Myth of Hell

Summary

The King James word “Hell” hides three different Greek words with three very different meanings — and untangling them changes the entire picture of what happens to the wicked.

- Three conflated terms: Hades (the grave), Tartaroos (restraint for fallen angels, not humans), Gehenna (a future literal place of destruction).
- The case for annihilation (“the second death”) over conscious eternal torment.
- The parable of Lazarus and the Rich Man reread as two men simply dead, awaiting two separate future resurrections.
- The traditional “eternal torment” doctrine traced to Roman Catholic-influenced translation choices.

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Myth of Hell

Three Greek words have been erroneously translated in the King James version of the Bible *(and most others)*, into the one word "HELL". In the NFRV, we have corrected this.

1. "**HADES**" - used in the original Greek eleven times in the entire Bible, is the equivalent to the Old Covenant word "SHEOL", meaning "grave or pit", and may be "likened to a hole in the ground". The eleven times it is used in the Bible by the English translation of "Hell", it has nothing to do with fire.

2. "**TARTAROOS**" - is used only once in Scripture in 2 Peter 2:4, "For if Yahweh spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to Hell *(Tartaroos)*, and delivered them into chains of darkness to be reserved unto judgement..." Following their rebellion to unseat Yahweh, or to "rise up as the most high", *(Isa. 14:12, Rev. 12:4)*, Satan and his one third of the fallen angels were ejected from heaven *(Luke 10:18)* and cast down to Tartaroos, a place or condition of restraint. This Tartaroos, or English translation "Hell", is reserved only for evil, rebellious angels or demons. Nowhere in the Bible is there any mention of "men" being put there.

3. "**GEHENNA**" - is the original Greek word used in the Bible every time reference is made to the "everlasting or ever-burning inferno", by the same English word, "Hell". This word "Gehenna" is a Greek translation of the Hebrew "GAI HINNOM", meaning "valley of Hinnom". Hinnom is a deep, narrow ravine located at the southwest of Jerusalem. In Yah'shua's time, this "place", became the cesspool, or city dump of Jerusalem - a repository for sewage, refuse, bodies of dead animals and despised criminals, all of which were burned there along with the rubbish.

Revelation 19:20 says, "...and the beast was taken and with him the false prophet...that these might be cast into a lake of fire burning with brimstone". This refers to a TEMPORARY "Hell", as set out in Isa. 30:33, "For Tophet *[in the valley of Hinnom]* is ordained of old, yea, for the King it is prepared, He hath made it deep and large, the pile thereof is fire and wood and the breath of Yahweh, like a stream of brimstone, doth kindle it". This "Hell" is yet to be created by Yahweh, in the valley of Hinnom at the Messiah's Second Coming.

One thousand years later, Satan will be cast into this "rekindled" fiery lake where the Beast and False Prophet were cast -Rev. 20:10. In the sequence of Rev. 20:10-15, the wicked *(men)* are resurrected to be thrown into this same lake of fire, AFTER Satan has been cast there. *(Read it yourself.)* The Bible says nothing of these people suffering in flames for eternity - it DOES say that they will be burned up, destroyed, consumed as set out in several places: "For, behold, the DAY COMETH that shall burn as an

oven, and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble, and THE DAY THAT COMETH SHALL BURN THEM UP" *(Malachi 4:1)*. In verse 3, Yahweh says to the righteous that the wicked shall be "...ashes under the soles of your feet".

This is the punishment that the Bible says is "everlasting", meaning "irreversible", permanent and final. The Bible calls this the "second death", from which there is no possibility of a further resurrection *(see Rev. 20:14 and 21:8).* The Bible teaches eternal PUNISHMENT, not eternal punishing. In other words, a punishment that is finite for the wicked. The Bible says the wages of sin is DEATH - not eternal life in torture. Eternal life is the free gift of Yahweh reserved for the righteous.

