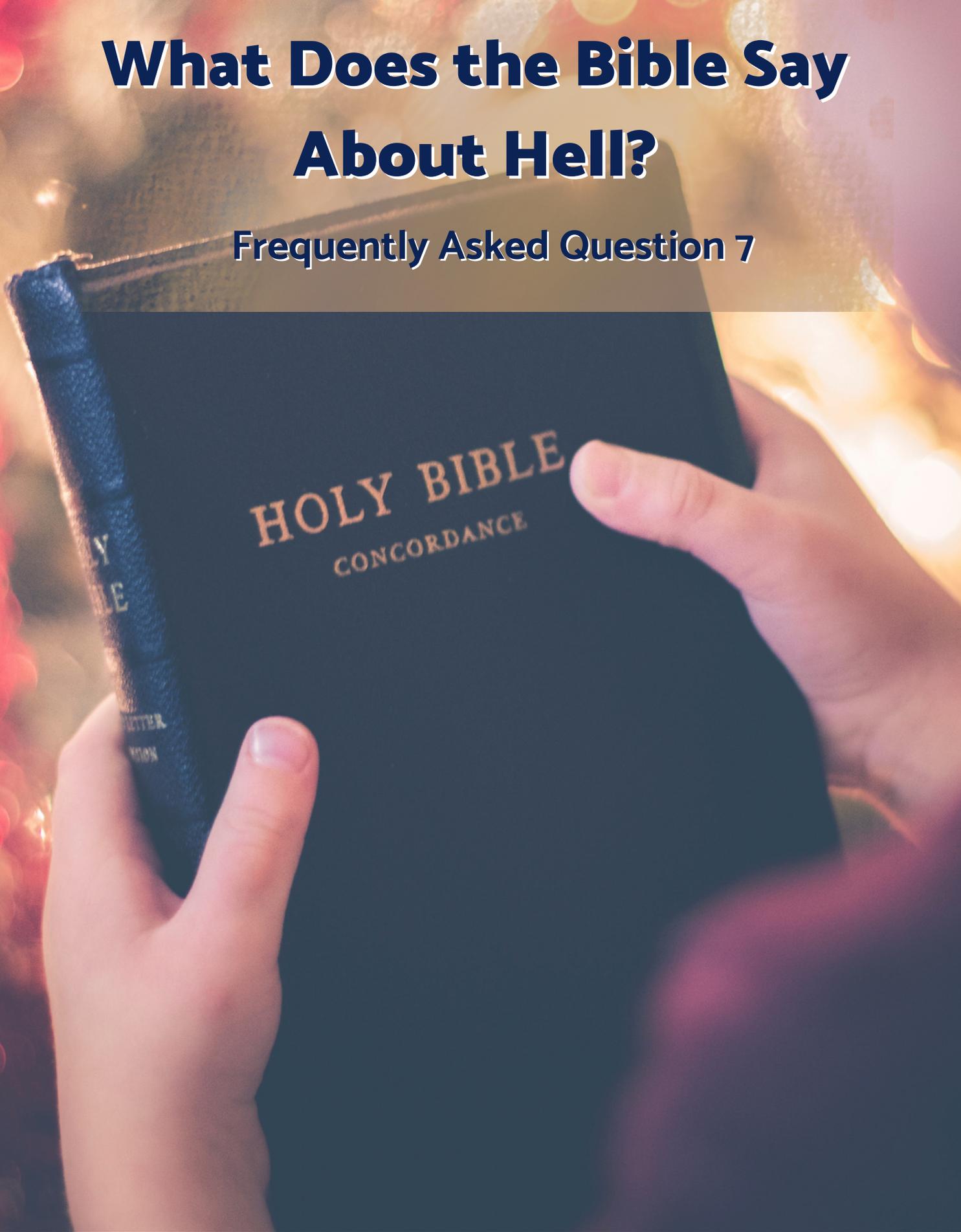


What Does the Bible Say About Hell?

