

# Biblical Topics

## Hell

Hell is not an imagination, but a stern and dreadful reality. It is to be avoided at all costs!

- Luke 16:23-24:<sup>23</sup> “In hell, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. <sup>24</sup> So he called to him, ‘Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.’
- Matthew 10:28: Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell.

We do not know where hell is; it is was prepared for the devil and his angels, but also the unbelievers shall be cast into hell.

- Matthew 25:41: “Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.’”

They will not be annihilated or simply cease to exist, but continue to live in torment and pain.

- Luke 16:23-24:<sup>23</sup> “In hell, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. <sup>24</sup> So he called to him, ‘Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.’
- Isaiah 66:24 “And they will go out and look upon the dead bodies of those who rebelled against me; their worm will not die, nor will their fire be quenched, and they will be loathsome to all mankind.”

In this place they are forever banished from the blissful presence of God.

- Matthew 25:41: “Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.’” (Depart from Me)

They suffer torment in body and soul.

- Matthew 10:28: Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell.
- Isaiah 66:24 “And they will go out and look upon the dead bodies of those who rebelled against me; their worm will not die, nor will their fire be quenched, and they will be loathsome to all mankind.”

There is no relief - even a drop of water is denied to the rich man. Luke 16:24-25.

There is no escape.

- Luke 16:26: between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.’

There is no end.

- Isaiah 66:24 “And they will go out and look upon the dead bodies of those who rebelled against me; their worm will not die, nor will their fire be quenched, and they will be loathsome to all mankind.”
- Matthew 25:46: “Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”

In this place there will be “weeping and gnashing of teeth.” There will be not the faintest hope to cheer the lost in their misery. Their anguish of soul is increased by the fact that they are conscious of the bliss of others in heaven. The pain is intensified for those who during their lives on earth also had an opportunity to be saved.

- Luke 13:28: “There will be weeping there, and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, but you yourselves thrown out.

God does not want anyone to go there.

- Ezekiel 18:27: But if a wicked man turns away from the wickedness he has committed and does what is just and right, he will save his life.
- 1 Timothy 2:4: (God) who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.

God makes it easy so that even little children can know and believe.

- “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”
- Acts 16:31: “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved.”

God comes to us with this gift in His Word and Sacraments. By worshiping and being in Scripture we will be reminded often of God’s love for us and a salvation for all people by grace alone through faith which He also supplies.

The above information is taken from: “Luther’s Small Catechism” annotated by Edward W. A. Koehler.