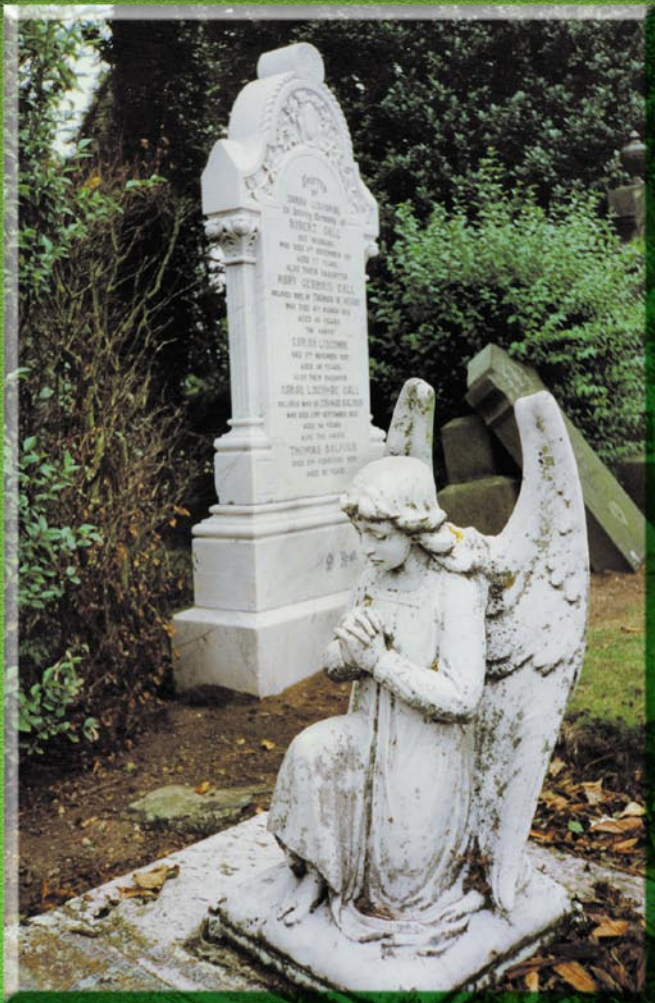


# Why We Believe Hell is the Grave



# *Why We Believe Hell is the Grave*



To know why we believe that *hell* is the grave, we must first understand the definition of the word *hell*. We must also understand where the idea of a *fiery hell* came from and when it became known as a place of *eternal torment*. Finally, we must reason on the Scriptures to see if God would ever create such a terrible place.

## **BIBLE DEFINITION OF THE WORD *HELL***

Webster's Dictionary defines the word *hell* as: "*The underworld abode [home] of the dead. The abode of the devil and souls condemned to eternal punishment. A place or condition of evil, torment or destruction.*" There is nothing in the Bible which would give this same definition. This was a definition made by men to describe what they thought the word meant.

The faithful Jews of the past never believed the word *hell* meant a place where people would be alive. They knew that it was the *grave* where all people went when they died. Both good people and bad people have all gone to the *grave*. The Jews

believed what is taught in the Old Testament: “*There is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.*” (Ecclesiastes 9:10) In other words, there is no activity, no consciousness, no pain, nor any feeling whatever in the grave.

In the Old Testament, the Hebrew word for *hell* and *grave* is the very same word—*sheol*. Abraham went to *sheol/grave/hell* when he died. God’s faithful servant Job prayed to go to *sheol/grave/hell* to hide from his pain. “*O that thou wouldst hide me in the grave [sheol/hell]... until thy wrath be past...*” (Job 14:13) It is not reasonable that Job would pray to go to *eternal torment* where he would burn forever. This pain would be much worse than the other pain he had been experiencing from his illness and many troubles.

