

Since time, immemorial, Satan has worked to cause everyone, including the fallen angels, to disbelieve the reality of Hell and yet, God's Word has made abundantly clear that Hell is a real place and it is the terrible destiny of 1/3 of the angels and most of the humans who've ever lived.

Just like with fallen man, Lucifer will have convinced fallen angels, also, that they can be successful in overthrowing the rule of the Lord Jesus Christ... both at Armageddon and again at the end of the Millennium and, yet, the final destination of all of them will be the Lake of Fire.

Oh Hell! Like Hell, I will! The Hell I will! Go to Hell! You first! I'll see you in Hell!

We've all heard those kinds of curses said in anger; perhaps we've even said one or two.

Every one of these seemingly 'throw away lines' were conceived by Satan with the express purpose of causing people to become so familiar with the concept of Hell that they begin to disbelieve its very existence. They think, If everyone is mocking Hell, in disbelief, then it really must be a false idea invented by religious fanatics.

In movies, all the coolest people despise Hell, they treat it as nothing; it's with great manliness the hero conveys that going to Hell is nothing to fear for the brave, the strong, the mighty. Just before the movie hero kills the bad guy, along with himself, he says, with great gusto, 'I'll see you in Hell!'

The idea of Hell has become so ignored that we now see an epidemic of suicide like never before.

The coolest people say, 'Well I'll be damned!' or 'Damned if I know! In other words, 'I don't know and I am going to Hell... big deal!' Fifty years ago I worked for Debbie's father's frozen food company. I remember two guys being so foolish that as an expletive, they would say, 'Well I'll be go to Hell!' 'Well I'll be go to Hell!' Over and over I would hear them loudly exclaim such a terrible thing. And, of course, as a young guy, who wasn't living like a Christian, I never said something as simple as, 'You know, Hell is a real place!' I had a fear of man!

The World has been conditioned to disregard any warning of the Hell to come. They think of Hell, if at all, as being the place where all the coolest people have gallantly and courageously gone.

The famous song from *The Man from La Mancha*: 'To dream the impossible dream... to be willing to march into Hell for a Heavenly cause... and I know if I'll only be true to this glorious quest... that my heart will lie peaceful and calm when I'm laid to my rest... and the world will be better for this that one man... still strove with his last ounce of courage... to dream the impossible dream...' Ah... what a brave thing to sing; I even sang it, as a much younger fool. The impossible dream which the world blindly follows is that death brings rest and that Hell is a myth. Hell is very real and there will never be a moment's rest for those who go there.

In fact, many false church groups have been used as the most guilty of offenders in this regard: many groups teach that, at death, those not saved simply cease to exist:

Seventh Day Adventism teaches this: after all, how could a loving God ever cause anyone to suffer the torments of Hell, forever!

Mormonism teaches that Hell is a kind of spiritual prison where the dead are kept until they repent and believe what they are taught there; they base this on 1Peter 3:19: 'By which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison...' They believe they can be baptized for the dead so that they will be finally saved.

Jehovah's Witnesses teach that the lost cease to exist, that Hell is just the grave.

Basically, there are two versions of disbelief in Hell: those not saved, cease to exist or that those not saved will eventually be saved after suffering sufficiently for their sin. The worst for teaching this is, of course, *Catholicism* with their false teaching of 'Purgatory' where everyone's sin is, eventually, purged.

In Scripture we find 5 different places which are associated with Hell.

First is **Sheol**, the place of the dead; it contains the first two places in our study of Hell. In Jesus' story of Lazarus and the rich man, we learn that Sheol consists of two separate places and that those in either side of Sheol were able to see those in the other side and even interact with them. The good and pleasant side was called **Paradise** and Abraham's Bosom; it was made for the righteous who died from the time of Adam and

Eve, throughout the Old Testament, until the day that the Lord Jesus Christ went there, Himself, at His Crucifixion; then, since He had finally paid the full penalty for all their sins, He could empty that side of Sheol and take them all, with Him, back to Heaven.

Jesus said, *'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. ²⁵ But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented. ²⁶ And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence. ²⁷ Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house: ²⁸ For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment. ²⁹ Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them. ³⁰ And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. ³¹ And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.'* Luke 16:19 Interesting that a short time later, another named Lazarus actually would die and be raised back to life.

