



**SAVED TO SERVE**  
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**HELL: WORMS THAT DIE NOT  
AND UNQUENCHABLE FIRE**

1. In this Sabbath School Lesson, we will study hell and the meaning of phrases such as 'worms which die not' and 'unquenchable fire'.
2. **Current Event:** Philip Anthony Mitchell: Everyone Forgets Judas Is Still In Hell Right Now  
[YouTube.com/watch?v=ve4qnHD-l04](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ve4qnHD-l04)
3. Read Mark 9:43-48 for context. Let us now analyze these scriptures to get the proper Biblical understanding.
4. In Mark 9:43, 45, 47 it says if your hand, foot, or eye offend you remove them because it is better to enter into [eternal] life maimed. Jesus is clearly using a metaphor here to teach us a point. What does the Bible say will happen to our bodies before entering heaven when we receive eternal life? 1 Corinthians 15:52-54

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a) What spiritual lesson was Jesus teaching by saying it's better to enter into life "maimed"? Mark 8:34-36

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5. Notice that in Mark 9:44, the phrase "worm dieth not" is connected to "the fire is not quenched." Let's address the fire first, and then discuss the worm. What did God say about the fire that He would kindle in Jerusalem because of their sins in the time of Jeremiah? Jeremiah 17:27

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6. What does it mean that the fire will not be "quenched"? **Answer:** Read 2 Chronicles 36:19-21. It is the fulfillment of the prophecy made by Jeremiah that Babylon would destroy and burn Jerusalem. The fire not being "quenched" means that no man would be able to avoid or stop the destruction that God was going to send upon His people.

7. **Note:** There are a few passages of scripture that describe hell as 'forever', 'eternal', and people being 'tormented day and night' (read Revelation 14:9-11; Revelation 20:10; Matthew 25:46; 2 Thessalonians 1:9). Let us study this concept throughout scripture to see if hell's fire will burn without coming to an end.

8. When the Bible says the wicked will be tormented "for ever and ever," what does this mean? 1 Samuel 1:22, 28; Jonah 2:6, 10; Jonah 1:17

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9. After the wicked have been consumed, what will remain? Malachi 4:1, 3

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a) Which cities suffered the result of eternal fire? Are they still burning today in the Middle East? Jude 7; 2 Peter 2:6

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10. **Note:** These scriptures clearly show us that the wicked will not be burning continually without end. They will be burnt up, and **the result of this fire is eternal**. The wicked, including Satan and his angels, will cease to exist. This is the second death.

11. Read Matthew 3:12 and Luke 3:17. Based on the previous questions, what is the understanding of Jesus saying that the wicked shall will be burned with unquenchable fire?

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12. How long will the wicked suffer in hell's fire? Matthew 16:27; Luke 12:47, 48 **Answer:** They will burn according to their sins. Some will last longer than others, but ultimately all will burn up and cease to exist.

13. Let's address the worms which die not. Note that "worms" in scripture are connected to death, and they are agents of decomposition, decay, and corruption (Job 19:26; Job 24:20; Job 21:25-26; Isaiah 51:8).

14. **Note:** Simply put, the worms are a metaphor for hell's fire. Read Mark 9:44, 46, 48 again. The worms that do not die mean that the fire will not be quenched. Notice that Isaiah 66:24 also says the same thing.

15. Regarding Lucifer's (Satan) destruction, what does it say about the worms? Isaiah 14:11, 12

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16. What are these worms that will 'cover' or fully envelope and destroy Satan? Ezekiel 28:18

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17. Let's now debunk the popular belief among professed Christians that we have a "soul" or a separate living entity within us that continues to live on after we die. The idea teaches that mankind has natural or intrinsic immortality, but it is not scriptural. What two elements comprise a soul according to Genesis 2:7?

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a) Write down scriptures which prove that a soul represents a living person.

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18. Does the Bible teach us that a soul is immortal or can it die? Ezekiel 18:4, 20; Matthew 10:28

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19. Matthew 10:28 teaches us that the soul can die but it separates the body and the soul. In this scripture, what does the word "soul" in Matthew 10:28 mean in the Greek? **Answer:** The number in the Strong's Concordance is 5590 and it means "breath". Based on the Bible, when a person dies, their breath returns to God (Ecclesiastes 12:7; Job 27:3). Matthew 10:28 is declaring that God has the power to utterly end life and prevent a person from ever living again.

20. As you study the Bible, you will discover it teaches that the wicked will perish (i.e. Psalm 37:20). Why did God bar Adam and Eve from the Tree of Life after they sinned? Genesis 3:22

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21. Is hell's fire burning now? Matthew 13:40-42; 2 Peter 2:9; Revelation 20:7, 9, 10

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22. Where will hell's fire be? 2 Peter 3:10-12; Revelation 20:9

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23. Where are the wicked dead right now? Are they in hell? Psalm 31:17; Job 14:10-13

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24. Is the devil in charge of hell? Matthew 25:40, 41; Revelation 20:10

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a) Why must sin and those who hold on to their sins be destroyed? Romans 6:23; 1 Corinthians 15:56

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25. **Note:** The account of the rich man and Lazarus in Luke 16:19-31 has perplexed many people on the subject of hell and what happens after death. Based on this parable, some make the assumption that when you die, you immediately go to heaven or hell and if you end up in hell, you will burn for all eternity. Let us analyze this passage to get the proper understanding.

26. Read Luke 16:19-31. Is this passage literal or figurative? Luke 15:1-3 **Answer:** It's a parable. Luke 15 begins a series of parables that Jesus explains. These parables continue into Luke chapter 16 with the account of the rich man and Lazarus. Jesus was trying to show them how they treated sinners and how sinners are treated by our loving God. The final point of the parable is that once we die, our decision for Christ or against Him is fixed and we cannot change afterwards (Luke 16:26-31).

"The doctrine of a conscious state of existence between death and the resurrection was held by many of those who were listening to Christ's words. The Saviour knew of their ideas, and He framed His parable so as to inculcate important truths through these preconceived opinions." {COL 263.2}

"The conversation between Abraham and the once-rich man is figurative." {COL 265.4}

27. What is one lesson being taught in this parable? Luke 16:25, 26; Revelation 22:11, 12; Ecclesiastes 9:5, 10 **Answer:** We will be judged according to what we do in this life and there is no repentance when in the grave. Our decisions are final.

**"In the parable of the rich man and Lazarus, Christ shows that in this life men decide their eternal destiny. During probationary time the grace of God is offered to every soul. But if men waste their opportunities in self-pleasing, they cut themselves off from everlasting life. No after-probation will be granted them. By their own choice they have fixed an impassable gulf between them and their God."** {COL 260.1}

28. What is another lesson being taught in this parable? Luke 16:27-31; John 11:43-45, 53; John 12:37 **Answer:** If we, like the Pharisees, have our hearts hardened to God's Word and truth, then no miracle done for us will change our hearts.

'Christ's last and crowning miracle was the raising of Lazarus of Bethany, after he had been dead four days. The Jews were given this wonderful evidence of the Saviour's divinity, but they rejected it. **Lazarus rose from the dead and bore his testimony before them, but they hardened their hearts against all evidence, and even sought to take his life** (John 12:9-11). {COL 265.1}

"The law and the prophets are God's appointed agencies for the salvation of men. Christ said, Let them give heed to these evidences. **If they do not listen to the voice of God in His word, the testimony of a witness raised from the dead would not be heeded.**" {COL 265.2}

29. As we close, let us look at the love of God which should lead us to repentance and a saving relationship with Him. Does God long to destroy the wicked? Ezekiel 33:11; Isaiah 28:21
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