Frequently Asked Question 7



HOLY BIBLE
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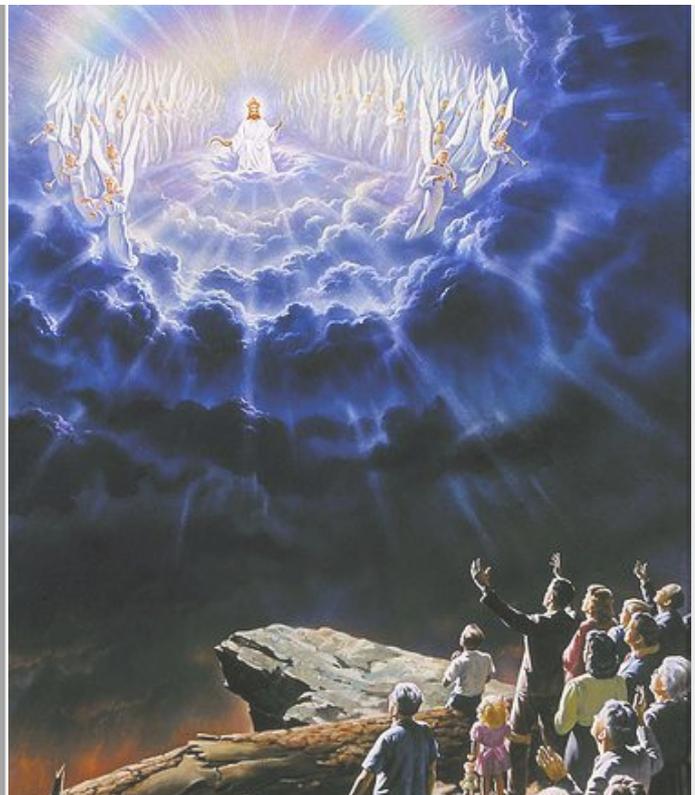
The Bible tells us that just as Heaven is real, Hell is also real. God's Word is filled with many references to Hell. In fact, Jesus Christ spoke more about Hell than He did about Heaven. Why? Because He loves us and wants to warn us about the reality of Hell and does not want anyone to go there.

There are 3 truths that we need to know about Hell:

1. The Destination Called Hell

The Bible makes it very clear that we will all go somewhere after we die, and there are only 2 possible destinations - Heaven or Hell. In Matthew 7:13,14, Jesus Christ said, "wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction [in Hell], and there are many who go in by it...narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life [in Heaven], and there are few who find it." In other words, He was saying that a person will spend eternity either in Heaven or Hell, and there are many more who are on their way to Hell than who are on their way to Heaven!

That is why in Matthew 7:21-23, Jesus Christ went on to say, "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'"



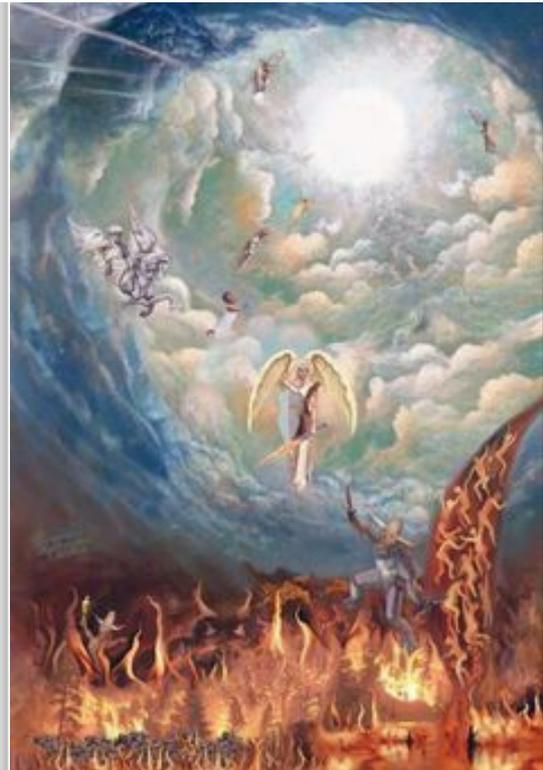
A person can easily call Jesus Christ, "Lord, Lord," but that does not necessarily mean that he has true saving faith in Him. A person may believe about Jesus Christ but not believe in Him. A person may know about Jesus Christ intellectually without knowing Him personally. Sadly, for such a person, his eternal destination is Hell. "And these will go away into everlasting punishment [in Hell], but the righteous into eternal life [in Heaven]." (Matthew 25:46)

2. The Description of Hell

The Bible teaches us the following about Hell:

a. Hell is a place for Satan

Hell was originally created for the eternal punishment of Satan and his demons. Jesus Christ said, “Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels:” (Matthew 25:41b) Hell was not created for man and God never intended for man to go there. “As I live, says the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live.” (Ezekiel 33:11a)



b. Hell is a place for sinners

Even though Hell was not created for man, it is the destination for sinners who reject God’s gift of salvation through Jesus Christ.

Who is a sinner? We are all sinners (Romans 3:10; Ecclesiastes 7:20) who have fallen short of God’s standard of perfection (Romans 3:23) and deserve the punishment of Hell. Just 1 sin would be enough to condemn us to Hell (Galatians 3:10; James 2:10), and there is no way we can save ourselves from sin, death and Hell. “For the wages of sin is death [in Hell]; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” (Romans 6:23) Only those who choose to receive Jesus Christ as their Saviour personally will go to Heaven, while those who do not will go to Hell.

c. Hell is a place of separation

Hell is a place of complete and eternal separation from God and all the blessings of God, where “those who do not know God...those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus...will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might” (2 Thessalonians 1:8,9). A person in Hell will be completely and eternally cut off from God and everything good that comes from God. If a person does not make a decision to receive Jesus Christ as his Saviour during his life, then he will get exactly what he has chosen – an eternity in Hell without God.