This is not a parable; this is Jesus' recitation of real people and real events of the past. He began by saying, 'A *certain* rich man and a *certain* beggar, Lazarus. They were, they are still, *certain* people. Lazarus is now in Heaven and the rich man is in Hades awaiting the final Judgment and his sentence to the *certain* Lake of Fire.

The bad, and very unpleasant, side of Sheol is called **Hades**; it contains all the unrighteous dead since the time of Adam and Eve and will continue to be filled while all those therein await their eventual resurrection at the Final Judgment after the Millennium. We see, from Jesus' story that those in Hades can still interact with each other as they curse God and each other. I think many, in Hades, will have convinced themselves that they were mistakenly sent to the wrong place and that eventually God will see His mistake and finally bring them to Heaven. Jesus said, *'Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? And in thy name have cast out devils? And in thy name done many wonderful works? ²³ And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.'* Matt 7:22

Imagine desperately holding to that shred of hope for rescue only to have it dashed when they stand before the Lord Jesus Christ at the Final Judgment.

The third place associated with Hell is **Tartarus**; it is the place where some wicked angels are currently kept unto the day of Judgment: *... '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...'* 2 Pet 2:4

The only 'special' sin, found in Scripture, of any of the fallen angels seems to be what is taught in Gen 6.

'And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them, ² That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose.' Gen 6:1

Many believe this refers to angels leaving their spiritual realm and mating with human women, greatly sinning against God by not remaining within His declared realm for them. Angels are meant to keep themselves within the spiritual realm and humans are to be kept within the physical realm. This is why sorcery and witchcraft are such serious sins, to God: humans are using drugs and spells to interact with the spiritual realm.

This place, where these angels are kept in chains and darkness, is a separate place in Hell called Tartarus; the Greek word is Tartaroo.

'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.' Jude 6 We know this is not referring only to the

angels who rebelled because we see these 'demons,' throughout Scripture, not kept in chains and darkness. Jude is referring to the same time, Genesis 6 and the same place, Tartarus.

When Jesus cast out many demons from the demoniac of Gadara, Jesus spoke to the demon:

'And Jesus asked him, saying, What is thy name? And he said, Legion: because many devils were entered into him. ³¹ And they besought him that he would not command them to go out into the deep.' Luke 8:30

Here, the demons use the word, Abyss; 'Don't command us to go out into the Abyss.' This probably refers to the Bottomless Pit; when Satan is cast into the Bottomless Pit, the same word is used: Abyssos.

In Matthew, it says, *'And when he was come to the other side into the country of the Gergesenes, there met him two possessed with devils, coming out of the tombs, exceeding fierce, so that no man might pass by that way. ²⁹ And, behold, they cried out, saying, What have we to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God? Art thou come hither to torment us before the time? ³⁰ And there was a good way off from them a herd of many swine feeding. ³¹ So the devils besought him, saying, If thou cast us out, suffer us to go away into the herd of swine.*

³² And he said unto them, Go. And when they were come out, they went into the herd of swine: and, behold, the whole herd of swine ran violently down a steep place into the sea, and perished in the waters.' Matt 8:28
Here, we see that the demons know exactly who Jesus is... they knew Him personally in the beginnings of time, before they rebelled with Lucifer and they know there is coming an appointed time for their judgment.

Hell is a real place somewhere down in the depths of the Earth; it is some, certain and huge cavern which is hot, according to the rich man, perhaps because of its proximity to molten lava. Then, across a great gulf, or canyon, there was/is the pleasant place, paradise, which is now empty. Even far underground, God had made paradise to be good and comfortable as the waiting place of the righteous dead; some of whom had to wait there for thousands of years.

So far, we've seen **Hades, Paradise, Tartarus** and the **Abyss** which is the next place associated with Hell, the **Bottomless Pit**. The Greek word, translated, 'Bottomless Pit' is Abyssos.