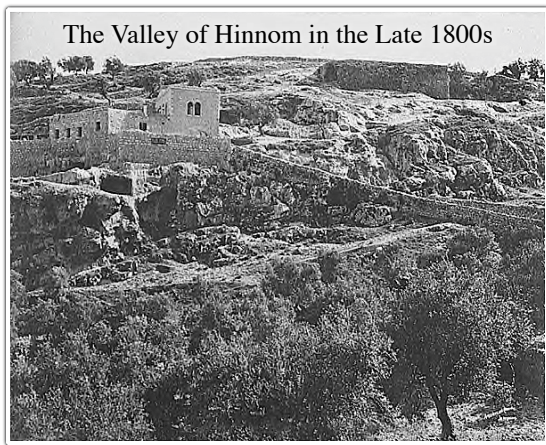
In the New Testament, *hell* is translated from three Greek words. *Hades* is a Greek word meaning grave. *Gehenna* was an actual place in Jerusalem used as a garbage dump. *Tartaroo* is the place where the fallen angels were sent when they sinned—a place between heaven and earth.

***Hades***, in the New Testament, is the Greek word which corresponds exactly to the Hebrew word *sheol*. In Acts 2:27, for example, “*Thou wilt not leave my soul in hades,*” is a quotation from Psalm 16:10, “*Thou wilt not leave my soul in sheol [the grave].*” In 1 Corinthians 15:54, 55 we read: “*Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave [hades], where is thy victory?*” This corresponds to Isaiah 25:8, “*He will swallow up death in victory*” and to Hosea 13:14, “*O death, I will be thy plagues; O sheol [grave], I will be thy destruction.*”



Even though *hades* is defined in these Scriptures as the *grave*, biased translators still rendered the same word, *hades*, as *hell* in Luke 10:15. “*And thou, Capernaum, which art exalted to heaven, shalt be thrust down to hell [hades/grave].*” Again, since the Greek word *hades* is the same in both cases, there is no reason why the word *grave* should not be used in every case.

***Gehenna*** is the second Greek word translated *hell* in the New Testament. Jesus often used the word *gehenna* in very symbolic parables when he wanted to illustrate a place of *complete destruction*. In his time, the *Valley of Hinnom*, called *gehenna*, lay just outside the city of Jerusalem, and served the purpose of garbage burner to that city. Its fires were kept continually burning to completely consume all things deposited there. Brimstone was added to assist combustion and insure complete destruction. But no living thing was ever permitted to be cast into *gehenna*. God’s Law to the Jews prevented torture of any kind to any creature.



In addition to garbage, certain very detestable criminals, being refused a dignified burial, were thrown into *gehenna* ***after death***. These were cast into *gehenna* along with the carcasses of dead dogs, the city garbage, etc. They were to be totally consumed—burned to ash. Thus, in symbol, *gehenna* illustrated the future dealings of God in committing to destruction all the impure elements of this earth, thereby preventing them from defiling His Holy City, the *New Jerusalem*. This *symbolic* burning of all evil elements is termed in

Scripture the *Second Death*—final and complete destruction. From this there can be no recovery, for after that, “*there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins,*” but only “*fiery indignation which shall devour [destroy] the adversaries.*” Hebrews 10:26-27

We also find it stated that these not found worthy of life are to be cast into *the lake of fire* (Revelation 20:15)—*fire* here, as elsewhere, being used as a symbol of destruction, and the symbol, *lake of fire*, being drawn from this same *gehenna*. By the end of the Messianic reign of Christ, all the righteous will see the justice as well as the wisdom of the utter destruction of the incorrigible, wilful enemies of righteousness, as it is written: “*They shall be an abhorring unto all flesh.*” Isaiah 66:24

**Tartaroo** is the third and final Greek word in the New Testament translated *hell*. It occurs but once in the Scriptures: “*God spared not the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment.*” (2 Peter 2:4) In this quotation, all the underlined words are translated from the one Greek word *tartaroo*. This verse is frequently used to support the idea of a fiery underworld where the disobedient angels and other sinners, are held forever—but a careful examination reveals that the term *chains of darkness* only refers to a *temporary restricted condition* imposed by God on the fallen angels. The fallen angels who sinned were condemned from living with God and the holy angels, but they were not permitted to roam the earth either. They were forced to live between the heaven and the earth—*tartaroo*.



