

Heaven and Hell Part 1

Greg Wendschlag August 26, 2018

“There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores and longing to eat what fell from the rich man's table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores.

“The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried. In Hades, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. So he called to him, ‘Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.’

“But Abraham replied, ‘Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony. And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been set in place, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.’

“He answered, ‘Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my family, for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.’

“Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.’

“No, father Abraham,’ he said, ‘but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.’

“He said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’” Luke 16:19-31

Where do people go when they die?

Intermediate place of the dead – The Grave

- Old Testament – Sheol
- New Testament - Hades

“For my soul is full of trouble and my life draws near the grave. I am counted among those who go down to the pit...” Ps. 88:3-5

- Believers in Jesus – Paradise/Abraham's Bosom

“Today you will be with me in paradise.” Luke 23:43

“As long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord...We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord.” 2 Cor. 5:6-8

- Rejecters of Jesus – Hell/Torments/Tartarus (Not to be confused with purgatory)

“In hell, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away...” Luke. 16:23

“For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them in chains of darkness to be held for judgment...” 2 Pet. 2:4

- The Great Chasm – there is awareness, visual and even communication but no connection.
- The dead in Christ are raised at the rapture.
- The remaining dead are raised after the millennium.
- Those in Christ will go before the Judgment Seat of Christ and on to Heaven.
- Those without Christ will go before the Great White Throne and on to the lake of fire/Gehenna.

What is Hell/The Lake of Fire like?

- Eternal torment

“If anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire...They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.” Rev. 20:15, 10

“Then they will go away to eternal punishment but the righteous to eternal life.” Mt. 25:46

- People are not punished in hell by a vindictive, vengeful God; they are given what they have always desired, separation from God.

“When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, He will sit on His throne in heavenly glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.” Mt. 25:31-32

- Hell is the absolute absence of everything that is God is.

“Many will say to me on that day, “Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, drive out demons and perform many miracles? Then I will tell them plainly, “I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers.” Mt. 7:22-23

Jesus has done everything He can do to keep those He loves from going to hell.

“For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son that whosoever believes in Him will not perish but have everlasting life.” John 3:16