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truths

Foundational Truth #14

*Hell and Final
Judgment
Various Texts*

3 Questions...

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1. Who will go to hell?
2. What is hell like now?
3. What will the Lake of Fire be like?

Biblical Background

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- In the Old Testament, the word is **sheol**, and means “*pit or grave.*” Num. 16:30, 33; Deut. 32:22, Job 26:6, Prov. 15:24, Is. 14:11.
- This developed with the Greek word **hades**. It means “*place of the dead,*” righteous and unrighteous.
- There are 2 other words in the NT for hell: **Gehenna** and **Tartarus**

Gehenna

Valley of Hinnom



Gehenna



2 Chronicles 28:1-3 (ESV)

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Ahaz was twenty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem. And he did not do what was right in the eyes of the Lord, as his father David had done, but he walked in the ways of the kings of Israel [*Northern Kingdom*]. He even made metal images for the Baals, and he made offerings in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom and **burned his sons as an offering**, according to the abominations of the nations whom the Lord drove out before the people of Israel.

Gehenna



Biblical Background

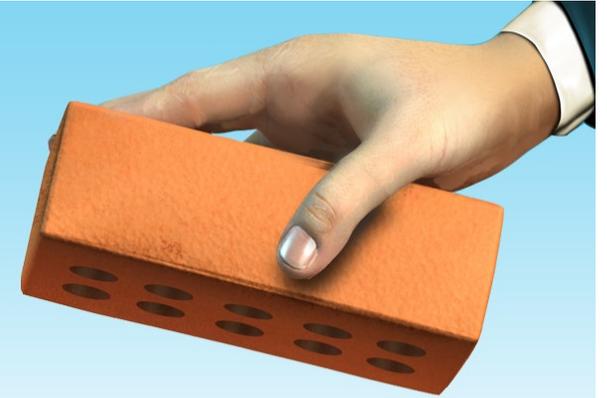
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Tartarus is used once in the Bible:

2 Peter 2:4 – referring to sinful angels, cast into hell or Tartarus, kept until the judgment.

This is sometimes translated as “abyss.”
It is the worst part of hell...

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A. Who will go to Hell?

We ALL deserve hell!
None of us deserve heaven.

*Because God is an eternally good being, one
sin against Him is enough to be damned for
eternity.*

John 3:16-20 (ESV)

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have *eternal life*. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him. *Whoever believes in Him is not condemned*, but **whoever does not believe is condemned already**, because he has not believed in the Name of the only Son of God.

John 3:16-20 (ESV)

And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed.

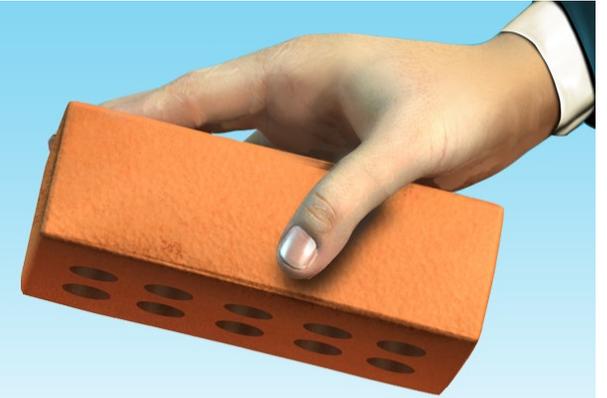
Matthew 10:28 (ESV)

And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather **fear Him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.**

The Greek word for “destroy” can mean destroy, but here is referring to the intensity of punishment.

Jesus was serious about hell!!

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A. Who will go to Hell?

Jesus talked more about hell than about heaven.

We cannot allow our emotions or personal desires to overshadow, modify, or reject something **God is very clear about!**

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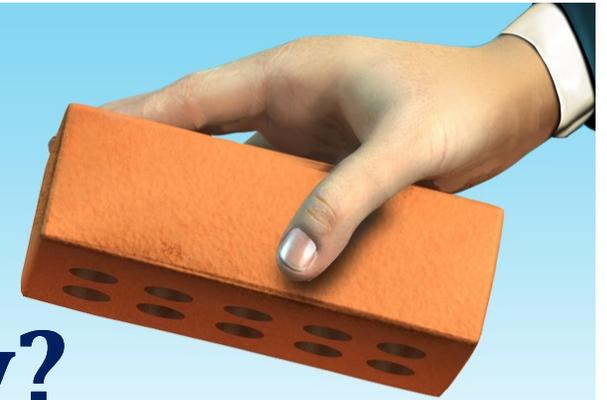


B. What is Hell Like Now?

Where did hell come from?



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B. What is Hell Like Now?

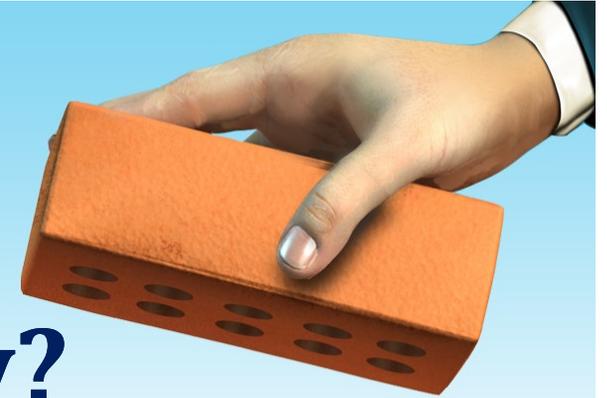
Where did hell come from?

It was created by God for the devil and his angels:

Matthew 25:41.

The Bible doesn't really give a "*location*" for where hell is, because that is not the focus.

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B. What is Hell Like Now?

It is separation from God's goodness, love, mercy, grace and more. However, it is also being in the presence of God's judgment, wrath, and justice.

