

## **IS THERE A HELL WHERE SINNERS BURN FOREVER?**

**Malachi 4:1** For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch.

**Does God have a place called hell where He burns sinners forever? This question has been asked by many Christians. Many religious leaders have taught that God burns people in hell forever and ever.**

**God has no such place where He burns sinners forever and ever. Remember, He told Adam that the day you eat of this tree you will surely die. For dust you are and dust shall you return to the ground.**

**Genesis 2:7** And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

**Genesis 3:19** In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.

**Because the scripture said in Genesis 2:7 man became a living soul, many think that he was an immortal soul and that his body could die, but not his**

**soul. They are greatly mistaken. The bible says that the soul that sinneth shall die according to:**

**Ezekiel 18:4** Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sinneth, it shall die.

**This teaching of sinners burning forever and ever is a false doctrine that was set up by the Catholic Church. They called it purgatory. This is a “so called” place where sinners go after death with the possibility of having the fire decreased if money was paid on their behalf.**

**At the Nicene council in 325 A.D. this doctrine was injected into the New Testament church teaching that un-repentant sinners go to hell burn forever and ever for their sins. No such teaching was ever taught by Jesus Christ or the twelve apostles. This doctrine comes from satan the devil to describe God as an unmerciful Heavenly Father who loves to see pain inflicted upon mankind.**

**The word *hell* is an old English term used for storing potatoes in the ground.**

Webster's Third New International Dictionary, unabridged, under "Hell" says: "fr[om] . . .

helan to conceal." The word "hell" thus originally conveyed no thought of heat or torment but simply of a 'covered over or concealed place.' In the old English dialect the expression "helling potatoes" meant, not to roast them, but simply to place the potatoes in the ground or in a cellar.

[www.heavendwellers.com/hd\\_origins\\_of\\_the\\_word\\_hell.htm](http://www.heavendwellers.com/hd_origins_of_the_word_hell.htm)

**The word *hell* refers to the ground, a resting place where the dead is kept until the day of judgment.**

**Jesus said all that is in the grave will hear His voice and come forth into the resurrection. The saints will be resurrected in the first resurrection and the sinners will be resurrected in the second resurrection. We will all be judged for the lives we live. However, many sinners died not knowing that there was a plan of salvation. They died in ignorance. The resurrection will be their first chance to hear the beautiful plan of salvation which God has offered to all mankind.**

**Remember judgment does not always mean punishment. In some cases, people receive probation. In other cases, people receive a warning and are let go with a promise not to commit crime again. But everyone will be judged according to their works. Those that died in ignorance will have a chance to**

**repent and correct their mistakes. Upon repentance, they will be given time to prove they are willing to be obedient to God. Sinners will also have the chance to use the blood of Jesus for the forgiveness of sin like the saints who have been redeemed by the blood of Jesus in this life.**

**John 5:28** Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice,

**29** And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of **damnation**.

**This word damnation, means that people will be found guilty of the sins they committed while they were living. But those that did not know the will of the Almighty, in this first life, will have a chance to live the right way. Remember the Bible says that he which knew his master's will and did it not, will be beaten with many stripes, but he that didn't know his master's will be beaten with few stripes (Luke 12:47-48).**

**Those who do not understand this scripture will call this a second chance. But this is not a second chance. It's a first chance with the knowledge of what God's will is. There are people in the grave that have never even heard the name of Jesus such as the mentally**

**disabled and people of other religions who only know their religion from a child like Islam, Hinduism and many other forms of religious superstition.**

**Luke 12:48** But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few *stripes*. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more.

