 - "guilty enough to go into hell of fire"
 - Matt. 5:29 - "your whole body to be thrown into hell"
 - Matt. 5:30 - "your whole body to be thrown into hell"
 - Matt. 10:28 - "fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell"
 - Matt. 18:9 - "to be cast into the hell of fire"
 - Matt. 23:15 - "Pharisees..twice as much a son of hell as yourselves"
 - Matt. 23:33 - "how shall you escape the sentence of hell"
 - Mk. 9:43 - "to go into hell...unquenchable fire"
 - Mk. 9:45 - "to be cast into hell"
 - Mk. 9:47 - "to be cast into hell"
 - James 3:6 - "tongue...is set on fire by hell"

B. Greek word *tartaroo*

1. Derived from Greek *Tartaros*
 - a. Greek mythology regarded as lowest place where Titans imprisoned.
 - b. Job 41:20; Prov. 30:16
2. New Testament usage
 - II Pet. 2:4 - "cast them into hell...pits of darkness, reserved for judgment"

II. Nature of "hell"

- A. Physical and sensory pictures - fire, smoke, worms, darkness, bottomless pit, gnashing teeth, etc.
- B. Psychological pain and unpleasantness - weeping, anguish, misery, torment, fear, terror, etc.
- C. Spiritual implications
 1. Experience of God's wrath
 2. Separation from God
 3. Absence of character of God
 4. Contradiction of praising God, but cannot experience His character
cf. Isa. 45:23; Rom. 14:10,11; Phil. 2:10
- D. Degrees of punishment? - cf. Matt. 11:21-24

III. Purpose of "hell"

- A. Retributive penalty
 - 1. For unbelief in Jesus
 - 2. For all that is contrary to character of God
 - 3. Hopelessness
 - 4. No change for the better
- B. Rehabilitation, reclamation
 - 1. Hope for getting out - "graduate"
 - 2. Universalism

IV. Entrance into "hell"

- A. Immediately at death?
- B. After last judgment?

V. Duration of "hell"

- A. Limited duration
 - 1. Universalism
 - 2. Annihilationism - termination, cessation
 - a. destruction - Ps. 37:10,20; Obad. 15,16; Mal. 4:1-3; Matt. 7:13; 10:28; Rom. 9:22; Phil. 3:19; I Thess. 5:3; II Thess. 1:9; I Tim. 6:9; II Pet. 2:3; Rev. 17:8
 - b. death - Jude 12; Rev. 2:11; 20:14; 21:8
 - c. consuming fire - Matt. 13:30,40; Jn. 15:6; Heb. 10:27; 12:29; James 5:3; Rev. 17:16
- B. Unending, eternal, everlasting
 - 1. eternal fire - Matt. 3:12; 18:8; 25:41; Mk. 9:43,44,47,48; Jude 7; Rev. 14:4
 - 2. eternal punishment - II Thess 1:9
 - 3. everlasting - Dan. 12:2
 - 4. forever - Jude 13

VI. Derivative identification and destiny as basis for going to "hell"

- A. Continuity and perpetuity of content (substantive)
 - 1. Identified with devil - Jn. 8:44; Acts 26:18; Eph. 2:2; I Jn. 3:10
 - 2. United with death - Eph. 2:1,4; Heb. 2:14; Rev. 20:14,15
 - 3. Destiny of devil - Matt. 25:41
- B. Discontinuity of context (locative)
 - 1. Presently "god of this world" - Jn. 12:31; 14:30; 16:11; II Cor. 4:4; I John 4:4
 - 2. Shall be cast into hell - Matt. 25:41; Rev. 20:10