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B. What is Hell Like Now?

Hebrews 9:27 - ...it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment.

There is ***NO second chance*** after death. When we die, our eternal fate is sealed!

One example is *Luke 16:19-31*.

Luke 16:19-31 (ESV)

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“There was a rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate was laid a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man’s table. Moreover, even the dogs came and licked his sores. The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham’s side. The rich man also died and was buried, and in **Hades**, being in **torment**, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side.

Luke 16:19-31 (ESV)

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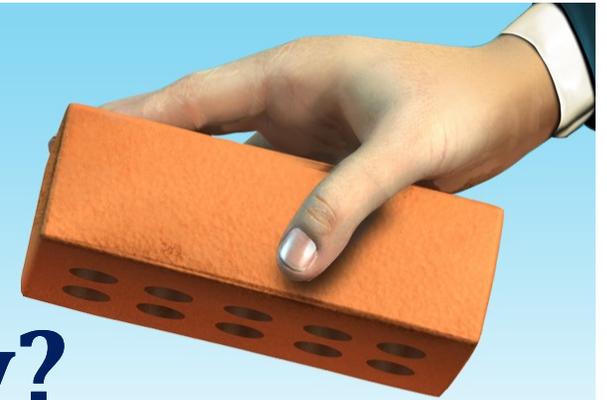
And he called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for **I am in anguish in this flame.**' But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner bad things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in **anguish.** And besides all this, between us and you **a great chasm has been fixed,** in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us.'

Luke 16:19-31 (ESV)

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And he said, 'Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house - for I have five brothers - so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.' But Abraham said, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.' And he said, 'No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' He said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.'"

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B. What is Hell Like Now?

Jesus rebukes the religious leaders because they wouldn't believe even if someone arose from the dead.

We also get a glimpse of *hades*...

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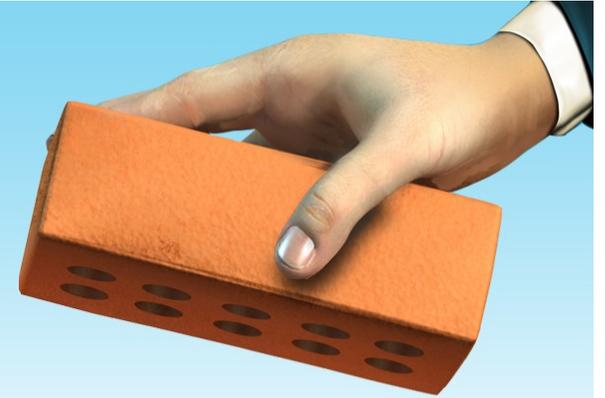


B. What is Hell Like Now?

1. There was consciousness in both areas in *hades*.
2. The rich man was in torment and there are flames or fire felt.
3. There is a chasm or canyon firmly fixed.
4. Lazarus is in “Abraham’s bosom” or care, the place of blessing.

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C. What will the Lake of Fire be Like?



Gehenna was the Valley of Hinnom, and was the garbage dump of Israel.

The **flames** were constantly burning!

Used 12 times in the New Testament: *Mat. 5:22, 29-30; 23:15, 33; James 3:6.*

Mark 9:43, 47-48 (ESV)

And if your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life crippled than with two hands to go to **hell**, to the **unquenchable fire**.

And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than with two eyes to be **thrown into hell**, *‘where their worm does not die and the fire is not quenched.’*

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GEHENNA

**The Reality of Hell is much worse
than the descriptions of it!!!**



Revelation 20:10-15 (ESV)

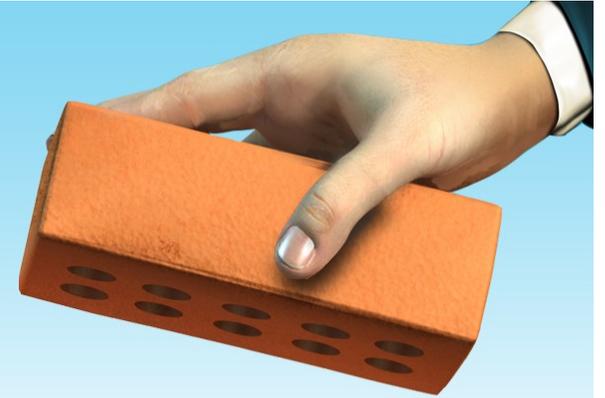
And the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the **lake of fire and sulfur** where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be **tormented day and night forever and ever**. Then I saw a great white throne and Him who was seated on it. From His presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done.

Revelation 20:10-15 (ESV)

And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, **Death** and **Hades** gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done. Then Death and **Hades** were **thrown into the lake of fire**. This is the **second death, the lake of fire**. And if anyone's name was **not** found written in the book of life, he was **thrown into the lake of fire**.

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C. What will the Lake of Fire be Like?



Unbelievers will be judged according to their works.
Some people's works will be *worse* than others.

Some passages indicate there are levels of
punishment in the Lake of Fire: *Luke 12:35-48*.

Luke 12:45-48 (ESV)

But if that servant says to himself, 'My master is delayed in coming,' and begins to beat the male and female servants, and to eat and drink and get drunk, the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know, and **will cut him in pieces and put him with the unfaithful**. And that servant who knew his master's will but did not get ready or act according to his will, **will receive a severe beating**.

Luke 12:45-48 (ESV)

But the one who did not know, and did what deserved a beating, will **receive a light beating**. Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required, and from him to whom they entrusted much, they will demand the more.

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C. What will the Lake of Fire be Like?



The extent of punishment fits with the knowledge the person had. *The more they knew and didn't do, the more they will suffer.*

This is **just!**

Those in the Lake of Fire will be tormented forever in a resurrected body: *Daniel 12:2.*