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The God Questions

What Happens When I Die? Part 2 – Hell

Biblical Terms Related to Hell that We Must Define:

1. THE OLD TESTAMENT UNDERSTANDING OF HELL

- **Sheol**

Other words used in the Old Testament

- The grave
- The pit
- The trap
- The Earth, Netherworld

A. The _____ of the resurrection of the dead begins in the Old Testament.

Daniel 12:1–3 (HCSB)

At that time Michael the great prince who stands watch over your people will rise up. There will be a time of distress such as never has occurred since nations came into being until that time. But at that time all your people who are found written in the book will escape. ² Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake, some to eternal life, and some to shame and eternal contempt. ³ Those who are wise will shine like the bright expanse of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.

B. The Old Testament’s view of the _____.

Psalm 115:16–18 (HCSB)

The heavens are the LORD’s, but the earth He has given to the human race. ¹⁷ It is not the dead who praise the LORD, nor any of those descending into the silence of death. ¹⁸ But we will praise the LORD, both now and forever. Hallelujah!

C. The Old Testament’s _____ of eternal life and eternal punishment is rudimentary.

Isaiah 66:22–24 (HCSB)

“For just as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, will endure before Me” - this is the LORD’s declaration - “so your offspring and your name will endure. ²³ All mankind will come to worship Me from one New Moon to another and from one Sabbath to another,” says the LORD. ²⁴ “As they leave, they will see the dead bodies of the men who have rebelled against Me; for their worm will never die, their fire will never go out, and they will be a horror to all mankind.”

2. THE NEW TESTAMENT UNDERSTANDING OF HELL

- **Hades**

Luke 16:23–24 (HCSB)

And being in torment in Hades, he looked up and saw Abraham a long way off, with Lazarus at his side. ²⁴ ‘Father Abraham!’ he called out, ‘Have mercy on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this flame!’

- **Tartarus**

2 Peter 2:4 (HCSB)

For if God didn't spare the angels who sinned but threw them down into Tartarus and delivered them to be kept in chains of darkness until judgment...

- **Gehenna**

Luke 12:5 (HCSB)

But I will show you the One to fear: Fear Him who has authority to throw people into hell after death. Yes, I say to you, this is the One to fear!

- **Lake of Fire**

Revelation 20:10–15 (HCSB)

The Devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet are, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. ¹¹ Then I saw a great white throne and One seated on it. Earth and heaven fled from His presence, and no place was found for them. ¹² I also saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life, and the dead were judged according to their works by what was written in the books. ¹³ Then the sea gave up its dead, and Death and Hades gave up their dead; all were judged according to their works. ¹⁴ Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. ¹⁵ And anyone not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.

A. Hell was never _____ for us.

Matthew 25:37–41 (HCSB)

“Then the righteous will answer Him, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You something to drink?’ ³⁸ When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or without clothes and clothe You?’ ³⁹ When did we see You sick, or in prison, and visit You?’ ⁴⁰ “And the King will answer them, ‘I assure you: Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of Mine, you did for Me.’ ⁴¹ Then He will also say to those on the left, ‘Depart from Me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the Devil and his angels!’”

2 Peter 3:9 (HCSB)

The Lord does not delay His promise, as some understand delay, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish but all to come to repentance.

B. Free will contains the _____ to accept or reject Christ.

Romans 1:18–25 (HCSB)

For God's wrath is revealed from heaven against all godlessness and unrighteousness of people who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth, ¹⁹ since what can be known about God is evident among them, because God has shown it to them. ²⁰ For His invisible attributes, that is, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen since the creation of the world, being understood through what He has made. As a result, people are without excuse. ²¹ For though they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God or show gratitude. Instead, their thinking became nonsense, and their senseless minds were darkened. ²² Claiming to be wise, they became fools ²³ and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man,

birds, four-footed animals, and reptiles. ²⁴ Therefore God delivered them over in the cravings of their hearts to sexual impurity, so that their bodies were degraded among themselves. ²⁵ They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served something created instead of the Creator, who is praised forever. Amen.

C. Hell is _____ punishment.

Matthew 25:44–46 (HCSB)

“Then they too will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry, or thirsty, or a stranger, or without clothes, or sick, or in prison, and not help You?’ ⁴⁵ “Then He will answer them, ‘I assure you: Whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for Me either.’ ⁴⁶ “And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

Mark 9:42–50 (HCSB)

“But whoever causes the downfall of one of these little ones who believe in Me—it would be better for him if a heavy millstone were hung around his neck and he were thrown into the sea. ⁴³ And if your hand causes your downfall, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and go to hell—the unquenchable fire, ⁴⁴ [where **Their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched.**] ⁴⁵ And if your foot causes your downfall, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and be thrown into hell— [the unquenchable fire, ⁴⁶ where **Their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched.**] ⁴⁷ And if your eye causes your downfall, gouge it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell, ⁴⁸ where **Their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched.** ⁴⁹ For everyone will be salted with fire.

⁵⁰ Salt is good, but if the salt should lose its flavor, how can you make it salty? Have salt among yourselves and be at peace with one another.”

D. Hell is completely _____.

John 3:16–21 (HCSB)

“For God loved the world in this way: He gave His One and Only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send His Son into the world that He might condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. ¹⁸ Anyone who believes in Him is not condemned, but anyone who does not believe is already condemned, because he has not believed in the name of the One and Only Son of God. ¹⁹ This, then, is the judgment: The light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than the light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ For everyone who practices wicked things hates the light and avoids it, so that his deeds may not be exposed. ²¹ But anyone who lives by the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be shown to be accomplished by God.”

SHARE THE GOSPEL

Assignments:

- 1. Read chapter 37 and any others you missed in The God Questions.**
- 2. Invite someone to join you for next week’s message on Thanksgiving.**
- 3. Memorize 2 Peter 3:9.**