

## Destroy both Body and Soul in Hell

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**Matthew 10:28** “Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Instead, fear the one who is able to destroy (Gk:apollumi) both soul and body in hell (Gehenna).” NET

*Kill the body - Kill the soul*  
*destroy (Gk:apollumi) both soul and body*

It is interesting to note that in Matthews account Jesus equates the words Kill and Destroy making them interchangeable. The killing of the body by men has the same effect as the killing of the soul by God. They cease to function. In hell the body and soul are reduced to ash.

### The Greek word - “apollumi”

“Traditionalist writers [who believe in eternal torment] so often make the point that “perish” (*apollumi*) is used of ruined wineskins (Matt 9:17) and spoiled food (John 6:12) that casual readers tend to go away thinking the word's primary meaning must be very mild indeed.

Most often *apollumi* refers to actual *death*. It appears ninety-two times in the New Testament, thirteen times in Paul's letters. New Testament writers choose *apollumi* to say that:

- Herod tries to *kill* the infant Jesus (Matt 2:13);
- the disciples are about to *perish* in a storm (Matt 8:25);
- Pharisees conspire to *destroy* Jesus (Matt 12:14);
- one *loses life* trying to save it (Matt 16:25);
- a vineyard owner *executes* murderous tenants (Matt 21:41);
- a king sends troops to *destroy* murderers (Matt 22:7);
- one *perishes* by the sword (Matt 26:52);
- the crowd asks Pilate to *destroy* Jesus (Matt 27:20);
- it is better for one man to *die* than for whole nation to *perish* (John 11:50);
- an insurrectionist and false messiah *perished* at the hands of Rome (Acts 5:37);
- Israelites *perish* in the wilderness (1Cor 10:9-10), or were *destroyed* there (Jude 5);
- some *perished* in the rebellion of Korah (Jude 11).

Not surprisingly, this verb *apollumi* stands in contrast with enduring eternal life. *Fudge, Edward. “The Fire That Consumes” 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed. p209, Copyright 2011 Cascade books. OR 97401. USA*

According to the “The Complete Word Study Dictionary New Testament.” Ed. Spiros Zodhiates The Greek word translated “destroy” (Gk, 622. “**apollumi**”) (I) In the Active form means (A) To destroy, cause to perish, trans.:

**(1) spoken of things figuratively** (1 Cor 1;19), meaning to bring to naught, render void the wisdom of the wise, quoted in Isa 29:14.

**(2) Of persons**, to destroy, put to death, cause to perish.

**(a) spoken of physical death** (Matt.2:13; 12:14; 21:41; 22:7; Mark 3:6;9:22; 11:18; 12:9; Luke 6:9 [TR]; 17:27,29; 19:47 20:16 John 10:10; Jude 1:5; Sept.: Gen 20:4; Deut.11:4; Ester 4:9; 9:16); in a judicial sense to sentence to death (Matt 27:20; James 4:12).

**(b) spoken of eternal death**, ie., future punishment, exclusion from the Messiah's kingdom. In this sense it has the same meaning as *apothnesko* (599), to die. (**Matt 10:28**; Mark 1:24; Luke 4:34; 9:56). This eternal death is the second death (Rev 20:14). In Luke 9:25, to “destroy himself” means to subject himself to eternal death, which is the opposite of eternal life (John 6:50, 51,58). *The Complete Word Study Dictionary New Testament. Ed. Spiros Zodhiates, Th.D. AMG publishers Chattanooga TN 37422, USA. P230*

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The killing of the human soul and body by God on the day of judgement will result in unrepentant mankind's complete extinction or annihilation. The fact that the soul can be killed/destroyed does away with the idea that the soul will live forever. Jesus teaches here that the destruction that is inflicted on the soul is the same destruction that is inflicted on the body. The physical bodies of the unrepentant are going to be burned to ashes in the unquenchable fire of hell therefore the soul must also be annihilated as well. There is nothing recorded in the words of Jesus about being kept alive forever in endless torment.

**Matt 10:28** “destroy both *soul (Gk:Psyche)* and body in hell.”

The Greek word for “soul” in Matt 10:28 is “*Gk 5590 psyche*”. This word refers to a person's life. Not to an immortal ghost as taught by pagan Greek philosophy. God's power to destroy the soul [*psyche*] and the body in hell clearly indicates that eternal extinction is the destiny of the wicked. Jesus is warning us to fear God not man. This is because man can kill us in this life but God can resurrect us from the grave to eternal life. But if God destroys us by divine fire then there is no hope of a resurrection.

In the Greek Old Testament in Leviticus 17:11 regarding the blood of animal sacrifices it says- “*the life (psyche / soul) of the flesh is in the blood.*” The life/soul resides in the blood. This indicates that when God destroys both body and life/soul in hell both the body and the soul cease to exist in that place. The idea that only the body is destroyed while the soul/life continues to exist is contradicted by Jesus who clearly taught that both are destroyed.

“Christ's warning hardly teaches the immortality of the soul. Rather it teaches that God can destroy the soul as well as the body...”

Luke reports Christ's saying, omitting the reference to the soul.

“Do not be afraid of those who kill the body and after that can do no more. But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear him who, after killing the body, has power to throw you into hell.” (Luke 12:4-5).

Luke omits the word soul-psyche, referring instead to the whole person God can destroy in hell. It is possible that the omission of the term “soul-psyche” was intentional to prevent a misunderstanding in the mind of Gentile readers accustomed to think of the soul as an independent and immortal component that survives death. To make it clear that nothing survives God's destruction of a person, Luke avoids using the term “soul-psyche” that could have confused his Gentile readers.

We find confirmation for this interpretation in Luke 9:25, where he again omits the term “soul-psyche”: “*For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself [eauton].*” Presumably, Luke used here the pronoun “himself” instead of “soul-psyche”, as used in Mark 8:36, because the latter might be misconstrued by the Gentile readers... as the punishment of the soul after death. By using instead the pronoun “himself”, Luke indicates that Jesus meant the loss of the whole person.” *Immortality or Resurrection, Samuele Bacchiocchi, Remnant pub, Michigan 1998, p87-88*

In the days of Christ the disciples did not ordinarily speak in Greek during the events recorded in the Gospels, but in Aramaic. They lived in a Hellenised society where Koine Greek was the language of the ancient world in the first century. When the Greek Old Testament was written they used Greek equivalents of Hebrew words. In the translation they carried over into the Greek language the definitions of the Hebrew words. So it is with the Greek word ‘Psyche’ (soul). This word appears in the Greek Old Testament. The Hebrew scholars who translated the Hebrew Bible into the Greek language took the Hebrew word ‘5315 *Nephesh*’ and translated it into the Greek word ‘5590 *Psyche*’. When the writers of the New Testament used the word ‘*Psyche*’ they understood the word to have the same definition as the word ‘*Nephesh*’ had in the Hebrew language. It means ‘*life*’; neither ‘*Psyche*’ nor ‘*Nephesh*’ are defined as immortal, endless, or undying. The soul ‘*Psyche*’ is definitely not immortal because it and the body may be destroyed in Gehenna (Hell). The word ‘*Psyche*’ is used to indicate ‘*Life*’ as illustrated by the following verse.

**Luke 12:22-23** “Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your *life (Gk. Psyche)*, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. 23 For there is more to life than food, and more to the body than clothing.” NET

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On the day of judgement when God will destroy the wicked, body and (psyche) life, it means the entire person will forever cease to exist.

**Luke 19:27** “But as for these enemies of mine who did not want me to be their king, bring them here and slaughter them in front of me!” NET

Here in a parable Jesus explains the fate of the lost and the reason for it. They are regarded as the enemies of Jesus because they did not want him to be their King to rule over them. So on the day of executive judgement they will be executed in front of Jesus. They will be slaughtered, they will not be sent off to live away from God somewhere else as falsely taught by those who teach the traditionalist doctrine of eternal torment.

### **Conclusion**

Throughout this series of five bible studies on the doctrine of Hell the bible has been shown to be its own interpreter and it clearly indicates that the lost are to be destroyed and annihilated forever. The doctrine of eternal torment is shown to be false and is in reality a combination of the truth mixed with the devils lie told in the garden of Eden when he said to our first parents “Surely you will not die” Genesis 3:4 NET. The doctrine of annihilation shows God to be just as well as merciful while the doctrine of eternal torment shows God to be a sadistic tyrant. It is this false doctrine that has caused more people to hate and reject God more than any other false doctrine.

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