

## GREAT BIBLE TRUTHS



### 27. The Last Things (4)

#### An Introduction

The Bible speaks of a cataclysmic destruction of this present creation as we know it, and the emergence of a new heaven and earth. We read about this in Revelation 21 and 22. Those who know Jesus Christ as their Saviour will live for eternity in Heaven, but sadly those who reject him will be cast into Hell. The Scriptures use figurative language to describe the glory of the one and the awful horror of the other. In this final study let's learn about these two eternal abodes.

#### 1. HEAVEN

First of all, let's see what the Bible says about Heaven.

##### **What will this place be like?**

- It is the eternal dwelling place of God. Matthew 12:50, Revelation 3:12, 11:13
- It is the dwelling place of angels. Matthew 18:10, 22:30
- God is the maker and Lord of Heaven. Hebrews 11:10, Daniel 5:23
- Heaven is filled with the glory and majesty of God. Acts 7:55
- Christ came down from Heaven and returned there. John 3:31, 6:38, Mark 16:19, 1 Peter 3:22
- Christ is preparing a place for us in Heaven. John 14:2-3
- Christ will descend from Heaven. 1 Thessalonians 4:16, Philippians 3:20
  
- Heaven is distinct from creation. Hebrews 9:11. There is a distinction between Heaven and the heavens where the sun and moon are.
- Heaven is a real place, a place of peace and rest, a place of indescribable happiness and a holy place. Luke 19:38, Hebrews 4:9-10, Revelation 7:17, Isaiah 57:15
  
- It is described in different ways to help us understand what it is like.
  - o Paradise – 2 Corinthians 12:2, 4
  - o Father's House – John 14:2
  - o Holy City, Mount Zion and the Heavenly Jerusalem – Hebrews 11:16, 12:22
  - o Believer's Inheritance – 1 Peter 1:4
  
- There will be no more death, sorrow, pain, no night or sin. Revelation 21:4, 27
- There will be perfect submission, worship and love for God. Revelation 22:3
- The glory of Heaven will be the presence of God and Christ, who will be our light forever. All other blessings of Heaven flow from this. Revelation 21:3, 23, 22:5



*What is our relationship with Heaven at this present time? Matthew 25:34, Hebrews 12:23, Hebrews 13:14*

#### 2. HELL

In every way Hell is the opposite of Heaven. Instead of a place of light, life and love, there will be darkness, death and hatred. There is eternal separation from God and those in Hell will be in the presence of evil and strife. Revelation 21:8, 22:15

Instead of rest there will be restlessness and instead of joy there will be weeping. Revelation 14:11, Matthew 22:13. The Bible describes Hell in different ways.

**a. Fire**

- Lake of fire: Revelation 20:14
- Devouring and everlasting fire: Isaiah 33:14
- Furnace of fire: Matthew 13:42
- Eternal fire: Matthew 18:8, 25:41
- Unquenchable fire: Mark 9:43

**b. Darkness**

- God is light and with him there is darkness. 1 John 1:5-6
- Hell is a place of darkness and described as outer darkness. Matthew 22:13
- Place of dark imprisonment. 2 Peter 2:4
- A bottomless pit. Revelation 9:1
- A place of gloom and darkness. Jude 13

**c. Conscious Torment**

- The body and soul will suffer in Hell. Matthew 5:29, 10:28
- The parable of Lazarus and the rich man portrays conscious torment. Luke 16:19-31
- This will be continuous, allowing no rest. Revelation 14:10-11, 20:10

**d. Eternal**

- The word used is the same as the word used to describe God, indicating that Hell won't just last for an age, but forever and ever. Matthew 18:8, 25:46

**e. Unalterable**

- There is no scriptural evidence for a possibility of repentance after death and judgement. The only possibility of changing the course of our eternal destination is by turning to Christ during our time here on earth. Luke 16:26



*No doubt we all have family members and people we know who do not know Jesus yet. What can we do to prevent them from perishing? 2 Corinthians 5:18-21, Ephesians 6:19*



**Hell was prepared for the angels who rebelled against God, not for men and women. God doesn't want anyone to perish. 2 Peter 3:9. His desire is that everyone will accept his offer of salvation through the Lord Jesus Christ. He loves us so much he gave himself as a sacrifice to pay for our sin. Have you accepted his offer of forgiveness? Why not stop and give thanks for all he has done for you?**