

HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE IN HELL?

By

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Since the time of Christ, there have been approximately 38.75 billion human deaths. The question naturally raised is: How many of those are in that proverbial place called Hell?

And, that raises another question: *Is there really a place called Hell?*

We've all grown up hearing about this place called "Hell" and about how "bad people" end up there. But, how many of us really believed that story? Indeed, has the human race overall, ever accepted the reality of a place called Hell?

Not really.

While the concept has existed even prior to the days of Noah, it does not seem that any culture strongly believed such a place existed, including the Jews and the Zoroastrians (who have a long history of belief). Excepting for some of the Jewish population, for most humans, prior to Christ, the concept of Hell was, by and large, an abstraction or a theory, rather than a concept that was real.

But, even those who proclaimed a belief in the existence of Hell, that belief had little deterrence effect on how they conducted their lives. If, as they believed, doing bad things brought one to Hell, history tells us that all of these population groups managed to do a lot of "bad" over the centuries of time. So, in spite of the belief, it had little deterrence value. It's as though the cultures had heard there was this place called Hell, but decided it was an Old Wive's tale and decided not to worry about it.

And, for those groups that actually accepted it as a part of their belief system and vigorously asserted its reality, it was apparently not a belief held very strongly since it had little deterrence effect on the behavior of those humans. An exception to that statement might be made here for Muslims, since some of their perspectives on Hell turns certain concepts of good and evil on its head.

Hell was a Mystery Place Until the Time of Christ

Hell has remained a somewhat mysterious place until the time of Christ, who would clarify the mystery of Hell for humanity. Until Jesus Christ came on the scene, most humans didn't know a lot about Hell. Jesus was the first human to describe it in detail. Indeed, at one point he even told about a conversation that no other human could have recounted (see Mat. 4:44). He told about a rich man who'd died and gone to Hell.

The rich man had seen Abraham and a beggar the rich man had known in life, named Lazarus. The two men, Abraham and the rich man, had a conversation that Jesus recounted verbatim. Their conversation offer details about this place called Hell that was generally not known.

But, perhaps the most harsh description of Hell by Jesus came in a discussion with his disciples while answering their questions. At one point he focused specifically on child abuse. In what was surely a harsh tone, Jesus said:

"And whosoever shall offend one of these little ones that believe in me, it is better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he were cast into the sea. (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 hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: (44) Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched. (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 hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: (46) Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched. (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 hell fire: (48) Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched." (Mark 9:42-48).

Those listening to Jesus tell about the conversation between Abraham and the rich man and his proclamation regarding the abuse of children must come away realizing that if what Jesus said was true, then the following 10 things about this place called Hell must be true:

- ❖ (1) Hell is a real place; and
- ❖ (2) Hell is hot because of a perpetual fire;
- ❖ (3) Hell contained humans; and
- ❖ (4) Humans there had consciousness; and
- ❖ (5) Humans there seemed to have all their senses, including the sense of thirst; and
- ❖ (6) Humans there had memory of their past life; and
- ❖ (7) Humans there had regret and realization that they'd screwed up, big time; and
- ❖ (8) Humans who'd made such a screwup in life so as to end up in Hell, could not escape; and
- ❖ (9) Humans who'd ended up in Hell, could not communicate with living humans, like relatives; and
- ❖ (10) Humans in Hell could not change a single thing.

Was the Conversation in Hell Real?

But, did those Pharisees and other Jews listening to him, really believe that was a real conversation? For most of the followers of Christ, obviously, there are no issues.

Clearly Jesus, as one who was present at creation and who, according to the Apostle John, was in fact the Creator, heard this conversation when it took place, so Christians have no problem with him recounting the conversation as a real dialog that took place in a real place called Hell.

And, beyond Christians, logic dictates that if Jesus Christ is who he said he was (the image of the living God, the Son of God, and equal to God), then the conversation is, of course, legitimate.

Hell is real.

But, how full is Hell?

HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE IN HELL SINCE THE TIME OF CHRIST?

If Hell is a real place, how full is it? How many of the 38.7 billion humans who've died since Christ's time are there? Is there any way to calculate that?

Actually, there is a way to do some reasonable estimates. Artificial Intelligence (AI) has determined that there has been almost 39 billion human deaths since the time of Christ. Give or take a few ten million, that number would appear to be reasonable. But, even AI can't tell us how many of those individuals went to Hell.

However, the Christian Bible does suggest some reasonable answers to the question. Jesus told his disciples that they were to enter the "*straight gate*" because the wide gate has leading to it a wide, large road which "*leads to destruction,*" and he declared to them that "*many*" go to destruction on that road. see, e.g., Luke 13:23-24.

Jesus restated the same message about the ratio of those going to Hell and those who go to Heaven when he said: "*Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: (14) Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it*" (Mat 7:13-14).

So, the Christians believe that "*many,*" or perhaps restated, "*most,*" will go to Hell. The term "*many*" is used for those headed for Hell and the word "*few*" is used for those who choose to follow Christ on the road to Heaven.

The word "*few*" has broader implications than the word "*many.*" When you say there is a few of anything, the human mind automatically calculates a small number of whatever the word is used to illustrate. We get a better picture of course when we apply the word to the word "*few*" modifies.

If an airplane crashes and the news report states that there were "*few survivors,*" we do not know an exact number and unless we know the kind of plane, we have no way to even estimate the number. For example, a small plane with 5 passengers would imply only 2 survived, since 3 would be a majority. And, if it was an commercial airline that went down, we know the number of survivors is probably a dozen or less.

So, where we are told that 38.70 billion people have died since the time of Christ, and we know that Jesus said that "*few*" of that nearly 39 billion chose the "*narrow*" gate, the narrow road, but instead chose the wide gate, the broad way which leads to Hell. The word "*many*" is better understood, now.

HOW MANY CHRISTIANS DIED SINCE THE TIME OF CHRIST?

AI calculates that, since the time of Christ, there have been 1.78 billion Christian deaths. Now, that number is somewhat skewed, since it includes a huge number of professing Christians during the time of Constantine when he declared the religion of Rome to be Christianity. Everyone understands that this produced a huge number of men and women who suddenly felt compelled to adopt a religion that really had no meaning for them and no attraction. For most of them, it was a tag they were willing to hang around their neck since it was in favor by the Emperor.

So, the numbers around that period of time are suspect. And, as we know from listening to the words of Jesus, there are a lot of imposters, a lot of “false prophets,” and people who are very much like so many of the Roman citizens under Constantine who were Christian in name only.

A reasonable percentile to deduct from that 1.78 billion as “fake Christians” would be 25% and that percentage is probably higher. But, staying with the conservative 25% that means approximately *1.3 billion human deaths since Christ were Christians.*

All the rest of the nearly 39 billion rejected the very narrow Christian path that would escape Hell. The means that 38.4 billion people went to the Hell they did not believe existed, or if they did believe it existed, it did not worry them enough to change the direction of their lives.

CHRISTIANITY HAS DONE A POOR JOB AT KEEPING PEOPLE FROM HELL

It’s pretty clear that Christianity has done a pretty poor job of convincing humans to take the “straight and narrow” road spoken of by Jesus. Time has validated Jesus' words: "*Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it*" (Mat 7:14).

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Note: If you are not a Christian, consider becoming a Christian. You can find out how by clicking on this link: [Escaping the Tribulation](#)

