

# Biblical Foundations for Ministry

## Hell

### 1. Earthly imagery

- a. Familiar analogies to describe a mysterious realm
- b. Prepared for the Devil and his angels (Matt. 25:41)

### 2. Separation from God

- a. The key idea (2 Thess. 1:7-9)
  - 1) Banished from God's presence (Matt. 25:41)
  - 2) Cast into outer darkness (Matt. 8:12)
- b. The word "hell" (Greek *gehenna*)
  - 1) The valley of Hinnom on the south side of Jerusalem
  - 2) A despised place (idolatry, child sacrifice, garbage)
- c. Imagery of fire
  - 1) Discarded and burned
  - 2) A fiery furnace (Matt. 13:30, 42, 49-50)
  - 3) A burning garbage dump (*gehenna*)
  - 4) A lake of fire and brimstone (Rev. 20:14-15; 21:8)

### 3. Eternal fate

- a. Eternal suffering
  - 1) The tools of torment never expire
    - a) Fire and worms (Mark 9:47-48)
    - b) An eternal fire (Jude 1:7)
  - 2) The experience is described as forever
    - a) Eternal destruction (2 Thess. 1:9)
    - b) Smoke of torment forever and ever (Rev. 14:11)
- b. No hope of escape
  - 1) Not by a universal reprieve (universalism)
  - 2) Not by a temporary suffering and release (purgatory)
  - 3) Not by an annihilation after death (annihilationism)