"...and the sea gave up the DEAD which were in it; and death and HELL *(hades - grave or pit)* delivered up the DEAD which were in them: and they were judged according to their works. And DEATH AND HELL were CAST INTO THE LAKE OF FIRE. This is the SECOND DEATH. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire" *(Rev. 20:13-15)*.

Notice the Bible says the wicked were cast into "the second death", not to eternal life and punishing, but rather, the second death, which is eternal punishment.

"...For yet a little while and the wicked SHALL NOT BE...But the wicked shall perish... they shall consume: into smoke they shall consume away *(Psalm 37:9-10,12,20,22,29)*. Now notice Psalm 104:35, "Let the sinners be CONSUMED out of the earth and let the wicked BE NO MORE", and Isaiah 66:24; "And they shall go forth and look upon the carcasses of men that have transgressed against me: for their worm shall not die, neither shall their fire be quenched; and they shall be an abhorring to all flesh". This does not mean burning forever and ever.

Try this test: put a piece of paper in a pan - light it and don't QUENCH it - don't put it out, that's what quench means. Very soon the paper will burn up, be consumed and become as ashes under the soles of your feet - exactly as the Bible clearly says the wicked shall be.

The Bible says Yah'shua went to Hell when He died! See Acts 2:31, "He *[David]* seeing this before spake of the resurrection of the Messiah, that his soul *[body]* was not left in Hell, neither his flesh did see corruption". The Hell where Yah'shua was for three days and three nights was the Greek word HADES, or grave or tomb.

"Their worm shall not die" - Yah'shua did not here mean that each worm continued to live forever! He was not teaching the immortality of worms! The Greek word inspired in this passage and translated into the English "worm", simply means a maggot or larvae. The Greek expression translated into "not die", simply means it will not “cease to be”, or "come to an end"; such as larvae that do not die, but pupate into flies, which instinctively lay eggs, providing a never-ending replenishment of the larvae, that never cease to be.

The Biblical story of Lazarus and the Rich Man illustrates this point well: "And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man died also, and was buried"

(Luke 16:22). They both DIED! Yah'shua did not say the beggar went to heaven - he died - and went to Abraham's bosom. A dictionary definition of bosom, is "the breast of a human being, with the arms as an enclosure - a loving embrace as in an intimate relationship".

So Lazarus died and went into an intimate relationship with Abraham as in Galatians 3:29, "And if ye be the Messiah's, then are ye Abraham's seed and heirs according to the promise". Through faith, we all become the "children of Abraham" - THAT is the intimate relationship with Abraham. Yahweh promised Abraham; "For all the land which thou seest, to thee I will give it, and to thy seed forever" *(Gen. 13:15).* An heir cannot receive his inheritance before his father does! The Bible says Abraham is STILL DEAD and HAS YET to be resurrected and to receive his promise.

Hebrews 11:8-13, "By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should AFTER receive for an inheritance...DIED in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them AFAR OFF".

In John 8:52, "Abraham is dead" - and he is still dead! He died, and he will inherit the promise at the resurrection of the just. "For Yahweh Himself shall descend from heaven...and the DEAD in the Messiah shall rise first" *(1 Thes. 4:16)*. And Lazarus is in this DEAD man's *(Abraham's)* bosom, also dead - and they, being "in the Messiah" will both *(along with countless others)* be resurrected *(carried by the angels)*, unto eternal life - together - in Abraham's bosom.

Yah'shua said of the Rich Man: "The rich man also died, and was BURIED". He did not say the rich man went immediately to some eternally burning hell-fire - he was buried! Yah'shua said so! And in hell *(hades - pit or grave)* he *(rich man)* "lifted up his eyes" *(Luke 16:22,23)*. His eyes had been closed in death, and would be opened at the resurrection. "And many of them that sleep *[their eyes closed]* in the dust of the earth *[their grave - hades]* shall awake *[lift up their eyes]*, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt" *(Dan. 12:2)*.

