

## What is Hell and the Lake of Fire?

When encountering a biblical word you don't understand, one method of discovering its meaning is to look up the word in a concordance and examine what the Bible says about it. A good example of this is Hell and the Lake of Fire.

1. Examine this group of like verses. What do you observe about Hell?

“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You travel over land and sea to win a single convert, and when you have succeeded, you make them twice as much a child of **hell** as you are.” (Matt 23:15, NIV)

2. Examine this group of like verses. What do you observe about Hell?

You snakes! You brood of vipers! How will you escape being **condemned to hell**? (Matt 23:33, NIV)

3. Examine this group of like verses. What do you observe about Hell?

If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life maimed than with two hands to **go into hell**, where the fire never goes out. And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life crippled than to have two feet and be **thrown into hell**. And if your eye causes you to stumble, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and be **thrown into hell**, (Mark 9:43-47, NIV)

But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear him who, after your body has been killed, has authority to **throw you into hell**. Yes, I tell you, fear him. (Luke 12:5, NIV)

The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one's life on fire, and is itself **set on fire by hell**. (Jas 3:6, NIV)

4. Examine this group of like verses. What do you observe about the Lake of Fire?

But the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who had performed the signs on its behalf. With these signs he had deluded those who had received the mark of the beast and worshiped its image. The two of them were **thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur**. (Rev 19:20, NIV)

And the devil, who deceived them, was **thrown into the lake of burning sulfur**, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever. (Rev 20:10, NIV)

But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars—they will be **consigned to the fiery lake of burning sulfur**. This is the second death.” (Rev 21:8, NIV)

5. Examine this group of like verses. What do you observe about the Lake of Fire?

Then death and Hades were **thrown into the lake of fire**. The lake of fire is the second death. Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was **thrown into the lake of fire**. (Rev 20:14-15, NIV)

## What is Hell and the Lake of Fire?

### Teacher Notes

When encountering a biblical word you don't understand, one method of discovering its meaning is to look up the word in a concordance and examine what the Bible says about it. A good example of this is Hell and the Lake of Fire.

1. Examine this group of like verses. What do you observe about Hell?

“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You travel over land and sea to win a single convert, and when you have succeeded, you make them twice as much a child of **hell** as you are.” (Matt 23:15, NIV)

Encourage the student to make as many observations he can about the text. What is a child of hell? What does that tell us?

Hell is a place for non-Believers.

2. Examine this group of like verses. What do you observe about Hell?

You snakes! You brood of vipers! How will you escape being **condemned to hell**? (Matt 23:33, NIV)

Ask the student: what does it mean to be condemned? How does one get condemned?

Hell is a destination after a judicial process.

3. Examine this group of like verses. What do you observe about Hell?

If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life maimed than with two hands to **go into hell**, where the fire never goes out. And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life crippled than to have two feet and be **thrown into hell**. And if your eye causes you to stumble, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and be **thrown into hell**, (Mark 9:43-47, NIV)

But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear him who, after your body has been killed, has authority to **throw you into hell**. Yes, I tell you, fear him. (Luke 12:5, NIV)

The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one's life on fire, and is itself **set on fire by hell**. (Jas 3:6, NIV)

Ask the student: what are your observations of how Hell is described. How do people get into Hell?

Hell is a place of unquenchable fire that a non-Believer is thrown or cast into.

4. Examine this group of like verses. What do you observe about the Lake of Fire?

But the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who had performed the signs on its behalf. With these signs he had deluded those who had received the mark of the beast and worshiped its image. The two of them were **thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur**. (Rev 19:20, NIV)

And the devil, who deceived them, was **thrown into the lake of burning sulfur**, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever. (Rev 20:10, NIV)

But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars—they will be **consigned to the fiery lake of burning sulfur**. This is the second death.” (Rev 21:8, NIV)

Ask the student: how is Hell and the Lake of Fire similar? How are they dissimilar?

The Lake of Fire, like Hell, is an eternal place that resurrected non-Believers and evil beings are tossed or cast into.

5. Examine this group of like verses. What do you observe about the Lake of Fire?

Then death and Hades were **thrown into the lake of fire**. The lake of fire is the second death. Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was **thrown into the lake of fire**. (Rev 20:14-15, NIV)

Ask the student: what else goes into the Lake of Fire? Why?

The Lake of Fire will be the location for all things that God deems evil.

Ask the student: where does the Bible mention the Lake of Fire? If Hell and the Lake of Fire appear to be the same place, why the two names?

**Lake of Fire:** The Lake of Fire is only mentioned in the last book of the Bible – Revelation. Unlike Hades which is where the souls of non-Believers reside after death, the Lake of Fire is introduced after all of the dead are resurrected. Hell and the Lake of Fire appear to be synonymous where hell is a simpler conceptual term without requiring any understanding of the details of resurrection and the Great White Throne of Judgment.