

Is there an eternal hell?

Yes! This is plainly taught in both testaments. The Jews understood this and even some false religions accept that there is punishment after death for those that do not love and obey God. The Biblical doctrine of hell is of unending, conscious punishment plus eternal separation from God and all good. Knowledge of this should drive men to fear God and seek mercy, and should provoke believers to evangelism. To avoid prolonged argument, it is best to simply show some NT scriptures that plainly teach this.

Matt 25:41, 46. Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels ... And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life'. [Everlasting = *aionios* meaning: without beginning and end, never to cease, everlasting.]

Mk 9:43-44. If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life maimed, rather than having two hands, to go to hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched -- where 'Their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched.' ['Never be quenched' = *asbestos*, unquenched, unquenchable. 'Worm' etc. repeated three times v43-48 in the AV, NASB & KJV; Jesus quotes Isa 66:24. There can be no argument that this emphasises the eternal nature of punishment.]

2 Thess 1:9. These shall be punished with everlasting [*aionios*] destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power.

Jude 13. ... for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever. ['Forever' = *aion* meaning: 1) for ever, an unbroken age, perpetuity of time, eternity, 2) the worlds, universe or 3) a period of time or age. The choice is made by comparison with similar texts, which proves that the first is correct, 'eternity'.]

Rev 14:11. And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night. [This text emphasises the eternal, conscious nature of punishment.]

Rev 20:10, 15, 21:8. The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet *are*. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. ... And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire. ... the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death. ['Forever and ever' = 'to the ages of the ages', Greek - *aionas ton aionon*. This is emphasising eternity; not just an age, but ages of ages.]

The denial of an eternal hell by some modern evangelicals is to be condemned.

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