

## Bible Study on the Intermediate and Eternal State of Unbelievers

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**1 Samuel 16:7;** Only God knows a person's heart. We don't.

**Luke 16:19 – 31;** The rich man died and went to a place of torment called *Hades*. Hades is called the place of the dead, but Jesus said it was a place of torment, a place of intense thirst and of fire.

Matthew 16:18; Jesus said that the gates of *hades* would not be able to withstand the advance of the gospel as it is revealed to and proclaimed by His church.

Revelation 20:13 – 14; Death and *Hades* one day will be thrown into the Lake of Fire, the eternal hell, along with the anti-christ, the false prophet, the devil, and all of those whose names are not written in the Lamb's book of Life.

**Matthew 5:22, 29, 30, 10:28, 18:9, 23:15, Mark 9:43 – 44, Luke 12:5;** Jesus also used the word *Gehena*, more than any other, to describe the place of fiery punishment for unbelievers. *Gehena* is from the Hebrew phrase "Valley of Hinnon, also called Tophet; Jeremiah 7:31 – 33. It was the southern tip of Jerusalem where the Tyropoeon valley, the Hinnon valley, and the Kidron valley all met. It was a place of idolatry in the Old Testament (2 Kings 23:10), the city dump ground in Jesus' day, and the place where the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD ended. Historians say that over 600,000 Jewish bodies were dumped in an open grave there after the 70 AD destruction of Jerusalem. This seems to be the same place as *hades* because Jesus uses a different phrase for eternal hell.

**2 Peter 2:4;** Peter uses the word *tartaros* to describe a prison for demons. It literally means "lower hell." Jude doesn't use the same word but describes the prison for demons in **Jude 6**. The word *abyss* is probably the same place, the bottomless pit, a prison for demons, **Luke 8:30 – 31, Revelation 9:1 – 2, 11:7, 20:1, 3**. Peter refers to this place in **1 Peter 3:18 – 20**.

**Matthew 25:41, Revelation 19:19 – 20, 20:7 – 10, 11 – 15;** The lake of fire, or everlasting fire, is eternal hell prepared for the devil and his angels. This is the final and eternal place of torment for those who have rejected the gift of salvation in Jesus Christ. Jesus called it a place of outer darkness where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth, **Matthew 8:10 – 12**.