

A Biblical Tour of Hell

Matthew 25 & Luke 16/ and various other texts

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There are many tourist attractions across the world drawing millions of visitors annually. However, there is one place that no one can visit while still “in the body”...and that place the Bible calls **Hell**. This is a place I’m thankful I can’t even visit to take a tour of! We can’t go there—no one can until after death. So, to know what it is like, we must depend on the Word of God to give us a “verbal tour.”



So man false views of hell today:

- * To many it is just a swear word
- * To others it is just here on earth during this “hellish existence”
- * Some teach annihilation—the suffering is just momentary
- * Hell doesn’t exist—it’s just a “scare tactic” of organized religions
- * Millions believe we have many lifetimes, we have many chances to get it right! Reincarnation is the truth!
- * Yes, there is a hell, but it is not a place of eternal fire and punishment, it is merely a place where you are separated from God.

September 11th, 2001 A sobering quote from one of the surviving firemen: **“It was like looking through the gates of hell.”** I want us to get a vision of hell today, and a burden for lost souls by looking through the gates of hell.

PRAYER

Hell is a Place of...

1. Ungodly Separation

Matthew 25:41- “Depart from me”

Believers can know and experience God’s presence in a real and wonderful way in this life (Psalm 16:11—“**Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.**” John 10:10b—“**I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.**”), and someday in heaven we will be in His physical presence (Revelation 21 and 22), but those in hell will never enjoy Christ’s presence.

Hell will truly be an ungodly place. At the end of the tribulation period and as a show of victory after the Battle of Armageddon, the Antichrist and the False Prophet will be cast into the lake of fire (Revelation 19:20). At the end of the 1,000 reign of Christ, Satan will be released from the bottomless pit for a season. In his final and futile attempt to dethrone Jesus Christ, he will head the last war of human history—the Battle of Gog and Magog. Fire will descend from heaven and defeat all who fight against God. Satan will be cast into the lake of fire (Revelation 20:10).

Heaven will be the place where the saints of God will cry out, “Holy, holy, holy” in honor and worship of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Hell will retain that “unholy trinity” and all the demons. What an ungodly place hell will be!

Hell is a Place of...

2. Unending Duration

Matthew 25:41 “everlasting fire”

Eternal bliss & eternal banishment will both continue as long as God continues! (Psalm 90:2b—“from everlasting to everlasting,

thou art God.” Listen to Revelation 14:11—“And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.”)

FOREVER is an incomprehensible length of time! Years ago I heard an illustration from another evangelist preaching on this same subject of hell. This graphic story requires full use of your imagination.

Imagine there was a “super bird” that was capable of flying to the moon and back without stopping. This bird goes to one of the world’s countless beaches and picks up one grain of sand, flies to the moon and drops it on the surface of the moon. Returning to earth, this amazing bird gets the next grain of sand and starts its second trip to the moon. When this bird has taken the earth’s sand to the moon—one grain at a time—eternity would still be going on!

3. Unquenchable Fire

Matthew 25:41 Mark 9:43-46 & 48 Repeated multiple times! Christ wanted us to “get it!!” 5 times in this passage He emphasizes that hell’s fire will not be quenched.

The fire department in Queens, New York City would come and do an annual inspection of our church. In the mid 80’s, they arrived in a long fire truck. As I kid, I dreamed of riding on a fire truck. Working up the nerve I asked the officer in charge if I could have a short ride. They graciously agreed to my childhood fantasy and took me around several blocks. During the ride, I said to the 3 firefighters seated with me: “Men, we are really doing very similar work – both trying to save people from fire. You are trying to save them from physical fire, I’m trying



to save them from hell's fire. The difference is that you can put out the fires you are called to, but hell's fire cannot be put out."

Hell is a Place of...

4. Unearthly Origins

Matt. 25:41 "prepared for the devil and his angels"

Hell was not prepared originally for mankind, but for Lucifer and his mutinous followers. (Isa.14:12-15) Jude 6 informs us of a portion of the demons being presently chained in hell, while a great portion are roaming planet Earth with Satan. Mankind now goes to hell, because it is the house of their father, the Devil. (John 8:44)

Review of these first four descriptions: Hell is a place of...

- **Ungodly Separation**
- **Unending Duration**
- **Unquenchable Fire**
- **Unearthly Origins**

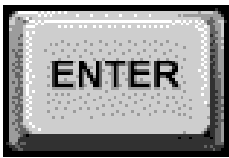
Hell is a Place of...

