

**“I have no pleasure in the death of anyone,
declares the Sovereign Lord ...”**

Ezekiel 18:32

The word Gospel means ‘good news’ or ‘good tidings’. The whole Bible is filled with good news, with Gospel. Even the subject of hell, rightly understood, is good news. Down through the ages there have been significant misunderstandings about the subject of hell. Hell became a very popular subject during the 19th and early part of the 20th century. Preachers used to vie with each other to see who could preach the hottest hell. They figured the hotter the hell the more converts they would have to Christianity. Sadly, this has turned countless people away from the God of the Bible. One of the goals of the devil is to paint a picture of God using his own attributes. In this lesson we will seek to cut through any misunderstandings and arrive at Bible truth.

The word hell appears more than 50 times in the Bible. The Old Testament uses the Hebrew word Sheol and the New Testament uses the Greek words Hades and Gehenna.

1. When the word “hell” is used in the Bible, what concept is it describing?

2. According to Revelation 1:18, who has the keys of hell and death?

3. In the parable of the wheat and tares, what do the following represent?

The One that sowed the good seed _____

The field is the _____

The good seed (wheat) _____

The tares (weed) _____

The enemy _____

The harvest is the _____

When are the tares burned? _____

4. How does David refer to death in Psalm 13:3?

5. How does Daniel refer to the dead in Daniel 12:2?

6. How does Paul refer to death in 1 Corinthians 15:51?

7. How does Jesus refer to death in John 11:11?

8. What figure is used to describe death more than sixty times in seventeen different books of the Bible?

According to 2 Peter 2:9 the unjust are being reserved until the Day of Judgment. This is the same type of language that Jesus used in the parable of the wheat and the tares. Think about it, would it be fair for God to sentence some sinner to the fires of hell before a judgment has taken place.

9. When will the righteous be given their rewards?
Matthew 16:27

10. According to the Bible, when and where is hell?
Revelation 20:7-9

Remember that it is the Greeks, Babylonians, Egyptians and others who believed this idea of the immortality of the human soul. It is not a Biblical concept. It is called anthropological dualism.

The fate of the wicked according to the Bible:

They will die. Romans 6:23; Matthew 10:28

They will perish. Luke 13:3; John 3:16

They will be burnt up. Malachi 4:1

They will be devoured by flames. Revelation 20:9

*They will be utterly consumed. Psalm 37:20;
Isaiah 47:14*

They will be turned to ashes. Malachi 4:3

*They die the second death. Revelation 20:6,14,21;
Matthew 15:4*

*They will suffer destruction. 2 Thessalonians 1:9;
Philippians 3:19*

They will be as though they had not been. Obadiah 16

*Satan will be totally destroyed. Ezekiel 28:17,18;
Hebrews 2:1*

11. What are the wages of sin? What is the gift of God?
Romans 6:23

12. What are the two options described in the most famous verse in the Bible? John 3:16

13. Are both soul and body destroyed in hell?
Matthew 10:28

Ezekiel 18:4 tells us "... the soul who sins shall die."

14. Is the devil in charge of hellfire? Matthew 25:41,46

It is the Punishment that is everlasting, not the Punishing!

15. Doesn't the Bible phrase "shall never be quenched" indicate the fire never goes out? Mark 9:43

The fires kindled by the Babylonians when they destroyed Jerusalem could not be quenched (Jeremiah 17:27). But they are no longer burning in Jerusalem today!

16. When Revelation 20:10 states that the wicked will be tormented "for ever and ever," doesn't that indicate endless time?

Forever in the Bible

The Bible uses the word "forever" in the context of the final punishment of the wicked. More than fifty times the word "forever" is used describing something that has already ended. But consider this:

The word "forever" means as long as a thing shall last.

"Forever" in the New Testament can be translated "an age" or "until the end of the age".

The word "forever" is used in the Bible to refer to things that lasted for a finite period of time. See Exodus 21:6; 1 Samuel 1:22,28; Jonah 1:17; 2:6

The word "forever" has to be interpreted and translated in a way that is consistent with the original languages and is also consistent with everything the Bible has to say about the subject of hell.

17. After sin and sinners are destroyed, what will Jesus do for His people? 2 Peter 3:13; Revelation 21:4

Jesus endured this horrific experience—the second death—for you on the cross! Jesus would rather go to hell for you than live in heaven without you. This is the great good news of hell. Are you thankful to learn that God does not punish the wicked eternally in hellfire.