

time, this place came to be considered an emblem of the place of torments reserved for the punishment of the wicked in a future state, the name tophet came gradually to be used in this sense and at length to be confined to it. In this sense also, the word gehenna a synonymous term, is always to be so understood in the New Testament, where it occurs about a dozen times."

As the suffering in the valley of Hinnon was but for a time, a serious error has arisen therefrom. Supposing that the original idea of future punishment was a state in which lost souls were quickly consumed and annihilated, many have embraced that heresy.

We have shown by producing discourse of Josephus that the original idea as held by the orthodox Jew was one of eternal punishment.

The doctrine of eternal punishment existed before the word gehenna was known, but as this doctrine has been handed down to generations following each other, the word gehenna, carrying with it the thoughts of its horrors, has been considered a suitable name for said place. That is, gehenna has a new and different meaning than that originally given it, which meaning now is, a state of endless woe.

That we might not be left in doubt about the modern meaning, the scriptures definitely state that the wicked suffer forever and ever. Rev. 20 : 10. "And