THE BIBLE VIEW

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"Uh-oh"

Bill Brinkworth

"Consciousness came and went in short spurts. For a brief second, bright surgical lights came into sight, and then sleep over came me.

"Again, for a glimpse, I saw doctors and nurses scurrying about me. Some were adjusting electrodes on my chest. Another nurse was quickly putting a needle into my arm, then sleep cameupon me. I do not know how long it was, but I was vaguely aware of my mother talking to me. She was crying. There was urgency in her sobbing voice.

"Again, doctors were shouting orders to those nearby. The beeping of a monitor increased. Some were running for more equipment, and then silence.

"Darkness surrounded me, but I was quite conscious. No longer were there bright lights; no doctors' voices; no mother's sobs. It wasn't like the previous in's and out's of consciousness. I was aware with all my senses. There was a sense of my moving, but not one of my body parts was at all involved. It was as if I were drifting somewhere. I could feel it getting warmer and warmer, and it wasn't long until the heat was unbearable. Where was I? What was happening to me? I knew my eyes were wide open, but all around me was darkness. Was this, was this, was this Hell? Oh no, that must be where I was. I've died! Fear like I never experienced before forced screams out of my mouth. Hell! Oh, no. What have I done?

"Then, through all the fear, the intense heat, and now an increasing pain in what seemed every pore of my body, I remembered some things from my past. I remembered Mrs. Corner's Sunday school lesson and the parts of the verses she read about Hell. I remembered my snide remarks mocking what she said.

"Distant shrieks in the tormenting darkness told me I was not alone in my imprisonment.

"Memories continued to flood my mind. I recalled the times my friend Gary and I mocked Hell and proudly boasted that we would be together in Hell and would have a party together. This was no party. Perhaps one of the screams in the distance was his, but we certainly were not together.

"A horrible series of blood-curdling shouts told another was not able to bear the torture they were experiencing, but there was no way out. There was no escape for anyone! Another cry hollered, 'Not forever.' All hope was gone from that voice. His 'Oh-nooooo' seemed to be a whisper as he realized the hopelessness of his situation.

"A brief memory of my brother's coming back from church one day reminded me how I reacted when he told me he had just gotten saved and had God's promise of going to Heaven when he died. I thought I was so smart when I retorted, 'No one can know for sure that they're going to Heaven. How can you believe that Bible? It's just an ol' book that some men wrote.'

"I was so wrong. If I had only listened to him! If I only had taken him up on his invitations to go to church, I may have gotten what he had. I may not have been in the place I am now. How wrong I was. How foolish my opinions were. If my memory of what I heard in church serves me well, it is going to get worse; a judgment before God; the Lake of Fire — forever. Uh-oh, what have I done?"

This story, of course, is a fictitious account of what may be happening to billions of unsaved souls right this very second. It is based on many Scriptures and may be very close to reality. If you have never trusted Christ as your payment for your sin, it may very well describe what you may experience one day. Do not be foolish. While God has allowed you the opportunity, decide to be saved from Hell today before it is eternally too late!

"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." Romans 10:13

"Everyone who finds himself in Heaven will have to thank God for it, and everyone who finds himself in Hell will have to thank himself." — C. H. MacKinosh

What the Bible Says about Hell

Bill Brinkworth

One of the most feared doctrines of the Bible is about the place called "Hell." Many go to great lengths to belittle and scoff at it. Many deny it. However, it is mentioned 54 times in the Bible and referred to in many other places.

Perhaps, if they convince themselves and others that Hell does not exist, the scoffers think they will alleviate the guilt of their sins and will cover up the fear they have of spending eternity there. One's personal opinion does not negate facts. There is a place called Hell. Here are some facts about Hell according to the King James Bible:

• Hell is down:

Luke 16:23 "And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom." Also: Ez. 31:16,17, Ez. 32:21, Is. 14:9, 15.

Hell is for the wicked:

Psalms 9:17 "The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God." Also: Mat. 5:22, 23:33. All are wicked, but Hell will be the destination for those who did not allow Christ's payment for sin to cover their iniquities.

Hell is a place of sorrows:

Psalm 18:5 "The sorrows of hell compassed me about: the snares of death prevented me." Also: Psalm 116:3.

Hell is a place of pain:

Luke 16:24-25 "And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame. ... thou art tormented." Also: Luke 16:28.

Mark 9:44 "Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched." Also: Mark 9:46, 48, Isaiah. 66:24.

• Hell is a place where the dead without Christ go:

Proverbs 9:18 "But he knoweth not that the dead are there; and that her guests are in the depths of hell." — Life is not over when our flesh stops breathing in this world.

Hell has levels:

Deuteronomy 32:22 "For a fire is kindled in mine anger, and shall burn unto the lowest hell, and shall consume the earth with her increase, and set on fire the foundations of the mountains." Also: Psalm 86:13.

Hell is growing:

Proverb 27:20 "Hell and destruction are never full; so the eyes of man are never satisfied." Also: Isaiah 5:14.

Hell was different before Christ died on the cross and rose again:

Luke 16:26 "And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence." — Hell was down and was divided into two parts. Abraham's bosom was where the godly went. There was no tormenting there. The lower terrible region is where the ungodly went. It was separated by a "great gulf" no one could cross.

 Jesus went to Hell (It was "Abraham's bosom" and, again, it was not a place of torment!):

Acts 2:31 "He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption."

• Jesus led the godly out of "Hell" when He died:

Ephesians 4:8 "Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men." Also: Psalm 68:18. Rev. 1:18. — Before Christ ascended back to Heaven, he led the godly Old Testament saints out of the upper region of Hell (Abraham's Bosom).

Hell is not for those who trust Christ as their Saviour.

John 3:3 "Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

• Hell is a temporary place, and then things get worse:

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." — All those that are in Hell, will be released, judged, and put in eternal punishment in the Lake of Fire. Also: Rev. 20:14.

Hell certainly is a horrible place. No one should want to go there. The only way to avoid an eternity in that horrible place is to be saved!

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. 17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved."

** This is a condensed version of a study of Hell. A more complete version can be found at: http://www.openthoumineeyes.com/lessons/hell.html.

Hell

John Milton

A dungeon horrible, on all sides round,
As one great furnace, flam'd, yet from those flames
No light, but rather darkness visible
Serv'd only to discover sights of woe,
Regions of sorrow, doleful shades, where peace
And rest can never dwell, hope never,
That comes to all; but torture without end
Still urges, and a fiery deluge fed
With burning sulphur unconsum'd.
Such place eternal justice had prepared
For those rebellious; here their prison ordained
In utter dakness, and their portion set
As far remov'd from God and light of Heaven
As from the center thrice to th' utmost pole.

"When some editors have proofread my work, they often made notes that 'Hell' and 'Heaven,' should not be capitalized because the Bible does not capitalize them. The rules of capitalization have changed since the KJV Bible was finalized. Heaven and Hell ARE real places and I will continue to capitalize the proper nouns! — B. Brinkworth