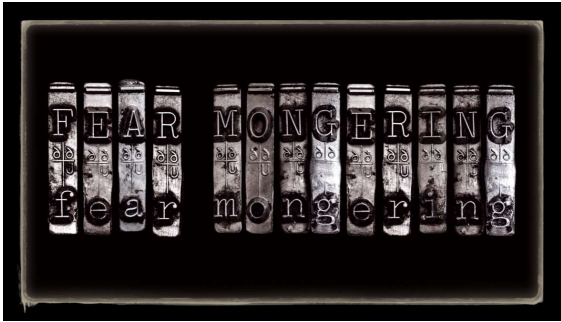




## Is the Hell of Christian Tradition Taught in the Bible? (Part III)

**1 John 2:2: (NASB) *And he himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world.***



Understanding the truth of the hellfire teaching is difficult. On one hand, we have powerful Christian tradition that has, for over 1,500 years, emphatically taught that all those who do not come to Jesus will suffer eternal torment and torture for their sins. That is a hard teaching and a strong stand. On the other hand, we have those, including ourselves, who stand against this tradition with all of the force we can muster. We do not challenge it because it is not convenient. We do not refute it because we cannot emotionally accept it.

We speak out because we believe that it has no legitimate place within Christian teachings. We believe it to be wholly false. Today's Part III of this series will feature our hopefully clear and respectful responses to those who uphold the hellfire doctrine and have presented their scriptural challenges to our view.



We would like to welcome **Julie from our CQ team** to be our specific voice presenting the Facebook comments in this podcast. Julie's comments will be in pink.

Summation points from our previous Part II:

*A New Testament perspective on the teaching of hellfire – specifically Gehenna:*

- Jesus' ministry was for three and one-half years. He mentioned Gehenna on four occasions.
- The rest of the New Testament covers over 30 years (excluding Revelation) and 22 books.
- The rest of the New Testament was written by 6 authors (including Revelation).
- Gehenna is only mentioned once after Jesus. (The lake of fire in Revelation excluded.)

Jesus does NOT spend time carefully quoting all of the sacred biblical writings of Scripture only to later change and contradict them.

The evidence clearly points to the Old and New Testament phrase *unquenchable fire* as meaning fire that does not go out until its destructive work is complete.

Please see May 14, 2018 CQ Episode 1021: "Is the Hell of Christian Tradition Taught in the Bible? (Part I)."



Our audio clips come from a sermon from Green Pastures Christian Fellowship, which was suggested to us in a Facebook comment. This pastor's beliefs are diametrically different than ours.

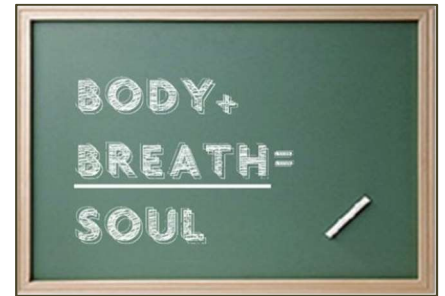


**Sheol, God and Adam, Green Pastures Christian Fellowship, The Judge and His Justice**

- *And the Hebrew word for sheol is often translated "hell" or "the grave." When God came to Adam in the Garden He said, "In the day that thou eatest thereof the judgment that will be passed is that you will enter into hell." And the hell that was spoken of there was the grave. And what happens in the grave? You rot, and worms eat your body and you decay, and this is a grotesque thing. This is what literally happens. This is the judgment of God on your body.*

Jonathan will be addressing our audio clips. (Comments in purple.)

The phrase, "You will enter into hell," was not what was written in Genesis. God said to Adam in Genesis 2:17, *you shall surely die*. That word *die* is not the word *sheol*. The first time *sheol* was used in the Old Testament was in Deuteronomy. Die means to "die" or "kill." Adam did enter into the grave and, yes, the body decays and returns to the ground. Not only did his body go there but his entire being. God taught us in Genesis 2:7: *Then the LORD God formed man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being*. Body plus breath equals soul. You do not have a soul, you are a soul. If you take the breath away, there is no more being or soul. God simply said, *you will die*.



His comment, "This is the judgment of God on your body," is not in the Scriptures. God said, *in the day that thou eatest thereof, dying thou shalt die*. Adam did not die within 24 hours of his sin, but the dying process began.

Many writings from various early church "fathers" confirm a gradual corruption of true biblical teachings regarding the hell doctrine. There is no teaching of hellfire during the first several hundred years of church teaching. This developed long after the Scriptures were written.

In today's podcast we are directly quoting those with seriously negative reactions to our beliefs and conclusions and we will be responding to their questions, challenges, and Scriptures.



Our social media has been quite active on this topic after our Part I and Part II of this series. By the way, our listeners can find us at CQBIBLEPODCAST on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. We love interacting with people as we reason the Scriptures out together. We want to directly quote some of the negative reactions we have received to our previous two podcasts on this topic, CQ Episodes 1021 and 1027, and respectfully respond to their questions and challenges. These are reprinted as we received them and are not corrected for grammar and punctuation.



Reggie has some comments on [Isaiah 66:22-24](#).

**Isaiah 66:22-24:** (NASB) <sup>22</sup>*For just as the new heavens and the new earth which I make will endure before Me, declares the LORD, so your offspring and your name will endure. <sup>23</sup>And it shall be from new moon to new moon and from sabbath to sabbath, all mankind will come to bow down before Me, says the LORD. <sup>24</sup>Then they will go forth and look on the corpses of the men who have transgressed against Me. For their worm will not die and their fire will not be quenched; and they will be an abhorrence to all mankind.*

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Reggie: [Isaiah 66:24-26](#). Prophecy of hell viewed by flesh and blood people living during new heaven and earth in post millennial reign eternity. God's way of ensuring no more rebellion throughout eternity by having all of these people look upon those agonizing in hell each week and month. The Scriptures here are clear and speak for themselves unless, of course, someone wants it to mean something other than what it clearly says. Hell is eternal punishment and though it surely makes God sad, He is not hiding it but rather using it as an eternal example.

This is a scary text! It sounds like it is saying the earth will be cracked open at regular intervals for people to look down to see the people who died in some sort of everlasting fire. It is interesting he used the phrase "flesh and blood people" would be the ones doing the viewing, which does not sound like he is imagining the viewers to be in heaven, because *flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God*. I wonder where these viewers are and what it is they are viewing.

For more on this text, please see May 14, 2018 CQ Episode 1021: "Is the Hell of Christian Tradition Taught in the Bible? (Part I)."

Our focus in that discussion was the true scriptural and historical meaning of *fires that will not be quenched*. We will take a different approach than we did in Part I and talk about corpses.

*They will go forth and look on the corpses of the men who have transgressed against Me.*

Scriptural rebuttal: Reggie is taking the fire literally. First, a corpse has no ability to be tormented. The word emphatically describes lifelessness.

**Corpse:** Strong's #6297 a carcass (as limp), whether of man or beast; figuratively, an idolatrous image

**Leviticus 26:30:** (KJV) *And I will destroy your high places, and cut down your images, and cast your carcasses <6297> upon the carcasses <6297> of your idols, and my soul shall abhor you.*

An idol is referred to here as lifeless. It is called a carcass.

**Numbers 14:29:** (KJV) *Your carcasses <6297> shall fall in this wilderness; and all that were numbered of you, according to your whole number, from twenty years old and upward, which have murmured against Me.*

Please see bonus material for a more exhaustive list of the uses of this word.



