

## HEAVEN and HELL are REAL ~ Matthew 25:32-46

→Scripture Reading John 14:1-3, Matt. 25:32-34, 41, 46

### INTRODUCTION

We believe in a **literal Heaven** and a **literal Hell** and that all those who place their faith, hope and trust in Jesus Christ will spend eternity in Heaven with the Lord. Those who reject Jesus' FREE GIFT of salvation will spend eternity SEPARATED from the Lord. CCA

**Matt. 5:3** (NIV) Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of HEAVEN.

**Matt. 5:22** (NLT) ... And if you curse someone, you are in danger of the fires of HELL.

**Matt. 25:41, 46** (NLT) Then the King will turn to those on the left and say, 'Away with you, you cursed ones, into the ETERNAL FIRE prepared for the devil and his demons...

[46] And they will go away into ETERNAL PUNISHMENT, but the righteous will go into ETERNAL LIFE.

### HEAVEN is REAL ~ Philippians 1:20-25

[20] For I fully expect and hope that I will never be ashamed, but that I will continue to be bold for Christ, as I have been in the past. And I trust that my life will bring honor to Christ, whether I LIVE or DIE. [21] For to me, LIVING means living for Christ, and DYING is even BETTER. [22] But if I live, I can do more fruitful work for Christ. So I really don't know which is better. [23] I'm torn between two desires: I LONG to go and be with Christ, which would be far better for me. [24] But for your sakes, it is better that I continue to live. [25] Knowing THIS I am convinced that I will remain alive SO I can continue to HELP all of YOU GROW and EXPERIENCE the JOY of your FAITH. (NLT)

#### Jesus Taught us...

- to PRAY - Our Father IN Heaven... Matt. 6:9
- to REJOICE - that our names are WRITTEN in Heaven... Luke 10:20
- He would RETURN - He was going to Prepare a Place for us in Heaven... John 14:2-3

#### Paul Taught...

- Jesus is SEATED in Heaven at God's Right Hand - Eph. 1:20
- that Heaven is our FUTURE HOME - 1 Cor. 5:1
- the Holy Spirit is the GUARANTEE we will be in Heaven - 2 Cor. 5:5

#### Peter Reminds us

- we have an INHERITANCE kept safely in HEAVEN for us - 1 Pet. 1:3-5

#### Heaven is Described as... HBD

- God's Dwelling Place - perfect FELLOWSHIP with God Rev. 21:1-8
- New Jerusalem - perfect PROTECTION Rev. 21:9-27
- Garden - perfect PROVISION Rev. 22:1-5

### IMPLICATIONS

#### →What we BELIEVE about Heaven must come from God's WORD - NOT Man's IDEAS

**Matthew 22:29** (NLT) ...Your mistake is that you don't know the Scriptures, and you don't know the power of God. (ESV) ...You are WRONG, because you know NEITHER the Scriptures nor the power of God.

In every generation and culture, ideas of eternal life tend to be based on images and experiences of PRESENT life. We must not make up our own ideas about God, eternity, and heaven by thinking of them in human terms. HBA

#### →FOCUSING on Heaven puts things of EARTH in Proper Perspective

**Colossians 3:1-3** (NLT) Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your SIGHTS on the realities of HEAVEN, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God's right hand. [2] THINK ABOUT the things of HEAVEN, not the things of earth. [3] For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God.

## HELL is REAL ~ Matthew 25:31-46

[31] But when the **Son of Man comes in His glory**, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit upon His glorious throne. [32] All the nations will be gathered in His presence, and He will separate the people as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. (NLT)  
[33] He will place the sheep at his right hand and the goats at his left. [34] "Then the King will say to those on his right, Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world. (NLT)  
...[41] Then the King will turn to those on the left and say, 'Away with you, you cursed ones, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his demons. (NLT)  
...[46] And they will go away into ETERNAL punishment, but the righteous will go into ETERNAL life. (NLT)

**ETERNAL**- same Greek word is used in both instances. The punishment of the wicked is as never-ending as the bliss of the righteous. The wicked are not given a second chance, nor are they annihilated. MacArthur

### →It is NOT FAIR - How can a Loving God SEND people to HELL?

If there was no PUNISHMENT of unbelievers at all, even people like Hitler and Stalin would not have pay for what they did, and there would be no ultimate JUSTICE in the universe. Then people would have incentive to be as wicked as possible in this life. Grudem

### →What about THOSE who have NEVER Heard?

**Romans 1:18-20** (NIV) The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who SUPPRESS the TRUTH by their wickedness, [19] since what may be known about God is PLAIN to them, because God has made it PLAIN to them. [20] For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities - His ETERNAL power and DIVINE nature - have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.

>**DESIGN** requires **DESIGNER - CAUSE** and **EFFECT**

## IMPLICATIONS

### →Hell was NOT created for Unbelievers

**Matthew 25:41** ...Away with you, you cursed ones, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his demons.

**John 3:17-18** (NIV) For God did NOT send his Son into the world to CONDEMN the world, but to save the world through Him. [18] Whoever believes in Him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not BELIEVED in the name of God's one and only Son.

### →God does not Save us MERELY so we can Escape HELL

**Romans 8:29** (NIV) For those God foreknew He also predestined to BE CONFORMED to the likeness of his Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brothers.

**Hebrews 10:14** (NIV) ...by ONE SACRIFICE HE has made PERFECT forever those who are being made holy.

## TAKE AWAY??

**Matthew 27:44** (HCS) In the same way even the criminals who were crucified with Him kept taunting Him.

**Luke 23:39-41** (NIV) One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: "Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us!" [40] But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence?" [41] We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong."

**Luke 23:42-43** (NIV) Then he said, "Jesus, REMEMBER ME when you come into your kingdom." [43] Jesus answered him, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise."