

# Defending the Faith

## Lesson 6

### Hell

#### 1. What is the meaning of SHEOL (Hebrew) and HADES (Greek)?

- SHEOL and HADES have been translated as both hell and the grave; therefore, confusion has resulted. It has even caused some groups to conclude that these words always mean the grave.
- When biblical authors wanted to speak of the grave, they used the word QUEBER (Hebrew) and MNEMEION (Greek) and did not view these words synonymous with SHEOL and HADES.
- It was believed that SHEOL was a place under the earth, while graves were built as sepulchers above the earth, or caves, or holes in the earth. While bodies are unconscious in the grave, those in SHEOL are viewed as being conscious, as we have already seen.
- THAYER'S GREEK LEXICON defines HADES as a dark and dismal place, in the very depths of earth, common receptacle of disembodied spirits, in reference to Mat.. 11:23; 16:18; Luke 10:15; 16:23; Acts 2:27, 31; Rev 1:18; 6:8; 20:13,14

#### 2. Meaning of VALLEY OF HINMOM (Hebrew) and GEHENNA (Greek):

- The word GEHENNA is derived from the Hebrew, Valley of Hinmon, a valley on the outskirts of Jerusalem, which was once a place of child sacrifice and sacrifices to false gods that the Jews had succumbed to worshipping in the days of the prophets of Israel. In Jesus' day, it was used as a garbage dump because of its infamous reputation. So we see GEHENNA is associated with fire. This is an appropriate association since the literal valley of Hinmon always had a fire burning in it to consume the refuse thrown there. To a Jew, Gehenna would not just picture a garbage dump with fire, however. It recalled to their minds the gross apostasy of their forefathers and the everlasting judgement of fire brought upon them. It pictured the destruction of their souls, (or spirits) which would remain in Sheol, or Hades, until thrown in the lake of fire.
- The righteous will be resurrected to everlasting life; the wicked to everlasting contempt
- Dan. 12:2 – Awake to life or contempt

- John 5:24-30 – Rise to life, or be condemned
- Matt 25:41, 46 – Judgment of righteous and wicked
- Hebrews 10:26, 27 – Judgment
- Matt. 8:29 – Even the demons knew their future

#### THE RICH MAN AND LAZARUS:

Luke 16:19-31 Jesus used this illustration to point out the judgment of God upon those who were satisfied with all good things in life, and who cared nothing for their fellow man or needs of others.

### **3. GEHENNA (Greek) is translated “hell” 12 times in the N.T. It is never translated “grave,” and cannot mean annihilation. The Greek word “Tartarus” (hell) is the place of detention for fallen angels. (2 Pe. 2:4)**

- Matt 10:28 – Fear One who can destroy both soul and body in hell
- Mk. 9:43 – Better to enter maimed than . . .
- Luke 12:5 – Power to throw into hell

### **4. Torment**

- Rev. 14:11 – Smoke of their torment (NIV footnote: “Revelation offers no support for the doctrine of annihilation”)
- Rev. 19:20 – Beast and false prophet
- Rev. 20:10 – Devil’s fate

### **5. Can Christians share different views of hell?**

- **TRADITIONALIST VIEW:** A place of eternal, conscious suffering for those who reject the Lord. This view has carried the stamp of orthodoxy ever since it was endorsed around 400 AD by the great theologian, St. Augustine, in his book, THE CITY OF GOD. It became a part of Protestant theology when it was affirmed by John Calvin in 1542 in his book, PSYCHOPANNYCHIA (Reference reading: LIFE AFTER DEATH, by Robert Morey).
- **CONDITIONALIST VIEW:** The unrighteous will be resurrected, reanimated, judged, and consigned to hell where they will suffer conscious pain for periods of time proportional to their sins. They will then experience annihilation through the death of their bodies and souls. (Reference reading: THE FIRE THAT CONSUMES [1982] by Edward Fudge).

**This subject has nothing to do with salvation. To believe – or disagree – has nothing to do with salvation.**

**[I have ever verse in the Bible where hell appears – if you want it, just ask Jean.]**