**When a person is buried in the ground, which is hell, according to Webster's dictionary, it becomes the resting place for the dead person until the day of judgment.**

**The bible says that some are dead in the sea such as many of the slaves that lost their lives when the captains of slave ships threw them overboard during the trip to North and South America and the Caribbean Islands when they (slave ships) were discovered by the coastguard ships that were on the outlook for illegal slave trade. The bible said that the sea gave up the dead that was in it.**

**Revelations 20:13** And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

**The reward of the wicked according to Romans 6:23 is death. Not an everlasting life in an ever burning hell.**

**Romans 6:23** For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**But the problem is that many Christians do not understand which death Roman 6:23 is talking about. It's not talking about the first death. It's talking about the second death. Sinners and saints die the same way when it comes to the first death. There are many good Christians who have lost their lives in car accidents, by murder and illness just like the wicked. We know that saints don't receive death as their reward. Paul was talking about the second death which is found in (Revelation 21:8) which says that all liars will have their part in the lake of fire which is the second death.**

**Revelation 21:8** But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

**The second death will burn the wicked completely up leaving only ashes on the ground.**

**Many people have turned away from God because of the hell fire doctrine preached in so many churches. This gives people the wrong opinion that God is an unmerciful and cruel Heavenly Father who loves to see men suffer in pain. God has no such program. There is no gray area in this matter. You will either be saved and added to the family of God or you are going to be ashes under the feet of the righteous.**

**Malachi 4:3** And ye shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, saith the LORD of hosts.

**In Jeremiah 7:31 God said it never came into His heart to burn anyone forever. He even condemned Israel for causing their children to go through the fire.**

**Jeremiah 7:31** And they have built the high places of Tophet, which is in the valley of the son of Hinnom, to burn their sons and their daughters in the fire; which I commanded them not, neither came it into my heart.

## **Lazarus and the Rich Man**

**Someone may ask, “What does the word torment mean when the rich man in Luke 16 said he was tormented in the flame?”**

**Luke 16:24** And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.

**Remember, the rich man died and he was buried. We have already stated that when a man dies, he is buried in the ground; the resting place of the dead.**

**If the rich man's body had been on fire, he would have asked for more than a cup of water on his tongue. He would have asked to be dipped into a pool of water. It was the thought of being thrown into the lake of fire that tormented the rich man in his mind.**

**Lazarus died and was buried and carried into the bosom of Abraham. Both died and both were buried.**

**Lazarus was going to receive what Abraham received, land and eternal life.**

**The rich man was going to receive what sinners who don't repent receive, the lake of fire, which is the second death.**

**Jesus said there was a great gulf between Lazarus and the rich man. Lazarus was going to receive eternal life, but the rich man was going to receive the second death. This is a great gulf.**

**This illustration of the resurrection does not mean that the rich man is burning in an everlasting fire. He awoke in his grave, saw the flames of the lake of fire, and was tormented in his mind knowing that he had done evil in his lifetime and was going to suffer the second death.**

**There are many other scriptures in the bible on this subject but none of them talk about everlasting burning for mankind. Fire will burn as long as there is fuel to feed it. Once there is nothing left to fuel the fire, the fire will burn itself out. When God rained down fire on Sodom and Gomorrah, it was called an eternal fire. But we do not see these people yet burning that were once on fire. After the fire burned all those sinners, it burned itself out. All fire burns out when there's nothing left to burn.**

**Jude 7** Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.

**Another important scripture that has confused many people on this subject of hell fire is Mark 9:46 which says that the worm shall not die.**

**Mark 9:45** And if thy foot offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter halt into life, than having two feet to be cast into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched:

**46** Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.

**Remember the worm the bible is talking about were maggots that flies laid on the dead carcasses in the Gehenna dumpsite. Once the maggots became flies, they flew away and *then* died. This scripture is not talking about an eternal worm that had everlasting life. The Gehenna dumpsite was where they discarded dead bodies. Gehenna had so many bodies thrown on it that parts of the bodies were not always completely burned and flies would lay their eggs on the bodies and maggots would hatch from these eggs. These maggots would then turn into flies, fly away and then die.**

**It would be wise to study what the biblical history books say about the Gehenna dumpsite. Also it's important to study the word hell, which is *sheol* in the**

**Hebrew and *hades* in the Greek. The word hell always means a hole in the ground where they bury the dead.**

**The lake of fire, which is the second death, is the final punishment for the sinners. The difference between the first and second death is that there is no resurrection from the second death. Whoever suffers the second death will be as if they never existed.**

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