

Is Hell Real

Luke 12:5

1. Is Hell Real? . . . Is it Really Real?

Luke 12:5 – “But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear Him who, after He has killed, has power to cast into hell; yes, I say to you, fear Him!” People across the world are asking, “Is hell real?” Can there really be a physical location of burning torment and punishment that is spoken of in the Bible? 69% of people disagree with Him. Only three in ten adults (**31%**) see hell as an actual location: “a place of physical torment where people may be sent.” This lesson will serve to answer common questions about hell and its existence. The Bible is the authoritative basis for the doctrine of hell. No less than 32 times is it mentioned by its four-letter spelling in the Bible.

2. Why Was Hell Created?

The question of why hell exists has perplexed many people through the ages. Countless have asked, “**If God is so good, why would He create a place like hell?**” This is similar to asking, “**If our government is so good, why would it create prisons?**” The answer seems simple enough - places like hell and prisons exist because some people will choose to do the wrong thing, and because of that, they need to be punished. It is fairly easy to understand how this reasoning applies to the existence of prisons, but does it

really pertain to hell as well?

In the Biblical Creation account found in the book of Genesis, no mention is made of a place called hell. Everything that God made during the time of Creation was good. However, the Bible tells us in **Matthew 25:41** that hell was prepared for "the devil and his angels" (see also Isaiah 14:12). God did not create hell for man; it was never His initial intention that any man or woman should go to hell. In **2 Peter 3:9**, we learn that God does not want "anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance."

What is hell? Hell is a real place. We know this from many verses in the Bible, several of them spoken by Jesus, Himself; and we know that the wicked and unrighteous will go there when they die. So once again, we are back to the main point that God is good, and life in hell is terrible, so why would God create such a place? Even though hell was initially created to hold Satan and the angels that fell with him, there will also be men and women in hell.

3. Why Will Anyone Go to Hell?

Hell is a place of eternal separation from God, and people go there when they die because they chose to separate themselves from God while living on earth. God created us with the free will to make our own choices, and separating ourselves from God is one of the choices we are free to make. Our free will is a

wonderful gift from God in that He does not force us to love Him or to follow Him. Without our free will, we would be nothing but puppets or robots.

While God desires that everyone would choose to love Him, some people will choose not to. These people will die in their sins and be separated from God forever in hell. Many would say that this is unfair, and that a loving God would never set up a system such as this; however, it is precisely God's love for us, and the fact that He is perfectly just, that tells us why hell exists, and why men and women will choose to go there. God loves us so much that He respects our freedom of choice. If we choose not to love Him, then why would He want to force us to live with Him eternally in Heaven?

4. Is Hell Punishment For The Wicked?

The question, "Is hell real?" is answered "no" by a lot of people. These people would like to believe that when we die, we don't go to a heaven or a hell, we simply cease to exist. However, wouldn't a God who sends us into nonexistence at death be just as "cruel" as one who allows us to freely choose our own destiny, which could be hell? Even atheist Friedrich Nietzsche said that he would rather choose eternally conscious suffering than nonexistence.

God's perfect justice also demands that there be a hell to punish the unrepentant and wicked among us. As

Walter Martin said about the existence of hell and eternal punishment in his book, *The Kingdom of the Cults*, "They make much to-do about God being Love but forget that because He is Love, He is also Justice and must require infinite vengeance upon anyone who treads underfoot the precious blood of Christ, who is the Lamb slain for lost sinners from the foundation of the world."

What kind of a loving God would He be if the wicked were never punished? Why would He have sent His Son to die for our sins, if we could reject that redemption and not eventually pay the price? What incentive would we have to do good and love God if we knew we could reject His Son and choose to do evil all of our lives and never be punished? We would not want this lack of justice in the streets of our cities and towns, so why do we expect God to mete it out in the overall universe?

5. Is Anyone Forced To Go Hell?

No . . . Absolutely Not! Hell is real, and God does not want anyone to go there. It is His *desire* that we all join Him in heaven. However, God cannot *allow* everyone into heaven. Heaven is a perfect place, and God is a perfect God, and un-cleansed sinners cannot live in His presence. In His infinite love for us, God designed the perfect plan of redemption in that He, as a perfect and holy God, came to earth as a man, Jesus Christ, and He died as a covering for our sins. If we choose Jesus Christ as our covering, we can enter Heaven. On the

other hand, if we chose not to obey the Gospel of Christ, remember that God has a place of separation from Him where sinners can go . . . That place is hell.

God loves us . . . And He has given us many gifts. By far, the two most important gifts He has given us are free will and salvation through His Son, Jesus Christ. He gave us the free will to choose to love Him and to choose not to sin, and then He gave us His Son to redeem us when we made the wrong choice. If we choose not to love God, and we also reject His Son, who was sent to redeem us from the wrong choice, what else can God do? In His infinite love and justice, He must allow us the freedom to make and stick by those choices, and the consequence of those choices is eternal separation from Him in hell. **Revelation 20:15** says, "If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire."

No one has to go to hell. God has provided us with a guaranteed plan for staying out of hell - redemption through His Son, Jesus Christ. All we have to do is follow that plan, and nothing can separate us from Him.

6. What Will Hell Be Like? . . . The Doctrine of Hell

If hell is real, then what will it be like for those who go there? Several times in the Bible Jesus speaks of the reality of hell and its outer darkness. He describes it as a pit of fire. He also said that in hell there will be wailing, weeping, and gnashing of teeth. Matthew 8:12 says, "But the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into outer

darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." The Book of Revelation describes hell as a lake of fire burning with brimstone.

At the end of this age, the devil himself will be thrown into hell to receive punishment. Revelation 20:10 says that the torment will go on day and night forever and ever.

7. Concerning Hell . . . What Is Your Answer?

Every person on earth must consider the question, "Is there a hell?" It is an essential question to your life! Are you prepared to answer it? If so, do you believe in a literal hell where God sends those who do not accept His free gift of salvation? Have you accepted that great gift God is offering you, sparing you from an eternity in hell? God desires that you spend eternity with Him in heaven!

We have asked seven questions:

1. Is Hell Real
2. Why was Hell Created?
3. Why Will Anyone Go to Hell?
4. Is Hell Punishment for the Wicked?
5. Is Anyone Forced to God to Hell?
6. What Will Hell Be Like?
7. What is YOUR Answer? . . . The only one I cannot answer for you.

God's Plan for Man's Salvation