

# *Eternal Flames*



**Exploring  
The Biblical Revelations Concerning Hell  
“The Doctrine of Eternal Judgment”  
Hebrews 6:2**

**And**

**Discovering  
The Real Nature of Man**

*By Jack W. Langford*

*The following Bible study contains a reservoir of information concerning the different facets of the subject which we commonly call “Hell.” In addition, it explores the true nature of man as taught by Jesus Christ, the Apostle Paul and others. It is organized in such a way, from the beginning of the Hebrew Scriptures through to the end of the book of Revelation, so as to give a sequential and orderly revelation. No doubt this may be a most distasteful subject as it pertains to the eternal destiny of the lost and of our arch-enemy, Satan; nevertheless, the subject matter is abundantly spoken on in the Scriptures and every child of God needs to know and understand its ramifications as an important reality in the conflict between good and evil. The Apostle Paul, as did the Lord Jesus Christ before him, actually includes it as a crucial point in his ministry in this age of grace—“...in the day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my gospel” (Rom. 2:16).*

*This will NOT be a study of what various theologians— whether Protestant or Catholic, philosophers, sociologists, historians, so-called “Church Fathers,” various schools of thought, certain ancient cultures or pseudo-scriptures—have said about Hell. If you are looking for that information, it is not here!*

*This is a Bible study. It concerns itself with a careful examination of the Scriptural revelations on the subject. In other words, this study will go directly to the only source that gives us the actual, factual and original information on the issues. If you are a careful Bible student, and have a real desire for the information, you can read for yourself what God has revealed to us from His Word. I would even hope that you also come to agree with my understanding and explanation of that revelation, even though most of it will speak for itself. For this reason I have gathered and organized a great deal of information from the Bible on the various aspects of the subject. This should enable anyone to make a comprehensive conclusion on the issues. I have tried to ensure the translations of the Scriptures are as accurate as possible. Of foremost importance is to observe the relationship of the gospel of Christ to the subject. In conclusion, we are encouraged to ask for God’s Holy Spirit to guide our hearts in understanding that information—“Open my eyes, that I may behold wonderful things from Thy Law” (Psalm 119:18). Amazing as it may seem, the revelation is comprehensible because God has promised to help us make such a discernment—“There is a spirit in man(kind), and the inspiration of the Almighty gives them understanding” (Job 32:8).*

*This is my prayer and purpose.*

*Jack W. Langford  
September, 2009*

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

**Chapter One—INTRODUCTION** 8

**THERE IS A HELL!**  
**THE BASIC WORDS**  
**THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST**  
*Why Then, Will People Today Go To Hell?*  
*Some People Need Convincing!*  
**“But There Has To Be A Hell!”**

### SECTION ONE: THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES

**Chapter Two—WELCOME TO SHEOL** 18

**TRANSLATIONS**  
*Etymology of the word “Sheol”*  
**SHEOL OF THE BOOK OF JOB**  

1. *The Setting For Job*
2. *Job’s Understanding of the Nature of Man*
3. *Truly, God Opens the Doors on Death*
4. *Job Foresees Ultimate Liberation*
5. *God Alone Knows All About Sheol*
6. *Additional Revelation in Job About Sheol*
7. *“Sheol” and “Abaddon”*

**IN SUMMARY FROM JOB**

**Chapter Three—SHEOL OF THE TORAH** 29  
**(The Five Books of Moses)**

**GENESIS**  
*“Gathered to his people”*  
*“Sheol”*  
*“Fire”*  
**LEVITICUS—The Burnt Sacrifices**  
**Leviticus—“Into The Land of Separation”**  

1. *Explanation*
2. *Procedure—The Two Goats*
3. *Procedure—The Two Lots*
4. *Procedure—The One Sacrifice*
5. *Procedure—The Awful Trek*
6. *Conclusion and Revelation*

**NUMBERS and DEUTERONOMY**

**Chapter Four—SHEOL OF THE PROPHETS** 38

*The “Bringing Back” of Samuel  
King David and his son  
The Book of ISAIAH  
Continuing in the PROPHETS*

**Chapter Five—SHEOL OF THE WRITINGS  
& OTHER DESIGNATIONS** 43

*The Book of PSALMS  
The Book of PROVERBS and SONG of SOLOMON  
Other Important Designations  
“The PIT ” & “The Lower Parts of the Earth”  
EZEKIEL 31 & 32  
Other Related References  
Daniel 12:2  
Isaiah 33:14,15  
Isaiah 66:24*

