Update -- 04-16-2011: Since having written this article and looking into things a little deeper I felt it necessary to do an update in clarifying the understanding I now have concerning the "soul", and the "spirit" or "spirits" of men. I must thank one of my readers for this new insight. Also, because of being pushed by another I have expanded the understanding of the "parable" Lazarus and the Rich Man. Thank you for sharpening me and helping me to a better understanding. Also, this is not an argument concerning the Holy Spirit and its connection with believers. This article is arguing against the teachings of the majority of works, large and small, teaching the immortality of man. This article proposes the biblical concept that "hell" and "hell fire" is not a place of "life". This is not an argument about the term SPIRIT. The use of the term "spirit" is context driven. Like the term "hell" is misused and misapplied due to not understanding that the English translators used the single English term, "hell" for four different meanings and terms used in the Hebrew and Greek. The same is true in the use of the single English term for "spirit" (ghost, in earlier versions) in place of three different meanings found in the original languages from which the English translated the Scriptures. The biased received from the Mother Church of Rome concerning the pagan doctrines of Heaven, Hell and Purgatory entered into the English translations. This, then, is not a treatment concerning the "spirit" but in the existence of a place where the
“spirits” of the evil dead go to “live”. The third single term with three different meanings is the English term for “soul”, this term being intermingled and used in place of the terms, word, for “body” and “spirit”, dead body, a living body, an eternal spirit, etc. This present study, however, is about HELL and if the wicked really do go to a place to live.

Hell Fire and Hell

Why start with Hell as the first basic doctrine? First, this is assuming the reader is a professing Christian, a follower of the Christ, a follower of Yahshua or, at least, a follower and believer of the Bible. From this point it is also assumed that the doctrine of the Christ (Messiah) does not need to be taught – you have either accepted the Christ (Messiah) of the Holy Bible or you have not. Okay, maybe you are still on the fence but searching -- then it is you I’m writing to. Hell is a definite place -- but wait -- let’s not get ahead of ourselves. Keep reading, talk back if you want, but please continue. For some, a few, this may be old stuff and this will be a nice refresher, but for others this may be a whole new experience from what your church, your local minister has been teaching you and your children.

The first thing we need to look at concerning “hell” is to answer the question, is it a real place? And the answer is, yes it is -- It is three places, actually. That’s right, three separate places. When the Messiah or one of the Apostles made mention of this place called “hell” they had a definite image in mind and they did not have to explain which image to their listeners. The concept of a Hell-Fire where all the fun people are sent to live is not a concept of your Bible. Yes, there is a place where the souls of those dead go. The Saints go to one place and others to another. Hey, wait a minute, you might shout; I thought you just said there “ain’t no place like Hell”. Right, and I know, this can be a confusing issue but once you grasp the concept of the word "hell", as used in scripture, you will get it. Scripture has three very different meanings for the term “hell” as used in the English language. Once you understand these three different meanings it should become clear.
The word we use for “hell”, in the English speaking world, is actually three separate words in the Greek, each having a specific meaning so the audience knew which of the three “hells” was being referred to, however, this was for the Greek speaking audience, the Jews, speaking Aramaic, and a form of Hebrew had no such problems as they taught that you died and went to the grave (one of the Hells) to await the resurrection. Some however, did not believe in a resurrection but that the grave was the last resting place – this was the big argument between the Jewish party of the Pharisees and the Sadducees. The Old English translators, being very knowledgeable in Greek, however, for some reason, missed this and failed in presenting to the readers the correct image, or mind pictures of which “hell” the Messiah spoke and later Greek writers tried to pass on to the understanding of the Greek mind. My guess is, and it is only a guess, as I have no idea what the translators, commissioned by the King, King James, had for their reason in using a single English word, hell, for all three different meanings from the Greek? My guess is this: The Christian leadership and scholars of the day had already accepted a false doctrine concerning this “fiery” place of torment and suffering -- the Hell Fire of pagan theology. Some may have even reasoned that to teach the “hell fire” as the destination of the damned would be a good thing in order to keep the “commoners” under the influence of the Bible -- scare them to Christ. The end justifies the means, so to speak. Let the masses believe the lie in order to keep them focused on our view of the God of the Bible, and, of course, keeping the people under their authority by this fear tactic... That may be the way it started out but after centuries of building on this lie it has become a truth for many and is still a fearful threat – be good, stay loyal to the church or go to the place of devils and demons, of torture and pain – Hell Fire! We will look at the three different “hells” the Bible mentions and we will see that not everything is as hellish as one might think.

**Hell Fire:**

Strong’s Greek Dictionary, G1067 – geenna

*gheh’-en-nah*
Of Hebrew origin (\[H1516\] and \[H2011\]); valley of (the son of) Hinnom; gehenna (or Ge-Hinnom), a valley of Jerusalem, used (figuratively) as a name for the place (or state) of everlasting punishment: - **hell**.

