

We know from bitter experience that the childhood taunt, “Sticks and stone may break my bones, but words will never haunt me,” reverses the truth of the matter. Far easier to heal are the wounds caused by sticks and stones than the damage caused by words.⁴

50. Solomon observed in Ecclesiastes 1:9 that whatever anyone experiences during the course of his life is typical of what everyone else encounters in theirs:

Ecclesiastes 1:9 That which has been is that which will be, and that which has been done is that which will be done. So there is nothing new under the sun.

51. The phrase, “course of our life,” refers to the physical life of any individual. You live your life, everyone else lives theirs. Each person’s life is a journey whose exigencies occur due to several factors.
52. The factors which are common to all include the starting point of unbelief and their souls vacuous of divine viewpoint. They enjoy the Law of Liberty: freedom to make choices within the culture in which they live.
53. These choices are influenced by any number of factors, but which are common to human existence. However, the choices made are done independently by the person and known to God in the divine decree.
54. Every person is responsible for his own decisions while God is inflexible regarding His divine righteousness. Thus, a person’s life is guided by his own volitional choices, but the results of those choices vary.
55. God’s righteousness approves of choices made under establishment viewpoint and biblical guidance while disapproving the opposites.
56. Although the ramifications for each person are particular to the individual, they are common to man. In James’s dissertation on the tongue, he illustrates the problems associated with its misuse by the phrase “contaminates the entire body.”
57. The next result is cited in the phrase, “it ignites on fire the course of life.” The noun “course” is the word **τροχός (trochós)** which refers to a track event.
58. Paul uses the synonym, **δρόμος (drómos)**, to refer to the same thing in 2 Timothy 4:7 above.

⁴ Douglas J. Moo, *The Letter of James* (Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2000), 159–160.

59. How a person runs his race is absolutely dependent upon the information that is resident in his soul's stream of consciousness. Poor decisions from an inventory of cosmic concepts is illustrated by James with the phrase, "is set on fire by *Géhenna*."
60. Since *Géhenna* refers to the Lake of Fire, which is located in the Third Heaven, how does it ignite a fire in this person's life? 'Tis a conundrum. But the secret lies in the tongue's impact on this entire process.
61. The final impact on the tongue concludes the verse which I introduce with apologies to Johnny Cash:

"My Tongue of Fire"

**My tongue's a burning thing
It makes a fiery ring
Bound by wild desire
My tongue's a thing of fire.**

**Yes, my tongue's a burning ring of fire
I went down, down, down
And the flames went higher
And it burns, burns, burns
My tongue of fire, my tongue of fire.**

1. *Géhenna* refers to the Valley of Hinnom situated below the southern walls of Jerusalem. Here is a brief synopsis:

The valley of the sons of Hinnom was near the walls of Jerusalem, The Valley Gate opened into it. The boundary between Judah and Benjamin ran along it (Joshua 15:8; 18:16). It was the scene of idolatrous practices in the days of Ahaz (2 Chronicles 28:3) and of Manasseh, who "made his children to pass through the fire in the valley of the son of Hinnom (33:6). Into this valley dead bodies were probably cast to be consumed by the dogs, and fires were here kept burning to consume the rubbish of the city. Such associations led to the Ge-Himmon (New Testament "Gehenna") becoming the "type of Hell." (p. 1493)



The *Wady er-Rababi* commences in a shallow, open valley due west of the Jaffa Gate; near the Jaffa Gate it turns south for about $\frac{1}{3}$ of a mile, its course being dammed here to form a large pool.

Below this it gradually curves to the east and rapidly descends between sides of bare rocky scarps ... before the valley joins the wide Kidron valley.⁵ (p 1494)

2. Since the Valley of Hinnom served as a garbage disposal area for centuries, its perpetual flames became recognized metaphorically as hell; the Hebrew term morphed into the Greek word Géhenna.
3. In the Book of The Revelation, the Apostle John refers to it as, **τὴν λίμνην τοῦ πυρός** (*tén límnēn tou purós*): “the Lake of Fire.” Whereas the Valley of Hinnom or Géhenna seemingly burned incessantly, it only served as a constant reminder of the certain destiny reserved for those who rejected Messiah as Savior.
4. Whether the Valley of Hinnom is used metaphorically by the Jews for the eternal residence of the lost or John’s more vivid term, “the Lake of Fire,” it is not a place where believers are executed by fire.
5. This site is actually located somewhere in the Third Heaven, since the universe will be destroyed before anyone occupies it. We know this from John’s comments in:

Revelation 20:10 And the devil [Satan or Lucifer] who deceived them was thrown into the Lake of Fire and brimstone, where the beast and false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

v. 11 Then I saw a Great White Throne and Him Who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them. [See also **2 Peter 3:10–13**]

Revelation 20:15 If anyone’s name was not found written in the Book of Life, he was thrown into the Lake of Fire.