**Chapter Six—SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION** 50

*Introduction  
SUMMARY OF FACTS ABOUT SHEOL—  
Derived From The Hebrew scriptures  
I Sheol Should Never be Confused with the Grave  
II The Greek Septuagint  
III The Location of Sheol  
IV Descriptive Terms Of A Residence  
V The Occupancy, All that Die—  
VI Live People Went Down to Sheol  
VII Classification of Souls—A. The Righteous  
VIII The Righteous Expected Ultimate Deliverance  
VIV Classification of Souls—B. The Unrighteous  
X Condition of Sheol—Suffering For the Unrighteous  
XI The Occupants Stirred up and Speak  
XII SUMMARY DEFINITION OF SHEOL*

**SECTION TWO: THE GREEK SCRIPTURES**

**Chapter Seven—DEFINITIONS** 58

*IMMORTALITY  
Two Aspects to IMMORTALITY  
A Third Aspect to IMMORTALITY*

<p><b>DEATH</b>  <i>Death, A Cardinal Doctrine</i>  <i>Various Kinds of Death</i>  <i>Six Kinds of Death for the Unregenerate Family</i>  <i>Six Kinds of Death for the Regenerate Family</i>  <i>Conclusion about Life, Death and Immortality</i></p>	
<p><b>Chapter Eight—WHAT IS THE REAL NATURE OF MAN?</b> 67</p> <p><i>Spiritual Physiology</i>  <i>The Body a “House”</i>  <i>The “INSIDE” and “OUTSIDE” Parts of Man</i>  <i>The “INWARD MAN” and “OUTWARD MAN”</i>  <i>The Total Separation of the Two</i>  1. <i>II Corinthians 5:1-9</i>  2. <i>Philippians 1:21-24</i>  3. <i>II Corinthians 12:2-5</i>  4. <i>II Peter 1:13,14 &amp; II Tim. 4:6</i></p>	
<p><b>Chapter Nine—“SOUL” and “SPIRIT”</b> 75</p> <p><i>The Words “SOUL” &amp; “SPIRIT” used of the “Inward Man”</i>  <i>The Sadducees</i>  <i>Further Scriptures—</i>  <i>I Corinthians 5:4,5</i>  <i>I Corinthians 6:19,20</i>  <i>II Corinthians 7:1 &amp; Gal. 6:18</i>  <i>Matthew 10:28</i>  <i>Revelation 6:8-11</i>  <i>Acts 2:25-27 &amp; 31</i>  <i>Distinction between Soul and Spirit</i></p>	
<p><b>Chapter Ten—FURTHER VITAL PROOFS</b> 82</p> <p><i>The Dual Nature of Jesus Christ</i>  <i>The Origin of Man’s Spiritual Nature</i>  <i>The NATURE of the NEW CREATION in Christ</i>  <i>In Summary</i>  <i>“Living” Witnesses</i></p>	
<p><b>Chapter Eleven—HADES</b> 94</p> <p><i>“HADES”</i>  <i>The “Fiery” Ministry of John the Baptist</i>  <i>“Hades” under the Ministry of Jesus Christ</i>  <i>The Rich Man and Lazarus</i>  <i>Objections to this Account Answered</i></p>	

<i>Remaining References to Hades</i>	
<i>Other references Applicable to Hades</i>	
<b>Chapter Twelve—GEHENNA</b>	107
<i>Origin of the Word “GEHENNA”</i>	
<i>Christ Speaks of “Gehenna”</i>	
<i>Other references to the Final Judgment</i>	
<i>“TARTARUS”</i>	
<b>Chapter Thirteen—The Book of REVELATION</b>	114
<i>“In The Spirit On The Lord’s Day”</i>	
<i>Revelation 5:13 “Under The Earth”</i>	
<i>The Souls of Those In Heaven</i>	
<i>“The Bottomless Pit” (Abyss)</i>	
<i>The Meaning of the Word “Abyss”</i>	
<i>Other Uses of Abussos</i>	
<i>The Final Use of Abussos</i>	
<i>Revelation 14:9-11</i>	
<i>“THE LAKE OF FIRE”</i>	
<i>“THE SECOND DEATH”</i>	
<b>Chapter Fourteen—SUMMARY</b>	
<b>and CONCLUDING OBSERVATIONS</b>	124
<i>SUMMARY From The Greek Scriptures</i>	
<b>OBJECTIONS ANSWERED!</b>	
<i>“Is not God a God of love and compassion?”</i>	
<i>“Does not the Bible say ‘The Dead know not anything?’”</i>	
<i>“Eternal punishment is not Eternal punishing!”</i>	
<i>“Eternal, Forever and Everlasting do not mean—</i>	
<i>‘Endless Duration’”</i>	
<b>DEGREES OF PUNISHMENT</b>	

