

Fulfilled Prophecies

[Home](#)

>

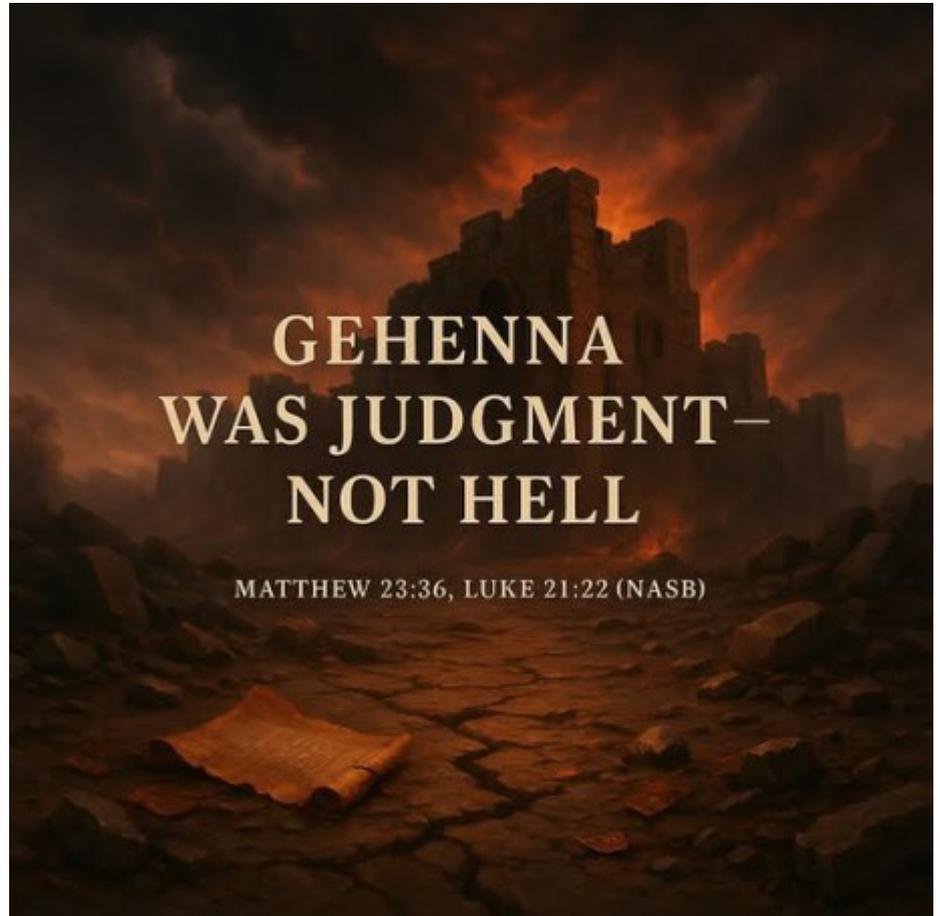
[H](#)

>

[Share on Facebook](#)

[FACEBOOK LINK](#)

**Hell - Hell Is Not
What You Were
Told**



By Dan Maines

Hell Is Not What You Were Told

Let's be clear from the start: the word most often translated as "Hell" in our English Bibles is the Greek word **Gehenna**. It does not refer to a place of eternal torment in the afterlife.

Gehenna was a literal valley outside Jerusalem - the Valley of Hinnom - known for its history of child sacrifice (2 Kings 23:10) and became a symbol of divine judgment.

Jesus used **Gehenna** to warn first century Judean Jews, not the world at large, and never Gentiles. It was a national judgment coming upon Jerusalem.

Matthew 5:22): "But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court... and whoever says, 'You fool,' shall be guilty enough to go into the fiery hell [Gehenna]."

Gehenna was not a threat of afterlife torment. It was about the devastation that would come upon that generation.

Matthew 23:33: "You snakes, you offspring of vipers, how will you escape the sentence of hell [Gehenna]?"

Matthew 23:36: "Truly I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation."

The only people ever threatened with Gehenna were the Judean Jews of Jesus' generation. This judgment was fulfilled in AD 70 when Jerusalem was destroyed.

If we are honest with scripture, we must admit: the Bible does not teach the popular concept of Hell.

What About John 3:16?

John 3:16: "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish, but have eternal life."

Those who trust in Christ do not perish. Those who do not trust in Christ will perish. That means they die. If you're dead, you're dead - you are not alive somewhere else being tormented.

Jesus did not say unbelievers would live forever in torment. He said they would *perish*. If He wanted us to believe in eternal torment, this would be the place to say so - but He didn't.

The Greek word translated *perish* here is used literally - it means to die.

Romans 6:23: "For the wages of sin is death, but the gracious gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

The wages of sin is *death*. Not eternal punishing. Not torment in flames. It's death - the absence of life.

The contrast is simple: death or eternal life. Not torment versus eternal life. The faithful in Christ have eternal life. The wicked do not have an afterlife at all.

Let's Be Honest:

Remember, "hell" is Gehenna. It is *not* eternal torment in an afterlife. The wicked do not have an afterlife. Gehenna, or if you insist on calling it "Hell", was a national judgment - not a cosmic torture chamber.

This came upon Jerusalem in the first century. The temple was destroyed, the city burned, and the Old Covenant ended. That was the context for all of Jesus' Gehenna warnings.

Let's Also Be Real:

The concept of Hell can't possibly be true. I cannot imagine how anyone came up with something so horrific. The terrible pain of burning in fire, while fully conscious, is made up by man, not

God.

It would take greed or sadism to inflict something like that on anyone. That cannot be God. How could such cruelty and sadism be consistent with a God of love?

I don't buy it for a minute.

Luke 21:22 : "These are the days of vengeance, so that all things which have been written will be fulfilled."

The judgment Jesus warned about was real, but it was fulfilled. There is no more Gehenna judgment coming.

Final Thought:

Jesus came to bring life. He came to rescue us from death - not to send us into a torture pit.

The message of scripture is not eternal torment. It is simple: life in Christ, or death apart from Him. We serve a loving God, not a cruel one.

[Share on Facebook](#)

Links

[Facebook Link](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1349070089314462/posts/1738408997047234/>

[Fulfilled Prophecies https://www.facebook.com/groups/1349070089314462/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1349070089314462/)

[Dan Maines](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1349070089314462/user/100001027365819/>

You may share this article freely without permission as long as you include credit to Dan Maines and/or a link to the Fulfilled Prophecies Group.