



Mark
9:42-50



What is water?

Mark 9:42-50 (ESV)

⁴² “If anyone causes one of these little ones—those who believe in me—to stumble, it would be better for them if a large millstone were hung around their neck and they were thrown into the sea. ⁴³ If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life maimed than with two hands to go into hell, where the fire never goes out. ^[44] ⁴⁵ And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life crippled than to have two feet and be thrown into hell.

Mark 9:42-50 (ESV)

[46] ⁴⁷ And if your eye causes you to stumble, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell, ⁴⁸ where

“the worms that eat them do not die,
and the fire is not quenched.”

⁴⁹ Everyone will be salted with fire.

⁵⁰ “Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can you make it salty again? Have salt among yourselves, and be at peace with each other.”

Language and teaching techniques

- Imagery - visually descriptive or figurative language
- Metaphor - figure of speech in which a word or phrase is applied to an object or action to which it is not literally applicable.
- Hyperbole - exaggerated statements or claims not meant to be taken literally.
- Repetition - the act or an instance of repeating or being repeated.
- Symbolism - the use of symbols to represent ideas or qualities.
- Hyperlink - a link from a hypertext document to another location, activated by clicking on a highlighted word or image

Mark 9:42-50 (ESV)

⁴² "If anyone causes one of these **little ones**—those who believe in me—to **stumble**, it would be better for them if a **large millstone** were hung around their neck and they were thrown into the **sea**.

⁴³ If your **hand** causes you to **stumble**, cut it off. It is better for you to enter **life** maimed than with two **hands** to go into **hell**, where the **fire** never goes out. ^[44] ⁴⁵ And if your **foot** causes you to **stumble**, cut it off. It is better for you to enter **life** crippled than to have two **feet** and be thrown into **hell**. ^[46] ⁴⁷ And if your **eye** causes you to **stumble**, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the **kingdom of God** with one **eye** than to have two **eyes** and be thrown into hell, ⁴⁸ where

“the **worms** that eat them do not die, and the **fire** is not quenched.”

⁴⁹ Everyone will be **salted** with **fire**.

⁵⁰ “**Salt** is good, but if it loses its **saltiness**, how can you make it **salty** again? Have **salt** among yourselves, and be at **peace** with each other.”

Little ones

Millstone

Sea / water

Hands / feet / eyes

Hell

Life / Kingdom of
God

Fire

Salt

Peace

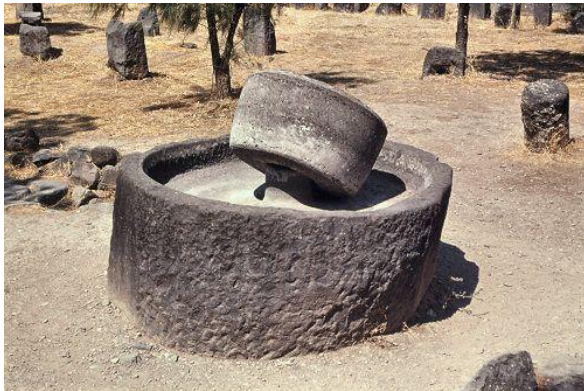
These little ones

⁴² “If anyone causes one of these **little ones**—those who believe in me—to **stumble**, it would be better for them if a **large millstone** were hung around their neck and they were thrown into the **sea**.

Μικρῶν | mikrōn: little, short, younger, unimportant

Παιδιά | paidia: child, children, baby

Millstones



The sea – θάλασσαν - Thalassa



Hell

It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one [eye/hand/foot] than to have two [eyes/hands / feet] and be thrown into **hell**,⁴⁸ where

“the worms that eat them do not die,
and the fire is not quenched.’

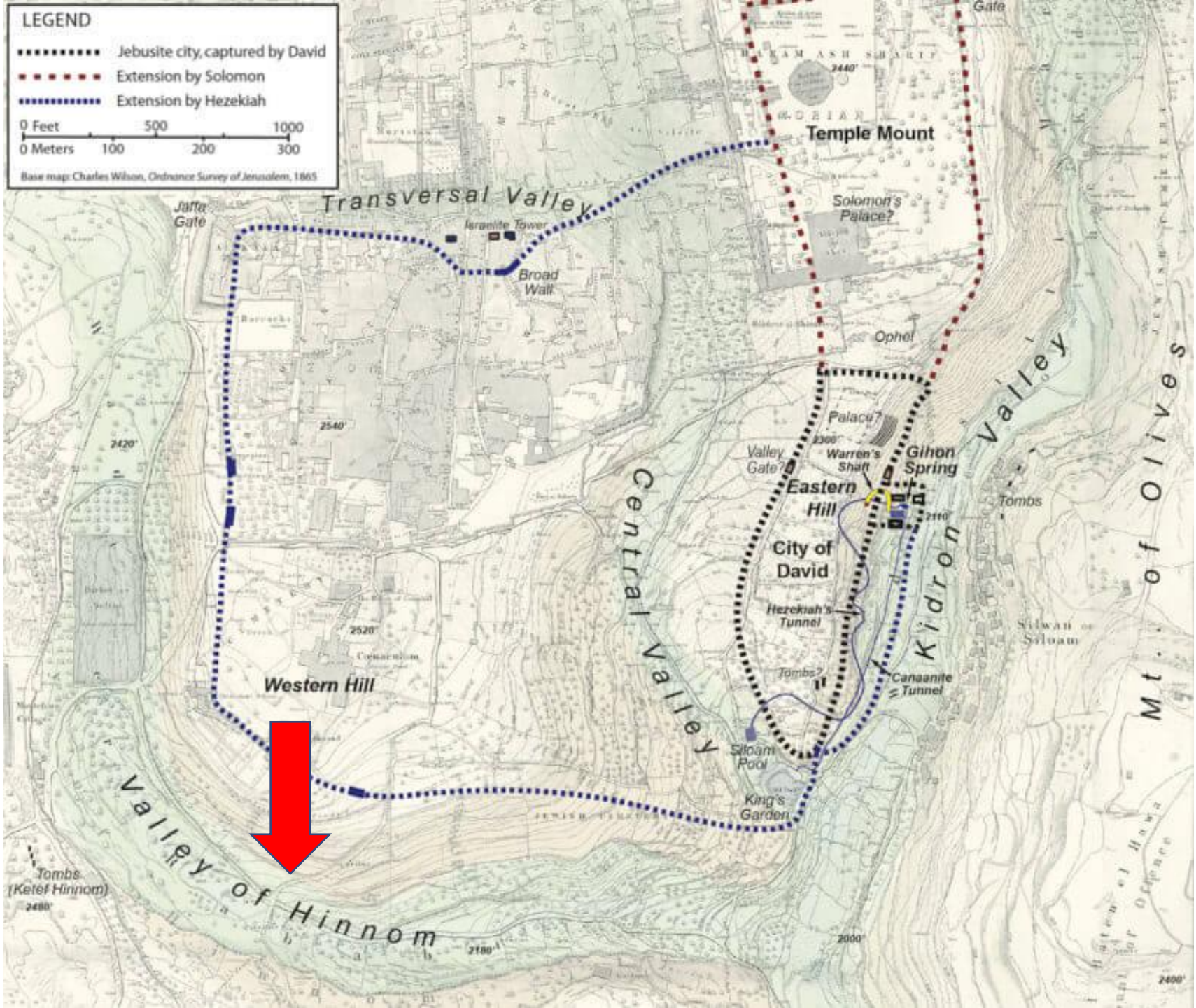
γέεννα (geenna). n. fem. Gehenna, valley of Hinnom, hell.

LEGEND

- Jebusite city, captured by David
- ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ Extension by Solomon
- ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ Extension by Hezekiah

0 Feet 500 1000
0 Meters 100 200 300

Base map: Charles Wilson, Ordnance Survey of Jerusalem, 1865





Hell, worms and Isaiah 66

Isaiah 66

²² “For as the new heavens and the new earth that I make shall remain before me, says the LORD, so shall your offspring and your name remain.

²³ From new moon to new moon, and from Sabbath to Sabbath, all flesh shall come to worship before me, declares the LORD.

²⁴ “And they shall go out and look on the dead bodies of the men who have rebelled against me. For their **worm shall not die, their fire shall not be quenched**, and they shall be an abhorrence to all flesh.”

Hands



⁴³ If your **hand** causes you to stumble, cut it off. It is better for you to **enter life** maimed than with two hands to go into **hell**, where the **fire never goes out**.

σκανδαλίζω (skandalizō). vb. to cause to stumble, to give offence, to fall away. Refers to the experience of being offended or tripped up that could cause falling away from the right path.

Hands - Proverbs



12:14 - From the fruit of his mouth a man is satisfied with good, and the work of a man's hand comes back to him.

10:4 - A slack hand causes poverty, but the hand of the diligent makes rich.

12:24 - The hand of the diligent will rule, while the slothful will be put to forced labor.

19:24 - "The sluggard buries his hand in the dish and will not even bring it back to his mouth."

21:25 - "The desire of the sluggard kills him, for his hands refuse to labor."

Feet



⁴⁵ And if your **foot** causes you to stumble, cut it off. It is better for you to **enter life** crippled than to have two **feet** and be thrown into **hell**.

Feet - Proverbs



2:20 So you will walk in the way of the good and keep to the paths of the righteous.

3:6 In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

10:17 Whoever heeds instruction is on the path to life, but he who rejects reproof leads others astray.

11:8 The righteous is delivered from trouble, and the wicked walks into it instead.