Hell is a place of complete and eternal separation from people in Heaven and people on Earth. Those in Hell will be forever separated from those in Heaven (Luke 16:26) and those on Earth (Luke 16:27-31).

d. Hell is a place of suffering

There will be physical suffering in Hell. The Bible describes Hell as “everlasting fire” (Matthew 18:8; 25:41), “fire that shall never be quenched” (Mark 9:43-48), “weeping/wailing and gnashing of teeth” (Matthew 8:12; 13:42,50; 22:13; 24:51; 25:30; Luke 13:28), “outer darkness” (Matthew 8:12; 22:13; 25:30), “place of torment” (Luke 16:28), “lake of fire” (Revelation 19:20; 20:10,14,15; 21:8), etc.

There will be psychological suffering in Hell. Souls in Hell will remember their lives on Earth and it will be full of painful memories and regret (Luke 16:25). They will remember the goodness and grace of God in their lives and how God so lovingly and patiently gave them opportunity after opportunity to hear the Gospel and receive Jesus Christ as their Saviour, and they will spend eternity regretting that they had never made a personal decision to place their faith in Him to save them from their sins.



There will be permanent suffering in Hell. Hell is forever and the suffering is permanent (Matthew 25:46a). There is no escape from Hell. Once a person enters Hell, there is absolutely no way out (Luke 16:26).

e. Hell is a place of the second death

God’s Word tells us that there are 2 deaths – the first death, which is physical death experienced by all men (Hebrews 9:27); and the second death, which is eternal punishment in the lake of fire experienced by all who do not trust in Jesus Christ as their Saviour (Revelation 20:14,15; 21:8).

If you are born once (i.e. physically at birth), you will die twice (i.e. physically on Earth and eternally in Hell). However, if you are born twice (i.e. physically at birth and spiritually upon trusting in Jesus Christ as Saviour), you will die once (i.e. physical death only). In other words, in order to escape the second death in Hell and enter into eternal life in Heaven, you need to have a second birth in Jesus Christ. That is why He said, “unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” (John 3:3b)

Like Nicodemus in John 3:1-21 and the rich man in Luke 16:19-31, a person may be religious, respected, rich, righteous (in man’s eyes) and a ruler, but if he does NOT have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, “the soul who sins shall die” (Ezekiel 18:4,20), and shall have his “part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death” (Revelation 21:8b).

f. Hell is a place with no second chance

There will be no second chance to receive Jesus Christ as Saviour in Hell (Luke 16:26). A person in Hell will know that he is a sinner, but he will no longer have the opportunity to repent of his sins and trust in Jesus Christ to save him. It will be too late.

There will be no second chance to warn those who are alive to receive Jesus Christ as Saviour in Hell (Luke 16:27-31). God has given sufficient warning for man to repent of his sins and trust in Jesus Christ to save him through the Word of God, and He will give no further warning. Jesus Christ made it very clear when He said, "If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead." (Luke 16:31)

The only chance to receive Jesus Christ as Saviour is in this life. The time to be born again is NOW, while you have the chance. "Whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour that appears for a little time and then vanishes away." (James 4:14) "Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation." (2 Corinthians 6:2b) "Today, if you will hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts." (Hebrews 3:7,8,15; 4:7)

3. The Deliverance from Hell

There may be a destination called Hell, but it need not be your destiny. God's desire is for man to be in Heaven, not Hell. He is "not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9b). That is why He sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to die for us (Romans 5:8), so that we may be delivered from Hell.

The question is NOT, "Why would a loving God send anyone to Hell?" God does NOT send anyone to Hell; rather, a person sends himself to Hell when he does NOT accept God's gift of salvation through Jesus Christ.

The question IS, "Why should a holy God save anyone from Hell?" Why should the sinless Son of God have to die to save us from Hell when we are the ones who fully deserve to be punished for our sins? The answer is simply because of God's love (John 3:16), grace (Ephesians 2:8,9) and mercy (Titus 3:5; Lamentations 3:22).



Hell is by choice, not by chance. We choose where we will spend eternity right here on Earth by what we do with Jesus Christ. No one will end up in Heaven or Hell by chance. If we by faith accept Jesus Christ's payment for our sins, He will save us from our sins and we will have everlasting life in Heaven. However, if we choose NOT to accept God's gift of salvation, then we will have to pay for our own sins, and that payment will be made forever in Hell.

John 3:18 tells us clearly, "He who believes in Him is not condemned [i.e. he is born again and is on his way to Heaven]; but he who does not believe is condemned already [i.e. he is not born again and is on his way to Hell], because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God." By not receiving the gift of God, you are rejecting the gift of God. RIGHT NOW, a person is either saved or unsaved. There is no in-between state, and only "whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Romans 10:13).

If you were to die today, are you 100% sure that all of your sins are forgiven and that you will go to Heaven? C. S. Lewis said, "There are only two kinds of people in the end: those who say to God, 'Thy will be done,' and those to whom God says, in the end, 'Thy will be done.' All that are in Hell, choose it [Hell]." Hell is a choice. By not choosing Heaven, you are choosing Hell.

