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# THE ETERNITY OF MAN



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## HELL

### INTRODUCTION

Satan's final destiny is hell or the lake of fire. It seems that the angels that sinned with Satan are even now in hell waiting for judgment. *2 Peter 2:4, "For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment;"*

The Bible teaches that the wicked who reject Christ will be turned into hell. *Psalm 9:17, "The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God."* Is there an everlasting hell? The Bible declares that there is in very dogmatic language. Hell is a reality, an awful fact to be realized. There are 162 texts in the New Testament alone which speak of the doom that awaits the unrepentant and over 70 of these were uttered by the Lord Himself.

### DEFINITION-WHAT IS HELL ?

Hell is banishment from the presence of God. *2 Thessalonians 1:9, "These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,"* Hell is a place of torment and punishment. *Luke 16:23, "And being in torments in Hades, he*

### CONCLUSION

Paul said in *Philippians 1:21, "For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain."* Christ is life. Jesus said to Martha, *"... I am... the life..."* Jesus is God and possesses eternal life. When I invite Jesus to come into my heart, then He comes in and I am indwelt by God's life, eternal life. When Jesus comes into the life He takes away the sin and cleanses the heart. With Christ within I am indwelt by eternal life and can never perish. The mystery of life is solved in the revelation of Jesus Christ to man.

# LIFE

## INTRODUCTION

Why was I born? Why did God make me? Why am I here? What is the purpose of life? In *John 11:25* and *14:6*, Jesus says that He possesses life and that He is life. *John 11:25*, "Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.'" *John 14:6*, "Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.'"

## DEFINITION OF LIFE

It is the union of soul and body. This is true of humans, but not of plants. The state of being alive. This is true, but very ambiguous. The period between birth and death. This is not true, for life exists before birth and after death. Life is the property of a plant or animal that involves growth, nutrition, respiration and reproduction. The truth is that life is very difficult to define. Life is a trust, a loan from God for a short period of time, *Job 1:21*, "The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; Blessed be the Name of the Lord." Life is an intangible gift from God. We can neither see it, feel it, or bargain with it. Life is an unsubstantial flimsy thing. It is here today and gone

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# DEATH

## INTRODUCTION

Previously, we learned life is a moment of time to prepare for eternity. Life is saddened by the fact that it must end sooner or later in death unless Jesus returns to rapture the Church. We find it difficult to define life. How can we define death? Death is the departure of life--the cessation of life. Death is the change from the animate to the inanimate. Death is when the heart stops, when the breath ceases, when the body is a stiff corpse. To humans, death is the separation of body, soul and spirit:

1. The body goes to the grave and disintegrates.
2. The spirit goes back to God. *Ecclesiastes 12:7*, "Then the dust will return to the earth as it was, and the spirit will return to God who gave it."
3. The soul in *Luke 16:19-31*, goes to one of two places:
  - a. The soul of the wicked to hell, *Luke 16:23*.
  - b. The soul of the righteous to paradise, *Luke 16:22*  
The thief was with Christ in paradise.

## THE ORIGIN OF DEATH

There are two kinds of death and both of them come from the Garden of Eden.

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mean annihilation only? The annihilationist says that in *2 Thessalonians 1:9*, "These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord. . ." refers to "the results or consequences" of the punishment. We sincerely believe that it is the punishment that is eternal and the subject must be conscious to be punished. You cannot punish a stone.

12. Will there not be a probationary period after death? Certainly not! Consider *Hebrews 9:27*; *Mark 9:42-50*; *Matthew 18:8-9,25-46*.

## DEGREES OF PUNISHMENT IN HELL

*Deuteronomy 32:22*, "For a fire is kindled in My anger, and shall burn to the lowest hell; It shall consume the earth with her increase,..." *Matthew 10:15*; *Mark 6:11*; *Luke 10:12*; "More tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrha than for..."

The justice of God demands degrees of punishment. Perhaps those who will suffer the hottest flames of hell are those who reject Him the most times.

## CONCLUSION

How does one get to hell? By neglect. *Hebrews 2:3*, "...how shall we escape if we neglect..." How does one avoid hell? ... By receiving Jesus as His personal Savior. *Proverbs 15:24*.

