

Eternity Lasts a Long Time

[Luk 16:19-31 KJV] 19 There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day: 20 And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores, 21 And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. 22 And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; 23 And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. 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.

He was in Hell. He was conscious. He was suffering. He is still there begging for water.

1. Is Hell real?

- a. Jesus taught about Hell often in his ministry. He gives the testimony from Luke we just read.

[Mat 10:28 KJV] 28 And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

- b. Jesus spoke about hell describing intense suffering. He mentioned souls being cast into outer darkness. He also described gnashing of teeth in six verses in Matthew and one in Luke. Strongs concordance says gnashing means binding or grinding.

[Mat 25:41 KJV] 41 Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

- c. Hell is real and neither unbelief, denial, nor being good will help you avoid the place

2. Hell Described

[Rev 14:10 KJV] 10 The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb:

- a. Darkness (three passages in Matthew describe outer darkness)**

[Mat 22:12-13 KJV] 12 And he saith unto him, Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless. 13 Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast [him] into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

- b. Gnashing of teeth**

[Mat 13:47-50 KJV] 47 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a net, that was cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind: 48 Which, when it was full, they drew to shore, and sat down, and gathered the good into vessels, but cast the bad away. 49 So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just, 50 And shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

- c. Fire – Blazing Furnace, Fire of Hell, Eternal Fire, Place of Torment by fire and brimstone.**

[Mat 13:41-42 KJV] 41 The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; 42 And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

- d. Separation from God**

[2Th 1:9 KJV] 9 Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;

- e. Able to see what was missed**

Verse 23 of our text. 23 And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.

[Luk 13:26-28 NIV] 26 "Then you will say, 'We ate and drank with you, and you taught in our streets.' 27 "But he will reply, 'I don't know you or where you come from. Away from me, all you evildoers!' 28 "There will be weeping there, and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, but you yourselves thrown out.

f. Eternal

[Mat 25:41 KJV] 41 Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

Bryan Chapell says, "Hell is total, conscious, eternal separation from the blessings of God. People think of it as a lake of fire and that certainly is a biblical image. Also, the Bible describes hell as lashing or scorpions or darkness where there's great gnashing of teeth. There's not just one biblical image of hell. Hell is a place for the soul of extreme torment by being separated from the blessings of God." He also said, "there's a sense in which hell is people getting exactly what they want, (they say) "I didn't want God."

3. Who Goes There? Godless, wicked, greedy, unbelievers, name not in the book, unforgivers

- a. [Psa 9:17 NIV] 17 The wicked go down to the realm of the dead, all the nations that forget God.
- b. [[2Pe 2:4, 9 KJV] 4 For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast [them] down to hell, and delivered [them] into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment; ... 9 The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:
- c. [Jde 1:5-6 KJV] 5 I will therefore put you in remembrance, though ye once knew this, how that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed them that believed not. 6 And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.
- d. [Jde 1:11, 13 KJV] 11 Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core. ... 13 Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever.
- e. [Mat 18:35 KJV] 35 So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses.

4. Where is Hell Located?

[Mat 12:40 KJV] 40 For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

5. Before the resurrection of Jesus, hell was divided into two parts.

Abraham's Bosom was a place of comfort for the godly believers
A place of torment for nonbelievers.

Jesus went there during the three days prior to his resurrection.

Matthew 12:40 and the Apostles Creed tell of his descension into hell.

There are three notable perspectives on why according to an article on the Blue Letter Bible:

Christ spent his three days suffering the wrath of God. (Jesus said "It is finished!" at his death.)

Christ spent his three days proclaiming his victory over the Satanic kingdom.

Christ spent his three days preaching the Gospel to the Old Testament believers who dwelt in a separated portion of the netherworld.

6. One day Death and Hell will move to a new place.

[Rev 20:13-15 KJV] 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. 14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. 15 And **whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.**

7. Nobody has to Go to hell

[Rev 1:18 KJV] 18 I [am] he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.

[Jhn 10:10 KJV] 10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have [it] more abundantly.

[Jhn 6:47 KJV] 47 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.

[Jhn 11:25 KJV] 25 Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:

[Mar 1:15 KJV] 15 And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.