15:24 The path of life leads upward for the prudent, that he may turn away from *Sheol* beneath.

Eyes



⁴⁷ And if your **eye** causes you to stumble, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter **the kingdom of God** with one **eye** than to have two eyes and be thrown into **hell**, ...

Eyes - Proverbs



3:7 Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord, and turn away from evil.

3:21-22 My son, do not lose sight of these— keep sound wisdom and discretion, and they will be life for your soul and adornment for your neck.

7:2 ...keep my commandments and live; keep my teaching as the apple of your eye;

Eyes - Proverbs



17:24 The discerning sets his face toward wisdom but the eyes of a fool are on the ends of the earth.

21:2,4 Every way of a man is right in his own eyes, but the Lord weighs the heart... Haughty eyes and a proud heart, the lamp of the wicked, are sin.

30:12 There are those who are clean in their own eyes but are not washed of their filth.

“It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God”

Isaiah 66

¹² For thus says the LORD:

“Behold, I will extend **peace** to her like a **river**, and the **glory of the nations** like an **overflowing stream**;...

¹⁸ “...and the time is coming to gather all nations and tongues. And they shall come and shall **see my glory**, ¹⁹ and I will set a **sign among them**. And from them I will send survivors to the nations, to Tarshish, Pul, and Lud, who draw the bow, to Tubal and Javan, to the coastlands far away, that have not heard my fame or **seen my glory**. And they shall **declare my glory** among the **nations**. ²⁰ And they **shall bring all your brothers from all the nations** as an **offering** to the LORD, on horses and in chariots and in litters and on mules and on dromedaries, **to my holy mountain Jerusalem**, says the LORD, just as the Israelites bring their **grain offering** in a clean vessel to the house of the LORD. ²¹ And some of them also I will take for priests and for Levites, says the LORD.

Of salt and fire

⁴⁹ Everyone will be **salted with fire**.

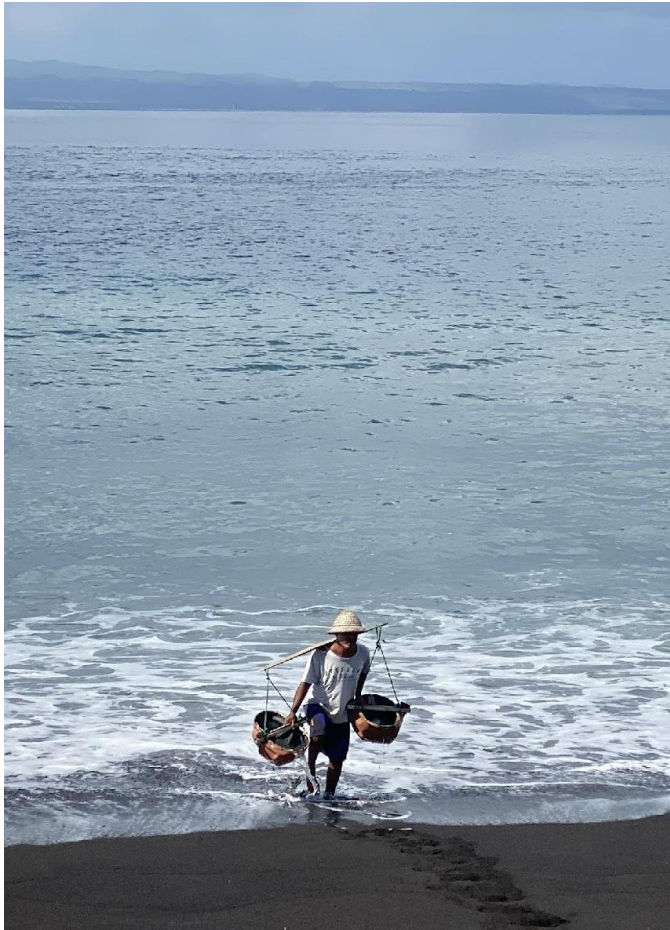
⁵⁰ “**Salt** is good, but if it loses its **saltiness**, how can you make it **salty** again? Have salt among yourselves, and be at **peace** with each other.”

Of salt and fire

Leviticus 2

¹³ You shall season all your **grain offerings** with **salt**. You shall not let the salt of the covenant with your God be missing from your grain offering; with all your offerings you shall offer salt.

Salt water carried from the sea



...splashed into the sand to dry



...collected into containers, washed and dried to remove



...over and over until pure salt remains



How's your water?



Has God been revealing to you things that are causing you to stumble?

Do you need to:

- be atoned by Jesus, asking for his forgiveness?
- be 'salted with fire' – ask for God's Holy Spirit to fill, preserve and refine you?
- reflect and meditate on God's word and ask him to show you how to live in peace in his Kingdom? Do you need to do a self audit?
- act on what the Holy Spirit is revealing to you?