

Study QUESTIONS

Ep. 1021: Is the Hell of Christian Tradition Taught in the Bible?

<https://christianquestions.com/doctrine/1021-bible-hell-part-1/>

See:  CQ Rewind
SHOW NOTES

1. What did God tell Adam the penalty for sin was? What did Satan tell Eve on the same subject? (See Genesis 2:16-17, Romans 6:23, Genesis 3:4-5)
2. What was the ancient Egyptian concept of the netherworld at the time the Israelites were still in Egypt? Where was this netherworld located? What do we know for sure about the influence of Egyptian beliefs on the Hebrews? (See Exodus 32)
3. Does Deuteronomy 32:21-22 indicate that people are being burned in hell? What may this prophecy have been pointing to? How did God's warnings of punishment to the Jewish nation differ from the concept of punishment in the heathen religions? (See Matthew 23:38, Luke 13:35)
4. How is the Hebrew word *sheol* translated in Numbers 16:31-33 in the New American Standard and King James versions of the Bible? Does this describe a consequence in this life or in life after death? How does Job use the word? Is he asking to be tormented forever in death? (See Job 14:13)
5. Where did the idea of endless torment originate? What was the purpose of instilling belief in endless punishment after death?
6. How did God react to the sacrifices of children to Baal in Jeremiah 19:1-7? What was God's comment about this heinous practice in verse 5? What does this reveal about God's character?
7. Why was the valley called Topheth? How was God's deep anger at this atrocity expressed in punishment? Did He promise the Jews would be forever burned alive in the afterlife like their children? (See Jeremiah 19:6-7, John Gill Commentary)
8. Do any of the following Scriptures support the concept of a burning hell? (See Isaiah 34:8-10, 66:22-24, 38:17-19) If God had intended a punishment of a burning hell, to whom would He have revealed it? Why would He have withheld this knowledge from His people for 4,000 years?
9. What happened to cause the Jews in the 400 years between the Old and New Testaments to change their views on hell? What was the prophet Malachi's warning to the Jews at the end of the Old Testament? (See Malachi 4:4)
10. How did the ancient Greek historians and poets explain the development of the concept of a burning hell and eternal torment?
11. How does the statement in Jeremiah 19:5 make you think of God? What was God's reaction in knowing that *His* people had done these acts?
12. What differences in understanding do you have about hell after this study?