## **TRANSLATIONS USED**

In this study I have used several different translations. That may be frustrating to anyone who is trying to follow the references when one is accustomed to using only one translation in the study of the Scriptures. Please forgive me for this inconvenience. I normally use the New King James Version. However, in my studies I also compare with other translations and with the Greek and Hebrew Interlinears. In this case, on the subject before us, I am making an effort to be as accurate as possible on critical passages and with important words. I want to make sure I get as close as possible, within my ability and resources, to what the Hebrew and Greek texts actually say. Therefore, for your sake and for my sake, I have used some of the various interlinears that are excellent and are available to the layman. Here are the translations and interlinears that I have used in this study—

The New King James Version

The New American Standard Bible (esp. from the Hebrew Scriptures)

The Interlinear Hebrew-English Old Testament, by Kohlenberger

The Interlinear Greek-English New Testament, by Marshall  
(The Nestle Greek Text)

The Interlinear Greek –English New Testament, by Berry  
(The Textus Receptus Greek Text)

And a combination of any of the above

In addition you will note that I sometimes submit further clarification from the popular Hebrew and Greek Lexical works.

## *Chapter One—INTRODUCTION*

### *THERE IS A HELL!*

*“Have the gates of Death been revealed to you?  
Or have you seen the doors of the shadow of Death?”*

Job 38:17

The passage above is actually a rhetorical question that the LORD asked Job. It was in a series of questions designed by God to illustrate the maximum impossibility of Job, or any other human being for that matter, to answer. In man’s quest for seeing into and beyond the “*gates of death*,” mortals are totally dependent upon God for clear revelation.

One of Job’s friends (Zophar) had earlier asked him a somewhat similar question with these words, “*Can you find out the limits of the Almighty? They are higher than the heavens—what can you do? Deeper than Sheol—what can you know?*” (Job 11:8). To Zophar these two extremes illustrate man’s natural inability to even comprehend God. The highest “*Heaven*” on the one hand, and “*Sheol*” (translated “*Hell*” in most English Bibles) on the other, are both realms which are obviously out of sight and completely out of reach of man’s natural capability to explore and know. Interestingly enough, this very comparison is a revelation in itself to alert those who may doubt the reality of Hell or Sheol. No spiritually intelligent person would want to say that “*Heaven*” does not actually exist, that it is not a real place. Obviously Heaven exists! This seems to be one thing all are in agreement on—it is God’s dwelling place. In a similar manner, no spiritually intelligent person should want to say that “*Sheol*” does not actually exist, that it is not a real place. Obviously Hell exists; no matter what the mystery, gloom or horror it holds, there it is and there it stays on the pages of Scripture. “*Heaven*” is not a figure of speech and neither is “*Sheol*” (Hell) a mere figure of speech.

There is another interesting parallel between the two contrasting places. On the one hand we learn that while Heaven is God’s own dwelling place and the dwelling place of innumerable holy angels, yet we discover in the Scriptures that evil angelic spirits are also temporarily in Heaven (see Job 1:6-12 as an example). In the process of time we shall learn that the evil angelic beings will be expelled from Heaven (Rev. 12:7-9). That is interesting because in a similar manner we shall see that Hell or Sheol was the residence of the spirits of the dead, primarily the lost. Yet the Scriptures also reveal that like heaven being the temporary residence of evil angelic beings, so Hell was also the temporary residence of the spirits of the righteous dead. However, in the process of time (at Christ’s resurrection and ascension) the righteous were taken out of Sheol.

About one millennium after Job, Solomon, by inspiration, affirmed that God alone knows all the answers about “*Sheol*.” Solomon said, “*Sheol and destruction (Abaddon) are (open) before Jehovah; how much more the hearts of the children of men*” (Prov. 15:11). In other words, God, Who alone knows all about *Sheol* like an open book and will reveal many things about it, likewise has no problem seeing into the hearts of men. This comparison on Solomon’s part raises some important and interesting questions.

Everyone can see and interpret the outward expressions made by men in the physical realm. Those outward expressions are supposed to show us a person's attitude. That seems to be quite simple. However, often these physical expressions and words may be hypocritical and beguiling to those looking on. Yet there is another realm to man and that part of man is *inward* and out of sight to others. It is known only by the man himself and to God Who looks upon the inward heart. The reality of man's heart is no secret to God. The inward heart of man is an intricate maze of complexities all falling within the perimeter of spiritual realities and dimensions. This comparison that Solomon made would indicate to us that Sheol, likewise, is filled with spiritual realities and dimensions that are out of sight to mankind. God alone can know and reveal them to us.

