

HELL

by Joseph Molnar

The doctrine of hell is not only unbiblical, it is also completely absurd, illogical and nonsensical.

Hell completely **contradicts** the loving, merciful, forgiving and gracious nature of God.

The Bible says that God is love, His mercy endures forever and when sin abounds grace abounds much more. Since God is the same yesterday, today and forever, then it is illogical to believe in hell. God's love, mercy, forgiveness and grace for multiple billions of people who die as unbelievers do not suddenly stop at the point of their death.

God's love and the doctrine of hell are irreconcilable. It is only twisted Augustinian theology that tries to reconcile God's love with endless punishment in hell. Hell believing preachers use absurd reasoning to say that eternal torture in hell, for the vast majority of mankind who die as unbelievers, is an act of God's love demonstrating His perfect justice. This is totally twisted reasoning, beyond all comprehension.

Hell **encourages** a spirit of unforgiveness, prejudice and revenge towards fellow men.

Traditional Christianity has a shameful and notorious history of anti-Semitism. We have no doubt that the root cause of this anti-Semitism is a belief in hell. Many of the Church Fathers were unforgiving and spiteful towards Jews. Tertullian, Constantine, Jerome, John Chrysostom, Augustine, Martin Luther, John Calvin and others have encouraged anti-Semitism through their writings. All of these 'Christian' leaders believed in the false doctrine of hell. We are sure that if they had understood and believed the true Gospel of Jesus Christ as the Savior of the world, which of course includes all Jews, then Christianity would have been spared anti-Semitism.

Mistranslations of the Hebrew word **sheol**, and the Greek words **hades**, **tartarus** and **gehennah**, to mean **hell**.

Number of times the word 'Hell' occurs in the following Bible Versions

Year AD	BIBLE VERSION	O.T.	NT	Total
400	The Latin Vulgate	87	24	111
1611	King James Version	31	23	54
1884	Hanson's New Covenant	n/a	0	0
1891	Young's Literal Translation	0	0	0
1900	Twentieth Century New Testament	n/a	0	0
1901	American Standard Version	0	13	13
1902	Rotherham's Emphasized Bible	0	0	0
1903	Weymouth's New Testament	n/a	0	0
1917	Jewish Publication Society Bible O.T.	0	n/a	0
1942	Emphatic Diaglott Greek/English Int.	n/a	0	0
1952	Revised Standard Version	0	17	17
1976	Restoration of Original Sacred Name	0	0	0

1978	New International Version	0	14	14
1982	New King James Version	19	13	32
1983	Concordant Literal NT	n/a	0	0
1998	Tanakh/The Complete Jewish Bible	0	n/a	0
2004	Holman Christian Standard Bible	0	12	12

Please take time to study this comparison table and note the following shocking facts. You will note that the Latin Vulgate mentions hell **111 times**, which is the highest number of times the word hell occurs when compared to all of the other Bible versions. All of the popular Protestant Bible versions like the King James Version (KJV), the American Standard Version (ASV), the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV), the New International Version (NIV) and the New King James Version (NKJV) **do not agree** with the Latin Vulgate, nor even between themselves, as to the number of times the word hell appears in the Bible. Only in the Latin Vulgate, the KJV and the NKJV does the word hell appear in the Old Testament of the Bible, but even these versions have wide disagreements on the number of times hell occurs in the Old Testament. The Latin Vulgate mentions hell 87 times, whereas the KJV mentions hell 31 times and the NKJV mentions hell only 19 times. All versions of the Bible except for these three, the Latin Vulgate, the KJV and the NKJV, **reject** any notion of hell occurring in the original **Hebrew Manuscripts** of the Old Testament.

Also, please especially note from the comparison table that the translators of the Jewish Publication Society Bible and the Tanakh/The Complete Jewish Bible **disagree** with the Latin Vulgate, the KJV and the NKJV by making no mention of hell whatsoever in their Bibles. If the Jews, who are experts in their own Hebrew language, do not include hell in their Bibles, then this further confirms that there is not a single word that means hell in the Hebrew Manuscripts of the Old Testament. There are also several Bible versions that **reject** any notion of hell occurring in the **Greek Manuscripts** of the New Testament. Among others, these versions include Young's Literal Translation, Rotherham's Emphasized Bible and the Emphatic Diaglott Greek/English Interlinear Bible.

These are amazing and shocking facts that should make any Christian stop in his tracks, and start to seriously question the validity of the doctrine of hell. Surely, the just and loving God of the Bible, who desires all men to be saved, would have inspired clear, unambiguous statements in the Word of God about such an extreme doctrine as hell. This is absolutely not the case at all. The truth of the matter is that there is **not one single word** in the Hebrew and Greek Manuscripts of the Bible that means hell. As discussed in previous explanation, hell is a man-invented, pagan, unchristian, heretical belief that was first embraced and Christianized by Roman Catholicism, and incorporated into the Bible by Jerome through his Latin Vulgate in the early history of Christianity. Jerome mistranslated as many as four different words to mean hell. These words

are: one Hebrew word *sheol*, and three Greek words *hades*, *tartarus* and *gehennah*. These words do not mean hell. Let us now clearly explain the true biblical meanings of these words.

Sheol occurs 65 times in the Hebrew Manuscripts of the Old Testament, and it means **the grave** (the place of the dead) or **the pit**, as correctly translated in almost all modern versions of the Bible since the KJV.

Hades occurs 11 times in the Greek Manuscripts of the New Testament and it is the direct equivalent of the Hebrew word *sheol*; thus it also means **the grave** or **the pit**. This is how most modern versions of the Bible translate *hades*.

Tartarus occurs only once in the Greek Manuscripts of the New Testament in the verse below.

2 Peter 2:4 *For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell (tartarus) and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment* Please note that God cast the angels who sinned down to *tartarus* and chained them in darkness, to be reserved **for judgement**.

2 Peter 2:4 New American Bible (Revised Edition) (NABRE)

Lessons from the Past. 4[a] For if God did not spare the angels when they sinned, but condemned them to the chains of Tartarus[b] and handed them over to be kept for judgment;

Footnotes:

- **2:4–6** The false teachers will be punished just as surely and as severely as were the fallen **angels** (**2 Pt 2:4**; cf. **Jude 6**; **Gn 6:1–4**), the sinners of Noah’s day (**2 Pt 2:5**; **Gn 7:21–23**), and the inhabitants of the cities of the Plain (**2 Pt 2:6**; **Jude 7**; **Gn 19:25**). Whereas there are three examples in **Jude 5–7** (Exodus and wilderness; rebellious angels; Sodom and Gomorrah), 2 Peter omitted the first of these, has inserted a new illustration about Noah (**2 Pt 2:5**) between Jude’s second and third examples, and listed the resulting three examples in their Old Testament order (**Gn 6**; **7**; **19**).
- **2:4 Chains of Tartarus:** cf. **Jude 6**; other manuscripts in 2 Peter read “pits of Tartarus.” **Tartarus:** a term borrowed from Greek mythology to indicate the infernal regions.

Heaven and Hell

Salvation consists of two phases: Coming to correct doctrinal understanding then allowing God to use the truth to lift up sin.

There are two Greek words the KJV translated “hell”. Hades and Gehennah. Hades simplified means **not to know**. It is where a person resides before coming to know the truth of God’s love.

Gehennah describes the anger and rage within every person as we are all, naturally, children of wrath. The beast, of Revelation 13 (an unchanging heart, and unwillingness to forgive), stands between God’s understanding and Hades.

When we then begin worship the image of the beast our chances of overcoming Gehennah fire are greatly diminished.