The first “hell” is “hell fire”, “gehenna fire” why start with gehenna? Because this is the first of the three “hells” mentioned by our Savior YaHshua, besides, it is the one everyone fears the most. Actually, looking at the majority of Evangelical Christians it doesn’t really seem that they fear this as much as their ancestors did, the idea of going to the “hell fire”, living forever in torment, with demons torturing you day and night does not really compute in modern thinking. Let’s take a closer look at this “hell fire”, this place where you live forever in burning flames -- or do you? Well, I don’t mean “you” particularly but the wicked; then again, later you will see how we are all headed for hell, well, one or the other of the three.

In the Greek, the text that most Biblical scholars recognize as the authorized language for the New Testament, we see that this “hell fire” mentioned first in Matthew 5:22, “…and whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of the hell of fire, is a pretty strong warning, just for calling someone an idiot. Seems to me this “hell fire”, this “gehenna” should be reserved for the likes of a Hitler or a Charles Manson, not for merely calling someone a "fool". Never the less this is what our Savior warned. The Greek word In this verse is “gehenna” – Identified in the Strong’s Greek Dictionary (G1067) and identifies as a place, a real place. It is most definitely a place – the valley of Hinnom and to be more specific this valley is located right alongside of Jerusalem, called the Kidron valley today. This valley had been used as the city garbage dump. Most cities today have such a place located somewhere close by where the garbage collected from the local residence is taken and dumped and burned -- that would be your local gehenna, or hell, not some place in the center of the earth. I remember when the local dump (gehenna) always had smoke rising from the piles and piles of garbage. It was the practice back in the day to burn the refuse, the garbage and waste -- it was the **gehenna fire** outside the city just like the
fires outside the cities back in the first century and before. The garbage dump was a place outside the city of Jerusalem in the Valley of Hinnom where more than just trash was disposed. Not trash only but bodies of diseased animals and even executed criminals if no one came forward to pay for a burial. This is also a place where the people of Israel, at their most religious period of the whole people, worshiping every god or fad god possible, burned their first born children as sacrifice to Molech. This valley is the place believed to be the place these super religious Israelites burned their children. YaHshua used this imagery to make his point and from this point no one of that day thought He was talking about living in the city bump but rather a place where things, even bodies of people and children of the past had been are burned up, like so much trash, not a place of the living but of the dead – not the living dead, not zombies – the people hearing His words knew what he meant, it was a place of final destruction, of ashes.

See how the picture changes when we understand what the Hell Fire YaHshua spoke of is understood? Continuing on let’s see what else the Messiah had to say about this “Hell fire” (gehenna).

(Mat 5:29) “And if thy right eye offend you, pluck it out, and cast it from you: for it is profitable for you that one of your members should perish and not that your whole body should be cast into hell (Gehenna)”

(Mar 9:43) And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for you to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell (gehenna), into the fire that never shall be quenched:

(note: the suggestion is not to literally mutilate yourself, but in a spiritual sense – it may become necessary to separate yourself, or the cutting off of a relationship, whether of a personal or group unity that is leading you away from the truth – we each have a personal responsibility concerning our own personal “salvation” – Php 2:12)
Notice that the word *perish* not a continued type of life after being tossed into *hell* – *this Hell means to perish, not to live*. This is the same “hell” mentioned previously, remember, the garbage dump analogy. In the Jewish dialect of Yiddish this place is called *Gehinnam*, the same place the English translators called “hell” – they forgot to capitalize the first letter, isn’t that the first rule of thumb for place names. The English Hell, in this case, is the same as the Valley of Hinnom, or Gehinnam. The Messiah is suggesting that if a member is doing damage to the body it should be cut off, or cut out and thrown into the valley of Gehinnam, the place known as the Gehinnam (Hinnom) fire – Hell Fire -- where the offending part will be consumed. This lesson from our Savior is not about you poking your eye out for looking but about the body of believers removing offending members. Although, in the physical realm we do see this practice of cutting cancerous limbs from our bodies, by surgeons, of course, and no one suggests these cancerous limbs or tumors go on living somewhere else, do they? I know there is a lot that can be said about this but for now let’s stay on the path of determining, rather, defining just what the “basic doctrine” of hell *should* be.

Would anyone think that if you were to cut off your hand or to pluck your eye out and throw it into the “hell fire”, that “gehenna”, and your hand or eye would then be tormented day and night by the demons of Satan? Of course not, to be thrown into the “gehenna fire” is to be destroyed permanently -- to be consumed by the fire of the garbage pit – this is the lesson YaHshua was making, not a doctrine about living on in a Hell of torment. Those listening to the Messiah knew exactly where and what He was talking about, as mentioned before. The simple logic here explains itself. In verse 29 and 30, *perish* means to be consumed fully – it in no way suggests a continuing life in pain and torment. The modern concept of Hell Fire is from another source perpetuated by the bias of translators having accepted a pagan concept as truth and letting that leak into translations of our Bible and then reinforced by preachers and teachers.
From a greater majority of Christian teachers and lay people accepting the idea that hell fire is a place the wicked go to live in pain and torment goes along, part and parcel with the original lie, a lie presented from the beginning, “…you shall not die” (Genesis 3:4), and this lie is from the lips of Satan when he confronted Eve. He called the Creator a liar and told Eve that there would be not death. When she disobeyed YaHWeH she did not die so she turned to Adam and he too disobeyed and took the forbidden fruit and ate. You have to wonder just when did they figure out they had been lied to and that, yes, they would die – immortality had been taken from them. Satan’s lie has been passed down from the beginning and is still being taught today. Our Savior contradicts Satan by telling us that corrupt things are to perish in Hell.

