

# What And Where Is Hell?

## Biblical Meaning of Hell-fire.

Selected from Geoffrey E. Youlden

Josef Stalin was a butcher and he was literally responsible for exterminating millions of people. As one writer said, Stalin didn't have a single enemy. They were all underground. Another said, he was a hater of religion. Now why did Josef Stalin become a man such as this? Well, the information that I'm going to share with you now regarding Josef Stalin was largely from a Russian who is a Seventh-day Adventist minister. He was in college with Josef Stalin. He was before the firing squad on one occasion; many died in Russia in this way. He heard a voice say to him, "Run." This voice spoke to him and said, "Run," and he ran and he was able to dodge the bullets, and he escaped into Siberia and finally down into China. He was a minister there in China for many years. Then he immigrated to Australia and actually died in Western Australia. Since then I have checked up and asked questions around and have found that the information I'm going to share with you is correct.

Josef Stalin was reared in a home in Georgia in the southern part of Russia. His mother was a devoted Christian and belonged to the Russian Orthodox Church. There in that area of Georgia they are of Arabian descent, That is, they come from the descendants of Ishmael. It's been the custom there for many, many years that one person was chosen from the family to carry the religious line along. So one man was selected in the families from the different tribes to train as a priest, and Josef Stalin was selected from his tribe and my friend was selected from his. And both of them were in the seminary together training to be priests. My friend said that Josef Stalin was a brilliant young man and he was very quick and asked many questions in the seminary. The big question that he used to ask about was the question about eternal torment. How could a God of love torture His creatures forever? That was the question that niggled in the back of Josef Stalin's mind all through his training as a priest. For in the Greek and Russian Orthodox Church, and the Roman Catholic Church, and I'm sorry to say in many Protestant churches, they all teach eternal torment.

You see, if you believe in the immortal soul theory, that you go on living after you die, then you've got to have somewhere for the wicked to go, isn't that right? That's why this idea of eternal torment has been accepted and taught, and Josef Stalin asked a lot of questions. At about this time that he was in the seminary a young girl training to be a nun, committed suicide. You see, in the Greek and Russian Orthodox churches there's one difference with the Catholic Church, The priests and nuns are allowed to marry. She was friendly with a young man, and she saw this young man go out with another girl, and this affected her mind to the extent that she committed suicide. In the seminary it came up to discussion as to what had happened to this girl, and the priest, unequivocally, told the boys in training that she had gone to hell. She has committed suicide and there was no hope for her at all, and therefore she would be in hell, burning and burning throughout all eternity. That's not only taught by the Russian Orthodox Church, but it's taught by the Catholic Church and by many Protestant churches as well.

In fact, I picked up a book from the Catholic mission, and I want you to notice what it has to say because in a few moments I'm going to show you what the Bible actually says about hell. I noticed that under the heading "Hell", it had this to say: "Do you see, O sinner, that dark prison full of fire and smoke. It is prepared for you. It is prepared for you, and if you do not resolve to amend therein you will burn with your soul and your body. The fire will penetrate your veins, your brain, the very marrow of your bones, so that you will become a mass of fire like an iron in a furnace. How will you be able then to enjoy that devouring and inextinguishable fire, you who cannot bear to hold a finger in a weak flame of a candle? If

you fall into that fire, how long do you think you will remain there? A hundred years? More still. Millions and millions of years? Far more. How long? As long as God shall be God, forever, for all eternity. And during all that time there will not be a moment of truce. No, never. Shall one be able to move even a finger? Never. Can one never close an eye for a quarter of an hour? Never. Can one ever obtain a least drop of water? No, never, never, O horrible eternal fire of hell.”

Now if that’s true, that’s a pretty terrible fate, isn’t it? And that’s the teaching that turned Josef Stalin into the butcher that he became, because he couldn’t reconcile that teaching that he has been taught in the seminary, with a God of love; and honestly, I can’t either. He had plenty of questions.

When this young girl committed suicide, it brought it to a head. For the church, you see, wouldn’t bury her in consecrated ground. They said she was a suicide and could never be saved and she was going to be like that for all eternity. And Josef Stalin said, “Do you mean to tell me that because this girl committed one sin at the end of her life, that she’ll go to hell and burn and burn for all eternity?” The priest replied, “That’s exactly what is going to happen to her.”