If I subscribed to Reggie's idea, I would rebut you and say, "This is the judgment on the body." There may be a dead body or carcass but that does not account for the fact the soul is somewhere being tortured.

The Scripture does not talk about anything else but a *carcass*.

**Total destruction is the biblical end for the incorrigible - both Old and New Testaments attest to this:**

Psalms 37:20: (NASB) <sup>20</sup>*But the wicked will perish; and the enemies of the LORD will be like the glory of the pastures, they vanish - like smoke they vanish away.*



**Regarding the worms, Israel's first experience with manna from heaven:**

Exodus 16:19-21: (NASB) <sup>19</sup>*Moses said to them, let no man leave any of it until morning.* <sup>20</sup>*But they did not listen to Moses, and some left part of it until morning, and it bred worms and became foul; and Moses was angry with them.* <sup>21</sup>*They gathered it morning by morning, every man as much as he should eat; but when the sun grew hot, it would melt.*

Acts 3:23: (KJV) *And it shall come to pass, that every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be **destroyed** <1842> from among the people.*

**Destroyed:** Strongs #1842, exolethreuo, 1. to destroy out of its place, destroy utterly, to extirpate 1a. to destroy completely: wipe out; 1b. to pull up by the root;  
2. to cut out by surgery

This text proves we do not have an immortal soul. The soul that does not obey will be destroyed, not tortured forever.

**The Old Testament is about death; what about the rich man suffering in hell in the New Testament?**

We will look at several New Testament Scriptures, as most Christians who believe in hell rarely use the Old Testament as proof. There really are Scriptures that do *appear* to have all of the ingredients necessary for hell and torment. We will look slowly and carefully because in this case the "devil really is in the details."

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Jeff: The rich man was hot. REMEMBER he asked for Lazarus to dip his finger and place it on his tongue. You guys are all blinded and twisting scripture, it's crazy. How's that for figurative. You're just like the pastors who always want to spin things to fit their doctrinal beliefs or teaching from some college seminary they went to who taught them wrong. Yet, they want to act like they know it all. Ever learning but never coming to the true knowledge of truth. And by the way, its soul and body but it doesn't say SPIRIT. THEY WILL LIVE AND KNOW AND FEEL EVERY BIT LIKE THE RICH MAN DID. Oh wait, you'll probably twist the Scripture or the rich man too and make up some theological answer for it.

We will give what we believe is a biblically sound answer.



**Parable - not a story, Green Pastures Christian Fellowship, The Judge and His Justice**

- I want us to notice this an actual, factual story. I want us to tell there has been a lot of confusion concerning Luke 16:19-31. I want to make a few observations: Jesus, in none of his parables - a lot of times people say this is a parable, this is a fictional story in order to convey an actual principle - but I*





want us to notice a few things. In every parable Jesus always started with these words, "The kingdom of heaven is like." In this story he says there was a rich man, which was clothed in purple, fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day. There was a certain beggar named Lazarus. In none of his parables does he ever name his characters. Jesus always says there was a rich man and there was a poor man, there was a just man, there was an unjust man. He never gives names in his parables but in this story, he names an individual. And not only did he name an individual, he named a literal person, Lazarus. And what happened to Lazarus? He died and rose again.

Parable quoted for reference: Luke 16:19-24: (NASB) <sup>19</sup>Now there was a rich man, and he habitually dressed in purple and fine linen, joyously living in splendor every day. <sup>20</sup>And a poor man named Lazarus was laid at his gate, covered with sores, <sup>21</sup>and longing to be fed with the crumbs which were falling from the rich man's table; besides, even the dogs were coming and licking his sores. <sup>22</sup>Now the poor man died and was carried away by the angels to Abraham's bosom; and the rich man also died and was buried. <sup>23</sup>In Hades he lifted up his eyes, being in torment, and saw Abraham far away and Lazarus in his bosom. <sup>24</sup>And he cried out and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus so that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue, for I am in agony in this flame.

(We will comment later on Lazarus in our remarks.)

There are roughly 50 parables in the Bible. Thirty do not use the phrase *the kingdom of heaven is like*. I found only 12 do. About eight parables talk about some words of heaven, but they do not say, *the kingdom of heaven is like*. A few examples: "The House Built Upon a Rock," "A New Cloth on an Old Garment," and the "Parable of the Lost Sheep." Abraham was not alive. He was not in heaven. He died.

### Ecclesiastes tells us the state of the dead:

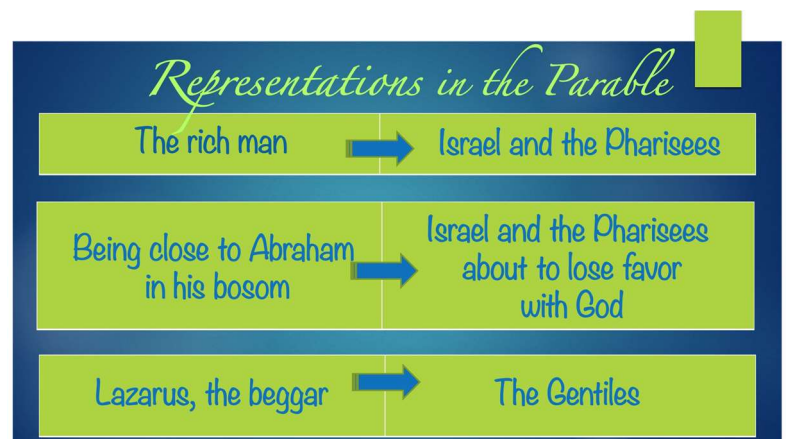
Ecclesiastes 9:5,10: (KJV) <sup>5</sup>For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know not anything... <sup>10</sup>for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.

The bottom line is Abraham was dead and in the grave. It is a parable.

Naming a character does not automatically prove this is not a parable - this could be an exception to the rule.

"The Rich Man and Lazarus" is the fifth in a string of parables in Luke 15 and 16. It is a story of reversal. Jesus was directing this parable to the Pharisees and forcefully teaching that Israel and the Pharisees (the rich man), were about to lose favor with God (being close to Abraham) and the Gentiles (pictured by Lazarus the beggar) were about to gain that same favor Israel was to lose.

Jesus was illustrating the suffering and anguish that they (Israel and the Pharisees) were going to experience.





The several elements we will discuss here begin with being in *hell* and in *torments*.



Abraham in heaven, *Green Pastures Christian Fellowship, The Judge and His Justice*

- In this story Jesus says that the Lazarus dies and is carried into Abraham's bosom. In Abraham's embrace, in other words, when Lazarus got to where he was Abraham met him and was holding him. Can you imagine? Entering into heaven and there's Abraham and it's just like you walked into church and Abraham wraps his arms around, "Brother, welcome home!" Can you imagine that? Lazarus has lived his life in pain and torment. In this life his body has been in anguish and now his soul enters into heaven and there's Abraham in his spiritual body and he wraps his spiritual arms around spiritual Lazarus and he holds Lazarus and he says, "Welcome home."*

*Into Abraham's bosom* obviously is picture language because it cannot happen literally. We need to be consistent. How about some truth to dispel error? If you lived and died before Jesus' sacrifice, heaven was not available to you. Remember what Jesus said about John the Baptist in Matthew 11:11: (NASB) *Truly I say to you, among those born of women there has not arisen anyone greater than John the Baptist! Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. Heavenly resurrection of Christians is greater than earthly resurrected prophets. Remember God's kingdom is both on earth and in heaven. Abraham will be resurrected earthly because he died before Jesus opened the way to the High Calling.*

Hebrews 11:39-40: (NASB) <sup>39</sup>*And all these, having gained approval through their faith, did not receive what was promised (a heavenly reward),* <sup>40</sup>*because God had provided something better for us, so that apart from us they would not be made perfect.*

Jesus and the bride of Christ (the church in heaven) will have the job of resurrecting the world of mankind, everyone that is not heavenly.