This comparison between Heaven and Hell (or Sheol) is made at least three times in the Hebrew Scriptures. This should ratify the fact that Sheol is a positive reality according to the Thrice-Holy God.

*"...Higher than the heavens—what can you do? Deeper than Sheol—  
What can you know?"* (Job 11:8).

*"If I ascend into Heaven, You (God) are there;  
If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, You are there"* (Psalm 139:8).

*"Though they dig into Sheol, from there My hand will take them; though  
they climb up to Heaven, from there I will bring them down"* (Amos 9:2).

There we have it! If we believe in Heaven, we must also believe in Hell (Sheol). The Scriptures make it very plain that Sheol is an ultimate place—the opposite of Heaven. As was indicated in the book of Job, no man can discover Heaven, not even by going into outer space. Right now, in our modern age, men have gone only as far as the moon. In light of the actual size of the universe, man's going to the moon has not even scratched the surface in getting to Heaven. Of course man cannot "*climb into Heaven.*" Not even our largest and most powerful telescopes can discern any evidences of Heaven. Heaven is in the spiritual realm. It is God's dwelling place. Likewise, no one can possibly "*dig into Sheol*" as suggested above. Any hole we would make on the earth would be but a pinprick to the thought of man's descent into the deep "*heart of the earth*" (Matt. 12:40). The molten bowels of the earth take it totally out of man's ability to explore. Like Heaven, Hell is in the spiritual realm. It has spirit occupants. It is nonmaterial. Both regions are therefore "Off Limits" to mankind with his present limitations. We are totally dependent upon God's revelation for all our information.

Now we know that God's Word reveals a lot about Heaven. However, most of it is totally beyond our limited capacity to understand and appreciate at this time. Likewise we must totally depend upon God to reveal anything regarding the nature and reality of Sheol, commonly called "Hell" in the English Bibles.

These two zones that are "Off Limits" to man are not "Off Limits" to God. As Heaven is a *Place*—so Hell is a *Place*. As Heaven has *occupants*—so Hell has *occupants*. As Heaven is occupied by myriads of *spirit intelligences*—so we shall find that Hell is occupied by myriads of *spirit intelligences*. As we can read of *conversations and interaction* in Heaven—so we will read of *conversations and interactions* in Hell!

This will NOT be a study of what theologians, philosophers, sociologists, historians, so-called “Church Fathers,” various schools of thought, or pseudo-scriptures have said about Hell. If you are looking for that information, you will not find it here!

This is a BIBLE STUDY of what the BIBLE reveals about the subject. In other words, this is a study that will go right to the only source that gives to us the actual original information from God about the subject. You will be able to read for yourself the actual information and ask for God’s Holy Spirit to guide your heart in understanding it. In this study I have gathered enough Biblical information on the subject to make a fairly comprehensive conclusion about Hell. Amazing as it may seem, God has actually promised to help us make such a discernment—“There is a *spirit* in man, and the *inspiration* of the Almighty gives him understanding” (Job 32:8).

This is my prayer and purpose. The admonition from the apostle Paul to the young Thessalonian assembly is always apropos—“Test (or prove) all things; hold fast what is good” (I Thess. 5:21).

### ***THE BASIC WORDS***

“**Hell**” is an English word that is found many times in our English Bibles. Our English dictionaries say that the word is derived from the old Middle English *helan*, which originally simply meant “*to cover or conceal*.” Some dictionaries will further point out that *Hell* is the word used to translate the Greek word “*Hades*” which was used in the Greek translation of the Hebrew Scriptures and of the New Testament. As a result of the Greek Old and New Testaments, *Hell*, as commonly used today in the English world, has reference to the underworld abode of the spirits of the dead and is a place of punishment by fire for the wicked after death. This is the most popular understanding of *Hell* in the Judao-Christian religions (and also in the religion of Islam).

“**Hades**” is the Greek word that originally had virtually the same meaning as the original English word *helan*. “Hades” originally simply meant “*hidden or out of sight*.” However, like in the English world concerning the evolution of the meaning of *Hell*, so it was also true in the Grecian world even long before the time of Christ; they also came to think of—and commonly spoke of *Hades* as the abode of the disembodied spirits of the dead. Therefore, this definition of *Hades* had become a native idea in their culture long before Christianity and was not derived from the Greek New Testament. As I said before, some dictionaries will point out that *Hell* in our English Bibles is the translation of, and the equivalent of, the Greek word *Hades*. Thus the English word *Hell*, both by its basic meaning and its theological content, became a good translation of the Greek word *Hades*.

