

But I found unfortunately that his whole argument for eternal damnation was built on a ^{Hebrew} ~~Hebrew~~ word which does not mean eternity. He said this word must mean eternity because there is no other Hebrew word to mean eternity. Well - why does there have to be a word to mean an idea? How much in common life do you use the idea eternity? How many times in ordinary life, ordinary business, activity apart from theology do you use a word to express absolute endlessness? It just does not enter into common life. It is strictly a theological idea and the fact that ever does not in itself mean eternity is seen by the fact that you double it - - you say forever and ever. The word does not mean eternity but the word means a long long long time and when you double it, you say a long long long long long time multiplied by itself, why we are justified in drawing a theological conclusion that what is meant is eternity. There are other passages which make it much clearer than the use of the word for the Bible does teach eternal punishment. But to build your argument on one word and say there is no other word to use is wrong. Words develop as languages need them. In Common use we do not need a word to express eternity. The greats in Rome did not need a word to express the relation of Jesus Christ to God the Father because there was no similar relation anywhere else, in common life or in any religion. We get the concept from the Bible - we get the facts and we try to find words to express them.