

Are the Gates of Hell Real?

In the vision God gave to me about hell, I saw prison cells in a place that was like a dungeon. There were rough-hewn stone walls with gates and bars. The Bible indicates that there are actual gates at the entrance of hell. In addition, Scripture also says there are bars in hell. Gates and bars would be indicative of a prison, and hell is just that. Why does this matter? Because hell is an eternal prison with no escape. People need to understand that. The gates reflect its permanency.

Isaiah 38:10a (NKJV) says, "In the prime of my life I shall go to the gates of Sheol."

And Job 17:16a asks, "*Will* they go down to the gates of Sheol?"

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"Sheol" refers to the place of departed spirits or hell. "Hades" is the Greek word for hell, and Sheol is the Hebrew word for the current hell. Jonah is a figure in the Bible who was at the gates of hell. The Scriptures indicate that he actually died and went to hell (Sheol). Jonah said, "Out of the belly of Sheol I cried"." (Jon. 2:2b). In Jonah 2:6b he said, "the earth with its bars *closed* behind me forever; yet You have brought up my life from the pit."

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There are credible commentaries that state he was either just inside the gates of hell or just outside those gates. One such commentary is the Tyndale Old Testament Commentary (pages 114, 116), which tells us: "Although Jonah is on the verge of entering Sheol, the Lord hears his cry and delivers him ... like a Palestinian city, Jonah views the underworld as having a

gate which was locked secure by bolts and bars: there could be no escaping from it. Once in Sheol, Jonah would be imprisoned there forever.”

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God asks Job, “Have the gates of death been revealed to you? Or have you seen the doors of the shadow of death?” (Job 38:17). These gates exist in a spiritual world or dimension, but indeed, they are actual gates.

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