

**WHY DO BAPTISTS BELIEVE IN HELL?
REV. 20:15 / 3-18-18 / AM**

I. FIRST, LET'S CONSIDER WHY SO MANY PEOPLE TODAY DON'T BELIEVE HELL IS A REAL PLACE.

Why do people like Rob Bell and Craig James believe hell isn't a real place?

1. Some don't believe because they say the Bible makes no mention of hell being a place of eternal suffering.
2. Some don't believe because the O.T. doesn't say some of the worst people in the Bible went to hell.
3. Still others don't believe because they say hell was a concept added to the Bible taken from pagan mythology.

II. WHY DO WE BAPTISTS BELIEVE HELL IS A REAL PLACE?

A. So why do Baptists and Christians believe in hell too?

1. For one thing, the Bible believes hell is a real place. The word "hell" appears 23 times in the New Testament.
 - a. Thirteen of those 23 times the Hebrew word "Gehenna" is used. It means "valley of sorrow".
 - b. Another word for hell, "hades" appears ten of those 23 times in the New Testament. It refers to the place of the dead or a grave.
2. Jesus said more about hell than he did about heaven. One such place is the story of the rich man and Lazarus in Luke 16.
 - a. First, there is physical suffering in hell—Luke 16:22-23; Rev. 20:15.
 - b. Second, there is emotional suffering in hell—Luke 16:27-28.
 - c. Third, there is spiritual pain in hell—2 Thess. 1:9; Matthew 22:13.

B. The Baptist Faith and Message also believes hell is a real place (Section 10, p.15, "Last Things").

C. Are the descriptions of hell in Scriptures symbols or to be taken literally?

D. The biggest reason people give for not believing there is a hell is their belief that a loving God would never send anyone there.