5. Unavoidable Entrance

Matt. 25:46 "and these shall go away"

The rich man in Luke 16 goes immediately to hell – his riches could not buy him an exemption. (Prov. 11:4- Riches profit not in the day of wrath.) One of America's richest citizens is Bill Gates, the founder of Microsoft. I do not know his spiritual condition (and I want to make that very clear), but for the purpose of illustration, let's imagine that he goes through the entire 7-year tribulation period, and survives all of those horrible judgments. He stands before Christ at the Judgment of the Nations an unsaved man. Christ separates the sheep from the goats—the saved and the

lost. He places the unsaved on His left. Now, Mr. Gates speaks up and offers Christ any amount of money He requires from him to join the group on the left. No rich man who is lost in that day will be able to bribe the Son of God. All men are on two roads, according to Christ's words in Matthew 7:13 and 14, and the gate leading to destruction is wide—there are no barriers. Yes, hell is a place of unavoidable entrance for those who reject Christ.



You don't have to enter into hell—Jesus has provided a way and bids us enter in to the narrow way that leads to eternal life!

6. Unparalleled Torments

Matt. 25:46 “everlasting punishment”

I see 8 torments in hell (beyond it being a place of eternal, unquenchable fire).

5 Torments Found in Luke 16:10-31

- ❖ *There will be unbearable pain v. 23*
- ❖ *There will be unanswered prayers vs. 24 -31*
- ❖ *There will be unsatisfied thirst vs. 24 & 25*
- ❖ *There will be unforgettable memories v. 25*
- ❖ *There will be unsuccessful escapes v. 26*

3 Additional Torments Found In Hell

- ❖ *There will be unpleasant sounds Mt. 13:41-43*
- ❖ *There will be unlighted dungeons Mt. 22:13*
- ❖ *There will be unfulfilled desires Rev.22:11*

The lost will still have their sinful nature with all of its evil desires...but, hell will have no places or activities of evil to fulfill those desires.

I found the following acrostic on the internet:

Hell is—

Horrible beyond all possible description

Eternal beyond all limitations of time

Locked beyond any possibility of escape

Those in hell are—

Lost beyond any possibility of salvation

Hell is a Place of...

7. Unlimited Space

Every description we have given on this Biblical Tour of Hell so far has come from the words of Christ Himself. For this last description of hell, we will go to Isaiah 5:14a: “Therefore hell hath enlarged herself, and opened her mouth without measure:”

Hell is “elastic.” Though there are over 7 billion people alive today, there would be room for all in hell. It would stretch to make room. Isaiah 5:15 – The proud will be humbled through judgment; Isaiah 5:16 – God will be exalted through judgment.

Appeal To Salvation

Another place where there is a GREAT AMOUNT of Room – is at the foot of the Cross. Jesus died & paid for the sins of the whole world (I John 2:2), and our loving, merciful, longsuffering God is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. (II Peter 3:9) The songwriter penned these words, “There’s room at the cross for you. There’s room at the cross for you. Though millions have come, there’s still room for one. Yes, there’s room at the cross for you.”

Unsaved Friend: Come to Christ/You Need Not Perish

Quoting from R.G. Lee - in his sermon, "Calvary":

At Calvary, Satan's armor is removed.
 At Calvary, the fires of the law are extinguished.
 At Calvary, the penal claims of God against us are exhausted.
 At Calvary, every righteous judgment of God is perfectly met.
 At Calvary, our condemnation is lifted.
 At Calvary, the death of sin is made certain. ***
 At Calvary, our death sentence is revoked.
 At Calvary, the serpent's head is bruised.
 At Calvary, the door of heaven is opened.
 At Calvary, the fountain of salvation is unsealed.
 At Calvary, the world is stripped of its charms.
 At Calvary, the bitters of life are sweetened.
 At Calvary, the shadows of death are dispelled.
 At Calvary, the darkness of eternity is irradiated!

**His cross has become the rendezvous
 and universal resort of the chief of sinners.**

Appeal To Evangelism

Saved Friend: Witness for Christ/ Rescue the Perishing

In 100 years of the NYC Fire Department – in all 5 boroughs – 700 firemen have died in the line of duty. 342 died on one day! They were trying their best to rescue the perishing/ they were caring for the dying!

Christian friend: May you see friends, neighbors, relatives, work associates, class mates – stumbling on the brink of woe!! May this tour of hell shake all of us from our apathy, lethargy and disobedience and move us to fervent, compassionate evangelism!!