**Perish:** Strong’s #622 “…to destroy fully”. And the Messiah used this word, to “fully destroy” not once did He say this, but twice.

There it is the “hell fire” doctrine a pagan concept exploded. It is not a doctrine of life after death in an eternal torment, but it is a doctrine of absolute destruction. The destruction of the things disposed of in the garbage dump of “gehenna”.

**Still not enough, still not convinced**

I know, I know, what about the “lake of fire”, and what about the rich man calling up to the poor man, Lazarus, from the pits of hell. We will be covering those in a little bit but first we need to understand the meaning of what is actually said and to understand the concept of what heaven and hell meant in the first century. Yes, there is a hell fire but this is a fire from which there is no return. Do you think this does not apply to you, that “hell fire” is for those sinners outside of the body of the Christ? You had better think again. Read verse 22 again, “…anyone who says, ‘You fool!’ will be in danger of the fire of hell” (NIV). Which of us has never, ever, said this? How many times have you heard yourself say, “Look at that idiot”, or remark, “Now that person is an idiot” or “What a fool he is”? Please, our Savior YaHshua said, “…in danger of the fire of hell …”. It is not the making of such a
remark you are going to hell, it is a warning to watch what you say, or do, next – in danger of, like peering over the cliff, toes on the edge, you can still backup, but this warning makes it very serious, watch your words and your judgments toward others. You get the point, I'm sure. But wait there is more in clarifying the “fires of hell” in you Bible.

Matthew 10:28 And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. KJV

Again we see the suggestion that the “hell” spoken of is a type of destruction not a continuing of life in torment. See the word “destroy”? This is the same exact word as “perish” used in previous verses and defined in the Strong’s Greek Dictionary, #622 — to destroy fully. A second witness to this definition is found in, “Vine’s Complete Expository Dictionary of the Old and New Testaments”, pages 467-468, under Perish, “…utterly perishing”. It has a much longer definition and coverage of this term but the short of it is “to utterly perish, to be completely destroyed”. This verse in Matthew covers a lot of territory: The soul, as used here apparently is not “immortal” it can be destroyed as well as the body-- in hell.

What is unique about the above verse, remember, a direct quote of the Messiah, is the addition of another element -- apart from the body -- the soul -- and it appears this soul can also be put in this “hell fire” of total destruction, to perish. What we are being told is that not only will this destroying fire consume the body but it is also capable of the total destruction of your soul, your spirit, so the context appears to be saying just that. In this ‘gehenna” even your life force, apart from your physical body, can be destroyed. Is it the “hell fire” that does this? No, it is the One that can use it for that purpose. You see, Satan has the power to destroy us physically and he has set about attempting to destroy God’s people over the past centuries from the beginning. Satan has made it his goal to destroy as many of God’s people as possible but he does not have the power to take your spirit, your very soul – only our Creator God has that power, and our Creator will prepare a final destruction for the wicked and for Satan in a place called the “Lake of Fire” which is to be prepared for this purpose but
does not yet exist (Mat 25:41). With this truth we should not fear what Satan can do to us, or what men can do, by comparison, but we should have a healthy fear of Him that has the power to destroy us totally, both body and spirit, by the “fire of total destruction” and this is to be a “fire prepared” and used to totally destroy those separated from the sheep – the final judgment.

(Mat 25:41) Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

(Rev 20:14) And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

The context from Revelation 20 makes plain that the events are still in the future, for a time called the Judgment. This second death is the final decision of who will go on into eternity and who will suffer the final destruction of both flesh and spirit -- body and soul. The timing of this is not when you or a wicked person, like Hitler dies. Hitler is not in some hot place being tortured or having fun torturing other, no, he is dead waiting on this coming time of Judgment to be raised back to life to face the second death, a death from which there is no return.

Other Verses

Other verses that use this “gehenna hell” – Mathew 23:15; 23:33; James 3:6

(Mat 23:15) Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for you compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, you make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves.

