

Matthew Series

Lesson #101

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Dean Bible Ministries

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MATTHEW

JESUS: KING OF THE JEWS

Loving One Another

Matthew 18:5–10

Matt. 18:5, “Whoever receives one little child like this in My name receives Me.

Matt. 18:6, “Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea.

Matt. 18:7, “Woe to the world because of offenses! For offenses must come, but woe to that man by whom the offense comes!”

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.”

Matt. 18:1, “At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, ‘Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?’

Matt. 18:2, “Then Jesus called a little child to Him, set him in the midst of them,

Matt. 18:3, “and said, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.

Matt. 18:4, “ ‘Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.’ ”

Aspects to Humility

- 1. Humility is submission to authority.**
- 2. Humility is not asserting your own rights, or seeking personal status or position for its own sake.**

- 1. To whom is Jesus speaking? Believers or unbelievers?**
- 2. Who is the little child of whom Jesus is speaking?**
- 3. When Jesus describes the threats to the person who causes harm to one of His disciples is the severity of the punishment to be understood literally, or is he speaking in hyperbole?**

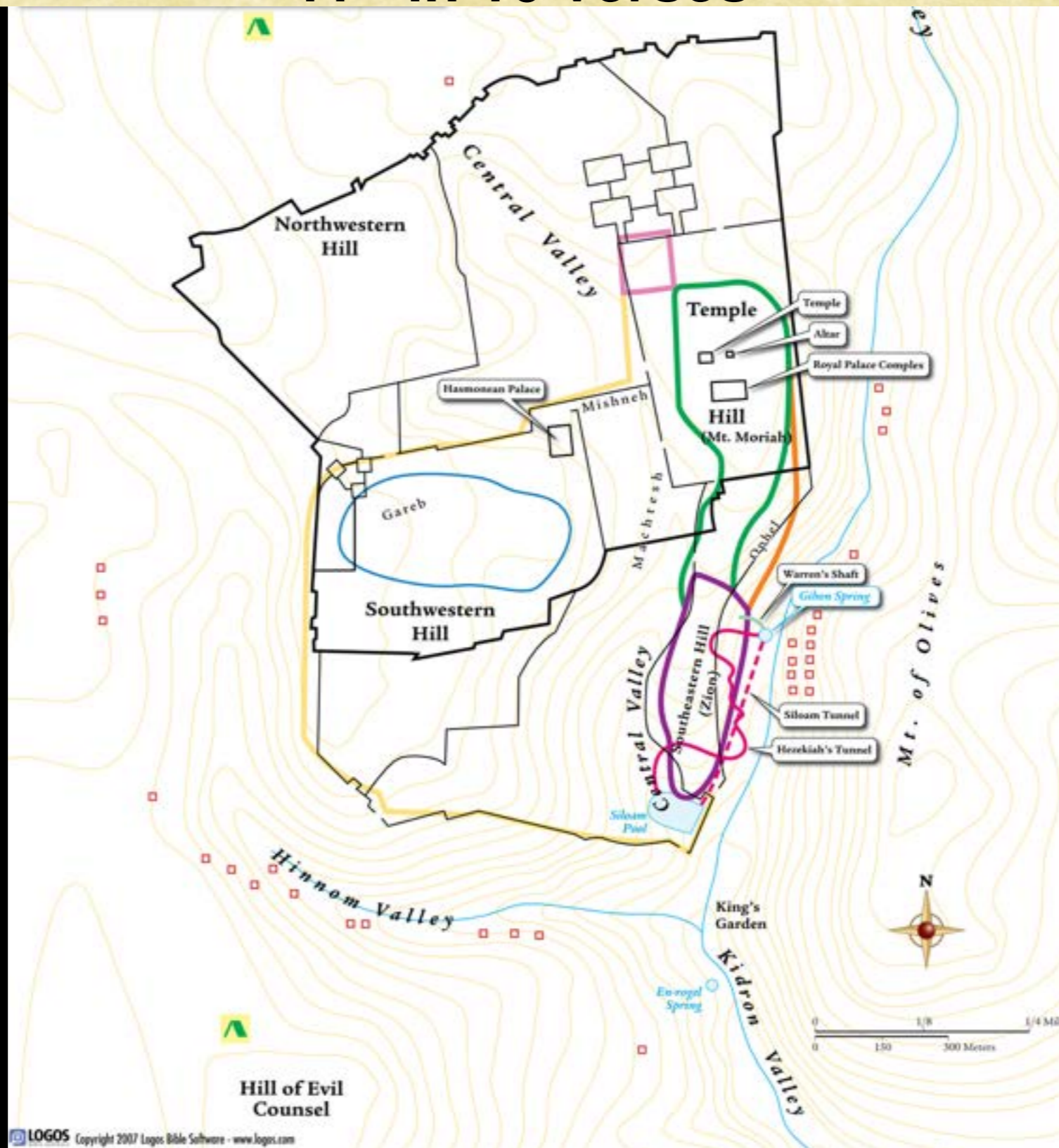
4. And what does Jesus mean when he says “hell fire?” It certainly looks like the Lake of Fire, since it is parallel to “everlasting” in vs. 8; and it is translated hell?

