

## The Reality of Heaven and Hell

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### Scripture References

Matthew 13:42  
Matthew 10:28  
2 Peter 2:4  
Psalm 9:17  
Mark 9:43  
Ephesians 4:9

Luke 16:19-31  
Revelation 20:11  
John 3:18  
Matthew 25:41  
Philippians 3:20

### Summary

*The world we live in doesn't believe in things that aren't actively preached in church, including the existence of hell. However, hell is a very real place, as is heaven. With this in mind, the final destination of people who do not believe that God and the devil even exist is completely different than for born-again believers. The future is bleak and terrifying for unbelievers, but is the exact opposite for those who have made Jesus the Lord of their lives and their personal Savior. Hell was created for Satan and his angels, not for mankind; it was never God's will for anyone to go there. However, it is the consequence of deciding to reject God's forgiveness and Jesus as the final sacrifice for sin. Our eternal destiny rests on the choice we make; in these last days, the stakes have never been higher.*

#### **A. The present generation does not believe in heaven, hell, God, or the devil. However, they are real.**

1. We live in a generation that does not believe in heaven or hell. However, they *do* exist and the Scriptures are very clear on this point. The future is grim for those who do not believe that hell is real.
  - a. And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth (Matthew 13:42).
  - b. And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell (Matthew 10:28).
  - c. For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment (2 Peter 2:4).
  - d. The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God (Psalm 9:17).
  - e. And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched (Mark 9:43).
  - f. Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? (Ephesians 4:9).
2. There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day: And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores, And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and

Lazarus in his bosom. And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame. But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented. And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence. Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house: For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment. Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them. And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead (Luke 16:19-31).

- a. Most people believe in heaven and that they will go there when they die. However, although some people believe in hell, most of them do not believe they will go there after death.
- b. Before Jesus came to earth, hell was divided into two sections with a great chasm separating them to keep people from crossing over. The upper section was called Abraham's Bosom; this was the place where those who were in covenant with God waited until Jesus came to set the captives free. The lower section was where wicked people *not* in covenant with God went.
- c. Hell is a real place, not imaginary; people who go there suffer for real, not symbolically. Their torment is authentic.
- d. Hell is permanent and there is no leaving it.
- e. People in hell are fully conscious and aware of where they are. They will know that they were warned while still on earth and had been given the opportunity to change their ways.

**B. The final destination is horrifying for those who reject Jesus Christ as God's forgiveness.**

1. And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them (Revelation 20:11).
  - a. The great white throne is the judgment of unbelievers. Everyone who has rejected God's offer of forgiveness through Jesus Christ will be brought before this throne.
2. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God (John 3:18).
  - a. Our own disbelief in Jesus Christ will condemn us. Those who choose not to receive Him will find out too late the consequences of their decision.
3. Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels (Matthew 25:41).
  - a. Hell is reserved for Satan and his demons; God does everything He can to keep us out of it. However, He has also given us the ability to decide for ourselves where we will go after death.
  - b. If we want to go to heaven, we must put our faith in Christ. If we reject Him, we have made a choice for all eternity.
  - c. Believers are in the world but are not a part of it. We are citizens of heaven (Philippians 3:20).

Category: righteousness/salvation

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