

# # What The Bible Actually Says About Time in Hell

By System Import | Sermon | March 13, 2026

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We live our entire lives governed by one invisible, relentless master: Time.

We wear it on our wrists. We hang it on our walls. We count the seconds, the minutes, the hours.

We often complain about time—we say it moves too fast when we are happy, and too slow when we are in pain.

But what we rarely realize is that Time is actually a Mercy.

Time is a river that carries us away from our trauma.

If you break your leg, the pain is excruciating in the first minute. But you have a hope: "In an hour, the medicine will kick in. In a week, the cast will come off. In six months, I will walk again."

The existence of "Tomorrow" is the primary coping mechanism of the human soul. As long as there is a future, there is the possibility of change. As long as the clock is ticking, the suffering is temporary.

But the Bible speaks of a realm where the laws of physics change. It speaks of a dimension where the river of time freezes over.

In the book of Revelation, an angel makes a chilling proclamation: *"There will be no more delay!"* (Revelation 10:6). Some translations render this phrase: "Time shall be no more."

When we think of Hell, we think of fire, darkness, and weeping. But perhaps the most terrifying aspect of Hell is not the heat; it is the Duration.

It is the removal of the mercy of "Tomorrow."

It is the collapse of the timeline into a single, unmoving, suffocating "Now."

Many people today try to soften this doctrine. They teach "Annihilationism" (you just disappear) or "Universalism" (everyone eventually gets out). But to be faithful to the text of Scripture, we must face the hard truth of Eternity.

Today, we are going to walk through the heavy theology of Time in Hell. We are going to explore the 7 Biblical Realities of what happens when the clock stops. We are going to look at the Greek words, the psychological implications, and the warnings of Jesus Himself. This is a dark journey, but we take it for one reason: To appreciate the Light of Salvation that is shining on us right now.

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## Number 1: The Greek Reality — "Aionas ton Aionon"

To understand time in Hell, we have to look at the language of the New Testament.

The most common argument against an eternal Hell is that the Greek word for "eternal" (*\*aionios\**) just means "an age" or "a period of time." People argue, "Hell isn't forever; it's just for an age, and

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then God releases you."

But there is a specific phrase used in the Book of Revelation that shatters this hope. It is the phrase "Aionas ton Aionon."

Translated: *"The ages of the ages."*

It is the strongest grammatical construction possible in the Greek language to express endlessness.

Revelation 14:11 says: *"And the smoke of their torment will rise for ever and ever (aionas ton aionon)."*

Revelation 20:10 says the devil, the beast, and the false prophet will be tormented *"day and night for ever and ever."*

Here is the terrifying part: This is the exact same phrase used to describe the life of God.

Revelation 4:9 says God lives for *"ever and ever."*

Revelation 22:5 says the saints will reign for *"ever and ever."*

If you argue that Hell eventually ends, you must also argue that God eventually dies and Heaven eventually ends. The grammar links them together.

The Bible is telling us that the duration of the punishment is parallel to the duration of God's existence.

This is not a "timeout." This is not a "rehabilitation period." It is an entrance into a state of being that has no horizon. It is a timeline that never curves back toward redemption. It is a straight line into the void.

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## Number 2: The Death of Narrative — The End of "Next"

Human beings are "Story Creatures." We view our lives as a narrative. We have chapters.

\* Chapter 1: Childhood.

\* Chapter 2: Career.

\* Chapter 3: Retirement.

Even in prison, a human being creates a narrative. "I will survive today so I can see my family next week."

We survive suffering by focusing on "Next."

But Hell is the Death of Narrative.

When you enter eternity, the story stops. There are no more plot twists. There is no character development. There is no climax.

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You enter a state of Fixed Reality.

Imagine a book where the last page is ripped out, and the final sentence just repeats itself forever.

The psychological horror of Hell is the realization: *"This... is it. There is nothing coming after this."*

If you knew you had to endure torture for 1 million years, you could endure it. Why? Because the human mind can latch onto the concept of the "End." You would mentally mark off the years.

But in Hell, you cannot mark the wall.

A trillion years is not a "dent" in eternity.

You are no closer to the end after a billion years than you were the second you arrived.

This creates a sense of Claustrophobia that is absolute.

On earth, hope is defined as "the expectation of a future good."

In Hell, there is no future. Therefore, there is no hope. The sign above Dante's Inferno was theologically accurate: *"Abandon all hope, ye who enter here."* Not because God is cruel, but because Time—the vehicle of hope—has been dismantled.

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## Number 3: The Stasis of Character — The "Fixed State"

One of the misconceptions about Hell is that people will be down there begging for forgiveness, and God will just be ignoring them.

We imagine people saying, "Lord, I'm sorry! I repent! Let me out!"

But the Bible suggests something far more disturbing: People in Hell do not repent.

Revelation 16 gives us a glimpse of the end-time judgments. The wrath of God is poured out, the heat is intense, the pain is agonizing.

Verse 9 says: *"They were seared by the intense heat and they cursed the name of God... but they refused to repent and glorify him."*

Verse 11 says: *"They cursed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, but they refused to repent of what they had done."*

Why? Because Time is the medium of Change.

On earth, we are fluid. A bad person can become good. A Saul can become a Paul. This is the "Day of Grace."

But when you cross the threshold of death, your character Calcifies.

Ecclesiastes 11:3 says, *"Whether a tree falls to the south or to the north, in the place where it falls, there it will lie."*

How you die is how you stay.

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In Hell, the sinner becomes \*eternally\* what they chose to be temporally.

\* The person who hated God on earth will hate Him infinitely in Hell.

\* The person who was selfish on earth will collapse into a black hole of total selfishness in Hell.

They do not want to be with God. They want the pain to stop, yes. But they do not want the Holy God.

C.S. Lewis said, "The gates of Hell are locked from the inside."

The tragedy of Hell is that the sinner is trapped in the cage of their own fully developed, uninhibited sin nature, forever incapable of turning back because the season of turning has ended.

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## Number 4: The Memory Loop — The Worm That Dieth Not

If time stops in the external world, it seems to speed up in the internal world.

Jesus used a very specific, gruesome image to describe Hell in Mark 9:48:

\*\*\*"Where their worm does not die and the fire is not quenched."\*\*

Historically, the "worm" referred to the maggots in the garbage dump of Gehenna. But spiritually, theologians have long understood the "Worm" to be the Conscience and the Memory.

On earth, time allows us to forget.

You forget the embarrassing thing you did in 3rd grade. You forget the pain of a breakup. "Time heals."

But in Hell, the memory is perfectly preserved.

In Luke 16, Abraham speaks to the Rich Man in torment. He says two words that act like a dagger:

"Son, remember."

This is the torture of the Timeless State: The Memory Loop.

Because there is no new sensory input (no new days, no new news, no new events), the mind turns inward. It devours itself.

You are forced to replay the "Game Tape" of your life.

\* You see every time the Gospel was presented to you.

\* You see every time you silenced your conscience.

\* You see the face of the friend who invited you to church.

\* You hear the sermon you laughed at.

And because there is no time, these memories do not fade. They stay as fresh and sharp as the moment they happened.

The "Worm" is the gnawing regret of "I didn't have to be here."

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Hell is the place of the eternal "If only."

"If only I had listened." "If only I had humbled myself."

The guilt eats at the soul, but the soul is never consumed. The Worm never dies. It is a continuous, present-tense realization of lost opportunity.

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## Number 5: The Relativity of Torment — One Day as a Thousand Years

We know from 2 Peter 3:8 that *"with the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day."*

We usually apply this verse to God's patience. But have you ever applied it to God's judgment?

Time is relative. Einstein taught us this.

When you are having fun, five hours feels like five minutes.

When you are placing your hand on a hot stove, five seconds feels like five hours.