We cannot put Abraham in heaven if Jesus himself said, *no man has ascended up to heaven, except the son, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven.* John 3:13: (KJV)

Luke 16:23: (KJV) *And in hell (Hades) he lift up his eyes, being in **torments <931>**, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.*

Hades is the Greek equivalent to the Hebrew word "sheol" which obviously meant the grave. Please see the Bonus Material for more on this.

**Being in torments:** Greek English Lexicon #931

- 1) a touchstone, which is a black siliceous stone used to test the purity of gold or silver by the color of the streak produced on it by rubbing it with either metal.
- 2) The rack or instrument of torture by which one is forced to divulge the truth.

Why do we go with the first definition? We will come back to this.





Rather than being tortured, we suggest that this rich man had been *tested for purity* as a son of Abraham and obviously was revealed as failing.

Seeing Abraham and Lazarus: Lazarus - The spiritual seed of Abraham now in God's favor. See Romans 11:17-20 referring to the Gentiles being grafted into the olive tree representing the position of favor.

Jesus is using this as an example to show us favor and a dramatic loss of favor. This is one of his last attempts to get the Pharisees to repent.

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Jeff: All I know is the rich man was burning where he was while Lazarus was in Abraham's bosom nice and comfortable. Spin it how you want to guys, I'm done.

This is not spinning it. We are looking to find the truth in Scripture.



We know Abraham was not in heaven because Jesus said so. We also know Abraham was not yet raised from the dead because Jesus said so. You can say Lazarus was comfy, but Abraham is dead. So, it has to have a symbolic meaning of the favor of being a son of Abraham.

Luke 16:24: (KJV) <sup>24</sup>And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.

Father Abraham, have mercy - essentially, do not abandon me, even though I abandoned you.

For I am tormented in this flame. This phrase gets quoted frequently. What does this mean?

**Tormented:** Strong's #3600 to grieve

It does not mean torture or physical pain!

Luke 2:48: (KJV) And when they saw him, they were amazed: and his mother said unto him, Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us? Behold, thy father and I have sought thee **sorrowing <3600>**.

This word sorrowing is the same word for *tormented*, which means to grieve. *Tormented* here *has nothing to do with physical pain*. It is all emotional pain.

Acts 20:38: (KJV) **Sorrowing <3600>** most of all for the words which he spake, that they should see his face no more. And they accompanied him unto the ship.

It can be confusing, but the Scriptures show us how to use the definition. We can either make something up to fit the narrative or let the Scriptures interpret themselves. With this word meaning "grieving," we do not grieve when we are in indescribable agony and torment. That is how we know we can use the "touchstone" piece of the definition, not the painful piece.

We repeat, rather than being tortured, we suggest this rich man had been *tested for purity* as a son of Abraham and obviously was revealed as failing.





## The rich man had been tested and then was grieving at his failure. What about the flame and no water?

When working through the imagery of a parable we need to be careful to let the story teach us instead of us wanting to program the story's outcome. This particular story was exceptionally important as Jesus saw the end of the time was approaching for the Pharisees to change their hearts. Jesus was being gracious by telling them this dramatic story. The Jews were sons of Abraham and they lost God's favor. Shortly after Jesus died, the Gentiles came in and replaced the Jews as the favored ones.

 **Cool my tongue, Green Pastures Christian Fellowship, The Judge and His Justice**

- *This man says you send Lazarus over here so that he may dip the tip of his finger and bring it over here and touch my tongue that I may have a little relief. This man was in so much torment that even the slightest bit of relief would have been amazing. This man doesn't ask Abraham to douse him in water. This man doesn't say, "Give me a glass of water," this man just wants something to cool the tip of his tongue. That's how much pain he is in. The word torment here means torture, by the way. Unceasing torture.*

The word torment did not mean torture! We appreciate his passion for what he believes, but we believe he is wrong.

My focus went to the rich man. Remember the rich young ruler? He was sincere and full of faithfulness to the Law but was unwilling to give his riches away to follow in Jesus' footsteps. He was unwilling to deny himself, take up his cross and follow Jesus. Some cannot live a life of sacrifice, cannot give up their own will. That is the cost of discipleship. Riches distract us. The rich young ruler will regret losing the opportunity and not answering the call to be with our Lord in heaven. He will have an opportunity to be on earth in the kingdom.

For more detail on the "Rich Man and Lazarus," our listeners suggested going to August 30, 2015 CQ Episode 881: "Do the Fires of Hell Come From God? (Part III)."

This is absurd that a drop of water would be relief when being tortured for all eternity. What would be the point?

Luke 16:24: (KJV) *<sup>24</sup>And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented (grieved) in this flame.*

**In this flame:** Strong's #5395 (to "flash" or "flame"); a blaze

### One of several uses:

Acts 7:30: (KJV) *And when forty years were expired, there appeared to him in the wilderness of mount Sinai an angel of the Lord in a **flame of fire** in a bush. (Also, flame of fire is used in Hebrews 1:7)*

Every time this word for "blaze" is used in the New Testament, it is used as the phrase *flame of fire*, except in Luke 16:24. It literally leaves the *fire* out of this parable. The parable is saying, "I am grieved in this light." The light of







God's favor, through Abraham, that he declined. He was separated now from God.



Jesus is not teaching about fire and torture, but of the revealing of past indiscretions and misuses of favor. The *flame* is not destructive fire, but a blaze, a brightness kindled to be the light that uncovers all things.

Luke 16:25: (KJV) <sup>25</sup>But Abraham said, son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivdest thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented (grieved).

It is a story of reversal. Here we are seeing the anguish of heart at sin being revealed in the light of truth. This agony is not caused by physical torture, but by the realization that there is no place to hide. There is now nothing you can do but to accept the consequences that you have earned.

Luke 16:26: (NIV) And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed.

This *chasm* indicates that "you cannot get here from there." Jesus is showing them their coming disfavor and desolation and is quoting the Zechariah prophecy.

#### That prophecy ties in the lack of water:

Zechariah 9:9-12: (ASV) <sup>9</sup>... shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy king cometh unto thee; he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon a (donkey), even upon a colt the foal of a (donkey) (this takes place soon after Jesus spoke this parable). <sup>10</sup>And I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim, and the horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off... <sup>11</sup>As for thee also, because of the blood of thy covenant I have set free thy prisoners from the pit wherein is no water. <sup>12</sup>Turn you to the stronghold, ye prisoners of hope: even today do I declare that I will render double unto thee. (Trouble is coming - Israel will be cut off.)

What is the *great chasm* that has been fixed between the Jews and the Gentiles?