Matt. 18:5, “Whoever receives one little child like this in My name receives Me.”

Gehenna, The Valley of Hinnom

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

11× in 10 verses



***Gehenna*, “The Valley of Hinnom”**

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

11× in 10 verses

- 1. Where Judah sinned by committing child sacrifice and burning their sons and daughters in the fires of Molech. Thus *Gehenna* 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.”

***Gehenna*, “The Valley of Hinnom”**

גֵּיהֶנּוֹם (ge' hinnom), γέεννα (geenna)

11× in 10 verses

- 2. For their sins of idolatry Judah was to be punished in *Gehenna* in 586 B.C.**
- 3. This was a historical punishment of divine discipline on the nation for their spiritual failure.**
- 4. 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. 7:32, “ ‘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.’ ”

Gehenna, The Valley of Hinnom

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

11× in 10 verses

- 3. Conclusion: The Valley of Hinnom was not used in the Old Testament 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. *Gehenna* thus became a symbol for spiritual failure, condemnation and shame, and divine discipline in time, not in eternity.**

Gehenna, The Valley of Hinnom

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

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 understanding 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.**

Jer. 17:4, “And you, even yourself, Shall let go of your heritage which I gave you; And I will cause you to serve your enemies in the land which you do not know; For you have kindled a fire in My anger which shall burn forever.”

Deut. 15:17, “then you shall take an awl and thrust it through his ear to the door, and he shall be your servant forever. Also to your female servant you shall do likewise.”

John 13:34, “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.

John 13:35, “By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Heb. 13:1, “Let brotherly love continue.

Heb. 13:2, “Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels.”

Matt. 18:5, “Whoever receives one little child like this in My name receives Me.”

Matt. 10:40, “He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me.

Matt. 10:41, “He who receives a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet’s reward. And he who receives a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man’s reward.

Matt. 10:42, “And whoever gives one of these little ones only a cup of cold water in the name of a disciple, assuredly, I say to you, he shall by no means lose his reward.”

James 2:1, “My brethren, do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with partiality.

James 2:2, “For if there should come into your assembly a man with gold rings, in fine apparel, and there should also come in a poor man in filthy clothes,

James 2:3, “and you pay attention to the one wearing the fine clothes and say to him, ‘You sit here in a good place,’ and say to the poor man, ‘You stand there,’ or, ‘Sit here at my footstool,’ ”

James 2:4, “have you not shown partiality among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts?”

James 2:5, “Listen, my beloved brethren: Has God not chosen the poor of this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him?”

James 2:6, “But you have dishonored the poor man. Do not the rich oppress you and drag you into the courts?”