

Matthew Series

Lesson #029

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Dean Bible Ministries

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Dr. Robert L. Dean, Jr.

Jesus Loves Me

**Jesus loves me this I know,
For the Bible, tells me so,
Little one's to him belong;
They are weak, but He is strong.**

**Yes, Jesus loves me,
yes, Jesus loves me,
yes, Jesus loves me,
the Bible tells me so.**



MATTHEW

JESUS: KING OF THE JEWS

Are You in Danger of Hell?

Matthew 5:22

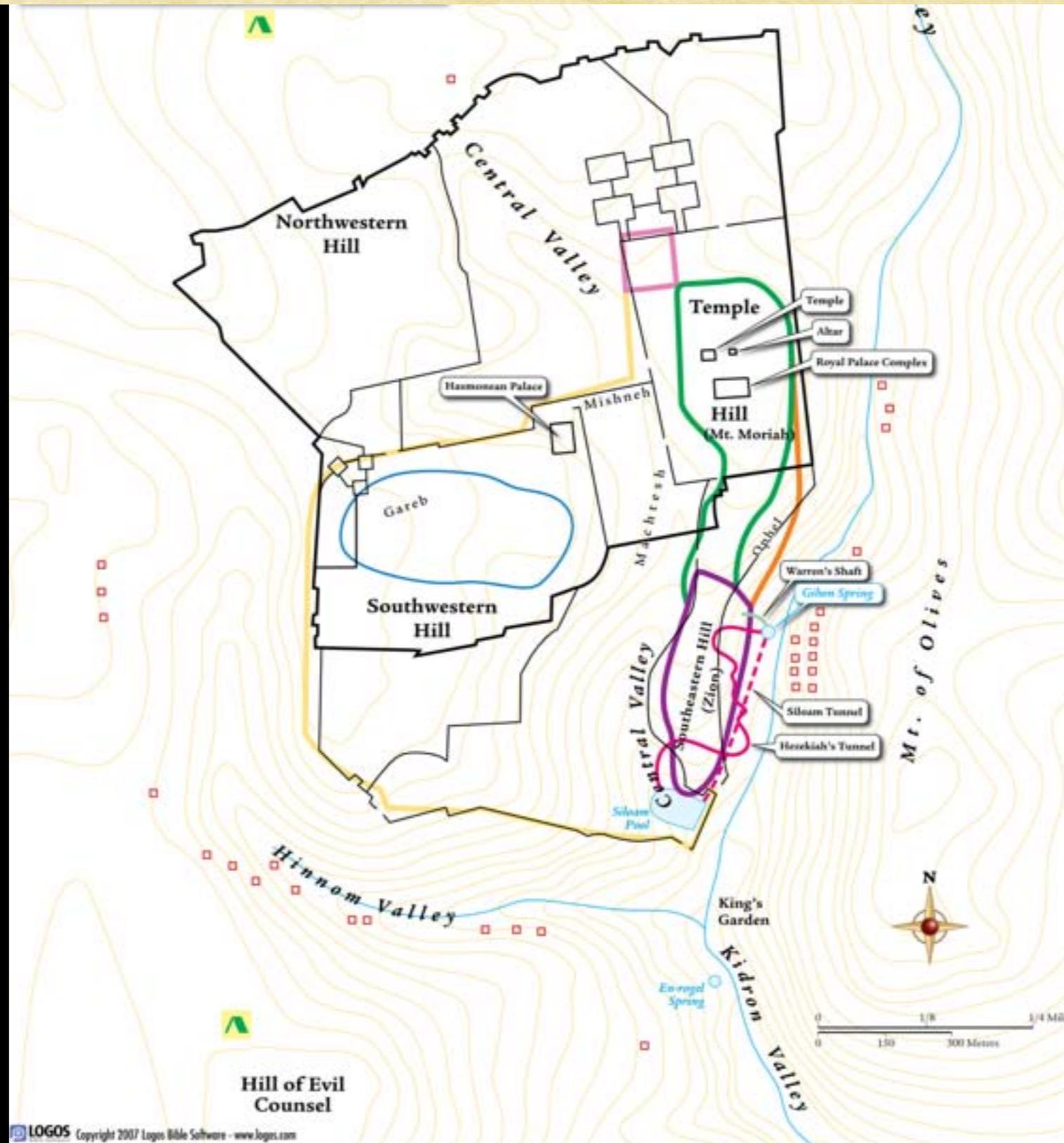
Valley of Hinnom – “hell” The day that hell froze over?



Gehenna, The Valley of Hinnom

גֵּיאַ הַחַיְהִים (*ge' hinnom*), γέεννα (*geenna*)

11× in 10 verses



Gehenna, The Valley of Hinnom

גֵּיאַ הַחִנּוֹם (*ge' hinnom*), γέεννα (*geenna*)

11× in 10 verses

1. The border between Judah and Benjamin

Josh. 15:8, “And the border [of Judah] went up by the Valley of the Son of Hinnom to the southern slope of the Jebusite city (which is Jerusalem). The border went up to the top of the mountain that lies before the Valley of Hinnom westward, which is at the end of the Valley of Rephaim northward.”