Once the call went out to Gentiles, as the disfavor of the Jewish nation came to its fruition in AD 70, Christianity became almost exclusively Gentile. The nation (the rich man) lost its favor. There was no way to get them back into favor because the call was now open, and those positions would be filled by Gentiles. Jesus said, *behold, your house is left to you desolate*.

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Jeff: This is not a parable because it has actual name in it. BUT it's ok. You will twist it to fit your doctrine like I said. NO DEBATING PEOPLE WHO THINK THEY KNOW IT ALL AND JUST CANNOT IMAGINE BEING WRONG.

We try to be as close to the Scriptures as possible and to be sincere and respectful of fellow Christians. We want to reason on these Scriptures and find truth just as Jeff wants to find truth.



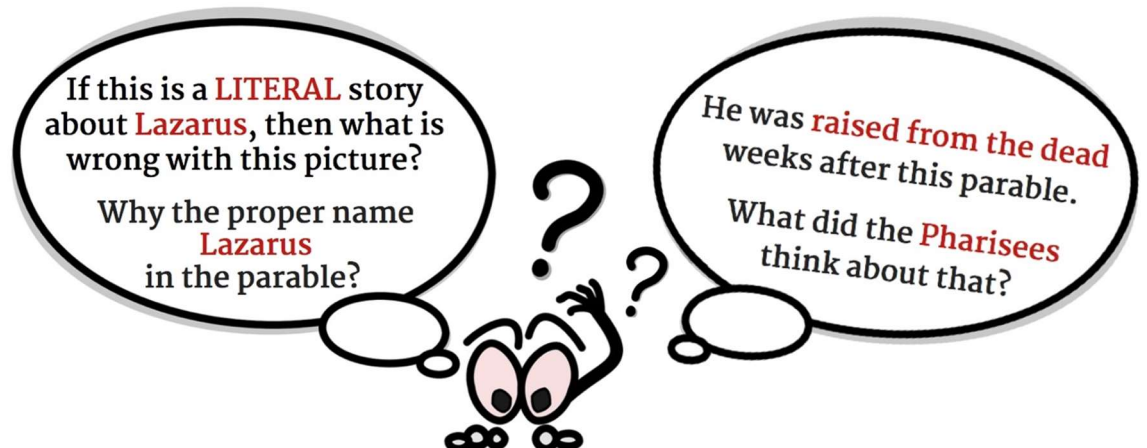
**Lazarus miserable - not really, Green Pastures Christian Fellowship, The Judge and His Justice**

- *There was a certain beggar named Lazarus which was laid at his gate, full of sores, and desired to be fed with the crumbs that fell from the rich man's table. Moreover, the dogs came and licked his sores. Imagine being this man! Imagine being this man. Lazarus is a man who lies there, who has ulcers on his*



*skin, and the dogs literally come and lick the pus that is coming from him. This man is in a miserable state.*

It is not a literal story. We need to know what it symbolizes. *The gate* represents he was outside of favor. *Full of sores* represents sins and moral defilement in this class of the Gentiles. Gentiles were considered dogs in Jewish tradition. Lazarus was *longing to be fed* with God's favor and truth which belonged to Israel alone.



It is interesting that two such *crumbs* were given by Jesus to the Gentiles:

1. Jesus healed the Roman centurion's servant.
2. Jesus healed the daughter of the Syrophenician woman.



The pastor in the audio clip stated this was a story about a literal man named Lazarus. *It cannot be about Lazarus who was raised by Jesus from the dead.* The pastor's belief is that when you die you go to heaven, so did Jesus pull Lazarus out of heaven? No.

Lazarus was one of Jesus' best friends and Jesus went to his house often. Lazarus had real estate, he had food to share and was not eating on the streets and begging. The parable is not referring to this Lazarus.



**The next text is just before Jesus' entry into Jerusalem:**

John 12:9-11: (NASB) <sup>9</sup>*The large crowd of the Jews then learned that he was there; and they came, not for Jesus' sake only, but that they might also see Lazarus, whom he raised from the dead. <sup>10</sup>But the chief priests planned to put Lazarus to death also; <sup>11</sup>because on account of him many of the Jews were going away and were believing in Jesus.*

**Now, combine these facts of the experience with the immediate and final lesson Jesus was teaching the Pharisees:**

Luke 16:30-31: (NASB) <sup>30</sup>*But he said, no, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent! <sup>31</sup>But he said to him, if they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be persuaded even if someone rises from the dead.*

Why does Jesus name the person in the parable Lazarus? The Pharisees knew of Lazarus and that Jesus raised him from the dead and they still wanted to kill him. Jesus was warning them about losing favor.



**These explanations about the rich man change things.  
What about other difficult New Testament texts?**

As we now move on to other difficult New Testament Scriptures, we need to be reminded that a solid biblical foundation is in place.



One of the key mistakes many Christians make on this particular subject is they look at a Scripture and zero in on one set of words and draw a conclusion. We should never do that without the context of the rest of the Scripture.

Let's look at an example of the importance of context:

 **Tophet and God's judgement, *Green Pastures Christian Fellowship, The Judge and His Justice***

- *This place Tophet - I meant to mention this a while ago in Mark chapter 9, because Gehenna there in the Greek is the Greek word used, and it comes from the Greek word Hinnom. Hinnom in the Old Testament was a place where the nation of Israel had built a god to Molech. They built an altar there, it was a brazen altar, and a fire was kindled in its belly. They would take little babies and place them in the arms of that statue. The drums would beat so that parents couldn't hear the screams of that child as it burned alive in torture. God compares His judgment to the torments of that place. They would bring out people and they would burn them alive in these places. God compares His torment to this place.*

Did God really compare that pagan ritual with His ways? Let me say plainly, "No way!" Leviticus 20:1-7 talks about God's judgment on the immorality of sacrificing one's offspring to Molech. God's judgment was *death* for anyone who would do that.

God shows us His heart in Jeremiah 19:4-6: (NASB) *<sup>4</sup>Because they have forsaken Me and have made this an alien place and have burned sacrifices in it to other gods, that neither they nor their forefathers nor the kings of Judah had ever known, and because they have filled this place with the blood of the innocent <sup>5</sup>and have built the high places of Baal to burn their sons in the fire as burnt offerings to Baal, a thing which I never commanded or spoke of, nor did it ever enter My mind <sup>6</sup>therefore, behold, days are coming declares the LORD, when this*



place will no longer be called Topheth or the valley of Ben-hinnom, but rather the valley of Slaughter.

There was no torment in Gehenna, only destruction.



God would never even consider such a thing as burning people. For that Pastor to insinuate that God compared His torment and judgment to what they did to those children is an insidious misrepresentation of Scripture.

If you were to believe in an eternal fire, then at that moment God already had at least a million people trapped in a torture chamber prison with no hope of parole, burning in pain eternally. Those sacrificed babies would have passed from death to life being continually in agony - to this very day in 2018! They are still being tortured, screaming for relief! Think about that! If you really believed this, how could you respect a deity like Jehovah, let alone love Him and worship Him out of love? None of those pagan countries or the Hebrews (God's chosen people) had ever heard the name Jesus. There is no "free pass" Scripture that says all the millions who died before Jesus get a free pass to heaven even though that was never promised to them nor did they know anything about it.