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leaves of the trees for the healing of the nations. Everything good, gloriously provided.

3. A place of perfect sinlessness, *Revelation 22:3*, no more curse. The curse of Eden removed forever from man. Can you imagine such sheer joy?
4. A place of perfect government. *Revelation 22:3*, ruled by God, the just One, and the Lamb.
5. A place of perfect service, *Revelation 22:3*, "... and His servants shall serve Him." Does this thought spoil the picture of heaven? Certainly not. We serve with joy.
6. A place of perfect communion, *Revelation 22:4*, "They shall see His face,..." Wonderful!
7. A place of perfect possession. We will belong to Him alone. *Revelation 22:4*, "... and His Name shall be in their foreheads." No divided loyalty. His, all His.
8. A place of perfect glory, *Revelation 22:5*. No artificial light there. Together they shall reign forever and forever.

## CONCLUSION

Do you want to go to heaven? Have you prepared? Heaven is for prepared people. An unbeliever would find it very uncomfortable in heaven because of its holiness.

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5. Is it not cruel to think of the doomed being driven into perdition? The ungodly are relieved to get away from the holy presence of a righteous God.
6. The word "eternal" does not always mean forever and forever. It is the same word used in relation to God, *Romans 16:26*, "The everlasting God," to life, *John 3:16*, "everlasting life," of rewards, *Hebrews 9:15*, "eternal inheritance."
7. Surely you do not believe in a literal lake of fire? (contrary terms) Whether it is literal or symbolical the point is that it is a place of punishment for the bodies and souls of men, angels and devils that reject Him.
8. Surely you don't teach that God tortures the lost! Conscience and memory will torture one in hell.
9. Don't you think hell is a state and not a place? Perhaps hell is both a state and a definite place.
10. Does "hell" not mean "grave" where both the good and the bad must go? In *Luke 16:19-31*, both men died and both men went to the grave, for both were buried, but the abodes of the souls of the two men were different. One was in a place where he was comforted, the other in a place of torment, and the two were separated by a great gulf to prevent travel back and forth.
11. Does "hell" or "hades" or "Gehenna" or "Sheol"

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- with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."
- d. *Galatians 5:19-21*, the seventeen fruits of the flesh will never enter heaven's perfection.
  2. **Positive:**
    - a. God the Father lives there, *Matthew 6:9*.
    - b. Jesus went there after His ascension, *Acts 3:21*.
    - c. Angels, myriads of these created beings are there, *Matthew 18:10; 26:53*.
    - d. Enoch and Elijah, who were translated, are there, *Genesis 5:24; Matthew 17:3; 2 Kings 2:11*.
    - e. All those who have died trusting in Jesus will be there. *1 Thessalonians 4:14*, "For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus."
    - f. Moses who was buried by God, is there, *Matthew 17:3*.

## HEAVEN IS A PERFECT PLACE

(Notes taken from H. W. Peeler, Millar Memorial Bible Institute.)

*Revelation 22:1-5*.

1. A place of perfect satisfaction, *Revelation 22:1-2*, a pure river of water of life, a tree with twelve kinds of fruit. A picture of perfect leisurely comfort.
2. A place of perfect provision, *Revelation 22:2*, the

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tomorrow.

## THE ORIGIN OF LIFE

Where did you get life from? ... From your parents. And where did they get it from? ... From their parents. Inevitably we go back to the creation of man in the Garden of Eden. *Genesis 2:7*, "And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul." All life comes from God. *1 John 5:20*, "... This is the true God, and eternal life." Life is a characteristic, an attribute, the very nature of the Almighty God.

## KINDS OF LIFE

The Bible speaks of three kinds of life:

1. **Physical life.** It was given to man at the time of Creation, *Genesis 2:7*.
2. **Spiritual life.** This is the new life that God gives to the believer in Jesus Christ. *Ephesians 2:1*, "And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins," This new life is a gift from God to the repentant sinner.
3. **Eternal life.** This is the nature and characteristic of the Lord God. *John 17:3*, "And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent."

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1. **Spiritual death.** *Genesis 2:17*, "... but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die." In Eden, Adam and Eve did not die physically when they ate the forbidden fruit. They died spiritually. *Ephesians 2:1*, "And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins,"
2. **Physical death.** *Genesis 3:21*, God killed animals to get skins to cover Adam and Eve. The first human to die was Abel the son of Adam, murdered by his brother Cain. *Genesis 4:8*, "... Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him."

## THE CAUSE OF DEATH

Spiritual death was caused by disobedience to God. *James 1:15*, "... when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death." Death is the direct result of sin. In the case of physical death the doctor may write any one of many things on the death certificate, but the real answer is SIN. Sin is the basic cause and the disease the immediate agency that God used to execute the sentence that was pronounced on mankind in the Garden of Eden. *Ezekiel 18:20*, "The soul who sins shall die..." *Romans 6:23*, "For the wages of sin is death..." *Hebrews 9:27*, "And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment,..."

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## LENGTH OF LIFE

In Genesis 5, before the flood, the life span was an average of 846 years. In Genesis 11, after the flood the life span was reduced to 393 years. In Moses' time, Psalm 90:10, "The days of our years are seventy years; And if by reason of strength they be eighty years, yet their boast is only labor and sorrow;..." Psalm 89:47, "Remember how short my time is;..." Job 14:1, "Man who is born of a woman is of few days..." James 4:13-15, Life is like a vapor that quickly vanishes away. Life is limited to a set time. Job 7:1, "Is there not a time of hard service for man on earth?..." God in His sovereign will has set the span (length) of our lives.

## COMPARISONS

1. **Life is like a journey.** Genesis 47:9, Jacob talking to King Pharaoh, "And Jacob said to Pharaoh, 'The days of the years of my pilgrimage are one hundred and thirty years; few and evil have been the days of the years of my life,...' " Life is a journey from earth to eternity; from the cradle to the beyond. We are travelling on this journey whether we like it or not. Birth is an automatic start. To some it is a long, long journey. To others it is a very short one.

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## A DESCRIPTION OF DEATH

Physical death is described as:

1. Sleep. John 11:11, "Our friend Lazarus sleeps," 1 Thessalonians 4:14, "God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus."
2. As requiring the soul. Luke 12:20, "But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you;...'"
3. As putting off this earthly house. 2 Corinthians 5:1, "For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed,..." 2 Peter 1:14, "... knowing that shortly I must put off my tent,..."
4. As going to a place of no return. Job 16:22, "For when a few years are finished, I shall go the way of no return." See also Luke 16:31.
5. As going down into silence. Psalm 115:17, "The dead do not praise the Lord, nor any who go down into silence."
6. As yielding up the spirit. Acts 5:10, "Sapphira... breathed her last," and of the Savior in Luke 23:46, "Father, Into Your hands I commit My spirit..." He breathed His last." 2 Thessalonians 1:9, "These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord..." That is, eternal death! Eternal death is also called alienation from God. Ephesians 4:18, "... having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God,..."

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we accept it as true, for God says so. This doctrine is in harmony with the deeply rooted inborn conviction of men. Few object to the fact that heaven is eternal, why object to eternal punishment? If one exists so must the other.

## OBJECTIONS TO THIS DOCTRINE

1. This doctrine is inconsistent with the love of God. The same Bible that speaks of the love of God also speaks of the justice and holiness of God. God is balanced, both loving and just.
2. Is there any need of eternal punishment? Won't all sin be paid for eventually? The punishment for each sin is death. Romans 6:23, "For the wages of sin is death..."
3. Is it not unjust to sentence men to eternal punishment for one sin? Everlasting punishment does not mean equal punishment. The time may be the same, but the degrees of punishment will vary. (Deuteronomy 32:22)
4. Won't the doomed repent and seek the Lord and be forgiven in hell? Salvation is limited to this life. All prayers of the doomed are denied. Luke 16:24-27. Prayers for deliverance and salvation will be denied forever. Matthew 13:49, "So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come forth, separate the wicked from among the just," Also see, Matthew 25:32.