Understanding the previous verse you know this verse not saying “children live in hell”, but that it is possible for the teachers of the people to actually lead converts to be followers headed for the “hell fire” of final destruction and away from life. Notice -- Scribes or authors, writers of books and then the Pharisees, the preachers and teachers of the people. The Christians are not immune from this warning by our Savior. There is a
personal responsibility here – the believer is to sooner or later take the study of the Word and the following of YaHshua, and the growing in knowledge of Him to themselves. The believer must take YaHshua as their Head Master, not some man or men. What happens is a convert becomes a follower of someone telling them what they want to hear or makes them feel comfortable or feel good about themselves, and that is good enough. It is a case of having preachers, teachers, and ministers you deserve, not necessarily those you should be listening to. Look at the prophets of the Old Testament, nearly all of them were rejected, called negative people, with nothing good to say, always threatening bad things, etc., etc., and it is no different today. There are people willingly following the soothsayers, setting up to themselves teachers telling them what they want to hear not what they should hear and becoming a child headed for the fire, along with their chosen teachers.

(Mat 23:33) You serpents, you generation of vipers, how can you escape the damnation of hell?

(Jas 3:6) And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell.

There is a "fire", an eternal fire, prepared for the Devil and his angels, please read:

"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." Matthew 25:41 NIV

Second Hell (Hades – Strong's G86 – the grave)

We have covered the first “hell”, the hell fire but there are more. Our next use of the English word “hell” is found in Matthew 11:23, “...And thou, Capernaum, which art exalted unto heaven, shalt be brought down to hell:" This "hell" is the Greek "hades" and means the "grave", where all of the flesh eventually go. Even our Messiah went to the grave, or "hades", for three
days and three nights (Mat 12:40). In the verse above the Messiah has pronounced the demise of the city of Capernaum. This first century city was considered very modern and up to date, a beautiful city, and a high minded city. They, like other cities nearby, were able to explain away the miracles the Messiah performed in their midst. The context is that they saw no reason to repent because life was good, they had the feeling of immortality and lived in a city that appeared to have an eternal life of its own. Our Messiah, Yahshua, however, told them what He thought of their haughty attitude. If anyone had received signs and wonders it was here, in Capernaum.

The “hell” spoken of here is the “grave” – that place they put you when your physical body dies. Again turning to the Strong’s Dictionary for this “hell”, or “Hades” #86 “…place of departed souls”. You will notice there is no mention of destruction but of being brought down. In the context, expressed for this “hell”, makes reference to the Judgment. From this we can see that while being brought down to the grave (hades) does not mean total destruction as does the “gehenna” hell. We are all going to be brought down to the grave, rich or poor all are the same in “hades” -- the “grave” where our body resides awaiting the judgment day. In this condition the body, the flesh corrupts in its natural process degenerating back into dirt. The spirit of life returns to our Creator and what He does with it after that we are only given hints. In the Gehenna hell the spirit is destroyed but in the hades hell the flesh is destroyed but the spirit leaves and returns to the one that gave it.

(Ecc 12:7) Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.

We see the spirits of the saints held in a place "under the Altar" and you will notice they are not "on" the Alter but "under" it, as if hidden, preserved in a place of safety. By this we see our Heavenly Father cares for the spirits of all men, especially those of the saints.
(Rev 6:9) And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held:

These "souls" may not be the same as those seen later standing before the thrown, then again maybe they are, but at a later date, released from their position under the Alter, the Resurrected believers?

(Rev 7:9) After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;

To get the right picture we need to put this in context and we will see this vision is not taking place in Heaven but on earth, in the Kingdom of YaHshua established after His return.

(Rev 7:14-17) And I said unto him, Sir, you know. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sits on the throne shall dwell among them. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them to living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

None of this helps explain the "hades hell" but is of interest when considering the concept of Heaven. It would seem that no flesh is in Heaven and not all spirits are there either, some are held in a prison. At the end of the thousand year rule of YaHshua on earth we are told the sea gives up the dead. Considering those souls that died in the great flood it would not be impossible to think the prison might be the seas of the earth.

(Rev 20:13) And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.
This verse really says it -- the sea gives up its dead and then hell (*Hades, the grave*) gives up its dead, and "death" too, gives up its dead. This covers everyone that has ever died and gone to hades hell or the grave and this is not a place of living in a hell-fire.

The warning to Capernaum was to wake them up to the fact they were not "immortal" and no matter how wonderful life was for them at that time in their history, they were all going to the grave -- and they did -- the City of Capernaum and all of its inhabitants living during Yahshua’s flesh and blood days are in the grave, "shalt be brought down to hell" (*hades, the grave*). Read the context concerning Capernaum and you will see the "day of judgment" is mentioned as a future event.

Okay, we should begin to see why the basic doctrine "Hell” needs to be understood. Getting rid of preconceived notions planted in your mind by the false teachers and the misguided teachers of this world is not easy, but is necessary. A "generation" is being prepared to face up to the Babylonian system of this world. When the final generation of our Savior's Earthly body is stamped and ready to stand before the "false Preacher" and the Beast ruler refusing the "Mark", refusing the "false worship" and holding fast to the "testimony of YaHshua", not some "other Gospel", not some other "messiah" they will know the basic doctrines of that "TESTIMONY". Only through YaHshua will anyone come back to life, their spirit being restored in a new body, a body like that of YaHshua, incorruptible, forever.

*(1Co 15:53)* *For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.*

*(1Jn 3:2)* Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is.

*Matthew 16:18 “I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”*
Again this English word “hell” is really not understood properly without the true Greek definition. What the Messiah is telling Peter is that the grave (hades hell), unlike the city of Capernaum, will not be its end. The church, the very body of the Messiah, the body of true believers of the Christ will be alive forever. The individual parts may suffer a physical death and go to the grave but the body of the Christ, the total number, as a "holy city" will be retrieved from this "hades" (hell, grave), its gates shall not prevail against those asleep and waiting YaHshua’s return to break them out into eternal life. This is also a guarantee that Satan will not be able to destroy the physical presence of the Church on Earth -- even if it were possible, and it is not, all chosen, all called, all given to the Messiah would still be raised back to life -- that is the promise.

**Hell Number Three (Tartaros)**

This "hell" is an "abyss", where rebel angels are held awaiting the "day of judgment". From Strong's #5020, *Tartroo: abyss.*

2 Peter 2:4 "For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell (tartroo) KJV

2 Peter 2:4 "For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them into gloomy dungeons to be held for judgment” NIV

Many bible dictionaries don’t even bother to mention this "hell". It is a place of darkness. A place of imprisonment while awaiting the "judgment". What is going to happen when the "judgment" is finished?

Rev 20:14-15 "And death and hell (hades - the grave) were cast into the Lake of Fire (Gehenna). This is the second death. And if anyone was not found having been written in the Book of Life, he was cast into the Lake of Fire (Gehenna).” MKJV

You will notice that the "grave" (Hades - hell) are cast into the "Lake of Fire", a "gehenna fire" that puts an end to things. Death is consumed and the grave is consumed never to be again, just as those not found in the "Book of Life" -- burned up, gone, this is Gehenna Hell. This is following
the judgment during the time of this judgment names are removed. You want your name to stay in this book and not to be "blotted", "erased" or "removed" from this book (Revelation 3:5). The angels spoken of by Peter are living in a hell, in gloomy dungeons of the abyss.

**Summation:**

Hell #1 - Gehenna - 1067 -- An all-consuming fire. Things "perish" that are thrown into it -- total destruction. (other spelling: geenna). This is where "death and the grave" will be cast and come to an end.

Hell #2 - Hades - 086 -- The grave, the same as mentioned in the Old Testament #7485 -Sheol -- grave, or pit. (other spelling: hadou). This all flesh share in, the grave.

Hell #3 - Tartaros - 5020 -- From the Complete Word Study Dictionary: "The subterranean abyss of Greek mythology where demigods were punished." Also, "These angels are being held in the netherworld dungeon until the day of final judgment." (other spellings: tartaro, tartaroso) (angels as "demigods")

*Tartaros,* is mentioned only once and it is a deliberate use by Peter. He confirms the existence of a Greek myth concerning a prison where rebel beings are held. This reference in no way mentions or is associated with flesh and blood men, as Peter uses this term, it is a place for the angels that sinned, angels setting themselves up as little "demigods", along with Satan, in their attempts to be gods themselves and replace their creator. Make no mistake, Peter is plain on this point he is speaking of "angels" not men and not fleshly men seeking to be gods. It is a dungeon of the abyss where the rebel spirits are held.

**Why is this Important?**

The Christian Doctrine of "HELL" into which evil men are tossed is a threat mechanism. This type of doctrine is based on fear and the Christian Church has used this place, this prison of evil spirits (angels) to scare people into
obedience -- obedience to themselves and their authority, the authority of the "clergy". Even when the religious leaders of the day knew better they continued to threaten the followers with an eternity in "hell fire" for not obeying their commands. Many in the Christian Churches still cling to this false doctrine of fear -- the threat of living forever in a fiery hell. It is still used by many as a fear tactic to frighten people into submission, but for many it has become fact due to this false, pagan, doctrine having been taught for so long by those trusted by the lay members to be telling them the truth. The punishment of a spiritual prison of darkness is in place for the rebellious spirits, not for humans. The false doctrine of Satan is to teach men that they "surely shall not die" but live on either in Heaven or in Hell -- immortals either way and this is a false teaching, a false doctrine of Satan in the first lie told in Scripture (Gen 3:4). this lie is based on pagan ideology not the Teachings of the Bible. The translators mistakenly translated the three "hells" with a single word confusing the understanding even further. It is up to the spirit guided believer to separate the truth.

Know the Word and what it really says and protect yourself from such misguided teachings. Our Heavenly Father is not a God of fear but of Love. In the pure Love of our Father and His Son, our Savior, there is no fear -- certainly respect but not fear, as the world counts fear -- we need not fear death. Satan would like nothing better than to have you quaking in your shoes, afraid of your own shadow constantly anxious about which side of "hell" you stand on. We see this same kind of fear used by the "Escape" preachers in teaching the "Imminent" return doctrine known to many as the Rapture. Preachers of this false doctrine have bragged about how many people this doctrine has saved out of the "fear" that the Lord may come at any moment. It is a fear base doctrine.

