

Answer: As with heaven, the Bible gives us only general descriptions of what hell will be like. Although some people have questioned the literalness of a physical hell, filled with fire and smoke, we must remember that unbelievers will be resurrected with some sort of body that can endure physical torment. The essence of hell is eternal separation from God; even so, its inhabitants will endure varying degrees of physical suffering (Matt 11:20-24).

Some people want to believe that Jesus is so loving and merciful that He would never send anyone to a place like hell. But when Jesus taught, He spoke more about hell than He did about heaven. Whereas the Old Testament had revealed very little about the eternal condition of those who reject God, Christ described hell as:

- A place of fire (Matt 5:22; 7:19; 13:42, 50; 25:41; Mark 9:43-48).
- A place of bodily torment (Matt 5:29-30).
- A place separated from God's presence (Matt 7:23).
- A place of darkness (Matt 8:12; 22:13).
- A place of weeping and gnashing of teeth (Matt 8:12; 13:42, 50; 22:13; 25:30).
- A place of varying degrees of punishment (Mark 12:40; Luke 10:13-14; 12:47-48).

The apostles described hell as:

- A place of indignation, wrath, tribulation, and anguish (Rom 2:8-9).
- Flaming fire and everlasting destruction, away from God's presence (2 Thess 1:6-9).
- Eternal judgment (Heb 6:2).
- Fiery indignation, which will devour God's enemies (Heb 10:27).
- A place of fire (Jas 3:6; Jude 6-7).
- The final expression of God's judgment (2 Pet 2:4-9).
- A fiery place where the smoke of suffering will rise forever (Rev 14:11).
- A lake of fire, the second death (Rev 20:14-15).