## WHERE DID THE IDEA OF *HELL-FIRE* ORIGINATE?

The word *hell* has been commonly used in Great Britain from early history to describe the covering over or concealing of an object. For example, putting a thatched roof on a home like this one below was known as *helling the cottage*. Similarly, it is a common



practice to cover over potatoes in the ground to keep them from spoiling. This used to be called *helling potatoes*. In other words, the potatoes were buried in the ground like in a grave. There was nothing but darkness, cold ground and storage associated with this old-English word at that time. So, what caused this word to take on such a horrible meaning as *fire* and *eternal torment*?

The doctrine of *hell-fire* is largely based on the pagan philosophy of an *immortal soul*—being eternally alive in the death condition. This idea started in the Garden of Eden when Satan told Mother Eve that she would not die. Ever since that time, Satan’s lie has taken on many forms for over 6,000 years, and every version is totally false—claiming that the dead are not really dead. The Bible teaches that the dead *are really dead*—not alive—they are awaiting the promised resurrection secured by Jesus’ payment of the death penalty upon Adam. God sentenced Adam to death for the sin of disobedience—there was no mention of an immortal soul and burning eternally for sin. God said, “*In the day that thou eatest thereof, thou shalt surely die.*” (Genesis 2:17) God did not say that Adam and Eve would *fry*. Ezekiel 18:4 confirms this stating that “*the soul that sinneth, it shall die.*”

More elaborate ideas of a fiery underworld date back as far as Nimrod, the ancient pagan King of Babylon who lived shortly after the time of Noah. Nimrod's negative influence on the minds and hearts of fallen man has been carried forward and built upon throughout history. About 600 years before Jesus was born, the pagan prophet Zoroaster taught that a *Lord of Lies* lived in the dark reaches under the earth, listing the good and bad deeds of men on their records of life. He claimed that when the body died, the soul went to be judged, and if found to be evil, it would be doomed to eternal torment. There have been many other ancient Egyptian, Greek and Eastern pagan religions which have taught various versions of many *hells* to which the soul continually migrates in hunger, thirst and pain.



God has always warned His people to stay far away from the false gods and ideas of these pagan religions. But, as history shows, His people, both the Christians and the Jews, have often been deceived by these many lies. By about the 4th Century AD, Christians combined paganism with Christianity under the influence of the Emperor Constantine. After many years of persecution by the Roman government, Christians were eager to have an Emperor who embraced the Christian religion. However, Constantine's influence upon the church was devastating. He encouraged the church to compromise on many doctrines of paganism, including the concept of immortal souls and eternal torment.

Finding compromise a way to win pagan converts, the church went along with Constantine and combined pagan philosophies with highly symbolic Scriptures. Soon this compromise developed into a firmly held church creed about a fiery hell. The Catholic Encyclopedia states: "*The church professes her faith in the Athanasian Creed [Fourth Century AD]: 'They that have done good shall go into life everlasting, and they that have done evil*

*into everlasting fire...’ the church expressly teaches the eternity of the pains of hell as a truth of faith which no one can deny or call in question without manifest heresy.”*

## **JESUS’ PARABLES WERE MEANT TO BE SYMBOLIC**

As stated, once this mixture of truth and the errors of paganism took hold, church leaders started to misinterpret the meaning of Jesus’ *symbolic parables*—word pictures. As an example of symbolic meaning compared to literal meaning in Jesus’ parables, let us examine the parable of the *rich man and Lazarus* found in Luke 16:23. There, a rich man died and went to *hell/hades*. Most Christians use this parable to prove that *hell* is a place of torment, but, as we have learned from the Greek and Hebrew definitions, *hades* means *the grave*.