1 John 4:18 "There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear: because fear has torment. He that fear is not made perfect in love." KJV

That is a good verse to end with. A lot more could be done on this subject of hell, but then I would be doing all the work. It is your responsibility to study, to find approval with our Father in Heaven. Every time you sit at
your study area and read and examine His words He is with you. Pray for wisdom and for understanding -- He wants you to have both, just ask.

**Lazarus and the Rich Man (update)**

Some have wondered about the story of Lazarus and the Rich man (Luke 16:20) as this tale seems to suggest a Heavenly place and a fiery hell for those living in torment, such as the Rich Man. First it is a story, a tale for the purpose of making a point, an *allegory*, and a teaching method not unlike what is still used today. All of the parables told by YaHshua were understood to be stories (parables revealing "hidden" things Mat 13:34-36) for the purpose of education, not doctrine -- the education of His disciples.

We need to understand the context of this allegorical story -- He, YaHshua, was speaking to the general public, whom the Pharisees look down their noses at. The Pharisees are listening in. We read in Luke 15:1 the Pharisees were grumbling and ridiculing this teacher, their Rabbi YaHshua and so we read in verse three YaHshua begins to tell an allegorical story aimed at these professed leaders of the people -- a parable of the lost sheep.

YaHshua continues with more stories told for the purpose of teaching higher moral principles, principles the religious leaders of that day were loath to acknowledge, so we come to Luke 16:14 and again the Pharisees began "sneering at YaHshua" and this is when YaHshua addressed them straight out concerning how they justify themselves but God the Father knows their hearts. Then YaHshua goes on with things concerning the Law and about divorce and adultery (read Matthew 19:9 for the only legitimate reason for divorce -- marital unfaithfulness). Then, as if an afterthought, YaHshua delivers the *parable* (*allegory*) about Lazarus and the Rich man.

Let's have a look at this lesson as a doctrine forgetting for the moment what the lesson is that is being taught. First, as a doctrine: Lazarus is seen to be in the bosom of Abraham and the Rich Man is in hell. The word for "hell", in this case, is "hades" (Hell #2), which is to say, "the grave". The Rich man seems to be in a fiery place, while Lazarus is in the comfort of Abraham, which is strange in itself -- if YaHshua meant this to be a real place He
would have used "Hell #3, Tartos. As a doctrine there is a real problem here, you see, Lazarus is not said to be in Heaven as the Christians teach but with Abraham. From this, as a doctrine, one would have to say this applies to the Israelites -- the poor Israelites -- not the Christians. Still, we are told in Galatians 3:29 that if we belong to the Messiah we are counted among the seed of Abraham. So, where is Abraham, some say heaven but it does not say this. Let's go a little further and see if we can find where Abraham is.

Please note, the "hell" YaHshua used here is of the grave (hades) and not of the "fiery hell" (Gehenna). In this tale, YaHshua tells, however, we see the Rich Man already in this "fiery hell", but wait, in Luke 16:22-23 we see the beggar dies and is taken by angels into the "bosom" of Abraham and then the Rich Man dies and is buried and from here we see the Rich Man crying out from "hell". The problem here is the term used for "hell" is hades, which means "grave", not a fiery hell. We have already seen where the "fiery hell" is and it is not until later. Satan is not ruling over a fiery hell in the depths of the earth, but this parable (?) seems to say there is a lower region of fire and torment not unlike what some of the Greek, Canaanite, and Babylonian myths suggest. This makes this Parable suspicious.

I am of the opinion, and this is only an opinion, that this tale, unlike the other parables, is being told to the Pharisees using a teaching of their own. The Pharisees I believe taught this concept of a fiery hell and YaHshua used their own flawed teaching on them. The last verse in this rebuke of the Pharisees tells it all. Abraham is conversing with the Rich Man (the beggar is mute) and in the end tells the rich man it is useless to send a warning of his end to his family for the simple reason that if they would not listen to Moses and the Prophets (Scripture) then neither would they believe someone risen from the dead. YaHshua was true in all of this, He rose from the dead, and they, the descendants of the Rich Man believed it not. This is what seem reasonable to me in light of other scripture that contradict this as a teaching to be taken seriously for a Greek style and Jewish concept of the Nether world.
The story of the Rich Man has some serious flaws and it is even argued by some that this is not really a "parable" at all. All of the parables were spoken by YaHshua, and later, explained to His disciples (again, Mat 13:34-36) but not in this case. If we understand the tale as a teaching doctrine then it has to apply to a future date, not yet seeing its fulfillment for another 2000 years, or more, by the mere fact that the "fiery hell" of scripture is not until the Beast and False Prophet as Revelation reveals the time of it being "prepared" (Mat 25:41; Rev 20:10). Please be aware, the book of Revelation is from YaHshua, not John. Actually, it is from our Heavenly Father, given to YaHshua, whom then gives it to John to record and much of that is delivered by and Angel representing the glorified YaHshua.

(Mat 8:11) And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven.