Some who deny the traditional teachings in Christianity about Hell have tried to say that some early “Church” leaders merely borrowed the pagan Greek philosopher’s ideas about the soul of man and Hades and brought it over into Christianity. This is really a blatant falsehood. That certain early so-called “Church Fathers” borrowed pagan ideas and brought them over into Christianity, no one doubts. That the Grecian ideas about Hades or the soul of man were some of them has no evidence whatsoever to back it up.

The fact is, Christianity produced the Greek Scriptures and sometimes used *Hades* to describe the abode of disembodied spirits after death. They did this for several reasons.

First of all, the Jewish translators of the Hebrew Scriptures into Greek had *already* translated the Hebrew *Sheol* by the Greek word **Hades**. They believed the words basically carried the same meaning. Secondly, the Christian (most of them Jewish) writers of the Greek New Testament understood the *similarities* between *Sheol* of the Hebrew world and *Hades* of the Greek world. Since the Greek translation of the Hebrew Scriptures already employed the use of *Hades*, and since that was already a similar understanding which the Greek world had about *Hades*, the inspired writers of the New Testament used it. Of course, *Hades* in the Greek translation of the Hebrew Scriptures and in the Greek New Testament must be understood in the light of its usage in those Scriptures and not by any pagan extremes or distortions.

The fact that the Grecian world already believed that Hades was the realm of disembodied spirits of the dead, and since that is the inherent meaning of the Greek word as used in the New Testament, is a hard pill for those disenchanted with that meaning to swallow. In fact, one lexicographer (Bullinger, *A Critical Lexicon and Concordance To The English and Greek New Testament*, page 367), openly bemoaned the fact that the writers of the Greek New Testament used what he called a “heathen” word (Hades), which “was surrounded with heathen traditions,” and was already loaded with meaning which he did not believe was inspired of God (he did not believe in the traditional view of Hell). Of course, if the New Testament writers did this, then they certainly were not inspired by the Holy Spirit in their choice of words. I think most Christians believe that those writers of the New Testament Scriptures were indeed led of the Holy Spirit in their choice of words—including *Hades*. Therefore men who believe like Bullinger on this subject must remain with their enigma.

Of course, this was not the only Greek word the writers of the “New Testament” used, but it was an important one. We shall see later, among many other descriptions, they also used the word *gehenna* for a final aspect of Hell and once the word *tartarus*.

“**Sheol**”— As *Hell* is the English translation of the Greek word *Hades*, so it is that *Hades* is the Greek translation of the Hebrew word *Sheol*. (I will actually give an extensive definition and explanation of this word a little later.) Even before Christianity came upon the scene, the Hebrew Scriptures had been translated into the Greek language which was the international language of the time. For several hundred years before Christ, many of the Jewish peoples had been scattered throughout the world and didn’t even speak the Hebrew language any longer. Once the Hebrew Scriptures were translated into Greek, the Jews of the dispersion could read the Scriptures in the Greek language. This was done approximately 200 years before Christ. In addition, many Gentile peoples in the Grecian and Roman world wanted to hear the beauty of the Hebrew prophets in the language they could understand. This was called the Septuagint translation (LXX). In that translation the Greek word *Hades* became the consistent rendering of the Hebrew word *Sheol*. In other words, the Hebrew translators recognized the Greek word *Hades* as the equivalent in meaning of the Hebrew word *Sheol* which was often used in the Hebrew Scriptures to describe the abode of the spirits of the dead in past ages. This is not the only description used in the Hebrew Scriptures for this state of being, but it is certainly the most important one.

Herein we have the derivation of several of the most important words on the subject—**Sheol**, Hebrew; **Hades**, Greek; and **Hell**, English. The final form of Hell is from

the Greek word *Gehenna*. Some would prefer to only classify Gehenna as Hell. In this Bible study I will say that *Gehenna* is the final form of Hell. I will give attention and explanation of that word and its equivalent description when we come to the revelation from the Greek Scriptures.

In the Bible itself, the subject of *Hell* is most often associated in context with the themes of death, destruction, wrath, judgment, punishment, eternal condemnation and, as we shall see, is sometimes associated with and described as a suffering in flames of fire.

Because of the extremely sensitive nature of this subject you can well believe that there are many objections to it and/or different versions of it. Atheists, rationalists and humanists rail against Hell as a base superstition of a barbaric *god* who sadistically enjoys torturing people forever. Sad to say, certain “Christian” groups believe the same thing. Efforts have been made by certain religious liberal and cultic groups to eliminate it altogether. Some other professed orthodox believers have attempted to make certain qualifications of it, or have re-interpreted the subject to fit what they believe would be a more satisfactory balance of justice by a loving and gracious God. In addition to “The Traditional View,” there have come to be what is called “The Conditional View” and “The Metaphorical View” and other combinations. In this Bible study I want to do everything in my power to discover and ascertain “The Biblical View.”

