

Heaven & Hell

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What Happens When We Die?

A wise person thinks a lot about death, while a fool thinks only about having a good time.

Ecclesiastes 7:4

I) Is Hell a Real Place?

- A. ²⁴ "I tell you the truth, those who listen to my message and believe in God who sent me have eternal life. They will never be condemned for their sins, but they have already passed from death into life... ²⁸ Don't be so surprised! Indeed, the time is coming when all the dead in their graves will hear the voice of God's Son, ²⁹ and they will rise again. Those who have done good will rise to experience eternal life, and those who have continued in evil will rise to experience judgment. John 5:24, 28-29
- B. For he has set a day for judging the world with justice by the man he has appointed, and he proved to everyone who this is by raising him from the dead." Acts 17:31

II) Why Was Hell Created?

- A. "Then the King will turn to those on the left and say, 'Away with you, you cursed ones, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil & his demons. Matthew 25:41
- B. Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. John 12:31 NIV
- C. The time for judging this world has come, when Satan, the ruler of this world, will be cast out. John 12:31
- D. Then the devil, who had deceived them, was thrown into the fiery lake of burning sulfur, joining the beast and the false prophet. There they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. Revelation 20:10
- E. Then death and the grave were thrown into the lake of fire. This lake of fire is the second death. Revelation 20:14

III) Who Will Be in Hell?

- A. We were all headed for an eternity without God in hell.
 - 1) For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. Romans 3:23
 - 2) For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23

B. Jesus came to rescue us from this certainty of separation from God.

And they speak of how you are looking forward to the coming of God's Son from heaven— Jesus, whom God raised from the dead. He is the one who has rescued us from the terrors of the coming judgment. 1 Thessalonians 1:10

C. Those who trust Jesus are rescued!

Therefore he is able, once and forever, to save those who come to God through him. He lives forever to intercede with God on their behalf. Hebrews 7:25

D. Those who do not trust Jesus are not rescued from hell and separation from God.

And this is what God has testified: He has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have God's Son does not have life. 1 John 5:11-12

IV) What Happens to People in Hell?

A. "And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous will go into eternal life."

Matthew 25:46

B. Hell is a place of _____ torment.

1) But the subjects of the kingdom will be thrown outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." Matthew 8:12

2) Don't be afraid of those who want to kill your body; they cannot touch your soul. Fear only God, who can destroy both soul & body in hell. Matthew 10:28

C. Hell is a place of _____ torment.

⁴³ If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It's better to enter eternal life with only one hand than to go into the unquenchable fires of hell with two hands. ⁴⁵ If your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It's better to enter eternal life with only one foot than to be thrown into hell with two feet. ⁴⁷ And if your eye causes you to sin, gouge it out. It's better to enter the Kingdom of God with only one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell,

⁴⁸ 'where the maggots never die and the fire never goes out.' Mark 9:43-48

D. Hell is a place of _____ torment.

1) Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. Matthew 25:41 (NIV)

2) They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power 2 Thessalonians 1:9 (NIV)

V) Where Do People Go Now When They Die?

A. The _____ revelation of the afterlife in the Bible.

1) Sheol: a place of:

(a) Torment for the wicked, called _____.

(b) Conscious bliss, often called Abraham's Bosom or _____.

2) I'm torn between two desires: I long to go and be with Christ, which would be far better for me. Philippians 1:23

B. The intermediate state and the resurrection of the body

1) ⁶ So we are always confident, even though we know that as long as we live in these bodies we are not at home with the Lord. ⁷ For we live by believing and not by seeing.

⁸ Yes, we are fully confident, and we would rather be away from these earthly bodies, for then we will be at home with the Lord. 2 Corinthians 5:6-8

2) ² They found that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance. ³ So they went in, but they didn't find the body of the Lord Jesus. Luke 24:2-3

C. The Bible tells us dearly that:

1) When Jesus was resurrected, He had a resurrected body (John 20:19-20).

2) We too will one day have a resurrected body (1 Corinthians 15:42-44).

3) We receive that resurrected body when Jesus returns (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17).

VI) How Can I Be Sure I Won't Spend Eternity in Hell?

A. ¹⁶ "For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸ "There is no judgment against anyone who believes in him. But anyone who does not believe in him has already been judged for not believing in God's one and only Son. John 3:16-18

B. ⁹ If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by confessing with your mouth that you are saved. ¹¹ As the Scriptures tell us, "Anyone who trusts in him will never be disgraced." Romans 10:9-11