



Life, Death and Resurrection

Hell:
What it is,
and what it isn't

Life Death and Resurrection Series - Hell

God alone has immortality.

We do not have immortality,

- but we may be granted immortality on one condition.

If our faith is in Christ, we will also be granted immortality.

Conditional Immortality = a summary of events

A person is a living being. Dust + Breath of Life = A living being. (*Genesis 2:7*)

Death is a return of dust and breath to their origins. (*Ecclesiastes 12:7*)

A person ceases to be alive in any form at the point of death.

(Ecclesiastes 9:5,10)

People can be made alive again only by God resurrecting them.

(1 Corinthians 15:20-22)

If a person is in Christ, they will be resurrected and be granted immortality.

(1 Corinthians 15:53,54)

What Hell Is Not

Hell cannot be ... a place where bodiless souls live on after death.

- > There is no life immediately after the body dies, neither is there consciousness in any form. Death means death - not life in another form.
(Ecclesiastes 9:5,10).

Hell cannot be ... a place where those rejected by God are tortured alive forever.

- > Immortality is only granted to those whom God accepts and grants it to (1 Cor 15:20-22,54-55).

Hebrew and Greek Words sometimes translated as “hell”

Old Testament (Hebrew):

sheol = “the grave”, “the state of death”.
Similar to “hades” in the New Testament.

New Testament (Greek):

hades = “the grave”, “the state of death”.
Similar to “sheol” in the Old Testament.

Gehenna = a location south of Jerusalem. A place of destruction by fire.

Tartarus = a place of imprisonment for sinful angels.
Only occurrence is 2 Peter 2:4

General rules for translating the word “hell”:

When you see the word “hell” in the OT, it should read “the grave” (Hebrew word: *sheol*)

When you see the word “hell” in the NT, most times it refers to a judgement fire in the Hinnom Valley (Greek word: *gehenna*).

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The word “hell” in the NT is often translated from the Greek word “gehenna”.

Gehenna (the Hinnom Valley)

- a literal place near Jerusalem.

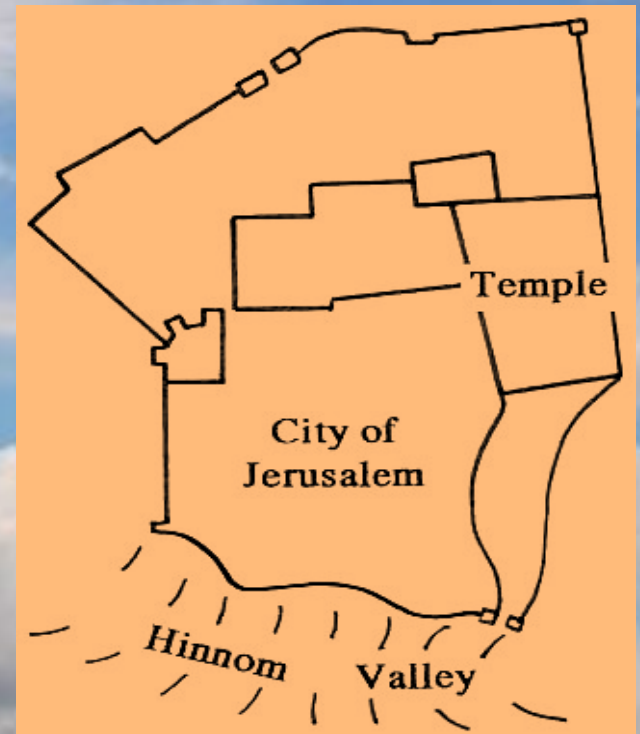
- neither bodiless souls nor people will be tortured there forever.

In the OT, it was a place used for pagan sacrifices by fire.

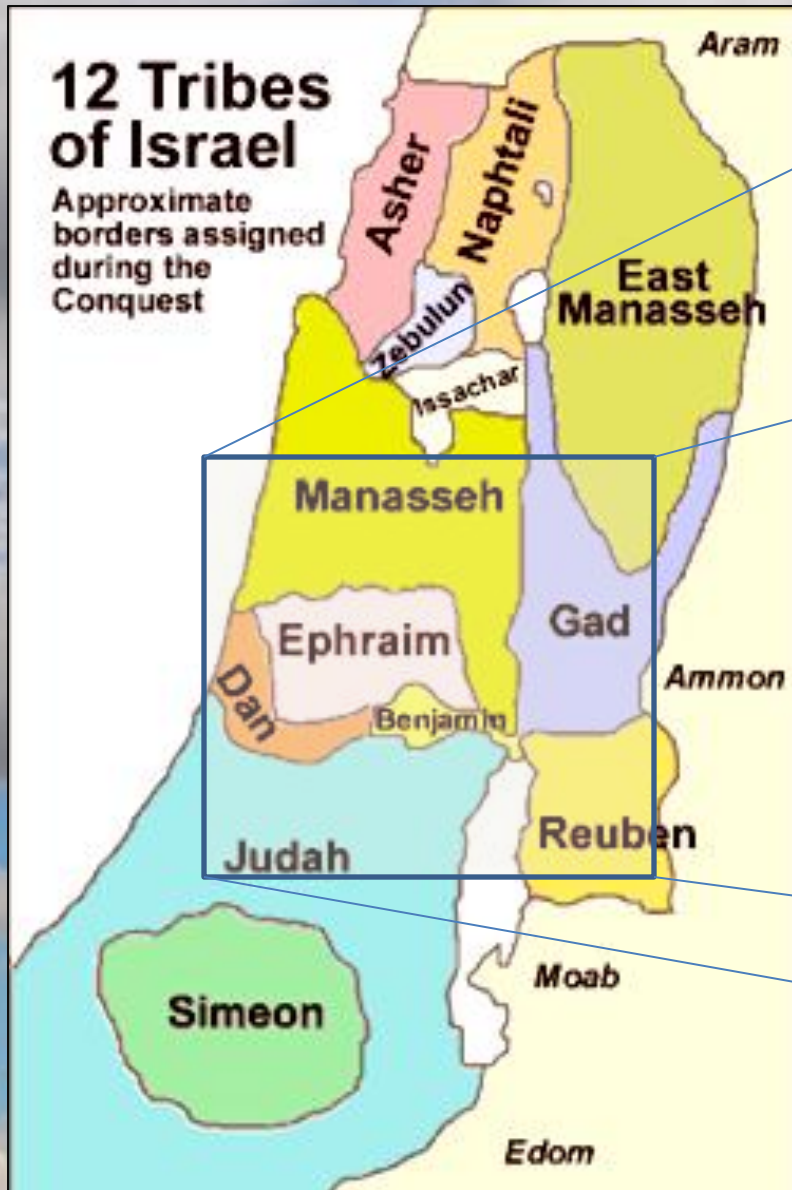
In NT times, it was probably Jerusalem’s garbage dump, with fires continually burning.

