

The Place Called Hell (2)



Shalom Ministries International

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Jesus Teaches about Hell

- Hell is the place for those who reject Him
 - Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.' They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?' He will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.' Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life (Matthew 25:41-46).
- Key aspects of Hell
 - Eternal punishment & final separation.
 - Hell is prepared for the devil and his angels, but humans who choose to ignore or reject Christ also share in this fate.

The Cases of Hell in the Old Testament (1)

- Sodom and Gomorrah Destroyed
 - Now the people of Sodom were wicked and were sinning greatly against the LORD (Genesis 13:13).
 - The LORD rained down burning sulfur on Sodom and Gomorrah, from the LORD out of the heavens. Thus he overthrew those cities, destroying all those living in the cities, and also the vegetation in the land.... He (Abraham) saw dense smoke rising from the land, like smoke from a furnace (Genesis 19:24-28).
- The image of hell
 - In a similar way, Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding towns gave themselves up to sexual immorality and perversion. They serve as an example of those who suffer the punishment of eternal fire (Jude 1:7).
 - If he condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah by burning them to ashes, and made them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly (2 Peter 2:6).
 - They remained associated with ruin and the violent overturning of the cities. Their destruction is not just historical but serves as a warning of the second death (final judgment).

The Cases of Hell in the Old Testament (2)

- The Valley of Hinnom (Gehenna)
 - He (Manasseh) sacrificed his children in the fire in the Valley of Ben Hinnom, practiced divination and witchcraft, sought omens, and consulted mediums and spiritists. He did much evil in the eyes of the LORD, arousing his anger (2 Chronicles 33:6).
 - He (Josiah) desecrated Topheth, which was in the Valley of Ben Hinnom, so no one could use it to sacrifice their son or daughter in the fire to Molek (2 Kings 23:10).
 - They have built the high places of Topheth in the Valley of Ben Hinnom to burn their sons and daughters in the fire, something I did not command, nor did it enter my mind (Jeremiah 7:31).
- Origin of Gehenna
 - Ge-Hinnom: The image of hell (the site of child sacrifice, the valley of slaughter).
 - By the time of Jesus, the valley was a place where garbage and the carcasses of animals or executed criminals were burned. Jesus used this place of disgrace to represent the reality of divine judgment and eternal punishment.
 - (You will) be thrown into hell, where the worms that eat them do not die, and the fire is not quenched (Mark 9:47-48).

Why Study the Doctrine of Hell?

- Hell demonstrates God's character of holiness
 - God is a righteous judge, a God who displays his wrath every day (Psalm 7:11).
 - God wanted to show his anger and to let people see his power. But he patiently stayed with those people he was angry with—people who were made ready to be destroyed (Romans 9:22, NCV).
- Hell demonstrates the magnitude of what Jesus accomplished on the cross
 - Jesus is dying on the cross to save people from hell (sin).
 - She will give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins (Matthew 1:21).
 - For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 6:23).
- The reality of hell provides a powerful motivation for us to evangelize
 - Rescue others by snatching them from the flames of judgment. Show mercy to still others, but do so with great caution, hating the sins that contaminate their lives (Jude 1:23, NLT).
 - The reason why we need to bring people in Jesus is the fear of being cast into eternal fire.

Sources We Reject about Hell

- The view of hell on human reason (Humanistic arguments)
 - Why punish people in hell rather than reform them in heaven?
 - Why would God create people He knew would go to hell?
 - If God's goal is to save sinners, why have a hell where people cannot be saved?
 - Hell is contrary to the grace and mercy of God, so why would it exist?
- Other religious perspectives on hell
 - **Jehovah's Witness**: Hell is simply the common grave of mankind, a state of unconsciousness and nonexistence. The soul ceases to exist when a person dies, so there is no hell.
 - **Mormons**: Hell is a temporary place where non-repentant people go to suffer for a while between the death and resurrection.
 - **Purgatory** (Catholic): Purgatory is a temporary state of purification after death that removes the temporal punishment due to sin before a soul enters the presence of God. However, this denies the sufficiency of Christ's sacrifice, which they believe fully cleanses believers immediately upon death.

False Theories of Hell

- Annihilationism

- The unsaved are completely destroyed, ceasing to exist after judgment (there is no hell).
- But the wicked will **perish**...they will be **consumed**, they will go up in smoke (Psalm 37:20).
- Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can **destroy** both soul and body in hell (Matthew 10:28).
- The devil was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented **day and night for ever and ever** (Revelation 20:10).

- Universalism

- All people will eventually be saved and reconciled to God, viewing hell a temporary state rather than a place of eternal punishment.
- God... wants **all people** to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth (1 Timothy 2:4).
- Then they will go away to **eternal punishment**, but the righteous to eternal life (Matthew 25:46).
- Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the **lake of fire** (Revelation 20:15).

The Place Called Hell

- Hell is a real place
 - They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might (2 Thessalonians 1:9).
- A place of torment and suffering
 - And the smoke of their torment will rise for ever and ever. There will be no rest day or night for those who worship the beast and its image, or for anyone who receives the mark of its name (Rev. 14:11).
- A place without mercy
 - Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.' (Luke 16:24).
- A place of consciousness and memory
 - Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony (Luke 16:25).
- A place for the devil and for wicked people
 - Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels (Matthew 25:41).

Only Two Gates/Roads

- Take Jesus' warning seriously
 - Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it (Matthew 7:13-14).
- There are only two gates, two roads, and two destinations.
 - The wide road is easy—it requires no change of heart and no surrender to Christ—but its end is a separation from everything good, beautiful, and holy.
 - But there is a narrow gate that Jesus opened for us with His own life. It is the path to Heaven, where we will live in the fullness of God's presence and experience the ultimate relational thriving for which we were created.
 - Do not choose the easy road. Choose the narrow road. Choose life. Choose Jesus. Let us walk together toward the gate that leads to eternal life.

SHAPE Training Program

- God calls you to serve Him throughout your life. This is the purpose of the SHAPE Training Program.
- SHAPE is an acronym that helps each Christian discover their unique, God-given purpose and design for ministry. It represents five areas—Spiritual Gifts, Heart, Abilities, Personality, and Experiences—which shape how you are called to serve God and others.
- **When:** June 22-24, 2026
- **Where:** Breath of Heaven, Lusaka, Zambia
- **Facilitator:** HeeKap Lee, Spiritual Coach at Shalom Ministries International