⁵ E. W. G. Masterman, “Hinnom,” in *The International Standard Bible Encyclopaedia*, gen. ed. James Orr (Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1956), 3:1493–94.



6. Punishment in the Lake of Fire does not result in execution, but rather an eternal incarceration. Unbelievers have eternal life, indicated by the verses below, so that their punishment will have no end.
7. On this subject, Jesus Christ presented a synopsis of what would happen to Gentile unbelievers whose working object for their faith was not placed in Jesus Christ for salvation.
8. Matthew 25:31–46 is the Lord’s dissertation on the Baptism of Fire for Gentiles, indicated in verse 32 as “the nations.” The word “nations” translates the Greek noun, ἔθνος (*éthnos*) or the Hebrew noun גּוֹיִם (*goyim*).
9. These unbelievers are being evaluated during our Lord’s preparation to allow only believers to enter into the millennial kingdom. Jesus’s testimony is prophetic for when He will sort out those who will be allowed to enter the Millennium and those who will not.
10. The Lord distinguishes those who are believers as “sheep” assembled on His right and unbelievers as “goats” assembled on His left (v. 33). The Lord refers to this latter group in:

Matthew 25:41 “Then He will say to those on His left, ‘Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels [Revelation 20:10].’

Matthew 25:41a “These will go away into eternal punishment ...”

11. The sheep are Gentile believers who were saved during the Tribulation and are mentioned by our Lord as “the righteous, into eternal life (Matthew 25:46).” Both saved Jews and Gentiles will be allowed to enter into the Millennium along with those who enter in resurrection bodies.
12. This brings us to a summary of James 3:6. The verse begins with the statement:
 - (1) “The tongue is a fire.”
 - (2) “Which functions “from the cosmic systems of arrogance and hatred.”
 - (3) “It is placed in the structure of our anatomy as that which contaminates the entire body.”
 - (4) “It ignites on fire the “course of life” [which we characterize as one’s facilitation of behavior patterns, character traits, and lifestyle to produce “wheel-tracks of wickedness”].
 - (5) “The tongue had its start when it was set on fire by hell: *Géhenna*, the Lake of Fire, to be ultimately occupied by fallen angels and unbelievers.”



13. Notice how the verse begins with the statement, “The tongue is a fire” and concludes with the summary, “The tongue had it start when it was set on fire by Géhenna.”
14. The tongue is a part of the human anatomy and, because of sins of the tongue, it corrupts the entire body.
15. This has an ongoing impact from living in the cosmic systems in an environment of reversionism, maintained by the sin nature’s residence in every cell of the body in concert and enhanced by the believer’s matriculation in the Satanic Academy of Cosmic Didactics.
16. From this we are able to develop an expanded translation of:

James 3:6 The tongue is a fire, functioning from the cosmic systems of arrogance and hatred; the tongue is placed in the structure of our anatomy contaminating the entire body, and ignites on fire the course of life from facilitated wheel-tracks of wickedness, set on fire by the influence of *Géhenna*. (EXT)

James 3:7 For every species of beasts and birds, of reptiles and creatures of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by the human race (NASB)

1. It has been a long, hard row to hoe, but we have made it to document 26, page 258 with hopefully a clear understanding of the problems caused by the indiscriminate use of the tongue and the problem-solving devices available to bring this organ under control.
2. However, James is not going to slack off but instead gives illustrations that amplify what the first six verses introduced. In fact, verse 3 schooled us on how a small bit can control a horse. Verse 4 informed us about how a rudder has the power to steer a ship. Verses 5 related how a single flame could ignite a fire that would burn down an entire forest.
3. Verse 6 presented the tongue as a metaphor for its ability to turn the body into a fire that directs the course of a person’s life through the eight stages of reversionism.
4. In verses 7 and 8, James offers examples of how mankind is able to control, and ultimately tame wild animals, birds, reptiles and sea creatures. He introduces this section with the plural noun, **φύσις (*phúsis*)**: “species.”
5. *Merriam-Webster’s* defines the word as, “An individual or kind belonging to a biological species.” James follows this by presenting four examples: “beasts [i.e., animals], birds, reptiles, and creatures of the sea.”