So Josef Stalin asked the question to the priest, “Who keeps the fires burning then in hell? You see if the fires are going to burn through all eternity, who stokes them?” And the priest got very annoyed because, of course, he couldn’t answer a question like that. Young Stalin persisted in his questions. He said, “What does the fire burn on? Is it coal? Is it wood? Is it oil?” He persisted with these questions. The priest said, “There will be weeping and gnashing.” Stalin said, “If there is weeping, then there is got to be tears. Have they got a tap there? Where do they get the water from? If there’s no water, how could there be tears?” He kept on until the priest got very annoyed because he couldn’t answer these questions and so he gave Stalin a beating and put him in the corner for about half an hour.

Stalin maintained that while he was in that corner, smarting under the blows of that priest, he determined that if ever he got power, he would smash the power of the church. And it was the teaching of eternal torment that drove Josef Stalin into communism.

Now of course, at this time that Stalin was training to become a priest, communism was starting to grow in Russia and it was just before the First World War. So he left the seminary and he joined up with the revolutionaries. Prior to 1917 Russia was ruled by the Czars or Kings. Stalin joined the communist revolutionaries and he had to flee for his life. His first wife was forced to such a state of abject poverty that she died of T. B. That, of course, only inflamed the hatred of Josef Stalin.

Capitalism and the church in the minds of millions of Russians were linked together. I don’t say that critically, but unfortunately that has been the truth down through the ages, and that still is. But capitalism and the church were tied in very, very closely and that was certainly true of Russia.

When Josef Stalin got back to Georgia, he was in prison for a little time because of his revolutionary activities. But when he got out of prison, he came in contact again with my friend who was in the seminary with him. In the meantime, while Stalin had become a revolutionary, my friend had become a Seventh-day Adventist and he had gotten to know about the Bible. When he met Stalin after he had been released from prison, he shared with Josef Stalin some of the truths that he was finding, about the Second Coming of Christ. Stalin was very impressed about the teaching of the second coming of Jesus in which the world’s ills would be righted, and he listened.

In fact, when my friend invited him along to church, he came along to our church in Georgia on quite a number of occasions. In fact, while he was visiting our church, that’s where he met his second wife, the mother of Steph Lana who was a Seventh-day Adventist, and he married her. But of course, he couldn’t remain there too long, because of his previous revolutionary activities, he was on the run and had to

flee for his life. When the revolution broke out in Russia, Stalin joined right in, and finally in 1922, when Lenin died, he took over leadership.

Some of the basic ideals that the communists had, was that he could not be a member of the communistic party and be a Christian. To be a communist you have to, not only be an atheist, but a militant atheist. So he had to fight against God and against the church.

In fact, even before Lenin died, Stalin came along to our church in Moscow on at least two occasions. But when he got power, evidently he remembered the vow that he had made, back at the seminary that he was going to smash the power of the church, and power went to his head, and he carried out literally the vow that he had made. He set about warring against the church and he murdered millions.

Writers have made statements about Josef Stalin. In reading his life story I have noticed one said, "He cared nothing for human life." And that was true, that is, the other man's life. He cared an awful lot about his own. In fact, he would never allow "death" to be mentioned in his presence. He hated the word "death." He was fearful of death himself, but he was very unconcerned about the death of many others. Another writer said, "He was as unemotional as a slab of rock." And I think that's pretty accurate, and history associates him with Adolf Hitler and Ghengis Khan, as being probably the most bloodiest men that have ever lived upon this earth.

Stalin became an avowed hater of religion and he warred against it, and millions lost their lives while he reigned in Russia. His onslaught against the church was very apparent, and his wife, Steph Lana's mother, tried to steady him up, but he was so ruthless that he pushed his wife aside. I noticed that writers, on the life of Stalin, are divided as to how his second wife died. That's the mother of Steph Lana who was a Seventh-day Adventist. Some say she committed suicide. Others say that he murdered her.