Josh. 18:16, “Then the border [of Benjamin] came down to the end of the mountain that lies before the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, which is in the Valley of the Rephaim on the north, descended to the Valley of Hinnom, to the side of the Jebusite city on the south, and descended to En Rogel.”

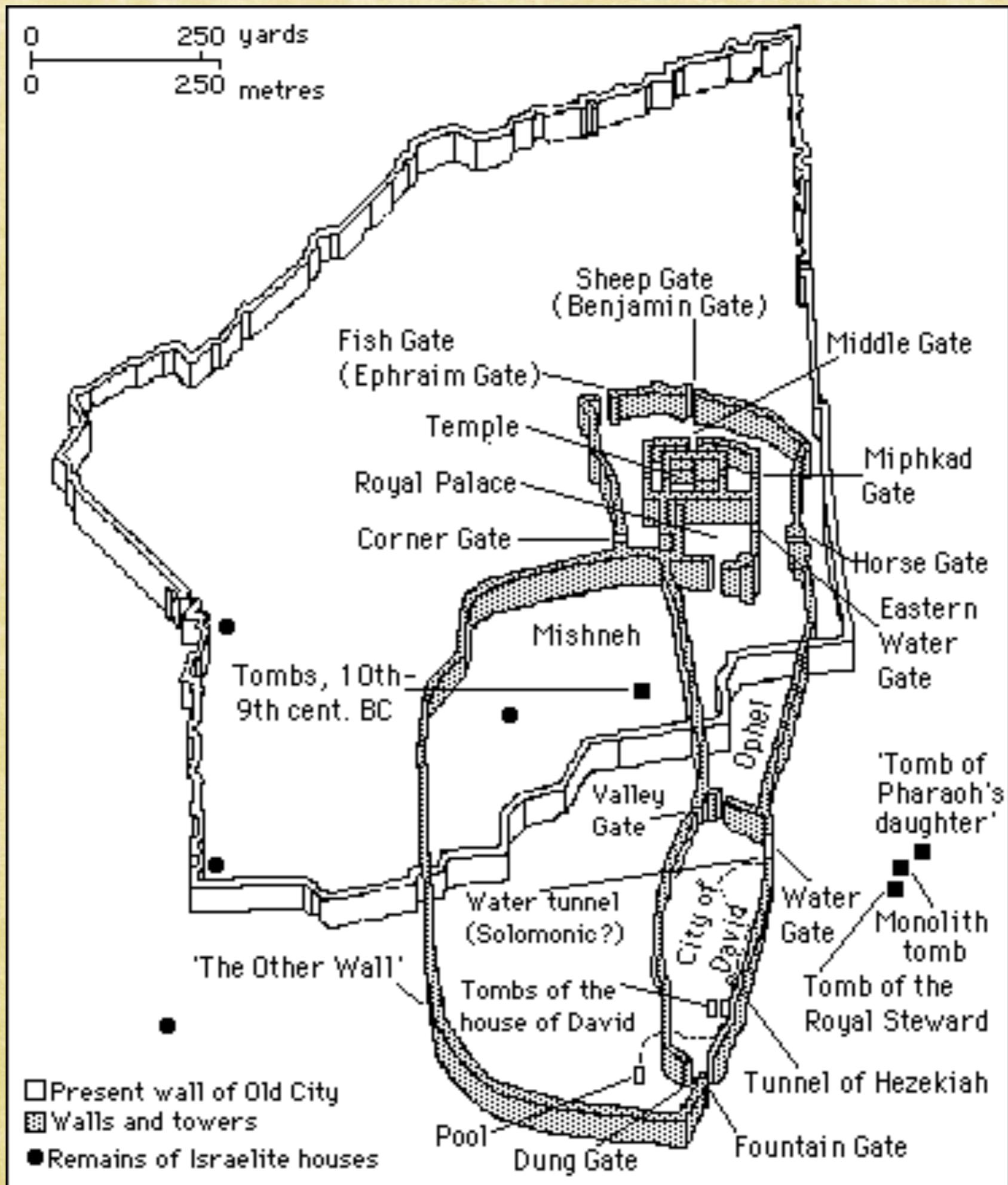
Gehenna, The Valley of Hinnom

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11× in 10 verses

2. The location is identified only here in Jer. 19:2 as the Potsherd Gate, though uncertain, most scholars identify this with the Dung Gate.

Jer. 19:2, “And go out to the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, which is by the entry of the Potsherd Gate; and proclaim there the words that I will tell you,”



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11× in 10 verses

- 3. Where Judah sinned by committing child sacrifice and burning their sons and daughters in the fires of Molech. Thus this symbolized a place of idolatry, disobedience to God, and spiritual failure.**



2 Chron. 28:3, “He [Ahaz] burned incense in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, and burned his children in the fire, according to the abominations of the nations whom the LORD had cast out before the children of Israel.”