Pain dilates time.

Suffering stretches the perception of duration.

If you are in Hell, and you are separated from the Source of Life, the relativity of time works against you.

A single moment of God's wrath, experienced by a soul that has no buffer of grace, could feel like an eternity.

This is the Subjective Horror of Hell.

It's not just that the calendar is endless; it's that the *\*experience\** of every second is elongated by agony.

This explains why Jesus sweat blood in the Garden of Gethsemane. He knew He was about to step into the "Timeless Zone" of God's wrath on the Cross.

For three hours on the cross, Jesus experienced the equivalent of an eternity of Hell for every believer.

He compressed the timeline. He drank the ocean of timeless wrath in a finite moment.

For the sinner in Hell, that ocean is not compressed. It is dripped out, drop by drop, forever. The relativity of time means that there is no "fast forward" button. You have to live through every micro-second of the exile.

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## Number 6: The Absence of God's "Kairos" — Separation from Purpose

The Greeks had two words for time:

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1. Chronos: The ticking clock.
2. Kairos: The opportune moment. The "God moment."

God lives in \*Kairos\*. He is the God of purpose, of seasons, of movement.  
Hell is the total absence of God; therefore, it is the total absence of \*Kairos\*.

There is no Purpose.

There is no Season.

There is no Meaning.

To be in Hell is to be uncoupled from the Engine of the Universe.

God is moving creation toward a destination (The New Jerusalem). He is moving history toward a climax.

But the lost are left behind on a desolate platform. The train has left.

Hell is an existence of total Aimlessness.

You are not "becoming" anything. You are not learning. You are not building. You are simply... existing.

This is why the Bible calls it "Outer Darkness."

Darkness isn't just the absence of light; it is the absence of \*vision\*. You can't see where you are going because you aren't going anywhere.

It is a static void. It is the ultimate boredom, multiplied by the ultimate pain.

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## Number 7: The Finality of the Door — The End of Opportunity

The most chilling aspect of time in Hell is the concept of the Shut Door.

In Matthew 25, the Parable of the Ten Virgins, the foolish virgins arrive late. They knock. They scream. "Lord, Lord, open to us!"

But the Master says, "I do not know you."

And the text says: "And the door was shut."

On earth, time represents Opportunity.

\* As long as you have breath, you can repent.

\* As long as it is "Today," you can hear His voice.

\* As long as you are alive, the door is ajar.

But when Time dies, Opportunity dies with it.

Hell is the land of Infinite Regret.

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Regret is the realization that you could have chosen differently, but now you cannot.

In the Supreme Court of Heaven, once the gavel falls, there are no appeals. There is no parole board. There is no "good behavior" release.

Why? Because the trial was fair. The evidence was conclusive. The offer of a pardon was available for 70 years, and it was rejected.

The realization that *"It is too late"* is the final seal on the torment.

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Conclusion: The Clock Is Still Ticking

Why share such a terrifying message? Is it to scare you?

Yes. And no.

It is to make you appreciate the sound of the clock on your wall.

Listen to it.

*\*Tick... Tick... Tick...\**

That sound is not just seconds passing. That sound is Grace.

Every tick is an invitation.

Every tick is God saying, "The door is still open. The offer still stands."

You are currently living in the "Time of Favor" (2 Corinthians 6:2).

You have the luxury of "Next." You have the luxury of "Tomorrow."

But you do not know when your personal clock will stop. You do not know when you will cross the line from Time into Timelessness.

Jesus Christ stepped into the fire for you. He experienced the separation. He took the "Eternal Now" of God's wrath into His own body on the tree.

He stopped the clock for Himself so He could reset the clock for you.

He wants to give you Eternal Life—a timeline that is filled with joy, growth, purpose, and glory for "Aionas ton Aionon."

Do not gamble with eternity.

Do not bet your soul against the clock.

The door is open today. Walk through it.

"Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near." (Isaiah 55:6)