The Bottomless Pit is, perhaps, near, or even the same as, Tartarus. The fallen angels who are kept in Tartarus are, it says, kept in chains under darkness. At the end of the Tribulation, Satan will be bound in chains and cast into the Abyss, the Bottomless Pit, to be kept for 1000 years until he is loosed for one final, short time at the end of the Millennium; then he will be cast into the Lake of Fire... forever!

We see the Abyss, the Bottomless Pit, in Rev. 9: *'And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit. ² And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit. ³ And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth: and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power... And they had a king over them, which is the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in the Hebrew tongue is Abaddon, but in the Greek tongue hath his name Apollyon.'* Both these names mean destruction or destroyer.

The final, most terrible aspect of Hell, as revealed in Scripture, is the Lake of Fire. Currently, the Lake of Fire is empty. It was created long ago to be the final prison of all the fallen angels.

Here is an interesting thought: did God create the Lake of Fire before or after the angels rebelled?

Jesus said, *'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:'* Matt 25:41

At the end of the 7-year Tribulation, the Antichrist and the False Prophet will be cast into the Lake of Fire where they will spend eternity beginning with the 1000 years of the Millennium. During that same time, Satan will be bound and kept in the Bottomless Pit. At the end of the Millennium, Satan, every fallen angel and evil spirit along with all the wicked dead from all ages will be cast into the Lake of Fire to spend eternity there without hope, without light, without fellowship of any kind... never ending torment because they rejected the knowledge of God and the Love, Grace and Mercy of God. The Lake of Fire was prepared to hold 1/3 of all the angels and most of the humans ever created.

All of these places are real and all of them are associated with Hell.

I said that most people, ever to have lived, will spend eternity in the Lake of Fire.

Jesus said, *'Enter ye in at the strait (narrow) gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and **many** there be which go in thereat: ¹⁴ Because strait (narrow) is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and **few** there be that find it.'* Matt 7:13

Realize: if you have trusted in the Lord Jesus Christ for your salvation, if you've been born again, you are one of the eternally blessed few (by comparison) to ever walk the Earth.

Do not ever find yourself resisting the will and purposes of God in believing the lie that 'a loving God would never send anyone, let alone most people, to eternal torment in a lake of fire. That is one of Satan's most successful lies. If anyone can escape the Lake of Fire apart from faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, then everyone can escape the Lake of Fire apart from faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

A recent Barna research survey found that only 6% of Americans who consider themselves 'Christians,' hold to a Biblical Worldview... 6%!

Barna conducted more surveys and found that the current 'American culture' is having a far greater impact on Christianity than is, Christianity, impacting the culture. Belief in reincarnation is growing while the belief in a literal hell is falling fast. People are increasingly believing that all people are 'basically good' with a 'spark of divinity' in each one... OpraWinfreyism. Joelolsteenism. These are they who teach that Jesus came to be our example, that we, 'Christ-followers' are meant to follow His example. If we were really capable of following His example, then we wouldn't need Him as our Savior; we wouldn't need Him to take our punishment upon Himself so that we could be forgiven.

We see that played out in countless American churches as they work to reflect the culture in their preaching, their dress and their music. We've all seen it happen: a once great church body begins to follow the false teaching of false teachers; it begins with a foolish and unlearned teacher beginning to quote from the books of obvious false teachers. Then, the lies espoused by those false teachers are brought into the worship and culture of that local church. Then, the false teaching is followed by, changing their music to sound like the world, beginning to dress to look like the world, speaking, teaching and affirming in order to sound like the world... and then that church begins to die on the vine and no one, there, seems to be able to figure out why! So they stay and just die with it.

'For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; ⁴ And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.' 2 Tim 4:3

Belief in Biblical Christianity is shrinking... true saints are dying off while children and grandchildren are turning away from the faith to become easy prey for lying and despicable false teachers.

As belief in Hell declines, the World is waiting for the moment when the Lord Jesus Christ removes His Church, and so removes the restraining of evil by His Holy Spirit; then they will have what they have always thought that they wanted: the removal of all true Christians and the conviction of sin and evil by the Holy Spirit. Then, they will be ready and willing to receive that man whom they believe will finally lead them to the utopia of which they had always dreamed. Tragically, what they will receive, instead, will be hell on Earth and then 1000 years of Hell in Hades and finally, forever in the Hell of the Lake of Fire.