I notice that Steph Lana, his daughter, when she sought political asylum in America where she is today, when she got off the airplane and was interviewed, she maintained that her mother committed suicide. For you see, if she did commit-suicide, Josef Stalin had driven her into it. So it really doesn't matter so much, as to whether he murdered her or drove her to suicide, the end result was the same, as the mother of Steph Lana died. Certainly he became an opponent of God and religion. It was very largely this doctrine of eternal torment that drove him into this.

I want to notice some texts of Scripture on this question of eternal torment because I don't know of a single doctrine that has made more people atheists than the doctrine of eternally burning hell. It makes them atheists by the millions. So we want to find out from the Bible, what does God teach on the subject of hell, and was Josef Stalin right when he asked those questions in the seminary?

Now I have been accused sometimes by people of not believing in hell. Well, before we're through this lecture, I think you will be very convinced that I believe in hell. I'm going to convince you that I believe in hell much hotter than the hell of popular theology. In fact, hell is mentioned 5453 times in the Bible. However, the hell that the Bible teaches is not the hell of popular theology whereby a person burns and burns and burns and burns, and yet doesn't burn. Not that hell at all. The hell of the Bible is so hot when a person gets into it, they are consumed into ashes and they're gone forever. That's the hell of the Bible and we'll see that from the Bible in a few moments.

Our God will never perpetuate sin and He will never have a heaven on top of an abyss where there is hell and the cries of those in hell will be screeched out against those that are in heaven. The Bible never pictures heaven and hell like that. In fact, some people have pictured heaven and hell so close together that people could actually talk together, and they base this on the story of The Rich Man and Lazarus.

Well, now, no person could ever be happy in a heaven which was just the other side of where were millions screaming out in hell-fire. I couldn't sleep at night if there was a dog outside the house

screaming in agony. I would get out of bed and do something for the poor creature. Imagine, having millions down there frying and yet not frying, but burning like we read in that statement before, throughout all eternity. What type of a heaven would that be for anyone? God wouldn't perpetuate such a situation, or teaching, or any such statement. Let's now notice what the Bible says.

**“And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.” Revelation 20:14-15.**

So this text rules out the idea that there will be no punishment. There is a punishment and there is a hell. The Bible is very, very clear on that, but it is a much hotter hell than the hell of popular theology.

One of the main reasons why I'm opposed to the popular teaching of hell is because it makes the atonement of the Lord Jesus Christ an impossibility. The Bible says that when Jesus died on the cross, He died for our sins. He died for our punishment; and if people are down in hell burning now, it would rule out the death of Jesus.

For example, if a person is sentenced to a term in jail, maybe for ten years, and someone else comes along and volunteers to serve that sentence, that sentence is not fulfilled until the ten years are up. That first person is not released from his debt until the ten years are over. So if punishment for sin is eternal burning in hell, and Jesus took the sinner's place, where should Jesus be now? Shouldn't He be down in hell burning? He would be if that's the punishment for sin, because Jesus took our place? But the Bible doesn't teach that Jesus is in hell now, because eternally burning in hell is not the punishment for sin.

The Bible says, “For the wages of sin is death,” not eternally burning in hell. When Jesus died on the cross, He said, “It is finished,” and He paid the debt. **Romans 6:23 says, “The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”** That's why it says that the lake of fire at the end of the thousand years is the second death.

Every one of us will die the first death if Jesus doesn't come soon. That is inevitable. Both the good and the wicked alike will suffer the first death. But only the wicked will suffer the second death, that's the eternal death from which there is no resurrection, and that takes place at the end of the thousand years.

Here is another reason why we shouldn't be confused on this subject.

**“Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way which leads unto life, and few there be that find it.” Matthew 7:13, 14.**

According to what Jesus says here, the majority of people are heading for destruction. This would indicate that the majority of your loved ones will be heading in that direction and the majority of my loved ones will be heading in that direction. Jesus is saying that only a minority will be saved, the few.

Now listen! If the wages of sin and the reward of rebellion against God actually is eternally burning in hell, then where are the majority of our departed loved ones at the present moment? Sweltering down there in hell, aren't they? I tell you that that's a monstrous teaching to think that our loved ones are down there screaming out for a drop of water to be placed on their tongue, and they're going to do that, the advocacies of this theory suggest, not just for a hundred years, or for a million years, but as long as God is God.

