



**Welcome to Unity's Interactive  
Worship Service**

**Today's Topic:  
An Idea Called Hell**

**Power Point notes available at:  
[www.unityofbakersfield.org](http://www.unityofbakersfield.org)**

### **An Idea Called Hell**

Last week we looked at what heaven is like and the statements made Jesus explaining that heaven was like a treasure, a pearl, a field, leaven, and a mustard seed. The message we get from this is that heaven is a state of mind, and that everyone may have a different idea about what heaven is like. Heaven therefore, is a consciousness thing. And in our father's house are many rooms (states of consciousness) where one goes after leaving this physical plane.

### **An Idea Called Hell**

If the kingdom of heaven is within us, as Jesus stated, where did this idea of hell come from?

Throughout human history every culture had an idea about where one would go after they left this earthly plane. When we look at the early history of humankind, we see in their myths and folklore an idea of the afterlife, which overtime, was accepted and developed into their religion as a place of torment and punishment.

### **An Idea Called Hell**

There are two major concepts that were developed over time about the idea called hell. Some religions hold a doctrine based on what is called the linear divine, which means hell is an eternal destination with no hope of escaping and is located under the earth's surface. Other religions have a cyclic history that states hell is just a temporary place where one goes between incarnations, which may include limbo or purgatory.

### **An Idea Called Hell**

The whole idea called hell evolved over time as a way of scaring people into behaving in this lifetime. It was a control measure used by the early church and fire (burning at the stake) was their form of punishment to drive home the idea of the "lake of fire" one would endure for eternity for violating God's laws.

So, what did Jesus have to say about his idea called hell?

### **An Idea Called Hell**

In case anyone has forgotten, Jesus was Jewish, his heritage Hebrew. So let's take a quick look at the Old Testament, and Genesis. In the beginning God says, "Let there be light," and separates light from darkness. Then God creates the Heavens as well as the oceans by fastening a huge wedge between them.

Anyone see what's missing here?

### An Idea Called Hell

Then God places all the seas in a place which allows dry land to appear. Then all kinds of vegetation starts to grow. After that, God creates the stars, sun, and moon. (If God already said, "Let there be light," What was that light?

After more light is created, God generates creatures of the sea and air. And commands the creatures to "be fruitful and multiply."

### An Idea Called Hell

God isn't done yet, so He creates the land creatures, cattle, crawling things, wild animals, and humankind. Then God then gives humankind "dominion" over all living things and also to be "fruitful and multiply." And after six long days, God decides to take a rest on the seventh day.

Now in all this creating, where is the creation of hell? The answer is very simple.

### An Idea Called Hell

The early Hebrews didn't have a concept of hell, so when the Old Testament was written after the Babylonian captivity (597-538 BC) there wasn't any mention of it at all.

So what happened between 538 BC when no mention of a hell was never a part of the Old Testament and 30 CE when hell seems to be a part of early religious beliefs?

Zoroastrianism happened.

### An Idea Called Hell

Now a rabbi from Nazareth arrives on the scene and teaches people about the kingdom of heaven, God's unconditional love and forgiveness. His name is Jesus and his idea of hell is like that of a garbage dump on the outskirts of Jerusalem. "And if your eye should cause you to stumble, cast it out; it is better for you to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than having two eyes, to be cast into Gehenna." (Mark 9:47)

### An Idea Called Hell

The Hebrew *Geh Hin-nom'*, means "Valley of Hinnom." The Valley of Hinnom hugged the outskirts of ancient Jerusalem. In the days of the Israelite kings, it was used for child sacrifice. In Jesus' day, the inhabitants of Jerusalem used the Valley of Hinnom as a garbage dump. They threw the bodies of some vile criminals into this dump and kept a fire constantly burning there to dispose of the refuse and the carcasses.

### An Idea Called Hell

And just as Jesus taught that heaven is like... he taught that hell is also like a constant burning garbage dump. And who of us have not had the type of burning sensation of being in a state of hell. Like heaven, he never taught that hell was a physical place, that it was a state of mind.

In today's world Jesus would probably use addictions and depression as examples of someone being in a state of hell.

### An Idea Called Hell



As the poet John Milton (1608-1674) once observed, “The mind is its own place, and in itself can make a heaven of hell, a hell of heaven.”

So if we should find ourselves in the “fires of hell” what good can come from that? It is after all a state of mind, right?

### An Idea Called Hell

I have found myself in the so called “fires of hell” and the emotional and mental torment that came with it before I found Unity. But you know what? As I began to study the truth principles I found that fire can be a good thing. Fire is a purifier in which a transformation can take place. Like tempered steel, fire can cause us to emerge stronger than we were before. So if you should find yourself in a state of hell, remember:

### An Idea Called Hell

God is in the darkness as well as the light.

God as essence everywhere present and therefore God is also in hell with you.

In God’s house are many rooms and everyone according to their state of mind, belief, and consciousness will go to that room.

Heaven or hell, it’s our call. As someone once said, “I am my own heaven, or hell.”