**Heaven & Hell**

And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and **everlasting** contempt. (Daniel 12:2 ESV)

**Resurrection of the dead**

First things first, is there life after death?

**Job 14:12** So a man lies down and rises not again; till the heavens are no more he will not awake or be roused out of his sleep. (So, we stay in the grave till end times but then…)

**1 Corinthians 15:51-58** Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory.” “O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?” ...

**Luke 20:36** For they cannot die anymore, because they are equal to angels and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection.

**Luke 20:35** But those who are considered worthy to attain to that age and to the resurrection from the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage,

**Matthew 27:52** The tombs also were opened. And many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised.

Can God raise up a bunch of scattered bones to new life? Read **Ezekiel 37:1-14**

**Heaven or New Earth**

There are two beliefs around what will happen to us after we die. One is we will immediately go to heaven to be with God and another that we will only rise in the last days to receive our new body’s and reign here on earth

**Immortal Soul that immediately goes to heaven**

**Ecclesiastes 12:7** And the dust returns to the earth as it was, and the spirit returns to God who gave it.

**Luke 23:42-43**  And he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”  And he said to him, “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise.” (So, he went immediately to heaven ??)

**John 14:2-4** In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know. (Where is this house?)

**2 Kings 2:11** And as they still went on and talked, behold, a chariots of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them. And Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. (Elijah goes straight to heaven)

**Matthew 17:1-3**  And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart, 2 And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light.  And, behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elias talking with him. (So this would say that Moses and Elijah were already raised up and in heaven)

**But**

**John 3:13** No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man**.** (This passage may be Jesus referring Nicodemus to Deuteronomy 30:11-14 where it says you don’t have to go to heaven to receive the knowledge of Gods law because it is written in your heart)

You may here people say that Heaven is only a new testament idea but David talks about seeing his first son, with Bathsheba, again after the Lord took him:

2 Samuel 12:23 But now that he is dead, why should I go on fasting? Can I bring him back again? I will go to him, but he will not return to me.”

We also find other references in the old testament like the following:

Daniel 12:2 Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt.

Psalm 23:6 Surely goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

**When do we go?**

**1 Thessalonians 4:16-18**  For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and **with the trumpet of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first**: Then we which are alive and remain shall be **caught up together with them in the clouds**, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. This Sounds like we have to wait till the last trumpet but this next verse seems to say that the holy ones, who have died and gone to heaven, will be coming back to Judge.

**Jude 14-15:**  Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about them: “See, the **Lord is coming with thousands upon thousands of his holy ones** (Saints-KJV) **to judge everyone**, and to convict all of them of all the ungodly acts they have committed in their ungodliness, and of all the defiant words ungodly sinners have spoken against him.

**What will we do when we get there?**

Paul did say we will judge in heaven.

**1 Corinthians 6:2-3** Or don’t you know that the Lord’s people will judge the world? Since this is true, aren’t you able to judge small cases? Don’t you know that we will judge angels? Then we should be able to judge the things of this life even more!

**New Earth**

So we just read about going to Heaven but where does the new earth fit in?

# John tells us in Revelations 5:9-10  And they sang a new song, saying,” Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.”

**Isaiah 65:17** “For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth, and the former things shall not be remembered or come into mind.

### Revelation 21:1-27 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.” And he who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.” ...

### [2 Peter 3:13](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Peter+3%3A13&version=ESV) But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

**Could it be both?**

Could it be that when we die our spirit goes to heaven till the end of times then our bodies will rise to be reunited with our spirt to live on the new earth. So, the resurrection is when Christ comes, the dead will be reunited with their bodies**.**

It may just be that there is no way to describe what will happen or where we will be in terms we can understand in our confined thoughts and dimensions. Maybe Paradise, Heaven and new earth are all the same place.

What is clear is that if we believe, will be with Christ after we die. So being with Christ in God’s presences will be heaven in its-self wherever we are at.

**Are their Levels to heaven?**

**1 Kings 8:27** “But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you; how much less this house that I have built!

**Deuteronomy 10:14** Behold, to the Lord your God belong heaven and the heaven of heavens, the earth with all that is in it.

**2 Corinthians 12:2** I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows.

We know in Genesis the Bible says “God created the Heavens and the Earth”, Is the Sky above considered the 1st Heaven, outer space the second, and then a spiritual heaven as the Third. Or maybe Paul was using the beliefs of the local religion to point them to Christ.

**What about HELL**

Most references to hell come from the New testament. There are some old testament references but the King James Version often translates the word *sheol* as "hell". The ordinary use of *sheol* is “death” or “place of the dead.”

**Isaiah 14:15** "Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit."

**Revelation 21:8** But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars--their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death."

 **Matthew 25:46** "Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."

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

**Mark 9:43** If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life maimed than with two hands to go into hell, where the fire never goes out.

**Matthew 13:41-43** The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear. (Also Mat 13:50 & Luke 13:27-29)

**Jude 1:7** In a similar way, Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding towns gave themselves up to sexual immorality and perversion. They serve as an example of those who suffer the punishment of eternal fire.

**Matthew 25:41** "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.

 **Revelation 19:20** But the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who had performed the miraculous signs on his behalf. With these signs he had deluded those who had received the mark of the beast and worshiped his image. The two of them were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur.

**2 Peter 2:4** For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them into gloomy dungeons to be held for judgment;

 **Revelation 20:13-14** 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.

**Matthew 10:28** 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.

[**Matthew 10:28**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+10%3A28&version=ESV) And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.

**How can a loving Father send his children to Hell?**

First we need to know that God did not create Hell for people.

**Matthew 25:41**  “Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you cursed, into the **eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.**

I truly believe that God never intended for one single person to end up in Hell.

2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slow to keep his promise. He is not slow in the way some people understand it. Instead, he is patient with you. He doesn’t want anyone to be destroyed. Instead, he wants all people to turn away from their sins.

It is not God’s fault if we are stubborn and unwilling to turn from our sin’s and believe in His Son, Jesus. Hell was not created for us but for Satan and his demons. We are without excuse for the wrong decisions we make in life.

### [Romans 2:14-16](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+2%3A14-16&version=ESV)  For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus.

Some people will use the excuses that God let bad things happen to them but “Don’t give up on God because men fail you.” Let Job be our example, “Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him” (Job 13:15). What a statement!

**Eschatology**

Christian eschatology is the study of end times events and raises the question whether Jesus will have a literal, thousand-year-long, physical reign on the earth or just a symbolic reign. (Revelation 20) 