The parable continues. While in *hell—the grave*—the rich man saw a beggar man named Lazarus living in the bosom of Abraham. Clearly, if you take this statement literally, it does not make sense that a man could live in the chest cavity of another person, so

Parable of the  
Rich Man and Lazarus



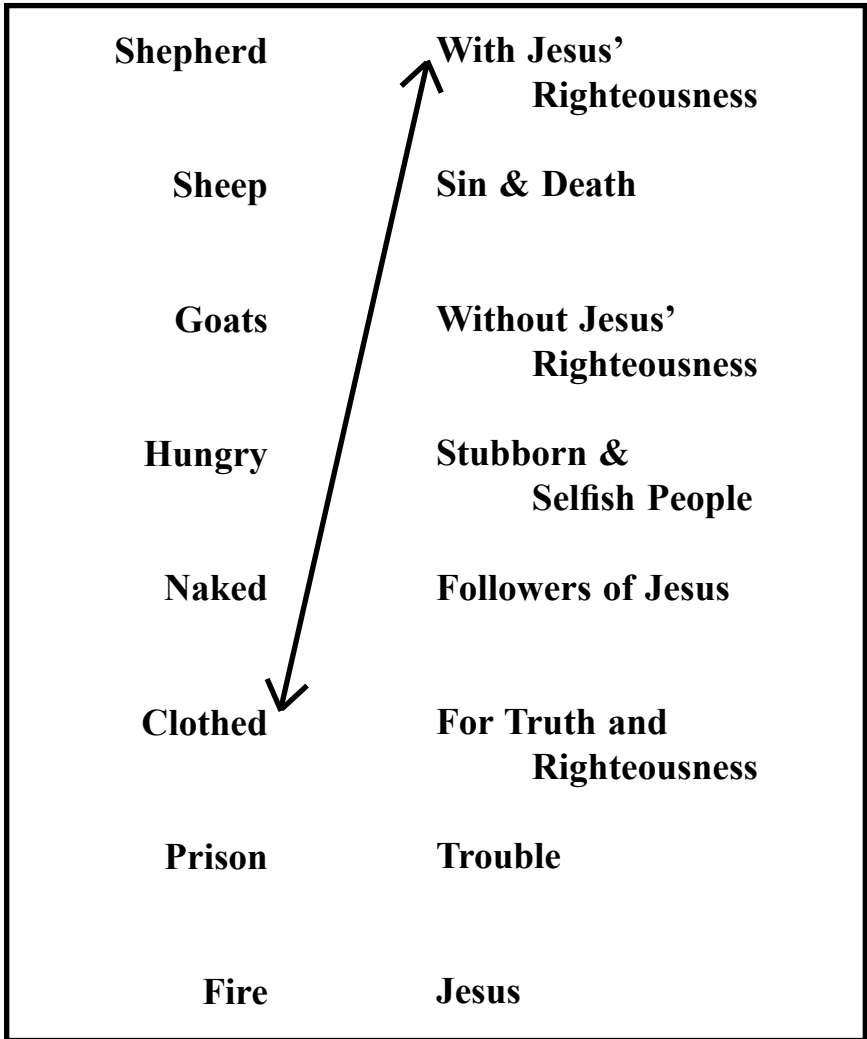
we must look for the hidden, *symbolic* meaning that Jesus was trying to teach.

As a symbolic lesson, this parable becomes much more reasonable. In symbol, Abraham represented God and His promise to Abraham that Abraham’s *seed* would bless all nations of the earth. (Genesis 22) The *rich man* represented the Jewish nation who inherited this rich promise through Isaac and Jacob and then to Jacob’s twelve sons (Israel). Lazarus pictured not only the *publicans and sinners* of Israel estranged from God, but also truth-hungry Gentiles who were seeking after God.



Thus, we learn an important lesson about parables—they are word pictures and not to be taken literally. Because they have been mistaken as literal, many false ideas have been derived about God’s character.

**Match the Symbol with What it Pictures**  
*Read Matthew 25:31-46 First*



The lesson above illustrates how Jesus used word pictures to explain important truths. These symbols hid important meanings from the self righteous, but gave understanding to his humble disciples.

## TORMENT: THE ULTIMATE FEAR FACTOR

The fear of eternal torment has terrified Christians for nearly 1,700 years. History records that every device of tyranny, persecution and torture in the name of God and religion has flourished to frighten the uneducated Christian into believing in and supporting corrupt church systems. Is God honored by such fear tactics? *“Their fear toward me is taught by the precepts of men....”* (Isaiah 29:13) God’s desire is to win a willing and obedient heart motivated purely by love for Him and His righteousness—not motivated by fear.

The idea of torture is abhorrent to God. He forbade it in the Law of the Jews. The Apostle John states that *“God is love... perfect love casts out fear because fear hath torment.”* (1 John 4:16-18) As shown in the picture below, Pagans built sacrificial altars to their false god, Baal, where they burned their children alive in the fire. But God Himself declares that such a horrible practice *“commanded I not, nor spake it, neither came it into my mind.”* Jeremiah 19:5



Yes, entire Christian congregations have been held captive to a fearsome interpretation of Scripture for centuries, because they have been unable to deny such claims without the privilege of owning a Bible and examining it themselves. Today, in this time of enlightenment, with free access to Bibles and study materials, investigation is not only possible, but also necessary to understand the true character of God and His *loving plans for all*. Indeed, for

a Christian today to believe in such a horrible doctrine as eternal torment without thorough investigation would be dishonoring to our God of love. People who believe in a burning hell should ask themselves, which is more loving—sending people who are unrighteous to a place of eternal torment or to the grave? The penalty upon Adam for sin was death. The foundation of God’s throne is justice. Is it fair for God to send sinners to eternal flames, when the penalty was death?



Since the time Satan deceived Mother Eve in the Garden of Eden he has born *false witness* against his Creator. Satan wants Christians to believe his lie that there is an eternal torment in everlasting fire for those who do not accept Jesus as their savior. During the Millennial Kingdom, Satan will be bound—just like being in chains. He will not be allowed to go about spreading lies like he does now. At the end of the Millennium, when everyone has had a chance to learn righteousness, they will be tested. Anyone who continues to love sin and Satan’s ways, instead of loving God’s ways and His righteousness, will be destroyed forever with Satan. Yes, at the end of God’s Kingdom, Satan and all who choose to live in unrighteousness will be destroyed in the *second death*. This is far more loving than eternal suffering in fire. Revelation 20

## WHY GOD COULD *NOT* CREATE A PLACE OF TORMENT

The final step in understanding whether the doctrine of a fiery hell is taught in the Bible is to examine if God would ever permit for such a condition to exist in His universe. The key to discovering the proper understanding of this or any doctrine is to see if it would be in harmony with these four character attributes of God:

### ***WISDOM • JUSTICE • LOVE • POWER***

Throughout His Word, God urges us to seek the truth about His plans and character. “*Come now, and let us reason together...*” (Isaiah 1:18) Our responsibility as Christians is to study God and His Word to know how to tell others about His glorious character. “*Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*” (2 Timothy 2:15) We are ambassadors of God’s Kingdom, and we should show what kind of God we worship by our thoughts, words and actions.

### **GOD’S ATTRIBUTE OF WISDOM**

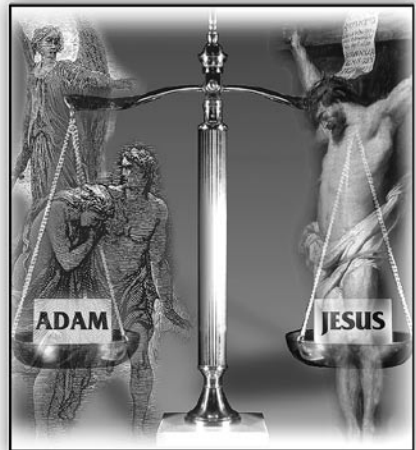
Throughout eternity ***God’s wisdom*** has been providing for a future harmonious universe. He desires that every creature will one day be happy, healthy and peace loving. In God’s plan, His universe of heavenly and earthly beings will all be obedient to Him because they want to be—because they love Him—not because they are forced to love him out of fear.

God is so wise that He has created the best plan possible to provide this harmonious universe. God’s wise plan has permitted experiences to teach the *exceeding sinfulness of sin*, and yet provide a means of salvation from sin. “*God...will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; who gave himself a ransom for all to be testified in due time.*” (1 Timothy 2:4-6) If all are promised this opportunity to learn truth and to be saved through Christ *in due time*, then the thought of a fiery hell awaiting millions of people is certainly unwise and unjust—God could not have created it.

## GOD'S ATTRIBUTE OF JUSTICE

Let us reason on **God's Justice**. When God created Adam, He provided for all his needs with the condition that Adam would remain obedient: *"Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die."* (Genesis 2:16-17) Notice that the *just penalty* for disobedience was death, not eternal torment. Ezekiel confirms this: *"...the soul that sinneth, it shall die."* (Ezekiel 18:4) Notice that Ezekiel did not say *fry*. And Paul confirms this by saying that *"the wages of sin is death."* Roman 6:23

God's justice is absolute: *an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth, a life for a life.* (Deuteronomy 19:21) His justice is firm, but fair and for the best interest of His children. For this cause, Jesus came into the world to pay the penalty for Adam's sin: *a life for a life.* *"For if by one man's [Adam's] offense death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ."* Romans 5:17-18



## GOD'S ATTRIBUTE OF LOVE

The Bible clearly teaches that **"God is love."** (1John 4:8) His justice is always balanced by His Love. This is probably the most important reason why we believe that there is no burning hell. Not only is God love, but the Apostle John says, *"There is no fear in*

*love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment.”*  
(1John 4:18) We should ask ourselves the following questions to see if our answers harmonize with God’s attribute of love.

- Yes  No  Is there fear associated with the doctrine of eternal torment?
- Yes  No  Would it be loving to create a place where people would live forever or even a minute in torment?
- Yes  No  Could any of us take the hand of our worst enemy and place it on a hot burner?
- Yes  No  Would a God, who tells us to love our enemies, create in us a desire to burn them forever?
- Yes  No  Could there be everlasting joy for anyone if they knew their loved ones were burning forever in a place of torment?

The answer to all but one of these questions is, no, of course not! Even our little ability to love would not allow us to do such mean things. People who torment others are considered demonic and mentally unbalanced. Do we think God is unbalanced? No!

Remember the lesson of the Hebrews who built altars to the false god Molech, and sacrificed their children on the fire. God cried out, *“I commanded them not... that they should do this **abomination...**”* (Jeremiah 32:35) If God’s attribute of love could not permit such horrible cruelty, how could God create a burning hell?

God’s character of love is reflected in His Son Jesus. Nowhere in the Bible does it show Jesus hurting someone to get them to be obedient or to punish them. In fact, there are two lessons he taught his disciples which showed a loving, merciful and forgiving attitude.

One day when Jesus and the Apostles were about to enter the land of Samaria, Jesus sent James and John on ahead to purchase bread and supplies. The Samaritans asked them if the Great Teacher would recognize the Samaritans and heal their sicknesses. The Jews usually treated the Samaritans unkindly, and so they thought Jesus would treat them the same way. James and John answered that Jesus was sent only to the Nation of Israel. The Samaritans were angry at this and said, *“Very well, then buy bread and supplies from them!”*

James and John became angry at them, and when Jesus arrived they said, “*Lord, wilt thou that we command fire to come down and consume them?*” But Jesus rebuked James and John for this angry spirit saying, “*Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of.*” This is a good lesson for the Christian as to the loving, peaceful spirit we should have toward all. Even those who do not accept our message of truth now should be treated kindly. Luke 9:51-56



Again, Jesus’ character was a perfect example of God’s attribute of love. When Judas betrayed Jesus and brought the multitudes to capture him. Peter took out his sword and cut off the ear of one of the chief priest’s servants. (John 18:8-11) This showed how bold Peter was, but also how wrong it was for a follower of Jesus to have an angry, fighting spirit. Jesus always taught that Christians should be peaceful and should love even when it is difficult. After Jesus healed the servant’s ear, he said, “*They that use the sword against others will die by the sword.*” (Matthew 26:52) Jesus said to love even our enemies. How can we love them, and yet want them to burn in torment forever? The attribute of God’s love would never permit for such a terrible thing.

## **GOD’S ATTRIBUTE OF POWER**

***God is all powerful.*** Because He is powerful, He could create a place where fire burns forever upon writhing flesh, but His attributes of love, justice and wisdom would not permit for Him to use His power in this way. God has used His power only for good. In fact, everything He created is *very good*. (Genesis 1:31) The heavens and all that God has created declare His glory and love for His creation.

God’s power will one day bring all back from their graves: those who have lived righteously in Christ will receive a resurrection of

life, and those who have lived selfish or evil lives will receive a resurrection of judgment—a trial period during the thousand-year judgment day. (John 5:25-29 NAS) Those who did not accept life through Christ now in the Gospel Age will have an opportunity to learn righteousness *in due time* in the Millennium. Isaiah prophesied of this trial period: “...when [God’s] judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness.” Isaiah 26:9

But what happens to those who will never learn obedience? “Death and hell [the grave] were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.” (Revelation 20:14) The punishment of second death will take away life forever from those who do not want to live in God’s peaceable Kingdom under His righteous laws. God’s almighty power will destroy them forever for their own good and for the good of all others. It will be like they had never been born. This is a perfect balance of God’s justice, wisdom, love and power.

### **THANK GOD THAT HE TRULY IS LOVE**

Thus, from our lessons on the Scriptural definition of *hell* and our study on God’s character attributes, we believe that *fire* symbolizes destruction and that the idea of literal *hellfire* is from the imagination of Satan to slander God’s *loving, just, wise and powerful character*. Someday, all will truly know God and His loving plans.



Yes, God planned for the salvation of mankind from the *before the foundation of the earth*. (1 Peter 1:19, 20) Jesus, the *lamb of God*, died, *the just for the unjust* (Adam and his race), and this payment for sin is called “*the ransom for all to be testified in due time.*” (1 Timothy 2:3-6) God’s plan calls for a full and fair opportunity wherein the majority of all who have ever lived will come forth in the resurrection to learn and choose righteousness under favorable conditions.



God's compassions are far more generous than man has accepted through their false interpretation of Scripture. His merciful plan has been like a golden thread of promise woven throughout His Word. He has provided that the sin of man will *"...be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord... Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.... him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you. And it shall come to pass, that every soul which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people."* (Acts 3:19-23) Thank God that the majority of the world will choose life everlasting when they finally see for the first time, with eyes unhindered by false doctrines, the beautiful harmony of the Scriptures. Then, peace and joy will reign throughout God's grand universe.



*"And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness and sorrow and sighing shall flee away."* Isaiah 35:10

## Match the Scriptures Which Best Describe God's Character Attributes?

There are at *least two* Scriptures per attribute. Some Scriptures may have more than one attribute. Why? Because God's attributes all work in harmony together.

*"And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear: and it was so."* Genesis 1:9

*"I thank thee, O Father... because thou hast hid these things from the [worldly] wise... and hast revealed them unto babes."* Matthew 11:25

*"...His compassions fail not. They are new every morning..."*  
Lamentations 3:22-23

*"And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and behold, I will destroy them with the earth."*  
Genesis 6:13

*"The heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament sheweth his handywork."* Psalm 19:1

*"...we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe."* 1Timothy 4:10

*"...He raised [Christ] up from the dead, and set him at His own right hand in the heavenly places..."*  
Ephesians 1:20

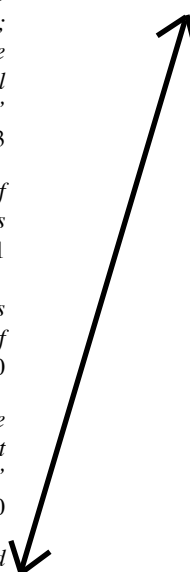
*"And Nadab and Abihu... offered strange fire before the Lord, which he commanded them not. And there went out fire from the Lord, and devoured them, and they died..."*  
Leviticus 10:1-2

**Love**

**Justice**

**Wisdom**

**Power**



## TEST YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF *WHY WE BELIEVE HELL IS THE GRAVE*

Choose your answer to these questions by circling the letter that best describes the truth on the subject of this booklet. Some questions have more than one answer. Circle as many as apply.

