

Eternal Punishment According to Matthew  
Resources: Hell on Trial: The Case for Eternal Punishment, chapter three.

1. Matthew describes **γέεννα** as a **real place** where people will be.
  - 1.1. Matthew 5:22: 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 γέεννα fire**. NKJV
    - 1.1.1. **γέεννα, ης, □ (also Γέεννα) Gehenna**; literally *valley of Hinnom*, a ravine south of Jerusalem where fires were kept burning to consume the dead bodies of animals, criminals, and refuse; figuratively in the Gospels and James for *hell*, a fiery place of eternal punishment for the ungodly dead (MT 5.22)<sup>1</sup>
    - 1.1.2. 2 Kings 16:3; 21:6 describe the atrocities that occurred in the valley of Hinnom.
  - 1.2. Matthew 5:30: And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off 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 **γέεννα**.
    - 1.2.1. Jesus states the entire body will be sent or cast into this place.
  - 1.3. Matt 23:15; 33. "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel land and sea to win one proselyte, and when he is won, you make him twice as much a son of **γέεννα** as yourselves. . . . Serpents, brood of vipers! How can you escape the condemnation of **γέεννα**?"
2. Matthew describes **γέεννα** as a **real place where God rules**.
  - 2.1. Matthew 10:28: And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and *body* in **γέεννα**.
    - 2.1.1. Matthew teaches that **death ends human life**.
      - 2.1.1.1. However, it does not end life as both the soul and body [probably the new spiritual body] are placed, by God into **γέεννα**.
        - 2.1.1.1.1. □ **πόλλυμι**: (destroy) **1. destroy**, **ruin**, cause destruction (Lk 5:37); **2. fail to get** (Mt 10:42); **3. lose**, something one possesses (Lk 15:8); **4. unaware of location**, not know where something is (Lk 15:4); **5. Die**, formally, lose the life (Mt 10:39; 16:25; Mk 8:35; Lk 9:24; 17:33; Jn 12:25); **6. LN 23.106 (dep.) die** (Lk 15:17); **7. (dep.) disappear**, cease to exist, implying by violent means (Heb 1:11; 1Pe 1:7); **8. LN 21.32 (dep.) be lost**, in a spiritual sense (1Co 1:18; Mt 18:11v.r.)<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Friberg, T., Friberg, B., & Miller, N. F. (2000). *Vol. 4: Analytical lexicon of the Greek New Testament*. Baker's Greek New Testament library (96). Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Books.

<sup>2</sup>Swanson, J. (1997). *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains : Greek (New Testament)* (electronic ed.) (GGK660). Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

2.2. Matthew 25:46: And these will go away into **everlasting punishment**, but the righteous into eternal life.

2.2.1. **Everlasting and eternal are parallel terms**. What definition you give one about heaven you need to give the other about everlasting punishment.

2.2.1.1. The eternity of **γέεννα** is further established by Matthew 25:41.

2.2.1.2. When a comparison is made between Matthew 25:41 and Revelation 20:10, it clearly states that the final punishment is without end for the devil and those dying without Jesus.

2.3. God, not Satan rules over **γέεννα**. Consequently, people should take the words of Jesus seriously when He speaks about what it means to die without His salvation.

3. Matthew describes **γέεννα** as a **real place where God rules and some people are forever separated** from Him.

3.1. Matthew 7:21-23: “Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. 22 Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' 23 And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'”

3.1.1. Jesus separates some because there is **no relationship**.

3.2. Matthew 8:11-12: 11 And I say to you that many will come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. 12 But the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

3.2.1. Notice that Matthew speaks of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, **long dead, as alive**. An indication of life beyond death.

3.2.2. The **“sons”** Jesus speaks about are God’s people Israel.

3.2.3. **“Darkness”** is a term used to describe a person’s condition without Jesus (See, Matt 4:16; Matt 6:23; Matt 8:12; Matt 22:13; Matt 25:30; Luke 1:79; Luke 11:34 Luke 11:35; Luke 22:53; John 1:5; John 1:5; John 3:19; John 8:12; John 12:35; John 12:35; John 12:46).

3.3. Matthew 25:30: And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

3.3.1. Again Matthew explains that some will be separated from God.

4. Matthew describes **γέεννα** as a **real place where God rules and some people are forever separated from Him and are in pain**.

4.1. Six times Matthew uses the expression “weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

- 4.1.1. Matthew 8:12: 12 But the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."
- 4.1.2. Matthew 13:42: 42 and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth.
- 4.1.3. Matthew 13:50: 50 and cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth."
- 4.1.4. Matthew 22:13: 13 Then the king said to the servants, 'Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'
- 4.1.5. Matthew 24:51: 51 and will cut him in two and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.
- 4.1.6. Matthew 25:30: 30 And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'
- 4.1.7. GNASH — Heb. *harak*, חָרַק meaning “to *file, rub together, grate or grind* the teeth”, (Job 16:9; Ps. 112:10; Lam. 2:16), denotes rage or sorrow. (See also Acts 7:54; Mark 9:18.)<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup>Easton, M. (1996, c1897). *Easton's Bible dictionary*. Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc.