

Basic Beliefs of Christianity

Lesson- 11



EQUIPPERS GROUP INTERNATIONAL

HEAVEN OR HELL



HEAVEN OR HELL

OBJECTIVES OF THE LESSON

1. To understand the reality of life after death—heaven (for the believer) or hell (for the unbeliever)
2. To understand the nature of heaven and hell
3. To understand that Christians are citizens of heaven
4. Live as one who has eternal life

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS AT END



HEAVEN OR HELL

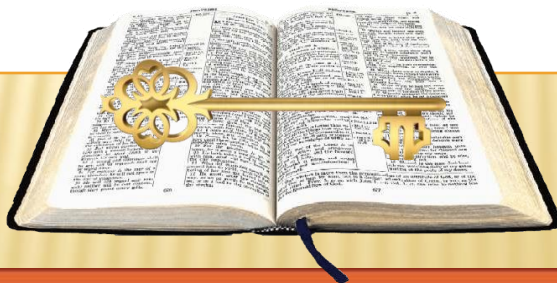
KEY VERSES

God is just: He will pay back trouble to those who trouble you and give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. 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 1:8-9

When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: "Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.

Revelation 1:17-18



Equipping for the Christian Journey



HEAVEN OR HELL

Heaven or Hell

The topic of life after death (heaven or hell) is very important. The truth is simple: accept Christ as the Son of God and believe that he died and rose again to have eternal life with God.

God cannot tolerate sin because He is perfect in nature. God wants to remove sin and restore relationship with His creations. Through Jesus' sacrifice He can bring us back into His presence.

And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. (1 John 5:11-12)



HEAVEN OR HELL

Death



What happens when people die? Where do they go?

Since Jesus' resurrection, everyone will go to one of two places:

- **Heaven**—the place where God Most High makes His presence to bless
- **Hell**—a place of eternal conscious punishment, for the wicked

Every person will die and be judged. Believers will die once and then live eternally with God. The unsaved will die a physical death and then be sentenced to a second death in hell.



HEAVEN OR HELL

Death



For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. ...I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far.

(Philippians 1:21, 23)

But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all the liars—their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.

(Revelation 21:8)

Read Luke 16:19-31

This illustration is about eternity. The rich man was selfish and could not be bothered to help the poor beggar, Lazarus. When they died, the rich man found himself tormented while Lazarus rested with Abraham in heaven. The rich man asks Abraham to warn his family so they will not end up like him, but Abraham denies his request saying that if they would not listen to what God already showed them in Scripture then they would listen to no one, even someone raised from the dead.



HEAVEN OR HELL

Judgement

There is a day when Jesus will judge all men. There are two different judgements: one for believers and one for the unsaved.

Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgement to the Son. (John 5:22)

See also Acts 10:42, 2 Tim. 4:8, Jas. 5:7-9





HEAVEN OR HELL

Judgement

Judgement of the believer (the saved)

So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it. For we must all appear before the judgement seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad. (2 Corinthians 5:9-10)

See also Rom. 14:10-12, 1 Cor. 3:11-15





HEAVEN OR HELL

Judgement

Judgement of the unsaved (lost, non-believers)

Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done. Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire. (Revelation 20:11-15)

See also Matt. 25:3-46, Acts 10:42, Jn. 3:18-21





HEAVEN OR HELL

What is heaven?

However, as it is written: “No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him. (1 Corinthians 2:9)

God created heaven as His dwelling place. Heaven is the full manifestation of His presence (what God is like). Heaven is a place of holiness, full of glory and without end. It is a real place, not just a state of mind. It is also promised as the place prepared for Christians for eternity. (Acts 1:9, 7:55-56)

In my Father’s house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. (John 14:2-3)



HEAVEN OR HELL

What is heaven?

Description of heaven

Dwelling place of God

Look down from heaven, your holy dwelling place...
(Deut. 26:15)

2 Ch. 30:27, Ps. 123:1, Acts 7:49

Eternal place

And into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade—kept in heaven for you.
(1 Pet. 1:4)

Throne room of God

The LORD has established his throne in heaven, and his kingdom rules over all.
(Ps. 103:19)

Isa. 66:1

Place of God's full glory

After this I heard what sounded like the roar of a great multitude in heaven shouting: "Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God."
(Rev. 19:1)

Acts 7:55, 2 Pet. 1:17, Rev. 21:23



HEAVEN OR HELL

What is heaven?

Description of heaven

Future home of believers

After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb."

(Rev. 7:9-10)

Jn. 14:1-3, 2 Cor. 5:1, Heb. 11:9-10

Continual worship

After this I heard what sounded like the roar of a great multitude in heaven shouting: "Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God," ... "Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns."

(Rev. 19:1, 6)

Rev. 5:11-12

Untainted by evil

Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.

(Rev. 21:27)

Eph. 5:5



HEAVEN OR HELL

What is hell?

Hell is the ultimate destination of all wickedness: Satan, the beast, false prophets, demons and all non-believers. It is eternal separation from God.

He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power.

(2 Thes. 1:8-9)





HEAVEN OR HELL

What is hell?

In the New Testament, there are two words used for hell: Hades and Gehenna.

- Hell has the following characteristics:
- Dark where men weep and gnash their teeth—Matt. 25:30
- Place of fire—Matt. 25:41, Mk. 9:43, 48
- Place of eternal punishment—Matt. 25:46, Rev. 14:9-11
- Final home for Satan and his fallen angels(demons)—Matt. 25:41, Rev. 20:10-14
- Separation from God and His people—Lk. 16:26
- Jesus controls hell, He holds the keys—Rev. 1:18





HEAVEN OR HELL

What is hell?

The place of hell

Hades—Greek word for the underworld, the realm of the dead. Only used in the NT.

And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. (Matt. 16:18)

Matt. 11:23, Lk. 10:15, 16:23, Acts. 2:27, 31, Rev. 1:18, 6:8, 20:13-14

Gehenna—the lake of fire, refers to burning rubbish heap in the Valley of Hinnon, a place of perpetual fire. Symbolizes torment and represents the final eternal state of the wicked.

Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell. (Matt. 10:28)

Lk. 12:5, Jas. 3:6, Rev. 19:20





HEAVEN OR HELL

the **GOOD NEWS**
is that **if you BELIEVE**
in **Jesus,**
HEAVEN will
be
your home.



Equipping for the Christian Journey



HEAVEN OR HELL

Significance of heaven to the believer

As believers, our lives are changed because of a new understanding of heaven, made available through the sacrifice of Jesus.

We belong there

Phil. 3:20,
Heb. 12:22-23

**We are
enthroned there**

Eph. 2:6

**We have our names
recorded there**

Lk. 10:20, Heb. 12:23

**We have our
source of life there**

Col. 3:1-4, Eph. 1:3

**We have our
eyes fixed there**

2 Cor. 4:17-18,
Heb. 11:9-10, 14-16

**We have our
treasure there**

1 Pet. 1:3-4, Matt.
6:19-21

**We have been
sent by the One
who lives there**

Jn. 17:16, 18,
2 Cor. 5:20

**We are called to
be there**

Jn. 17:24, 14:1-3,
Phil. 3:13-14

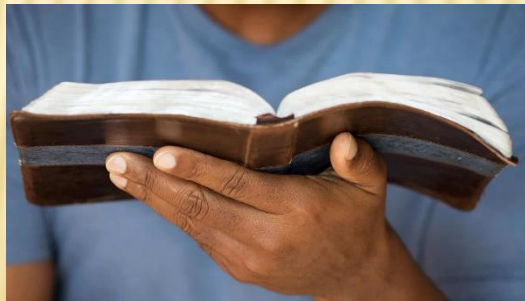


HEAVEN OR HELL

How then shall we live?

Scripture says we should exhibit certain attitudes relative to how we live our lives on earth. Some of these attitudes are:

- Make every effort to be spotless and blameless—2 Pet. 3:11-14
- Do good and pursue peace—Heb. 12:14
- Lay up treasures in heaven—Matt. 6:19-21
- Make it your goal to please the Lord Jesus Christ—2 Cor. 5:6-9
- Be thankful and worship with reverence and awe—Heb. 12:26-29
- Focus on the eternal (unseen)—2 Cor. 4:17-18





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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



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HEAVEN OR HELL

1. What is the purpose of heaven and hell?
2. Why would a loving god permit people to go to hell?
3. Why is heaven important to the believer?
4. How does knowing that we are going to heaven affect our life on this earth?



HEAVEN OR HELL

APPLICATION

1. Memorize 2 Thessalonians 1:6-9 and Revelation 1:17-18
2. Thank God for all that He has done to redeem you from hell and that He has good things laid up for you in heaven.



HEAVEN OR HELL

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Basic Beliefs of Christianity



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And the things you have heard me say in the presence
of many witnesses entrust to reliable men
who will also be qualified to teach others.
2 Timothy 2:2

Equipping for the Christian Journey

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