

### C. The Nature of the Final States

By the final state is meant the state or condition of human beings following their resurrection and final judgment and continuing on unendingly.

#### 1. The final state of the unrighteous

In the Old Testament the final state of the unrighteous is difficult to distinguish from their intermediate state. In the case of the wicked, <sup>לִאֲשׁ</sup> would appear to include both states.

In the New Testament the final state of the unrighteous is represented mainly by the Greek word γέεννα. It is used 12 times in the New Testament. The A.V. translates it nine times as "hell" and three times as "hell fire". The word γέεννα is really a transliteration of the Aramaic word GEHINOM, which in turn is derived from the Hebrew GE-HINOM. GEHINOM is a localized word, and was given to the Wadi er-rababi on the south side of Jerusalem. Jeremiah had uttered threats of divine judgment over this valley in Jeremiah 7:32 and 19:6. In 7:32 he wrote: "Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that it shall no more be called Topheth, nor The Valley of the Son of Hinnom, but The valley of slaughter; for they shall bury in Topheth, till there be no place." And in 19:6 he wrote: "Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that this place shall no more be called Topheth, not The Valley of the son of Hinnom, but The Valley of Slaughter."

Because of the judgment pronounced over the valley of Hinnom, the place came to be associated in apocryphal literature with the fire of the last judgment; thus GE-HINOM came to be associated with the eschatological fire of hell. Since the Greek word γέεννα was a transliteration of a localized word used by the Jews, it is not found in classical Greek, nor in the Septuagint, nor in Josephus or Philo (these last two are a bit surprising).

All 12 uses of γέεννα follow.

Matthew 5:21-22 -- "You have heard that the ancients were told, 'You shall not commit murder' and 'Whoever commits murder shall be liable to the court.' But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court; and whoever shall say to his brother, 'Raca', shall be guilty before the supreme court; and whoever shall say, 'You fool', shall be guilty enough to go into the fiery γέεννα." (τὴν γέενναν τοῦ πυρός.)

The emphasis here appears to be on punishment consequent to God's Judgment of wickedness.

Matthew 5:29-30 -- "And if your right eye makes you stumble, tear it out, and throw it from you; for it is better for you that one of the parts of your body perish, than for your whole body to be thrown into γέεννα. And if your right hand makes you stumble, cut it off, and throw it from you; for it is better for you that one of the parts of your body perish, than for you whole body to go into γέεννα."

Here γέεννα is portrayed as a place for offenders against God, a place that receives the whole person, including his or her physical body.