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Stephen: What people fail to understand is that hell in the Bible means many things, but the lake of fire is top of the line hellfire we been taught that Satan the devil is in the ground barbecuing people that's not true. The Bible teaches that the lake of fire was made for Satan and his followers, angels and humans. The lake of fire doesn't exist yet but when the second coming of Jesus happen he going to bring it to existence and rather you want to see it or not everyone who is still living will have to go to Jerusalem and see it.

Stephen referred to Isaiah 66 (treated previously) as well as Revelation 20:10 which we will address now.



**Angels in chains of darkness, *Green Pastures Christian Fellowship, The Judge and His Justice***

- In second Peter, chapter 2, verse 4 he says, "For if God spared not the angels that sinned but cast them down into hell and delivered them into chains of darkness to be reserved unto judgment." So, God cast down, He judges these angels and these demons - He has judged them, and He has cast them down into hell and He holds them in chains in torture until the final judgment.

First, this Greek word for *hell* is only used one time. It is called *Tartaroo* and represents the earth's atmosphere. Remember the devil is called *the prince of the power of the air* in Ephesians 2:2. These fallen angels are separated from the holy angels. We cannot forget what Peter is explaining. The angels that sinned before the flood materialized and comingled with women producing the giant "Nephilim" on the earth, an unauthorized hybrid human/angelic race. After the flood, the fallen angels were restrained and unable to materialize,






waiting for judgment. The fallen angels are trying to possess, manipulate and deceive living people from God and His plan.

In the audio clip he says they go down there (to Tartaroo) to torture. There is no Scripture that says anyone is tortured in Tartaroo. He jumps to conclusions that are not scriptural. The conclusion exists because the doctrine of hell is so pervasive, they assume these things follow.

As an introduction, we offer the following scriptural facts as we get into the Revelation Scripture: There are three similar words quoted today that are translated *torment*. The first one (already discussed) is the root word for the other two.


Please see the Bonus Material for full definitions and exhaustive lists and commentary on all of these words.




The first word is  
a noun  
and in Scripture  
describes the  
testing of one's  
very core:

(Greek English Lexicon) #931:  
1) a touchstone, which is a black siliceous  
stone used to test the purity of gold or  
silver by the color of the streak produced  
on it by rubbing it with either metal.  
2) The rack or instrument of torture by  
which one is forced to divulge the truth

We KNOW the first definition  
applies to the rich man as his  
"torment" is also described as  
grieving. In the context that  
it is used, only the first  
definition fits.



The second word is  
the verb form  
and in Scripture  
depicts the act of  
testing or revealing  
one's true core:



The third word is a  
noun  
and in Scripture  
depicts the result  
of the testing:

(Greek English Lexicon) #929 from 928;  
1) to torture, a testing by the touchstone,  
which is a black siliceous stone used to test the  
purity of gold or silver by the color of the streak  
produced on it by rubbing it with either metal.  
2) torment, torture. 2a) the act of tormenting.  
2b) the state or condition of those tormented



(Greek English Lexicon) #928: from 931;

1) to test (metals) by the touchstone, which is a black siliceous stone used to test the purity of gold or silver by the color of the streak produced on it by rubbing it with either metal.

2) to question by applying torture

(the act of revealing) day and night forever and ever.

Revelation 20:10-15: (NASB) <sup>10</sup>And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be **tormented** <928>

This lake of fire as Revelation 20:14 will soon tell us is called the Second Death. Because the Scriptures have already unequivocally defined this condition in the symbol of Gehenna (the garbage dump), we already know that NO torture happens there. What we see in the symbols in the above verse is the ages-long revealing process of the sins and corruption of the devil, beast, false prophet and those who followed them. Their actions can and will continue to be revealed - even after their destruction.

They will be put to the test and revealed to show who they really are. We can look upon this as an eternal lesson of sin. No one in the kingdom will want to go back to sin because that memory will always be there.

The sinfulness of Satan, the beast and the false prophet - the corrupt systems of religion that corrupted the words of Jesus and the gospel - their sinfulness will be revealed and always remembered.

**As this process unfolds, Revelation tells us of the rest of the judgments:**

<sup>11</sup>Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them. <sup>12</sup>And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds. <sup>13</sup>And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds. <sup>14</sup>Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. <sup>15</sup>And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

Second death is final judgment, final destruction for all who have not conformed to the will of God.

**So, what is the bottom line in all of this?  
Without hell, does God just give everyone a free ride?**

The free ride question is important. Before we get to it, we need to touch on another Revelation text that is similar to our previous discussion but also has some other elements. Once that is done we can then discuss the *sanctity of life* as God designed it to be lived by his human family. God's judgments are to protect and preserve life. When someone does not live up to that and has been given opportunity, the penalty is to lose the sanctity or sacredness of life as God created it to be. It is sad that some do not feel losing life forever is sufficient.

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Stephen: I mean you can disagree all you want with me, but this verse clearly states where the beast and false prophet are - with those are humans along with the devil.



**Revelation 14 - smoke of torment, Green Pastures Christian Fellowship, The Judge and His Justice**

- There are those that teach that there is no such thing as hell. That belief believes that when they're cast into the lake of fire that they cease to exist. That the body, soul and spirit is burned up and that's it. They're no more. They draw their view on that based off of a twisted verse in Revelation chapter 7 and it tells me that they've never read the entirety of Revelations, because Revelations chapter 14 tells me that the smoke of their torment ascended up forever. That word torment is torture. In other words, the torture of their soul, body, and spirit ascends up to the nostrils of God forever. Why? Because it pleases Him. Why does it please Him? Because sin must be punished.*

There is such a place as hell. It is in the Bible and it is defined in the Hebrew and Greek as "the grave" or "pit." Let's look at the context of Revelation 14. What is being tormented and has smoke? Verse 8 tells us it is the fall of Babylon. Remember the Tower of Babel when God confused mankind's languages? The word confusion aptly applies to nominal Christendom, organized Christian religions where Satan has misrepresented the truth, teaching doctrines of devils. The systems will soon be destroyed and taken off the scene. The Tares are being bundled in denominations. They are not following God's word but are following traditions and ceremonies which look nothing like Jesus and his disciples. The admonition in Revelation 18:4, *come out of her, my people, so that you will not participate in her sins and receive of her plagues should be heeded.*

Revelation 14:9-11: (KJV) <sup>9</sup>And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, if any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, <sup>10</sup>The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation...

Symbols of the text: the beast and his image represent great religious systems - the mark, the forehead and the hand are all symbols as well, as is the wine of God's wrath, the cup of indignation (obviously this is not literal).

Revelation is a book of symbols.

...and he shall be **tormented <928>** (the act of revealing) with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb:

Those who insist on sin as a result of The Day of Judgment *will* be revealed (touchstone) in the presence of Jesus and his true church. After all, they are the ones executing judgment. No one gets away with anything.

It is like when you have people with the death penalty, the argument is if they stay in prison they will suffer more than if you put them to death. Everyone wants the "bad people" to suffer. We are all bad in God's eyes. In the last audio clip, he said, "Torment pleases God because sin must be punished." Everlasting torture does NOT please God. God hates the evil that we are ALL



capable of. To say there is no chance to learn a lesson or to reconcile, especially for something we did in this lifetime because of mental illness, being blinded by Satan or due to our circumstances, defames God's character.

Instead of being punished, people need to be taught, held accountable and given an opportunity to face those they have wronged and make it right. That is what the Day of Judgment is about!

<sup>11</sup>And the smoke of their **torment <929>** (the results of the testing) ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.



