

What Lies Beyond The Grave?

Intro: Death will come to all individuals (except those alive when Christ comes again); 2 Sam. 14:14 ¹⁴ “For we must needs die, and *are* as water spilt on the ground, which cannot be gathered up again; neither doth God respect *any* person: yet doth he devise means, that his banished be not expelled from him.” Ecc. 9:5 ⁵ “For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know not any thing, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten.” What happens then?

I. AT DEATH.

A. Man consists of both body and spirit.

B. The body goes to the grave.

1. Gen. 3:19 ¹⁹ “In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou *art*, and unto dust shalt thou return.”
2. Job 34:15 ¹⁵ “All flesh shall perish together, and man shall turn again unto dust.”
3. Ecc. 3:20 ²⁰ “All go unto one place; all are of the dust, and all turn to dust again.”

C. The spirit returns to God.

1. Ecc. 12:7 ⁷ “Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.”
2. The spirit goes into the hadean realm.

II. HADES.

A. There are two places within the hadean realm.

B. Paradise

1. Jesus told the thief on the cross; Luke 23:43 ⁴³ “And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.”
2. Peter reveals that Jesus went to hades; Acts 2:27, 31 ²⁷ “Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell [literally hades], neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption....³¹ He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell [literally hades], neither his flesh did see corruption.”
3. The spirits in Paradise are blessed.
 - a. Lazarus in Abraham’s bosom; Luke 16:25 ²⁵ “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.”
 - b. 2 Cor. 5:8 ⁸ “We are confident, *I say*, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.”
 - c. Phi. 1:20-23 ²⁰ “According to my earnest expectation and *my* hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but *that* with all boldness, as always, *so* now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether *it be* by life, or by death. ²¹ For to me to live *is* Christ, and to die *is* gain. ²² But if I live in the flesh, this *is* the fruit of my labour: yet what I shall choose I wot not. ²³ For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better.”

C. Tartarus

1. 2 Pet. 2:4 ⁴ “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;”
 - a. *Hell* is the Greek *ταρταρόω* (*tartaroo*).
 - b. The angels were sent to Tartarus and are waiting there until judgment.

2. Those in Tartarus are tormented.
 - a. Mat. 11:21-24 ²¹ Woe unto thee, Chorazin! woe unto thee, Bethsaida! for if the mighty works, which were done in you, had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. ²² But I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the day of judgment, than for you. ²³ And thou, Capernaum, which art exalted unto heaven, shalt be brought down to hell: for if the mighty works, which have been done in thee, had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. ²⁴ But I say unto you, That it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for thee.”
 - b. Luke 16:23-25, 28 ²³ And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. ²⁴ 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. ²⁵ 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.... ²⁸ For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment.”

III. THE RESURRECTION.

A. Christ will come again.

B. All will be bodily raised.

1. Dan. 12:2 ² And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame *and* everlasting contempt.”
2. John 5:28-29 ²⁸ Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, ²⁹ And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.”
3. 1 Cor. 15:42-44, 51-53 ⁴² So also *is* the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption: ⁴³ It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power: ⁴⁴ It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.... ⁵¹ Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, ⁵² In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. ⁵³ For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality.”

C. Judgment will take place.

1. Rom. 14:12 ¹² So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.”
2. 2 Cor. 5:10 ¹⁰ For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things *done* in *his* body, according to that he hath done, whether *it be* good or bad.”
3. What is judgment?
 - a. It is not the rehearsing of everything done in our lives.
 - b. It is a separation between the righteous and wicked.
 - (1) That separation is seen in this world (more by God than by us).
 - (2) That separation is seen in hades.
 - (3) That separation will be seen in eternity.
 - c. There is the passing of sentence (announcing where we will spend eternity).
 - d. Mat. 25:31-46

IV. ETERNITY.

A. Heaven.

1. A blessed place; Mat. 25:34 ³⁴ Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:”

2. A place of joy; Mat. 25:21, 23 “²¹ His lord said unto him, Well done, *thou* good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord... ²³ His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.”
3. A place of comfort.
 - a. Luke 16:25 “²⁵ 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.”
 - b. Where one will rest from his labors; Rev. 14:13 “¹³ And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed *are* the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.”
4. 1 Pet. 1:4 “⁴ To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,”
 - a. Heaven is incorruptible—not subject to corruption.
 - (1) It will not decay (either in essence or continuance), it will not be brought to a worse state.
 - (2) Mat. 6:19-20 “¹⁹ Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: ²⁰ But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:”
 - b. Heaven is undefiled—no defilement.
 - (1) It is free from all contamination or pollution.
 - (2) 2 Pet. 2:20 “²⁰ For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning.”
 - (3) Rev. 21:27 “²⁷ And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither *whatsoever* worketh abomination, or *maketh* a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb’s book of life.”
 - c. Heaven does not fade away.
 - (1) This word denotes a flower that would never lose it bloom and aroma.
 - (2) It is eternal in nature without losing its beauty.

B. Hell.

1. Christ will take vengeance.
 - a. 2 The. 1:6 “⁶ Seeing *it is* a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you;”
 - b. God must take vengeance because He is holy and just.
2. That punishment.
 - a. A place of destruction.
 - (1) 2 The. 1:9 “⁹ Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;”
 - (2) The application in the Scriptures of *destruction* is not annihilation but to come to ruin or devastation.
 - b. A place of torment.
 - (1) Intense, agonizing pain.
 - (a) Mat. 13:41-42 “⁴¹ 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; ⁴² And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.”

- (b) Luke 16:23-24 ^{“23} And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. ²⁴ 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.”
- (2) Fire
 - (a) Rev. 14:10 ^{“10} The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb:”
 - (b) Rev. 21:8 ^{“8} But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.”
 - (c) That fire being unquenchable; Mark 9:43-48
- (3) A sorer punishment that death without mercy; Heb. 10:28-29 ^{“28} He that despised Moses’ law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: ²⁹ Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?”
- c. A place of separation from God.
 - (1) They depart from God’s presence.
 - (a) Mat. 25:41 ^{“41} 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:”
 - (b) 2 The. 1:9 ^{“9} Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;”
 - (2) Since God is light; they are separated from light.
 - (a) 1 John 1:5 ^{“5} This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.”
 - (b) Jude 13 ^{“13} Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever.”
 - (3) Since God is love; they are separated from love; 1 John 4:8 ^{“8} He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.”
 - (4) Since God is the source of all good; they are separated from good; Jam. 1:17 ^{“17} Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.”
- 3. The saddest description is that it is eternal.
 - a. There will never be any end to this torment—there is no hope.
 - b. Mat. 25:46 ^{“46} And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.”

Conclusion: Considering the end of all things, and an eternity awaiting, we should live to escape the torments of hell and gain everlasting life in heaven. If Christ should come today: are you ready?