Now the majority of ministers have toned it down a little in the churches of today. I have been to many funerals in which the ministers of the funerals, advocates of this theory claim they are going home to heaven. No matter whether the person lived a drunkard's life, or an immoral life, no matter how they've lived, they claim every one of those people is in heaven, because you see, they're not willing to tell the

truth. But if they really believe it is true that eternal hell fire is where they're heading, they should tell the truth. They are not willing to because it sounds monstrous, and it is! It's a satanic doctrine. Satan invented that doctrine to slander the character of God. Millions today are turned off from religion and the Bible because of it. It seems a tragedy to think that Christian churches are perpetuating the devil's lie.

Some folk ask about two texts of Scripture that seem to present a problem on this subject of eternally burning hell.

**"This 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 with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment ascends up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receives the mark of his name." Revelation 24:10, 11.**

That's certainly strong language, isn't it? Because at first reading, this text seems to be teaching the popular doctrine of burning in hell. and the Bible says here that they're going to have no rest day nor night who worship the beast and his image.

Now there's another verse that also throws light on Revelation 14:10, 11. We have found in Bible study that when you meet a difficult verse or a verse that seems to go contrary to other teachings of Scripture, we must compare scripture with scripture and allow the Bible to be its own interpreter. Let's now notice what God says.

**"But the wicked shall perish, and the enemies of the lord shall be as the fat of lambs: they shall consume; into smoke shall they consume away." Psalm 37:20.**

The Bible says that the wicked are going to perish, that is, they'll be destroyed. That agrees with John 3:16, **"For God so loved the world that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."** It agrees with Romans 6:23, **"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."**

Now if the wicked live for eternity in hell, then they have eternal life, isn't that right? Only their eternal life is in hell and the eternal life of the righteous is in heaven, but both groups have eternal life. The Bible says, No, the wicked will perish; they will die; they will be destroyed, **"into smoke shall they consume away"**.

The Bible pictures it here as the fat of lambs, the wicked are going to be consumed like the fat of lambs. One preacher, who believed in this other theory, this terrible theory that slanders the character of God, described what is going to happen to the wicked. He pictured the wicked as being like asbestos in hell. You know what asbestos is like, it burns and yet it doesn't burn. But the Bible doesn't say that the wicked are as asbestos, it says that they are as the fat of lambs, **"into smoke shall they consume away," said the Lord.**

Candles years ago were made of fat similar to the fat of lambs. Today mostly they are made from wax. If you take a little candle and lite it, it will burn down. The smoke will go up and finally the candle will burn all the way down into smoke and it's gone, and the smoke has gone up forever and ever. It says that their smoke will go up forever and ever, just as the smoke of that candle goes up into the atmosphere forever and ever and can never be recalled. It's gone. So that's what's going to happen to the wicked, they're gone.

**"For such as be blessed of him shall inherit the earth; and they that be cursed of him shall be cut off." Psalm 37:22.**

One class, the righteous are going to inherit the earth. The other class, the wicked, are going to be cut off, that means that they'll die.

**“For the LORD loveth judgment, and forsaketh not his saints; they are preserved for ever: but the seed of the wicked shall be cut off.” Psalm 37:28.**

All the way through this chapter God is contrasting the righteous that are going to live forever, with the wicked that are going to be cut off.

**“Wait on the Lord, and keep His ways and He shall exalt thee to inherit the land: when the wicked are cut off, thou shall see it.” Psalm 37:34.**

When the wicked are wiped out, the righteous are going to see it. God is going to usher in His people to a new earth. For the same fire that burns the wicked is going to cleanse the earth and God is going to make a brand new earth. That earth that we're going to inherit after the thousand years is going to be in the same condition as it was before Adam and Eve sinned, this will be the earth made new.

We must be clear on the state of the wicked and what's going to happen to the wicked when we come to the study of the Bible. There's one thing that I've noticed in talking to ministers of this terrible doctrine of eternal torment, I have never yet met one who could tell me where hell is. They picture the wicked down there in hell, burning and burning, and yet not burning, so I have said to them, "Tell me: Where is this place?" One man suggested it might be in the center of the sun. Someone else suggested that it was in the center of the earth. I have never yet been able to find anyone that could give me any evidence, except what they speculate and what they think.

The New Testament, in the Bible does tell us where hell is. There are two main words translated "hell" in the New Testament. One is "hades" which means, the grave; sometimes that's translated "hell." The other word is "Gehenna", and this is translated "hell," and it's always used in connection with hell-fire. The "Gehenna" that Jesus spoke about was outside the walls of Jerusalem. Today, Jerusalem is a city surrounded by a wall and on either side you have the Mount of Olives. In between is a valley, this is the Valley of Gehenna. In Jesus' day it was the city rubbish dump; all the rubbish of the city was thrown out there. In the Roman occupation, even the bodies of criminals were thrown out here, and the fire was burning continually. As rubbish was thrown out, it would smolder and it would burn on and on. Jesus takes up this picture of the rubbish burning in the place they called "Gehenna" and uses this to illustrate the destruction that will going to destroy sin and sinners in the last day.

That fire outside the city walls of Jerusalem is not burning today. you can walk through the valley, walk up and down it. There's no fire at all. Jesus used the illustration of "Gehenna," not to teach a fire that never goes out, but a fire that is complete in its destruction. Whatever went in there was destroyed, burnt up. That was the illustration that Jesus was using.

**“And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.” Revelation 20:9.**

Now according to this verse, where are the wicked destroyed,? On the earth; the hell-fire of the Bible is going to take place on this earth.

**“For the indignation of the Lord is upon all nations, and His fury upon all their armies: He has utterly destroyed them, He hath delivered them to the slaughter.” Isaiah 34:2.**

**“Their slain also shall be cast out, and their stink shall come up out of their carcasses, and the mountains shall be melted with their blood. And all the host of heaven shall be dissolved, and the heavens shall be rolled together as a scroll: end all their host shall fall down as the leaf falls off from the vine, and as a falling fig from the fig tree.” Isaiah 34:3, 4.**

We have what sounds something like that In Revelation 6, the description of the sixth seal, when the wicked will cry to the rocks and mountains to hide them from Him that sits on the throne. The Bible goes on to say in the last part of Revelation 6, the heavens will be rolled together as a scroll.

**“For it is the day of the Lord’s vengeance, and the year of recompense for the controversy of Zion. And the streams thereof shall be turned into pitch, and the dust thereof into brimstone, and the land thereof shall become burning pitch.” Isaiah 34:8, 9.**

The streams of this earth in the last days at the end of the thousand years is actually going to turn into pitch or into brimstone, and no fire brigade will be able to put those fires out, no amount of water would put that fire out.

Jesus said that that’s what it’s going to be like at the end of the thousand years. The rocks, the very streams themselves are going to burn like fire and brimstone.

**“It shall not be quenched night or 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.” Isaiah 34:10.**

It won’t be quenched, Jesus said. Jesus spoke of unquenchable fire. Now unquenchable fire doesn’t mean fire that can’t go out. unquenchable fire means fire that can’t be quenched.

The Bible doesn’t say that the fire will never go out, but what the Bible is saying is that while the fire is doing its destruction, it is unquenchable. It will not be able to be put out until it has wiped out the last remnant of sin and sinners. That’s what the Bible means by unquenchable fire. Not fire that never burns out, but fire that can’t be put out until it has done its work.

A man was giving a lecture on a street corner, and the subject got round to the reward of the wicked, and there happened to be a Methodist minister there. After most of the people had gone away, he came up and said, “Listen: What you’ve been preaching is true, but don’t tell the people, because they won’t go to church and they won’t accept God if there’s no eternally burning hell.”

Well now, listen! Even if eternally burning hell may frighten people into church, or frighten people into accepting God, the teaching of eternally burning hell will never get one person to love God. It will make them fear Him, but it will never make them love Him.

I met a lady who told me she was a Catholic. I said, “Well, it’s lovely to meet someone who loves God.” I was sincere saying that as we meet lovely people in all the churches. “O,” she said, “I don’t love God, I fear Him.”

Sadly, that’s true, because if you believe that you go down to purgatory or hell-fire there to burn, you can’t love God like that. You’re fearful of Him. You might go to church because you fear Him, but you won’t go because you love Him.

