

All Gehenna Verses

Listed below are all the verses from the New Testament that use the word Gehenna. These verses are the King James Version, with the words "the valley of Hinnom" substituted for the word "hell."

After you read them I think you will agree that using the literal English meaning of the Greek word Gehenna (which is the valley of Hinnom), in these verses makes perfect sense. The one possible exception is Matthew 10:28, which I will discuss after listing the verses.

Matthew 5:22 But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of **the valley of Hinnom** fire.

Matthew 5:29 And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into **the valley of Hinnom**.

Matthew 5:30 And if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into **the valley of Hinnom**.

Matthew 10:28 And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in **the valley of Hinnom**.

Matthew 18:9 And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes to be cast into **the valley of Hinnom** fire.

Matthew 23:15 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of **the valley of Hinnom** than yourselves.

Matthew 23:33 Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of **the valley of Hinnom**?

Mark 9:43 And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into **the valley of Hinnom**, into the fire that never shall be quenched:¹

Mark 9:45 And if thy foot offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter halt into life, than having two feet to be cast into **the valley of Hinnom**, into the fire that never shall be quenched:

¹ For more on fire that is never quenched, see the Appendix article "Fire That Is Never Quenched?"

Mark 9:47 And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out: it is better for thee to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than having two eyes to be cast into **the valley of Hinnom** fire:

Luke 12:5 But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into **the valley of Hinnom**; yea, I say unto you, Fear him.

James 3:6 And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of **the valley of Hinnom**.

More on Matthew 10:28

MATTHEW 10:28 KJV

28 And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

At first glance, Matthew 10:28 seems unlikely to make sense by translating Gehenna literally as “the valley of Hinnom” instead of “hell.” After all, when we think of “soul” we usually think of the part of us that will continue living after we leave our body. If this verse refers to someone “able to destroy a soul” then we immediately think that humans could not do that – so it must refer to God.

However, I find it interesting that only eleven verses later in Matthew 10:39, the exact same words translated "destroy" and "soul" in Matthew 10:28 are instead translated "lose" and "life."

MATTHEW 10:39 KJV

39 He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it.

Also the word “him” is not actually in the Greek text of Matthew 10:28. Also note that in Matthew 10:28 Jesus was speaking to His disciples, not to those who were rejecting Him. It seems possible, based on the same words being used in the same context only eleven verses later, that Jesus was telling His disciples not to fear those who could only cause them physical death, but to fear those who would be able to steal from them their very life-mission and purpose of being – causing them to lose their “life” as Matthew 10:39 indicates.

To paraphrase this possible meaning of the verse, it would be something like, “Don’t fear physical death alone, for all people will face death. What you should be fearful of, and thus avoid, is allowing anyone to keep you from fulfilling your purpose and thus really stealing from you the “life” God intended for you to live. Don’t let your life be wasted because of fearing physical death, even one as horrible as being cast out from Jewish society by the religious leaders and thrown in the garbage dump. So don’t be intimidated by anyone, but be faithful to fulfill God’s will. It is more important to make sure what you accomplish in life is not just garbage – that you fulfill God’s will so your life is not wasted.”

I think this is what Jesus meant. But even if you don't agree, remember that we should never base an important doctrine on just one verse which we are not sure about its meaning, while there are many clear verses on that subject which we do understand.