In addition, there are other subjects which are interrelated to the subject of Hell. What is the nature or full composition of man? When God created man, did He merely animate a pile of dust? Does man possess a spiritual nature that consciously exists after death, apart from the body? What is “immortality”? What exactly is the nature of death itself? Does it mean “annihilation” or “cessation of being” altogether? What exactly do the words “eternal” or “everlasting” mean? Can God be justified in sending people to Hell? And last, but not least, how does the gospel of Christ relate to the subject of Hell?

And this issue of the *gospel*, I think, is more important than most students of the subject realize. Therefore, we will begin our study with—

### ***THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST***

Make no mistake about it; the Bible reveals—there is a Hell! And today the only occupants of Hell are the lost or unsaved. But equally clear is the remarkable revelation that *no one will go to Hell directly because of his sins!* In the body of the revelation of Scripture is the gospel of Jesus Christ the Lord. That gospel tells us that Jesus Christ intervened on man’s behalf and **paid the direct penalty** for all the sins of the entire world for all ages (John 1:29 & I John 2:2). Yes, indeed, Christ actually took the sinner’s place! On Him was placed all the guilt and penalty of sin (Isa. 53:6). In fact, “He became sin for us, Who knew no sin, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him” (II Cor. 5:14-21). Yes, the Bible reveals that Jesus Christ was “cursed” by God as our substitute, that we might not be “damned” (Gal. 3:13 and John 3:16,17).

On the singular most climactic day of each year on Israel’s liturgical calendar, called the great Day of Atonement, the “scapegoat” had all the sins of Israel placed upon it, and was led out bearing those sins into the wilderness of abandonment (see Lev. 16).

Israel thereby received ritual “atonement” for another year. So it is, the Scriptures reveal that “*once at the climax of the ages*” (Heb. 9:26) the antitypical scapegoat, Jesus Christ, had placed upon Himself all the sins of mankind, and He bore them out into that wilderness of abandonment in Hell, cursed and forsaken by God. Thus, the Eternal, Divine Son suffered the equivalent of a universal death in the sinners’ place for all mankind. The wrath of God poured over His soul (Matt. 27:46; Ps. 42:7 & 88:6) until the just punishment against sin was satisfied in the court of Heaven. Through the sacrifice of Christ, God was both “*just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus*” (Rom. 3:26). God’s justice against sin was manifest in the person of our substitute Who suffered in our place. For all who put their faith and trust in this sacrifice of Jesus Christ on their behalf are consequently exempt from the guilt and penalty of sin and are thereby said to be “justified,” and “shall not come into condemnation” (John 5:24).

This is the everlasting gospel. It was foreshadowed for four thousand years of human history through the animal sacrifices practiced by nearly every nation and society on the face of the earth. The grace and merciful kindness of God was likewise seen in the testimony of creation and also in the inner consciousness of mankind. Christ is thus “the light that enlightens every man who comes into the world” (John 1:9). Thus, the Creator of heaven and earth, Who chose to allow sin to enter into the world in the first place, also chose to take total responsibility for sin in paying the direct penalty for it Himself, through the agency of His “only begotten Son,” the antitypical “Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the world” (John 1:29). So, I say again, amazing as it may seem, no one is going to go to Hell directly because of his sins—Christ was God-forsaken, damned and paid the penalty for sin as the sinners’ substitute. This is the revelation of the Gospel.

### ***Why Then, Will People Today Go To Hell??***

Notably, there was one sin that Christ did not die for; that is the sin of unbelief and rejection of God’s merciful kindness—no matter how that grace has been revealed to him—whether by the Scriptures, creation or conscience. Even the Scriptures reveal that God’s merciful kindness has been available to all ages and societies (Romans 10:18 & Psalm 19:1-4). And now my friend, if anyone goes to Hell it is only because he chooses to “receive not the love of the truth” (II Thess. 2:10). No one goes to Hell accidentally! No one goes to Hell inadvertently! No one goes to Hell except by choice! The revelation of God’s will that “none should perish” (II Pet.3:9) is abundant throughout all history and time. In addition to the revelation of the Hebrew and Greek Scriptures, the mercy of God on the sinners’ behalf is also revealed in the very consciousness of every soul (Rom. 2:14,15). As said before, Christ “is the light that enlightens every man who comes into the world” (John 1:9). The character and grace of God is likewise revealed in all the physical creation (Ps. 33:18 and Rom. 1:19-22). So, it is a fact that no one goes to Hell by chance—but by choice. “This is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, but men loved darkness rather than light” (John 3:19).

