

QUESTION: Is hell real, and if so, who will go there?

ANSWER: Yes, Hell is a very real place. Jesus taught and preached MORE about hell than He did about heaven! Hell is a real place, and **God does NOT want you to go there!** However, it is the place where "those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ" will have to spend eternity, "punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power" (II Thessalonians 1:8-9). Jesus tells us in Matthew 25:41 that God originally prepared hell as a place for Satan and the fallen angels, not for mankind: "Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into **EVERLASTING FIRE prepared for the devil and his angels.**'" Many people ask the question, "Why does God send anybody to hell?" when the real question we should ask is "Why does God SAVE ANYBODY at all?" **EVERYONE on this EARTH is a SINNER and ALREADY on their way to HELL!** God, in His great love and mercy, has **provided a WAY OF ESCAPE** through believing on **His Son Jesus Christ!** If anyone rejects or ignores **God's ONLY WAY of ESCAPE from hell**, and if proud, rebellious individuals shake their fists at God, and insist **"I'll do it MY WAY!"** then it is their OWN FAULT that they end up in hell for all eternity - God did not WANT them to go there.

- **II Peter 3:9** "The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering (patient) toward us, **NOT willing (wanting) that any should PERISH** but that ALL should come to repentance."
- **I Timothy 2:3-4** "For this is good and acceptable in the sight of **God our Savior, WHO DESIRES ALL MEN to be SAVED** and to come to the KNOWLEDGE of the TRUTH."
- **John 3:36** "He who believes in the SON has ETERNAL LIFE; and he who does NOT BELIEVE the Son shall not see life, but **the WRATH of God** abides (remains) on him."
- **John 3:18** "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but **he who does NOT believe is CONDEMNED ALREADY**, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."

The **wrath of God** is God's ANGER against SIN - it is the PUNISHMENT that WE DESERVE for violating God's laws and falling short of His perfect standards. NO ONE EVER keeps (obeys) ALL the commandments ALL of the time, that is why the Bible says we are ALL SINNERS. The penalty for FAILURE TO KEEP the law is DEATH, and the ULTIMATE penalty is ETERNAL DEATH in HELL. **Jesus PAID the penalty FOR US**, so we are NOT CONDEMNED or DAMNED to hell if we BELIEVE and PUT our COMPLETE TRUST in Him.

- **Romans 3:23** "For **ALL have sinned**, and come short of the glory of God."
- **Romans 6:23** "For the wages of sin is death (in hell); but the GIFT of God is **ETERNAL LIFE through JESUS CHRIST** our Lord."
- **Hebrews 9:27** "And as it is appointed for men **to DIE once**, but after this **the JUDGMENT.**"
- **Matthew 10:28** "And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy **both SOUL and BODY in HELL.**"
- **Revelation 20:11-15** "Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. And **I saw the DEAD, small and great, standing before God**, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And **the DEAD were JUDGED according to their WORKS**, by the things which were written in the books. The sea gave up the dead [*bodies*] who were in it, and Death (the grave) and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were JUDGED, each one according to his works. Then death and Hades were **CAST into the LAKE of FIRE.** This is the second death. And **anyone who was NOT found written in the BOOK of LIFE was cast (thrown) into the LAKE of FIRE.**"

- **Revelation 21:27** "But there shall by no means enter it (heaven) anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only **those who are WRITTEN in the LAMB'S BOOK of LIFE.**"

The ones who are thrown into hell are those who are not written in the Book of Life, and whose book is it? Revelation 21:27 calls it **the Lamb's Book of Life**, which means it belongs to Jesus, the Lamb of God. As believers in Jesus Christ, we need have **NO FEAR of the Judgment**, because **Jesus has already PAID for our SINS**. He took our sins upon Himself, so that WE will not be punished for them, and because we believe in Him, our names are written in His book. People who do not know Jesus must stand before God at the Final Judgment and PAY for their OWN SINS!! Romans 6:23 says "the wages of sin is death" (the "second death" in the Lake of Fire, Rev. 20:14). Jesus also described hell as being "the FIRE that shall never be quenched, where the worm does not die and the fire is not quenched" (Mark 9:43-44).