1. The word *hell* in the Old Testament was translated from the Hebrew word *sheol*. The word *sheol* means:
  - a. A scarf that goes around an old woman's shoulders.
  - b. A high cliff from which to see the sunrise.
  - c. The place where bodies are buried when they die—the *grave*.
  
2. The word *hell* in the New Testament was translated from three Greek words into the English language:
  - a. *Hades*, meaning *grave*.
  - b. *Gehenna*, meaning *garbage dump*.
  - c. *Terrazoo*, meaning a place *where animals go when they die*.
  - d. *Tartaroo*, meaning a place *between heaven and earth*.
  
3. In the Old English language, *helling* something meant:
  - a. To cover over potatoes with soil.
  - b. To burn up dead bodies as an example of God's wrath.
  - c. To cover over the roof of a house with straw.
  - d. To place coals of fire in an oven.
  
4. The word *fire* is used many times in the Bible to symbolize this condition:
  - a. A "time-out" for unbelievers.
  - b. A place of eternal punishment.
  - c. Trouble.
  - d. Purifying and cleansing from defilements.
  
5. God warned Adam and Eve that, if they disobeyed, they would be punished with:
  - a. A lack of bread and water for as long as they lived.
  - b. Death.
  - c. An afterlife of pain and torment when they died.

## TEST YOUR UNDERSTANDING...

6. Zoroaster was:
  - a. A city in Israel which overlooks the Dead Sea.
  - b. One of the twelve tribes of Israel.
  - c. A prophet of God who brought enlightenment to Israel.
  - d. A pagan prophet who taught the error of a dark underworld where lived the *Lord of Lies*.
  
7. Constantine was:
  - a. A great magician who entertained the Kings of Europe.
  - b. A humble peasant who became a proud warrior.
  - c. An emperor who converted to Christianity.
  - d. An emperor who brought in pagan ideas of compromise.
  
8. Jesus used parables:
  - a. To hide important truths from the worldly-wise.
  - b. With symbolic meanings to words.
  - c. To teach his disciples important truths.
  - d. All of the above.
  
9. The parable of *the rich man and Lazarus*:
  - a. Proves that *hell* really does exist.
  - b. That people can really live in the chest cavity of a man.
  - c. Shows how Israel did not appreciate their rich blessings.
  - d. That God would provide for the *publicans and sinners*, too.
  
10. When Israel worshipped the false god Baal, God was:
  - a. Happy that they at least worshipped something.
  - b. Said that it wasn't that important to do things His way.
  - c. Angry and called what they did an *abomination*.
  
11. The *second death* is:
  - a. A real place where real fire burns forever.
  - b. Where Satan and the fallen angels live.
  - c. The final destruction for those who choose to disobey, even after they have every opportunity to learn righteousness.
  - d. More merciful an everlasting punishment than *hell-fire*.

## TEST YOUR UNDERSTANDING...

12. God's four attributes are:
  - a. Power.
  - b. Love.
  - c. Impatience.
  - d. Justice.
  - e. Wisdom
  
13. The Apostle Paul encouraged Christians to study the Scriptures:
  - a. So that God could be glorified.
  - b. So they could look good to others.
  - c. So that they would know truth from error.
  
14. God's attribute of *wisdom* is shown in:
  - a. His beautiful and merciful plan.
  - b. The truth of the Bible.
  - c. The character of His Son, Jesus.
  - d. All of the above.
  
15. God's attribute of *justice* is shown in:
  - a. The fact that Adam got off easy from his disobedience.
  - b. The fact that God does what He says He will do.
  - c. The death of His Son to pay the penalty for sin.
  
16. God's attribute of *love* is shown in:
  - a. The gift of His Son for the life of the world.
  - b. The fact that He does not want His children to worship Him out of fear.
  - c. The fact that He wants the followers of Jesus to stick up for their rights and fight their enemies.
  
17. God's attribute of *power* is shown in the fact that:
  - a. Everything He does is *very good*.
  - b. All things will work out according to His plans.
  - c. He will raise all mankind from the grave *in due time*.
  - d. He created the universe and will bring all things into harmony with Him by the end of His Kingdom.
  - e. All of the above are true.