Consequently, in the gospel of Jesus Christ not only can the sinner be “justified” in the sense of being “made right” (salvation), but God is also “justified” in the sense of being “declared right” (I Tim. 3:16; Rom. 1:16; 3:4 & Luke7:29) in all His counsels and provisions of destiny for mankind. In reality, therefore, no one goes to Hell except by choice—the conscious choice to reject the goodness and mercy of God’s provision.

### *Some People Need Convincing!*

Many people in the world, and in this country in particular, don't even think they are sinners. Yet we realize that right here in this great civilized, so-called "Christian" nation, the United States of America, there has been the veritable blood bath of over 45 million unborn infants aborted in the last 35 years. The womb of the mother, instead of being the God-ordained *chamber of life*, has become instead the *chamber of death*. This holocaust comes because of a blinding selfishness and is the inevitable result of a hedonistic society which has capitalized on the pleasures of the sexual act, while evading the God-ordained responsibility of the life or new creation, which comes as the result of that act. Thus the *act of pro-creation*, in our enlightened, pleasurable society, has become for many the *act of pro-abortion*. Do you really think America will not have to answer for this perverse wickedness? Do you really think the Scriptures warn in vain—"Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that shall he also reap" (Gal. 6:7)?

Germany was one of the, if not the most, educated, enlightened nations on the face of the earth in the 1930s and 40s; nevertheless, it experienced a veritable baptism of fire upon most of its fine cities by the end of World War II. Historians have recorded the consciousness of thousands of Germany's citizens who instinctively recognized that this "fiery hell" they were experiencing was the equitable consequence of their merciless destruction of six million Jews. Do we, here in this United States, really think that since our abortions were carried out under the guise of "pro-choice," with clinical sanctity and silence, that we have evaded the judgment from God because of this? Is this stupidity not the ungodly result of a prosperous nation which, instead of being "thankful" (Rom. 1:21,22), became ungrateful and hedonistic? Millenniums ago God spoke by the prophet saying, "*This was the iniquity of Sodom: pride, fullness of bread and abundance of idleness*" (Ezek. 16:49). And I might add that such perversions as were in Sodom and Gomorrah are in this country also reaching the magnitude of judgment.

Yet by God's matchless grace and overruling providence, the atonement of every single one of those aborted babies has been secured by the virtue of Christ's substitutionary sacrifice, which none of those infants could ever have rejected. Likewise, all the infants of Sodom are safe from the eternal condemnation of Hell. Yet, the very liberal, modern propagandizers who perpetuate this perverted, philosophical "*freedom of choice*"—this wicked crime of hypocritical clinical murder—will go to the destiny of their "*free choice*" as well; for to consciously reject the gospel of Christ and "choose" the violation of God's law is, indeed, to "freely choose" eternal damnation. To choose the destruction of *another*, is potentially to choose *your own*. When men reject the payment Christ made for their sins and choose to abide in their sins, they will die "*in their sins*" and suffer the consequence of their rejection according to the magnitude of their sins.

At the conclusion of the second world war, an investigator stood outside one concentration camp through which he had taken a tour. He happened to be an atheist. He shook his head as if to rid himself of the horrible, unbelievable and unbearable sights he had seen and smelled. He had seen firsthand the utter depravity of man—the vile depths of man's inhumanity to man—by the most educated, enlightened nation on earth, at this apex of human history. Then he was overheard to say, "there may not be a heaven—

**—But there has to be a Hell!**

This expression represented the instinctive inclination in man to demand a just retribution for those responsible for such wickedness. Indeed, the very combatants in the Second World War realized that such retribution was forthcoming. Even before the war was over, proclamation was issued by the victorious forces that justice would be brought to those responsible for the atrocities that were being discovered.

Actually one shall find that our modern civilization's own judicial system is patterned after the judgment of Hell as revealed in the Bible. Some people may be shocked to realize this; nevertheless, it is true. Normally when one in our society, who has committed a heinous crime, is caught by the police he is placed in a *temporary* jail or prison. He normally remains in very undesirable and sometimes very unpleasant conditions until such time as his trial. At the conclusion of his judgment his final sentencing is made. Then *permanent disposition* in prison is assessed and assigned based on the magnitude of his crime. He will be isolated from society, of course, out of socio-cultural necessity.

