

Hot Questions about Hell

Pastor Peter Haas

Technical Terms: (Here are a few of the common Greek words for Hell as well as scholastic interpretations of these words.)

Hades *n.* (Hay'-dees) The current temporary jail for souls until judgement day. The Greek New Testament equivalent of 'Hebrew' word *Sheol*.

Gehenna *n.* (Gay-hen'-a) the future location of souls after they are united with the body and judged on Judgement Day. a.k.a. the Lake of Fire

Tartarus *n.* (Tar-tar'-us) a specific place in hell reserved for angels (2 Peter 2:4). In Greek mythology it is the lowest part of hell.

Here are the criteria upon which the vast majority of theologians agree:

1. Hell is Eternal:

Hebrews 6:12 ¹ Therefore let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God...and **eternal judgment**. (NIV)

Matthew 25:46 ⁴⁶ "Then [on day of judgement] the [cursed] will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life." (NIV)

2 Thessalonians 1:8-9 ⁸ He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. ⁹ They will be punished with **everlasting destruction** and shut out from the presence of the Lord..."

Jude :13 They [men w/a false gospel] are wild waves of the sea, foaming up their shame; wandering stars, for whom **blackest darkness** has been reserved **forever**.

Jude :6-7 "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.

Revelation 14:10-11 He will be tormented with burning sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb. ¹¹ **And the smoke of their torment rises for ever and ever**. There is no rest day or night for those who worship the beast and his image, or for anyone who receives the mark of his name." (NIV)

Dan. 12:2-3 "Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake . . . others to shame and **everlasting contempt**"

2. People in Hell will be fully Conscious

Mark 9:47-48 And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell, ⁴⁸ where "their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched." (Note) Many Lexicographers render the word "Worm" as meaning "Memory"

Lk. 16:22-28 Rich Man and Lazerus:

Rev. 14:9-11 ¹¹ And the smoke of their torment rises for ever and ever. **There is no rest day or night** for those who worship the beast and his image, or for anyone who receives the mark of his name." (NIV)

Dan. 12:2-3 "Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth shall "awake"...some to shame & everlasting contempt.

3. There will be varying degrees of punishment:

Ro. 2:5 "...but b/c of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God's wrath, when his righteous judgement will be revealed.

2 Pet.2:4 ...Tartarus...deepest hell:...**2:13** " They will be paid back with harm for the harm they have done."

Dan12:2 Talks of the Resurrection of Dead to differing degrees of reward or punishment.

Luke 12:47-48 "That servant who knows his master's will and does not get ready or does not do what his master wants will be beaten with many blows. ⁴⁸ But the one who does not know and does things deserving punishment will be beaten with few blows."

Mt. 19:30 ...note how this verse indicates a clear ranking: not merely for the good but also for the bad. The following verse doesn't directly relate to hell, but shows that there will be a distinct difference in punishment and experience meted out at the day of judgement:

Matthew 11:22-24 22 But I tell you, it will be more bearable for Tyre and Sidon on the day of judgment than for you. 23 And you, Capernaum, will you be lifted up to the skies? No, you will go down to the depths. If the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Sodom, it would have remained to this day. 24 But I tell you that it will be more bearable for Sodom on the day of judgment than for you.”