The Greek words here translated to everlasting, are in the "present-continuous tense", and mean, forever irreversible. Yah'shua said in John 5:28-29, "The hour is coming in which ALL that are in the GRAVES shall hear His voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil [including the rich man] unto the resurrection of damnation".

Scripture clearly speaks of two of the separate resurrections. "...they that are the Messiah's at his coming" and then, "cometh the end" (1 Cor. 15:23-24), indicating the resurrection of the unjust later. In Revelation 20:5, "But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished". So the Bible clearly says Lazarus will be resurrected first, when Yah'shua returns, and the Rich Man will be resurrected 1,000 years later, after the millennium.

All the dead - just or unjust, ARE NOT CONSCIOUS until resurrected. "..for the living know that they shall die, but the DEAD KNOW NOT ANYTHING...for the memory of them is forgotten" *(Eccl. 9:5).*

Job 14:21 says similar. Psalm 146:4 says about death: "His breath goeth forth, he returneth to this earth, in that very day his thoughts PERISH".

In the story, the Rich Man awakes in his grave *(hades)* and sees Lazarus *(symbolically)* in Abraham's bosom - sees him living with the promised inheritance, and also sees the awful lake of fire *(valley of Hinnom)* which IS ABOUT to destroy him forever, and he is mortally terrified. Terror triggers a natural reaction in everyone - mouth goes dry, and tongue sticks to mouth and throat. He asks Abraham for a "couple drops", saying "send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water...to cool my tongue", because the flame was tormenting him. The Greek word translated into tormenting, is "odunomai", which means pain of mind, grief and distress - not physical pain.

The Rich Man symbolizes the great gulf between sinners and those that are in the Messiah. This gulf, mentioned by Abraham, prevents the wicked from escaping the second death by fire in the valley of Hinnom *(Hell),* and keeps the righteous from being burned up. This gulf is "immortality" - see Rev. 20:6. The Rich Man realizes he was doomed, and Yah'shua uses him as an illustrative example. He now comprehended the great gulf that existed between him and those made immortal. Abraham made clear, the utter impossibility of the Rich Man crossing that gulf. He had his chance during his mortal lifetime.

The Rich Man next thinks of his five brothers and begs Abraham to send Lazarus; Abraham replied that they *(the brothers)* had the writings of Moses and the Prophets - they did not need Lazarus. The Rich Man realized his brothers (like himself), would not "hear" the Scriptures, and screamed to Abraham: "Nay, father Abraham, but if one went unto them FROM THE DEAD, they will repent". Abraham replied: "If they hear not Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose FROM THE DEAD". The Bible makes it perfectly clear that all humans will die - be buried - remain in their graves *(hades or Hell)* - and be resurrected.

Yah'shua used common, everyday language that his simple followers were able to easily understand. The second death, like the valley of Hinnom *(Gai Hinnom - Hell)*, would be something the people would want to avoid at all costs. His followers were well aware of what a foul place this "Gehenna" was, and would indeed be horrified at the thought of being burned up there.

We must always remember, that the great majority of translations of the Bible were originally conducted by, or on behalf of, or under some type of influence, stemming from Roman Catholic theology - the "Mother of Harlots". As it is clearly set out in the Bible, this organized Traditional Christianity has its power from Satan.

Although Yahweh's word has remained intact after various translations, this false church has used its great powers of deception to cause such ambiguous translations as "Hell", purportedly with one meaning, from the original three Greek words with three different meanings. Such efforts, have proved very effective over the years in the Catholic Church's *(and most traditional Christianity's)* propagation of its false, fear/money-driven doctrine of "heaven and hell".

The good news about death, is the fact that we are, "asleep"; that is while we are dead, WE ARE NOT CONSCIOUS. It will seem to us *(even though it does not happen until the Messiah returns)*, that the resurrection will have happened at the VERY INSTANT of death - in "the blinking of an eye", we will be resurrected to our hope of salvation!

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