So it is in the Biblical descriptions concerning Hell. There is, first of all, the "*prison house*" for the disembodied spirits of mankind after physical death. In the Hebrew Scriptures this is most often called "*Sheol*." In the Greek Scriptures it is called "*Hades*." Up until the glorious resurrection of Christ from Hades and death, there was also a section of Sheol or Hades which was the holding place for the souls of the righteous. However, they remained in quiet and comfort. At Christ's ascension, they were taken by Him and transferred to heaven. All the rest of mankind remains in Hades or Hell and more are gathered there everyday until the final judgment. At the "*Great White Throne Judgment*" the Bible reveals the final sentencing will be made. Then righteous judgment will be made so that the lost will only suffer according to their iniquity—some more, some less. But all will be cast into the final and "*eternal*" Hell called "*Gehenna—the Lake of Fire*."

As I said before, no one could do away with the reality of Hell any more than he could do away with the reality of Heaven. Now I will also say, one could no more do away with the reality of Hell than he could do away with the reality of civilization's necessary execution of judgment and the establishment of prisons of confinement for the law breakers who are, then and thereby of necessity, segregated outside law-abiding society. Only thus can society be preserved. Without the necessary proper judgment and confinement, society ends up with total lack of fear and respect, and the inevitable total defilement, barbarity and ultimate catastrophe would occur. Just think what would happen if we resurrected all the world's devil-inspired conquerors, like Adolph Hitler, Joseph Stalin, Mao Tse-Tung, etc., and then emptied all the prisons all over the world, and said to all the liberated ones, "enjoy yourselves." I think most of us would want a transfer to Mars, if that were possible. In like manner, think of this universe if evil were not thus segregated.

To me, one of the most amazing things revealed in the Bible about the ultimate Hell is that though evil is totally segregated out of the New Heavens and Earth, yet *evil does not stop*—for it is said, "*He who is unjust, let him be unjust still; he who is filthy, let*

*him be filthy still...outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whosoever loves and practices a lie*" (Rev. 22:11, 15). Like most men in prison, their evil dispositions may not be changed, but nevertheless, they are confined with their own society. Yes, the final Hell will not be a purifying place, but instead the continuation of all that is ungodly and unholy in confinement and judgment. Yes, those who have rejected the Lord Jesus Christ, and/or the revelation of God's merciful kindness, have indeed the association of their choice. Of course, without Jesus Christ it is, most certainly, not the paradise of their delusion, rather the opposite.

-----

One atheistic evolutionist "summarized" his philosophy of life, based upon his evolutionary views, this way—"There are no gods, no purposes, and no goal-directed forces of any kind. There is no life after death. When I die, I am absolutely certain that I am going to be dead. That is the end of me. There is no ultimate foundation for ethics, no ultimate meaning to life, and no free will for humans, either. What an intelligent idea." (Evolutionary biologist William Provine of Cornell University—*Origins Research* 16(1):9, 1994, by W. B. Provine.)

What a surprise Dr. Provine is going to have! It is not only a stupid unreality in this life, but most certainly for the next. The "intelligent idea" he has come to embrace is actually a modern day dope or drug, which brings him into a stupor as to the realities of what life and death actually are. The purpose of this Biblical study is to look upon things Provine cannot see through his laboratory microscope or through his philosophically tinted glasses.

However, you would be surprised at how many cults (the so-called "Jehovah Witnesses," the "Seventh Day Adventists," the "World Wide Church of God," "Christadelphians," etc.) and how many supposedly orthodox "Christian preachers" are now advocating this view of death—that death simply means cessation of being, the very end of it all—the opposite of life. Consequently, these loving, sweet, tender preachers are happy to tell us there is no real penalty for rejecting God's grace, other than death itself, which, by the way, is the common end of everybody.

My friend, if this view of death were true then I, too, would reject any notion of God, or any notion of an ultimate purpose to life, or any notion of consequence for disobedience. At least the atheistic evolutionist is consistent!

-----

Yes, there is a "Hell." The Bible exposes its inner domain. In the Scriptures we are told of its location, contents, torments and final stage. The reader of the Scriptures will even be allowed to hear conversations by its occupants. We shall also see that the most loving person on the face of the earth, Christ Jesus the Lord, talked about it and warned of the consequences of rejecting the offer of God's forgiveness and cleansing more than any other character in the pages of Scripture.

"Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?"  
Genesis 18:25

“O God, Thou God of the *spirits* of all flesh...”  
Numbers 16:22; & 27:16

“Behold, You desire *truth* in the *inward parts*,  
and in the *hidden part* You will make me to know *wisdom*.”  
Psalm 51:6

**Are You Ready To Take a Tour—  
Of the Biblical Revelation?**