The verse above is in a future tense, obviously, and if this is so it would stand against the idea of Lazarus being with Abraham in heaven at the time of the parable teaching. Also, if this is to be taken as a literal description by YaHshua, then we would have to say that Lazarus is literally within Abraham's chest (bosom).

Webster’s Dictionary -- Parable: EXAMPLE; specifically : a usually short fictitious story that illustrates a moral attitude or a religious principle.

(Mat 12:26) And as touching the dead, that they rise: have ye not read in the book of Moses, how in the bush God spake unto him, saying, I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob?

(Mat 22:31-32) But as touching the resurrection of the dead, have ye not read that which was spoken unto you by God, saying, I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living.

What are these verses telling us? The resurrection of the dead includes Abraham and this is where the poor Lazarus (if a real person) will be and
that is in the future. The "doctrine of the resurrection", a doctrine our savior taught, and His Apostles taught, should put the "parable" of Lazarus in the right light, as a "parable". The resurrection of the dead is not a resurrection of the living, living beneath the earth, looking up into heaven as is described in this tale of Lazarus and the Rich man. Nor are those in Heaven looking down on those being tormented in a fiery hell. For one thing, our Savior tells us no one can go Heaven unless they are from Heaven in the first place, and He makes it plain that that is where He is from, not you or me.

(John 3:13) And no man has ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven.

(Luke 13:28) There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God, and you yourselves thrust out. (Clearly this is still future)

In John 8:52-58 you will read of a confrontation Yahshua had with the Pharisees and how Abraham and the Prophets are all dead -- no mention, or correction from our Savior. Not one word about their "fathers" being alive in Heaven. The idea they are dead and in the grave is assumed and not challenged.

(Act 2:29) Men and brethren, let me freely speak to you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulcher is with us unto this day.

(Act 2:34) For David is not ascended into the heavens: but he says himself, The Lord said unto my Lord, Sit you on my right hand,

(Act 13:36) For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell on sleep, and was laid unto his fathers, and saw corruption:

Again this is a teaching concerning the resurrection and it is made plain David is dead and buried, awaiting the resurrection. Some have tried to make something out of the remarks concerning the saints "asleep" and if "asleep" not dead. From our view in the physical world, as physical beings, we die and those in the grave are dead, but, in the eyes of YaHshua there
are those whom He loves, that belong to Him and from His view they are sleeping, awaiting His return to raise them from the bed of death. Just as we see the wording concerning David, a man much loved by YHWH, but reading the full context we see the truth -- David's body did not just "sleep" but "saw corruption". The metaphor of being asleep, when referring to a servant, or saint of the Living God, is reminding us of a condition that is only temporary, not unlike when we go to bed and sleep only to wake up the next morning. David did not go to Heaven but some teach they will, even if YaHshua says they won't.

What are we to assume, then, that the poor beggar, Lazarus, went to heaven and David, much loved of God, and from whom the seed of Righteousness would come (Roman 1:3) did not? From this we can assume Abraham too is in the grave and the "parable" is just that, a parable, a lesson story, not a fact to be taken literally.

In John 11:43, another Lazarus, a friend of YaHshua, had died and was in a grave. After three days YaHshua went and had the stone covering removed and called for Lazarus to come out, and he did. Notice, YaHshua did not call to Lazarus to come out of Heaven nor out of a nether world beneath His feet but it is into the crypt He called to Lazarus, "Come out". This took place before YaHshua's confrontation with the Pharisees about the Laws, Moses and the Prophets, ending with the story of Lazarus and the rich man. I am thinking the use of the name Lazarus, in the story, was on purpose. When the religious authorities of that day heard what had happened concerning the real Lazarus they could not take it anymore and from then on tried to figure a way to kill YaHshua -- John 11:53 -- it seems the raising of Lazarus from the dead was the last straw.

(Heb 11:39-40) And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise: God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect.

Reading all of Hebrew 11 you will see those "having obtained a good report through faith" includes all the "faithful" seen to be in the Kingdom of
God -- Abraham is there in this group but is not there yet, not before the Followers of YaHshua -- our perfection as well are theirs is still future. Only those made perfect will be allowed into the Kingdom. This would mean the story of Lazarus and the rich man is just that, a story, a tale to illustrate a point.

Again, if the story of Lazarus and the Rich Man is to be taken literally as a teaching of Heaven and Hell, as the pagans view it, then we must see the bosom of Abraham, where the angels took the beggar, as being very close to Heaven, separated by a "gulf". The Rich Man sees the poor Lazarus, and attempts to strike up a conversation, requesting Lazarus be sent to his family, to warn them. This would seem to indicate Lazarus, in the bosom of Abraham, is on earth, not in Heaven -- being on the side of the gulf where the Rich Man's house and family are. The only objection to this, however, is that they, his five brothers, would not listen even if someone were raised from the dead -- remember the actions of the religious leaders of the day when YaHshua's friend was raised from the dead? With this line of thought, the location of the bosom of Abraham would be somewhere on Earth, wouldn't it? Also, one final thought on this teaching a Heaven Hell doctrine. Abraham is having a conversation with the RM and if this is supposed to be the actual Abraham, alive, he must have a very large bosom to be collecting all of the beggars. Also, as a tale of Heaven and Hell and as a doctrine of the Church this would mean, literally, that all the rich are going to a fiery hell while the beggars and the homeless are going to heaven -- look at Luke 16:25, it seems to say -- the rich go to Hell, but the beggars go to Heaven. We could take this even further and say that all on this Earth that have suffered will go to heaven and all that have had a good life will go to hell.