**Text Summary:** All of the great religious systems that lead people away from truth (the **Beast, his image**) and any who worship them will be subject to the wrath of God and be utterly exposed as false and hypocritical and as such will meet with complete destruction (fire and brimstone), in the presence of Jesus and his true followers (the **lamb and his angels**). Though destroyed, the remembrance of their now revealed false systems and hypocrisy (the smoke of their torment) will be forever (they have no rest day or night) in the minds of men.

It does not say, *the fire of their torment ascendeth up forever*. In ancient times when a city was sacked and burned, the fires would go out, but they would smolder, and the smoke would rise, many times, for years.

**Remember - unquenchable fire means the fire is not quenched until its destructive work is done:**

Isaiah 34:8-10: (ASV) <sup>8</sup>For Jehovah hath a day of vengeance, a year of recompense for the cause of Zion. <sup>9</sup>And the streams of Edom shall be turned into pitch, and the dust thereof into brimstone, and the land thereof shall become burning pitch. <sup>10</sup>It shall not be **quenched <3518>** night nor day; the smoke thereof shall go up for ever; from generation to generation it shall lie waste; none shall pass through it for ever and ever. (This had both a prophetic AND literal fulfillment.)

This strong language is employed to set forth the destruction of a petty tribe occupying a territory ten or fifteen square miles. It furnishes an important illustration of the elasticity with which the phrases in review are used as symbols of temporal judgments. IS THIS FIRE STILL BURNING TODAY? No!

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**Blaine:** By simply looking at this group or sect's cover page, it's obvious who likes this teaching. The 666 people like this satanic teaching. It is the number of man and the teaching of man. Going through God's Holy Word and twisting and changing. I ask this to you, "Christian Questions," and I use the word "Christian" loosely. Why is there so much passion in saving fallen man from nothing? Evident by the early disciples. And even clearer by God giving His only Son to die for sinners! So, you're saying Jesus died just so sinners would not vanish away??? It's an evil teaching and as the gentleman said earlier, I rebuke this, and please repent.

It is odd that what they are calling the evil teaching is one where we are saying God's mercy and love are bigger than a meaningless, sadistic torturing of





everyone who never heard the name of Jesus or who were blinded not to believe in the power of his ransom during this life. Loss of life in God's plan is not without God fighting for that life to stay. As heinous as anyone has been in this world, they still have a chance to be accountable, to pay off their sins. If that individual will just not be accountable, they will forfeit their life. They are gone and once they are proven they cannot be brought to a point of full accountability before God.

The Day of Judgment is not the day of final proclamation. That is another misconception of Scripture.

For more on the Day of Judgment, please see September 5, 2016 CQ Episode 934: "Will Sinners Be Happy on Judgment Day?" and February 2, 2018 CQ Episode 852: "What Really Happens on Judgment Day?"



**Destruction but not really, *Green Pastures Christian Fellowship, The Judge and His Justice***

- There should be a peace that comes about our souls when we think of the final justice of God. There is no sin that will go unpunished. He says in flaming fire, taking vengeance on them that know not God. There's the first identifying mark. They don't love God. Then they show it forth, "They obey not the gospel of Jesus Christ who shall be punished with eternal destruction. What is this eternal destruction from the presence of God. From the presence of Lord and from the glory of His power." So, they're going to be isolated from the power of God and from the presence of God.*

Yes, let's have peace in the good news. Thy kingdom come Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. The promise to Abraham, and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed. If ye be Christ's, then you are heirs according to the promise. Angels declared to the shepherds, good news of great joy to all people. Christ died for the just and the unjust. As in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. Christ died once for all to be testified in due time. Yes, let's have peace in that good news!

Jonathan is quoting 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9. It says, these will pay the penalty of eternal destruction. We are all in agreement that it will be eternal destruction.

In the audio clip he does not allow the definition of destruction to stand. He adds to it and makes it an altered state of being.

**Lastly:**

Romans 8:6: (KJV) *For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.*

Notice the contrast - death versus life and peace. It is simply death and it is not death and torture or death and flames. It is death - the end of life. Life and peace are the rewards of God.

**Here is God's everlasting plan for the world as a result of Jesus' sacrifice:**

Isaiah 11:6-9: (NASB) *<sup>6</sup>And the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and the leopard will lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little boy will lead them. <sup>7</sup>Also the cow and the bear will graze, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. <sup>8</sup>The nursing child will play by the hole of the cobra, and the*



*weaned child will put his hand on the viper's den. <sup>9</sup>They will not hurt or destroy in all My holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.*

In the Bible, the teaching of hell must be put in the proper context with the proper understanding. Let's follow the Scriptures and not the minds of men. The hell of the Scriptures is going into the pit forever in *second death*, final destruction.

*So, is the hell of Christian tradition taught in the Bible?  
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...  
Think about it...!*



Join us next week for our podcast on July 2, 2018:  
*Do We Really Have Freedom of Choice?*

*Honesty is the fastest way to prevent a mistake from turning into a failure. — James Altucher*

#### **Parable of The Rich Man and Lazarus:**

Luke 16:19-21: (KJV) <sup>19</sup>There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day:

- Rich Man - the Jewish nation, specifically the Pharisees
- Clothed in purple (royalty) and fine linen - the promise of the kingdom and righteousness
- Fared sumptuously every day - he enjoyed but did not appreciate his blessings

<sup>20</sup>And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores, <sup>21</sup>And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores.

- Lazarus - represented the Gentiles - the "everybody else" outside of the Jewish favor
- Laid at his gate/full of sores - outside the gate of favor - outside of the atonement Israel received from their annual sacrifices
- Desired crumbs/company with dogs - the Gentiles at this time were spiritually hungry, unclean and detestable





Luke 16:22-23: (KJV) <sup>22</sup>And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; <sup>23</sup>And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.

- *Beggar died* - sinners and Gentiles died to their situation of disfavor.
- *Carried by angels* - the angels were the apostles and ministers of the Gospel.
- *To Abraham* - became the children of God and heirs of the Abrahamic promise - Galatians 3:29: (NIV) *If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.*
- *Rich man dies/is buried* - the Jews "died" to their favor and are buried in sin once again.
- *Lifting his eyes in hell* - entombed as a nation in the death of disfavor.
- *Being in torments* - this Greek word here literally means "a touchstone." He was being tested and his true colors revealed. As a touchstone, another way to say this might be: "You are revealed for what you are." So, when the Pharisees are being told that when they die to their position of favor, they will be revealed as counterfeit. Their hypocrisy would be made known. They would have recognized the touchstone as a symbol. We can imagine Jesus was looking directly at them while he was talking! Torments here means "hard testings."

#### **The only other time this word is used:**

Matthew 4:24: (KJV) *And his fame went throughout all Syria: and they brought unto him all sick people that were taken with divers diseases and **torments** <931>, and those which were possessed with devils, and those which were lunatic, and those that had the palsy; and he healed them.*

- *Seeing Abraham and Lazarus* - Lazarus as the spiritual seed of Abraham.
- *In his bosom* - no longer aliens, but children.

Restated: "Father, have mercy on me! Send Lazarus (those whom I despised) that he may dip the tip of his finger in water (truth) and give me just a drop of it, for I am in deep anguish of heart in this light that has revealed my irresponsibility, my pride and my fall from favor..."