I know a church where the believers attend on Saturday, the busiest day of the week. Not one single person who goes to an Adventist Church is there because they fear God. They go because they love Him, and because they want to. No one is driving them into church because of fear of hell-fire.

**“But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.” 2 Peter 3:10.**

And then out of the ashes of this old world, what’s God going to do?

**“Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness.” 2 Peter 3:13.**

**“Even as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.” Jude 1:7.**

Sodom and Gomorrah are not still burning now. What the Bible is saying is the results of the fire was eternal, not that the fire is eternal. That’s what the Bible means by eternal fire.

Out of the fire of the second death, there will be no recalling, the results will be eternal, forever. The Bible never teaches it will be burning forever.

**“For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, said the Lord of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch.” Malachi 4:1.**

What’s stubble? It is straw, what is left after the harvest goes through, the stalks on the wheat. That becomes known as stubble. What happens if you light a fire in stubble? It burn very fast, in an instant it is gone. That’s what the Bible teaches about the wicked, the wicked will become ashes, reduced to stubble, reduced to nothing.

**“And you shall tread down the wicked: for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, said the Lord of hosts.” Malachi 4:3.**

If you ask a person who believes in eternally burning hell, “How do you fit Malachi 4:1-3 into your line up of the wicked being tortured forever throughout eternity?” If you can’t fit that into your lineup, then your lineup is wrong. When do the wicked become ashes? When do they become stubble? You see, this theory won’t stand thinking about.

**“Whereby the world that then was’, being overflowed with water, perished: But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.” 2 Peter 3:6, 7.**

Are the wicked being punished now? No, the Bible says that they are reserved, kept in store against the Day of Judgment. The reward of the wicked is not going on now. The reward of the righteous is not going on now either. It doesn’t take place until Jesus returns and the Day of Judgment ushers in the fire. They are reserved, Peter says, they’re kept in store.

And I’m sorry that the church that takes St. Peter as its founder doesn’t believe what Peter says because St. Peter himself says that the wicked are reserved unto fire against the Day of Judgment.

Revelation pictures a time coming when every being in the universe is going to praise God. Let me read it to you, and this could never be if millions were in hell-fire.

**“And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them heard I saying, Blessing and honor, and glory, and power, be unto Him that sits upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.” Revelation 5:13.**

This could never be true, if there were millions frying in hell. But the Bible pictures the time coming when every being will praise God. Notice the following verse which is one of the sweetest verses in all the Bible, especially on the reward of the saints.

**“And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pains for the former things are passed away.” Revelation 21:4.**

The former things, pain, death, suffering, will be all gone, gone forever. That could never be true if the wicked are down there in hell frying. The Bible pictures a time coming when it will all be gone. This is the

same picture as the Bible gives us at the beginning with Adam and Eve in a perfect home, enjoying perfect health, enjoying the beauties of that earth that was then made. Revelation 21 near the end of the Bible, pictures the same new earth restored. No pain, no suffering, no death, nothing that can harm or mar, but a beautiful, new earth.

God never prepared hell fire for a single person.

**“Then shall He say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, you cursed into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels.” Matthew 25:41.**

Hell fire is prepared for the devil and his angels, because they knew what they were doing. They openly rebelled against God in the very face of God. Hell fire has never been prepared for a single human being, only for the devil and his angels. Sadly, if we follow the devil and his angels in that same rebellion that he involved himself in, then we would have to end up in the same fire that he ends up in, but it was never prepared for us.

Remember, God is picturing the reward of the wicked to advise us and to plead with us so that we won't finish up in it. God doesn't want one person to end up in hell. God doesn't want a single one of us to die, that's why He's given us this information, that's why He's pleading with us.

**“Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?” Ezekiel 33:11.**

When Steph Lana Stalin, the daughter of Joseph Stalin landed at Kennedy airport in New York on April 21, 1967, she stepped off the plane and she had in her hand a piece of paper. She read out in English these words, “I have grown to believe it is impossible to exist without God in one's heart.”

Here was the 42 year old daughter of one of the most resolute and dedicated atheists the world has ever known, witnessing to the basic fact of the indisputability of belief in God. The truth of the Bible made all the difference in her heart.