Jer. 7:31, “And they have built the high places of Tophet, which is in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, to burn their sons and their daughters in the fire, which I did not command, nor did it come into My heart.”

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11× in 10 verses

4. For their sins of idolatry, Judah was to be punished there in 586 B.C.

This was a historical punishment of Divine discipline on the nation for their spiritual failure.

In Jeremiah 19:6 Jeremiah predicted, that as punishment for the sins, the valley would be used as a mass burial site for those slaughtered in the Babylonian destruction of Jerusalem in 586 B.C.

Jer. 7:31, “And they have built the high places of Tophet, which is in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, to burn their sons and their daughters in the fire, which I did not command, nor did it come into My heart.

Jer. 7:32, “ ‘Therefore behold, the days are coming,’ says the LORD, ‘when it will no more be called Tophet, or the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, but the Valley of Slaughter; for they will bury in Tophet until there is no room.’ ”

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OT: 11× in 10 verses

- 5. Conclusion: The Valley of Hinnom was not used in the OT as a reference to eternal condemnation in the Lake of Fire, but as a place of Divine discipline on the nation of Israel for their spiritual failure. It thus became a symbol for spiritual failure, condemnation and shame, and Divine discipline.**

Gehenna, The Valley of Hinnom

גֵּיאַ הַיָּמִין (*ge' hinnom*), γέεννα (*geenna*)

NT: 12× in 12 verses

- 1. Speaking to disciples who are already believers (Matt. 5:22, 29, 30; Matt. 10:28; 18:9)**

The first two examples are warnings to believing disciples about dangers related to disobedience, first, in the case of calling someone a fool; second, in relation to sexual lust.

Gehenna, The Valley of Hinnom

גֵּיאַ הַחַיְהִים (ge' hinnom), γέεννα (geenna)

NT: 12× in 12 verses

Matt. 5:22, “But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, ‘Raca!’ shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, ‘You fool!’ shall be in danger of hell [the valley of Hinnom].”

Gehenna, The Valley of Hinnom

גֵּיאַ הַיָּזְמִים (*ge' hinnom*), γέεννα (*geenna*)

NT: 12× in 12 verses

Matt. 5:28, “But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

Matt. 5:29, “If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell [thrown into the valley of Hinnom].”

Two options:

- a. *Gehenna* describes the eternal Lake of fire.**

- b. *Gehenna* describes a form of temporal punishment or Divine discipline in time.**

Gehenna, The Valley of Hinnom

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NT: 12× in 12 verses

- 1. Most English translations translate this as hell, or hellfire, as in the Lake of Fire.**
- 2. Most Bible dictionary or Encyclopedia articles understand the idiom to be a reference to the eternal fires of the Lake of Fire.**
- 3. It appears from passages such as Matt. 18:8 that Gehenna is used in synonymous parallelism with “eternal fire” which indicates the Lake of Fire.**

If *Gehenna* refers to the Lake of Fire, then this would indicate that either:

- a. Jesus is indicating that His hearers can lose their salvation for committing these sins [Arminianism].**
- b. Jesus is indicating that failure in these areas means His disciples are not truly believers [Lordship Calvinism].**

Gehenna, The Valley of Hinnom

גֵּיהֵנּוֹם (ge' hinnom), γέεννα (geenna)

NT: 12× in 12 verses

Is the fire “eternal”?

Matt. 18:8, “If your hand or foot causes you to sin, cut it off and cast it from you. It is better for you to enter into life lame or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet, to be cast into the everlasting fire.

Matt. 18:9, “And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you. It is better for you to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes, to be cast into hell fire [the fiery garbage dump in the valley of Hinnom].”

Gehenna, The Valley of Hinnom

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NT: 12× in 12 verses

Is the fire “eternal”?

Mark 9:43, “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—”

Mark 9:45, “And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life lame, rather than having two feet, to be cast into hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched—”

Mark 9:46, “where ‘*Their worm [maggot] does not die and the fire is not quenched.*’ ”

1. Old Testament predictions of judgment in “unquenchable fire” (Jer. 17:27), fire that will “burn forever” (Jer. 17:4) describe the temporal judgment of the Babylonian destruction in 586 B.C.

2. The fire of Hinnom is both “eternal” and “unquenchable,” but these words are both used to describe intensity of judgment rather than length of judgment. (Isa. 34:8 (the day of the Lord); Isa. 66:24; Jude 7)

Jer. 7:20, “Therefore thus says the Lord God: ‘Behold, My anger and My fury will be poured out on this place—on man and on beast, on the trees of the field and on the fruit of the ground.’ ”

3. Isa. 66:12 describes the seven-month period of the burial of the dead from the Gog-Magog invasion (Ezek. 39:11–16).

4. Conclusion: The Valley of Hinnom was a Jewish metaphor invoking the memory of Israel's spiritual failure and God's judgment to warn believers of the very real dangers of Divine discipline in time, and the loss of rewards and shame at the judgment seat of Christ (1 Cor. 3:10–15).