This is all about lost opportunity but not about forever. Suddenly, we are not seeing hellfire and torment - we are seeing the anguish of heart from sin being revealed in the light of truth. This agony is not caused by physical pain, but by the realization that there is no place to hide. There is now nothing you can do but to accept the consequences that you so richly deserve.

#### **God showed what would be in store regarding justice and judgment:**

2 Peter 2:4-6: (NASB) <sup>4</sup>For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to pits of darkness, reserved for judgment; <sup>5</sup>and did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a preacher of righteousness, with seven others, when He brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly; <sup>6</sup>and if He condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to destruction by reducing them to ashes, having made them an example to those who would live ungodly lives thereafter.



**Many of our Christian friends use this next text as a proof of hell:**

Matthew 10:28: (KJV) *And fear not them which kill the body but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to **destroy** <622> both soul and body in **hell** <1067> (Gehenna).*

The problem is that it says destroy, and the word (#622) literally means to "destroy fully."

**If this word did mean torment, then how do we explain this next use of the word by JESUS himself?**

Matthew 5:29: (KJV) *And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should **perish** <622>, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell.*

Is this plucked out eye (SYMBOLIC) going to be tormented in hell, all on its own? Let's think!

Here is the exhaustive list of the word for corpse. We are being emphatic about not changing a meaning of a word simply because it fits a narrative:

**Corpse**: Strong's #6297 a carcass (as limp), whether of man or beast; figuratively, an idolatrous image: KJV - carcass, corpse, dead body.

Genesis 15:11: (KJV) *And when the fowls came down upon the **carcasses** <6297>, Abram drove them away.*

Leviticus 26:30: (KJV) *And I will destroy your high places, and cut down your images, and cast your **carcasses** <6297> upon the **carcasses** <6297> of your idols, and my soul shall abhor you.*

Numbers 14:29: (KJV) *Your **carcasses** <6297> shall fall in this wilderness; and all that were numbered of you, according to your whole number, from twenty years old and upward, which have murmured against me.*

Numbers 14:32: (KJV) *But as for you, your **carcasses** <6297>, they shall fall in this wilderness.*

Numbers 14:33: (KJV) *And your children shall wander in the wilderness forty years, and bear your whoredoms, until your **carcasses** <6297> be wasted in the wilderness.*

1 Samuel 17:46: (KJV) *This day will the LORD deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee and take thine head from thee; and I will give the **carcasses** <6297> of the host of the Philistines this day unto the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel.*

2 Kings 19:35: (KJV) *And it came to pass that night, that the angel of the LORD went out, and smote in the camp of the Assyrians an hundred fourscore and five thousand: and when they arose early in the morning, behold, they were all dead **corpses** <6297>.*

2 Chronicles 20:24: (KJV) *And when Judah came toward the watch tower in the wilderness, they looked unto the multitude, and, behold, they were dead **bodies** <6297> fallen to the earth, and none escaped.*

2 Chronicles 20:25: (KJV) *And when Jehoshaphat and his people came to take away the spoil of them, they found among them in abundance both riches with the dead **bodies** <6297>, and precious jewels, which they stripped off for themselves, more than they could carry away: and they were three days in gathering of the spoil, it was so much.*





Isaiah 14:19: (KJV) *But thou art cast out of thy grave like an abominable branch, and as the raiment of those that are slain, thrust through with a sword, that go down to the stones of the pit; as a carcass <6297> trodden under feet.*

Isaiah 34:3: (KJV) *Their slain also shall be cast out, and their stink shall come up out of their carcasses <6297>, and the mountains shall be melted with their blood.*

Isaiah 37:36: (KJV) *Then the angel of the LORD went forth and smote in the camp of the Assyrians a hundred and fourscore and five thousand: and when they arose early in the morning, behold, they were all dead corpses <6297>.*

Isaiah 66:24: (KJV) *And they shall go forth, and look upon the carcasses <6297> of the men that have transgressed against me: for their worm shall not die, neither shall their fire be quenched; and they shall be an abhorring unto all flesh.*

Jeremiah 31:40: (KJV) *And the whole valley of the dead bodies <6297>, and of the ashes, and all the fields unto the brook of Kidron, unto the corner of the horse gate toward the east, shall be holy unto the LORD; it shall not be plucked up, nor thrown down any more forever.*

Jeremiah 33:5: (KJV) *They come to fight with the Chaldeans, but it is to fill them with the dead bodies <6297> of men, whom I have slain in mine anger and in my fury, and for all whose wickedness I have hid my face from this city.*

Jeremiah 41:9: (KJV) *Now the pit wherein Ishmael had cast all the dead bodies <6297> of the men, whom he had slain because of Gedaliah, was it which Asa the king had made for fear of Baasha king of Israel: and Ishmael the son of Nethaniah filled it with them that were slain.*

Ezekiel 6:5: (KJV) *And I will lay the dead carcasses <6297> of the children of Israel before their idols; and I will scatter your bones round about your altars.*

Ezekiel 43:7: (KJV) *And he said unto me, Son of man, the place of my throne, and the place of the soles of my feet, where I will dwell in the midst of the children of Israel forever, and my holy name, shall the house of Israel no more defile, neither they, nor their kings, by their whoredom, nor by the carcasses <6297> of their kings in their high places.*

Ezekiel 43:9: (KJV) *Now let them put away their whoredom, and the carcasses <6297> of their kings, far from me, and I will dwell in the midst of them forever.*

Amos 8:3: (KJV) *And the songs of the temple shall be howlings in that day, saith the Lord GOD: there shall be many dead bodies <6297> in every place; they shall cast them forth with silence.*

Nahum 3:3: (KJV) *The horseman lifteth up both the bright sword and the glittering spear: and there is a multitude of slain, and a great number of carcasses <6297>; and there is none end of their corpses; they stumble upon their corpses:*

### **The larger context of the Isaiah 14 verse with the worms:**

Isaiah 14:9-15: (NASB) <sup>9</sup>Sheol from beneath is excited over you to meet you when you come; it arouses for you the spirits of the dead, all the leaders of the earth; it raises all the kings of the nations from their thrones. <sup>10</sup>They will all respond and say to you, even you have been made weak as we, you have become like us. <sup>11</sup>Your pomp and the music of your harps have been brought down to Sheol; Maggots are spread out as your bed beneath you and worms are your covering. <sup>12</sup>How you have fallen from heaven, O star of the morning, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the earth, you who have weakened the nations! <sup>13</sup>But you said in your heart, 'I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God, and I will sit on the mount of assembly in the recesses of the north. <sup>14</sup>I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High. <sup>15</sup>Nevertheless you will be thrust down to Sheol, to the recesses of the pit.



KJV translates the word *sheol* in verse 9 as *hell*, verse 11 as *grave* and verse 14 as *hell*. The lack of consistency is dramatic. Several translations since leave *sheol* untranslated showing a lack of commitment to the word's meaning. An examination of the Old Testament will reveal that the same word is translated *hell* for those who are bad and *grave* for those who are good.

The following texts from Job are an example of the word meaning grave and describing what happens there.