I am still of the opinion this was a teaching of the Pharisees that YaHshua turned around on them -- that's my opinion, until some further light can be thrown on this. One thing is sure, the teaching of the pagan "heaven hell' doctrine is at odds with the rest of scripture, basically teaching the lie that no matter what we are all immortal, be it in heaven or in hell. Remember,
the New Testament gospels records how YaHshua kept putting the Pharisees and their false ideas on display revealing them for what they had become, He constantly quoted what they taught and thought and turned it on them, and, as I have said before, I think that is what is going on here. There is also some questions concerning the origin of this "parable"? It seems it is not like any of the other parable teaching of YaHshua in style or form. This has led some to doubt this was ever a teaching of YaHshua at all, that it is most likely a later addition by some well-meaning scribe. This would not be the first time this has happened as we can testify to concerning the Gospel of Mark, chapter 16, and verses 9 through 20, obviously added to the text at a much later date.

**When in Doubt**

I do not pretend to have all of the answers and will not pretend to completely understand the tale in the form of a "dourine" but I think I do understand the message, the teaching. Ignore the Heaven and Hell for a moment and read it for the message. It is a message for all of us, not just the rich. I still like the idea of this tale from YaHshua, addressed specifically toward the Pharisees as an opportunity he may have taken to turn their own tale back on them. The Pharisees and Sadducees mystics dabbling in oral traditions contradicting the truth were not afraid to make things up, or to even take on ancient secret knowledge (so called) found in traditions and customs of their fathers. This is what Yahshua meant when He accused them of following the traditions of men rather than of the Living God. And this is the kind of tale that would be told by religious leaders to encourage the rich to give to the poor, and in Jerusalem, during that time, the way you did that was to drop money into the Temple coffers. I am speculating, of course, but it does explain the seemingly contradictory view of Heaven and Hell, and when you have our Savior telling us --

*John 3:13 - No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven-the Son of Man. NIV*

Not even David -- *Acts 2:34-36*
John 6:38 -For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.

Only YaHshua, among men, has come from Heaven and returned -- John 16:28

The Final, Final Word

(Rev 20:1-3) Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding in his hand the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain. And he seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years, and threw him into the pit, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he might not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were ended. After that he must be released for a little while.

(Rev 20:4) Then I saw thrones, and seated on them were those to whom the authority to judge was committed. Also I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of YaHshua and for the word of God (The Holy Bible), and those who had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

Would anyone seriously argue that all of this is taking place in the Heaven of Heavens? What about after the 1,000 years? Satan is released and all the rebellious of nations follow him, Satan, into the final destruction by fire from Heaven – please take the time to read all of Revelation 20.

Where are we that are left all heading? Look at the answer in the last Chapter of the Revelation --

(Rev 22:1) Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.
(Rev 22:3) No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God (the Father) and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. They will see his face, and His name will be on their foreheads. And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

When you read from Revelation 20 through 22 we see the central theme is things having to do with “nations”, “people”, “death” and “life”, “eternity”, God the Father’s throne as well as the Son’s being among men. We read of a New Heaven and a New Earth. What? A NEW EARTH.

If we all are to go to Heaven, then why a New Earth? The context, the focal point, is Earth and what is going to happen here. God the Father is coming here where the Lamb is and the people of the Lamb, the saints as resurrected beings with new bodies, like YaHshua, He being the first of many.

(1Jn 3:2) Beloved, we are God’s children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. ESV

(1Co 15:20) But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. ESV

(1Co 15:23) But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. ESV

Those who belong to the Christ, YaHshua, alive and asleep in death, we are waiting on Him to return –

(John 5:21) For as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whom he will.

(Rom 8:11) If the Spirit of him who raised YaHshua from the dead lives in you, He who raised Christ YaHshua from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.
Does any of this sound like things happening in the Heaven of Heavens? He is coming as the “Firstfruits” to raise to life those that belong to Him by the power and authority of the Heavenly Father – this will be the resurrection of those at His return, of those who have the spirit of the Father – “If the Spirit of Him who raised YaHshua from the dead lives in you…”.

This message is to the living not the dead. Remember, He is a God of the living, not the dead. Understanding this we should then be able to understand this instruction of His Spirit living in us. It is not living in us when we are dead, but in us while we are alive. This is a mark, a seal, we are not forgotten. The wick do not have His Spirit living in them and when they are raised for the judgment this will be all too apparent. Some will go on into life, some to eternal death, from which there is not return. Hell fire is eternal death, not just another form of “life”.

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