Today, it is partly parkland, and partly built up.

When Christ returns, the fires will be re-lit, and many people will meet their deaths there as judgement takes place.



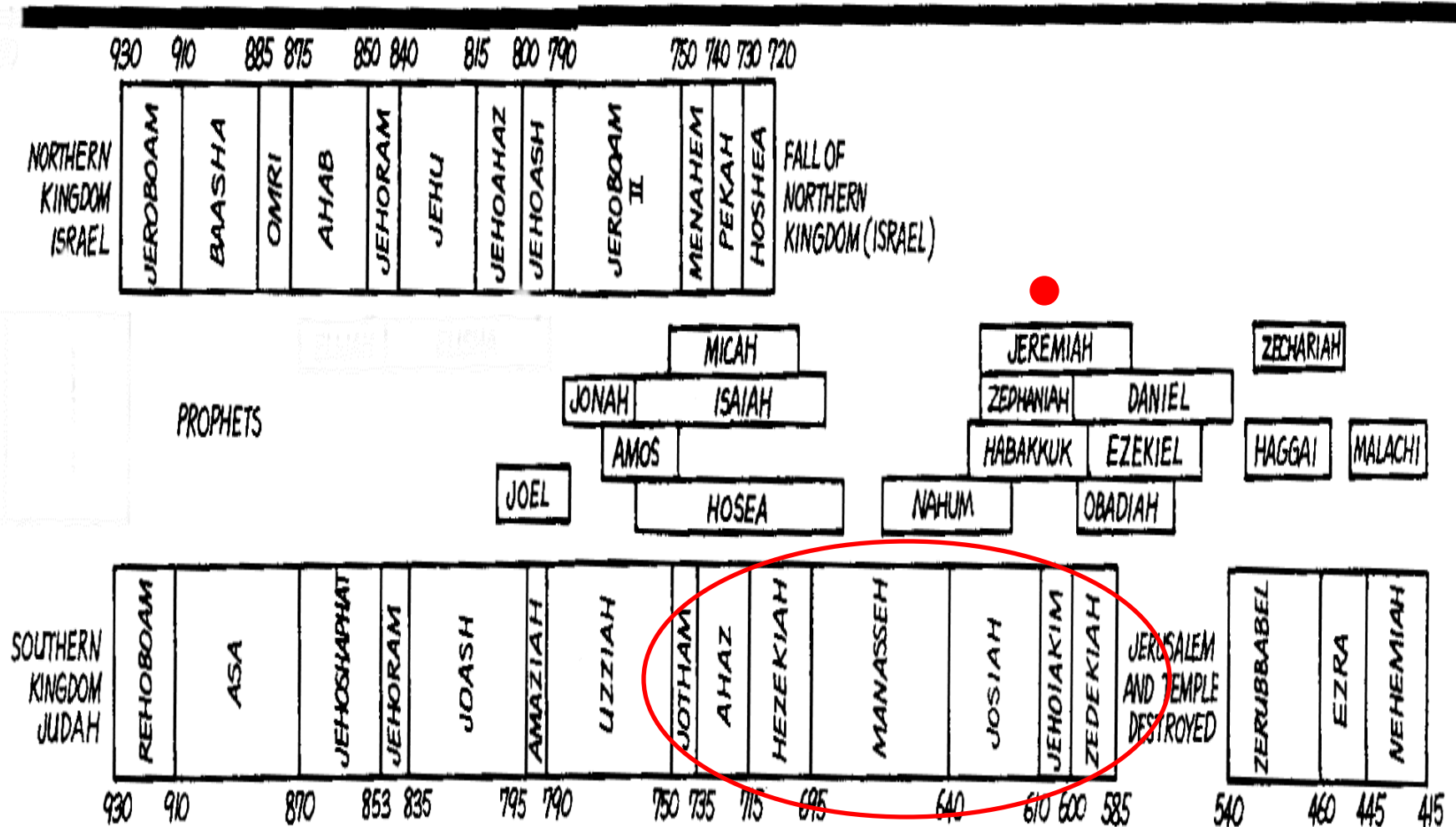
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**Hinnom Valley
"Gai-henna"**

Jebus (Jerusalem)

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Artists' impressions of Molech.

- an idol whose worship involved sacrifices of children in fire.

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In NT times, the Hinnom Valley may have been a burning garbage dump, where fires continually burned to stop the spread of pestilence.

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**Gehenna,
or Hinnom Valley,
today.**



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