Job 14:13: (KJV) *O that thou wouldst hide me in the **grave <7585>**, that thou wouldst keep me secret, until thy wrath be past, that thou wouldst appoint me a set time, and remember me!*

Job 17:13: (KJV) *If I wait, the **grave <7585>** is mine house: I have made my bed in the darkness.*

Job 17:16: (KJV) *They shall go down to the bars of the **pit <7585>**, when our rest together is in the dust.*

Job 21:13: (KJV) *They spend their days in wealth, and in a moment go down to the **grave <7585>**.*

Job 24:19: (KJV) *Drought and heat consume the snow waters: so doth the **grave <7585>** those which have sinned.*

**More on the word for destruction in this verse which was quoted in the first segment:**

Acts 3:23: (KJV) *And it shall come to pass, that every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be **destroyed <1842>** from among the people.*

**Destroyed:** Strongs #1842, exolethreuo, 1. to destroy out of its place, destroy utterly, to extirpate 1a. to destroy completely: wipe out; 1b. to pull up by the root; 2. to cut out by surgery

**Only use of this word:**

Hebrews 11:27-28: (NASB) *<sup>27</sup>By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured, as seeing Him who is unseen. <sup>28</sup>By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of the blood, so that he who **destroyed <3645>** the firstborn would not touch them.*

An exhaustive look at *touchstone* in all of its forms: We are using the Greek-English Lexicon for the definitions as it is more comprehensive, and its definitions truly do fit all of the uses of the words in the New Testament under consideration.

Touchstone: a noun, referring to the stone and what is symbolizes. This stone did symbolize the extracting of truth and true identity, for the stone only showed truth. In similar fashion, the rack of torture was designed as an extractor of truth, though it was set up to create serious pain as its method. We do not see this "rack" application in Scripture at all. What we do see is the seriousness of being tested - hard.

(Greek English Lexicon) #931: perhaps remotely from the same as 939 (through the notion of going to the bottom); AV-torment 3; 1) a touchstone, which is a black siliceous stone used to test the purity of gold or silver by the color of the streak produced on it by rubbing it with either metal; 2) the rack or instrument of torture by which one is forced to divulge the truth; 3) torture, torment, acute pains; 3a) of the pains of a disease; 3b) of those in hell after death



This first text gives us the sense of pains that would test the very fiber of a person. These pains did not have to be merely physical but also emotional. We are reminded of the man with the demon possessed self-abusive son who said to Jesus, "IF you can help me." Also, the young man possessed by the demon named Legion.

Matthew 4:24: (KJV) *And his fame went throughout all Syria: and they brought unto him all sick people that were taken with divers diseases and **torments <931>**, and those which were possessed with devils, and those which were lunatick, and those that had the palsy; and he healed them.*

**These next two are in the Rich Man and Lazarus parable and show the emotional anguish experienced as a result of the power of the "touchstone" testing upon his heart:**

Luke 16:23: (KJV) *And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in **torments <931>**, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.*

Luke 16:28: (KJV) *For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of **torment <931>**.*

**Touchstone:** a verb, referring to the act of actual testing OR revealing of the touchstone.

(Greek English Lexicon) #928: from 931; AV-torment 8, pain 1, toss 1, vex 1, toil 1; 1) to test (metals) by the touchstone, which is a black siliceous stone used to test the purity of gold or silver by the color of the streak produced on it by rubbing it with either metal. 2) to question by applying torture; 3) to torture; 4) to vex with grievous pains (of body or mind), to torment; 5) to be harassed, distressed; 5a) of those who at sea are struggling with a head wind

**This first text exemplifies the action of "testing one's mettle" under seriously contrary conditions:**

Mark 6:48: (KJV) *And he saw them **toiling <928>** in rowing; for the wind was contrary unto them: and about the fourth watch of the night he cometh unto them, walking upon the sea, and would have passed by them.*

**"Legion" fearing that the excruciating revealing of true identity would come then from Jesus:**

Luke 8:28: (KJV) *When he saw Jesus, he cried out, and fell down before him, and with a loud voice said, what have I to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God most high? I beseech thee, **torment <928>** me not.*

Noah's anguish ridden reaction (the test of his mettle) to the overwhelmingly sinful pre-flood world he lived in. It was this attitude that caused him to be chosen of God.

2 Peter 2:8: (KJV) *For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, **vexed <928>** his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds.*

**This torment is likened to the pain of a scorpion sting. While this is a physical pain we also acknowledge the mental anguish (the test of their mettle) upon those who were beaten down:**

Revelation 9:5: (KJV) *And to them it was given that they should not kill them, but that they should be **tormented <928>** five months: and their torment was as the torment of a scorpion, when he striketh a man.*



## **Not a physical torment but a mental anguish brought about by false teaching:**

Revelation 11:10: (KJV) *And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets **tormented** <928> them that dwelt on the earth.*

**The phrase “travailing in birth” directly relates to the physical pain of childbirth. The word “pained” attaches itself to a woman having their mettle tested - the steep mental challenge of seeing it through:**

Revelation 12:2: (KJV) *And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and **pained** <928> to be delivered.*

## **These last two are a final revealing of the mettle (the identity) of those who embrace sin:**

Revelation 14:10: (KJV) *The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be **tormented** <928> with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb:*

Revelation 20:10: (KJV) *And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be **tormented** <928> day and night for ever and ever.*

**Touchstone - a noun - referring to the testing of the stone in a sense of its results. This word comes from the previous word in our list which supports the “mettle testing” approach and not a mere torture definition.**

(Greek English Lexicon) #929 (basanismo) from 928; 1) to torture, a testing by the touchstone, which is a black siliceous stone used to test the purity of gold or silver by the color of the streak produced on it by rubbing it with either metal. 2) torment, torture. 2a) the act of tormenting. 2b) the state or condition of those tormented.

## **The first word in this verse “tormented” (928 see above) was the action of testing followed by “torment” (929) which shows what that testing was like:**

Revelation 9:5: (KJV) *And to them it was given that they should not kill them, but that they should be tormented five months: and their **torment** <929> was as the **torment** <929> of a scorpion, when he striketh a man.*

## **A result of the test of true identity. Smoke rising indicates that the destruction is over and only smoldering remains are left:**

Revelation 14:11: (KJV) *And the smoke of their **torment** <929> ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.*

**The Judgment upon Babylon, the great spiritual abomination that overran Christianity. Verse 7 pronounces the true identity test. Verses 10 and 15 describe her identity test as severe and final - no one wants to be close.**

Revelation 18:7: (KJV) *How much she hath glorified herself, and lived deliciously, so much **torment** <929> and sorrow give her: for she saith in her heart, I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow.*

Revelation 18:10: (KJV) *Standing afar off for the fear of her **torment** <929>, saying, Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! For in one hour is thy judgment come.*

Revelation 18:15: (KJV) *The merchants of these things, which were made rich by her, shall stand afar off for the fear of her **torment** <929>, weeping and wailing.*





**Here are a few Scriptures that show God wants to reconcile and hates the evil, not the people.**

**Ezekiel 33:11:** (NKJV) *Say to them: 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. Turn, turn from your evil ways! For why should you die, O house of Israel?*

**Amos 5:14-15:** (ASV) *<sup>14</sup>Seek good, and not evil, that ye may live; and so, Jehovah, the God of hosts, will be with you, as ye say. <sup>15</sup>Hate the evil, and love the good, and establish justice in the gate: it may be that Jehovah, the God of hosts, will be gracious unto the remnant of Joseph.*

**2 Corinthians 5:18-19:** (NKJV) *<sup>18</sup>Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, <sup>19</sup>that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.*

**2 Peter 3:9:** (NKJV) *The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.*