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## CHARACTERISTICS OF HEAVEN

Heaven is a high place. Isaiah 57:15, "... I dwell in the high and holy place,..." Heaven is a holy place. Psalm 20:6, "He will answer him from His holy heaven..." Heaven is a happy place. Revelation 7:17, "... And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes." Heaven is a place without death, tears, sorrow, crying or pain. Revelation 21:4, "... there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away." Heaven is a place without night or darkness. Revelation 22:3-5, "... There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light..." Heaven is a place without hunger, thirst, excessive heat. Revelation 7:16, "They shall neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any heat;"

## INHABITANTS OF HEAVEN

1. **Negative:**
  - a. The devil will never enter there, Revelation 20:10.
  - b. Thieves will never enter there, Luke 12:33.
  - c. Revelation 21:8, "But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns

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Proverbs 27:20, "Hell and Destruction are never full;..."

## DESCRIPTION OF HELL

1. It is a place of punishment, *Matthew 25:46*, "And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."
2. It is a place of torment. *Luke 16:23*, "And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes..."
3. It is a place of fire, *Matthew 13:42,50*; *Revelation 20:15*; *Revelation 14:10*; *Matthew 3:12*; *Isa.33:14*.
4. It is a place of worms, *Mark 9:44,46,48*, "Their worm does not die and the fire is not quenched."
5. In *Luke 16:23*, the man had the ability to recognize others.
6. In *Luke 16:27*, the man had the ability to pray, though the prayer was denied.
7. In *Luke 16:24-27*, the man still had desire. He desired water to drink and a missionary to go and preach to his brothers, warning them not to come.

## DURATION OF HELL

The Bible repeatedly says that both heaven and hell are eternal, everlasting. *Matthew 25:46*, "And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life." We may not be able to understand it, but

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chaff being burned. Heaven is called the kingdom of God and of Christ. *Ephesians 5:5*, "... has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God." Heaven is called the Father's House. *John 14:2*, "In My Father's house..." Heaven is called a place of rest. *Hebrews 4:9*, "There remains therefore a rest to the people of God." Heaven is called paradise. *2 Corinthians 12:4*, "I knew such a man... caught up into paradise..."

## SIZE OF HEAVEN

It is immeasurable. *Jeremiah 31:37*, "Thus says the Lord, If heaven above can be measured..." *Revelation 21:1*, "And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away. And there was no more sea." From creation to the present is about 77 generations (42 before Christ and 35 after). If these were all alive they would cover the earth to a depth of 113,326 miles. There were enough people born between Christ and Columbus to fill the New Jerusalem. However, this is not heaven, for the New Jerusalem comes out "from" heaven, but is not heaven itself, *Revelation 21:2,10*. But heaven is for the limited few who are holy and pure and the mansions are definitely limited so it is very wise to book a mansion this very day.

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**2. Life is like a dream.** *Psalm 73:20*, "As a dream when one awakes,..." How long is a dream? ... Only a few seconds. Can you recall a dream? ... No! Life is short, fleeting and transient.

**3. Life is like a shadow.** *Ecclesiastes 6:12*, "For who knows what is good for man in life, all the days of his vain life which he passes like a shadow?..." A shadow is such a poor imitation of the real thing. Can you recognize a person by his shadow? Shadows can be so deceiving, so long, so short. Life is like that.

**4. Life is like vapor.** *James 4:14*, "For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away." If all that we knew about water was what we saw in steam, how limited our knowledge of water would be. You cannot drink steam. Life on earth is like a bud that will open and develop in eternity. Life is too short.

**5. Life is like a tale.** *Psalm 90:9*, "For all our days have passed away in Your wrath; We finish our years like a sigh." Life is like an interesting story that is told and soon forgotten, then people look for another story.

**6. Life is like water split on the ground.** *2 Samuel 14:14*, "For we will surely die and become like water spilled on the ground, which cannot be gathered up again." In a moment

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Eternal death is known as banishment from God.

## THE REMEDY

Modern science and doctors can do a great deal to prolong life. The life span is lengthening, but that is merely postponing the day of death. One person out of one will die. We are "... appointed for men to die once,..." *Hebrews. 9:27*. We are born, with an appointment to meet death. We will keep that appointment. The one true remedy is found in the Lord Jesus Christ. Spiritual death is cured by believing on the Lord Jesus Christ. *John 5:24*, "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life." When we believe on Christ, the Holy Spirit works the miracle of regeneration in our lives, transforming us into children of God. *John 1:12*. Physical death can be avoided by the rapture of the church. But Christ has promised to walk with us (Christians) through the experience of death. *Psalm 23:4*, "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me;..." (Those that can truthfully say, "The Lord is my Shepherd," can also claim this promise.)

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the earth absorbs the moisture and it disappears.

**7. Life is like a flower.** Job 14:1-2, “<sup>1</sup> Man who is born of woman is of few days and full of trouble. <sup>2</sup> He comes forth like a flower and fades away; He flees like a shadow and does not continue.” First we see the blade, then leaves, and afterwards the beautiful bud. Slowly it opens and we gasp at its beauty. Then it withers and is gone, gone so soon, so quickly. Some flowers never bloom. They are cut down in their prime; the harvesting sickle.

## THE PURPOSE OF LIFE

Life is a moment of time in which to prepare for the long, long, eternity. In this brief, fleeting, second of time we are asked to answer one question. “Where do you wish to spend eternity?” There are two great eternities. We must choose one or the other. No neutral ground.

1. The blessed privilege of living forever with the Lord Jesus in heaven.
2. The terrible anguish of living forever with Satan in a burning hell.

The purpose of life is to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God, to service and worship Him.

## THE DEATH OF CHRIST

Why did Jesus die on the cross? Was it an accident? Certainly not. God's Word said that someone must die for sin. Jesus volunteered to be the One to die. He died the death that YOU AND I ought to have died. Hebrews 2:9, “... that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone.” Jesus tasted the bitter dregs of death. Jesus died on the cross as a sacrifice for you and me. Ephesians 5:2, “... and given Himself for us an offering, and a sacrifice to God...” The death of the Savior was necessary for the redemption of mankind. Luke 24:46, “... Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day,” What is the Gospel? 1 Corinthians 15:1-4 defines it as that Christ suffered for our sins according to the Scriptures, that He was buried and that He rose the third day. That is, the Gospel includes death, the death of the Savior for sin.

## CONCLUSION

The death of the righteous is precious to the Father. Psalm 116:15, “Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints.” The death of the wicked is unpleasant to God. Ezekiel 33:11, “I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn, turn from your evil ways.”

lifted up his eyes...” Some scoff and say, “Where is hell?” The Bible says it is “down.” Isaiah 14:9, “Hell from beneath...” Ezekiel 32:27, “... who have gone down to hell...” Numbers 16:30-33, “... and the earth opens its mouth and swallows them up, ... and they go down alive into the pit, ...” (Sheol). One of the problems in the study of hell is the various terms that are used. In the original language three terms are used: (1) Sheol (2) Hades (3) Gehenna. But unfortunately in English these have been translated: hell, pit, grave, sometimes losing the force of the original and giving Jehovah's Witnesses and others a loophole to say that hell is only the grave.

## THE ORIGIN OF HELL

Hell was originally prepared for the devil and his wicked angels. Matthew 25:41, “... Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels:” Hell was never intended for man but if men insist on rejecting heaven through the Savior, Jesus Christ, then they must accompany Satan forever.

## DIMENSIONS OF HELL

Because of man's insistence on going there, God has had to enlarge hell. Isaiah 5:14, “Therefore Sheol has enlarged itself and opened its mouth beyond measure:”

## HEAVEN

### INTRODUCTION

#### THE ORIGIN OF HEAVEN

It was created by God in the beginning. Genesis 1:1, “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.” When or how long ago is a mystery hidden from man. Heaven will abide forever. 2 Corinthians 5:1, “... an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.” Heaven is a prepared place (John 14:2), for a prepared people.

#### WHAT IS HEAVEN?

Heaven is the home of the Lord God. Matthew 6:9, “Our Father which art in heaven...” 2 Corinthians 12:2 speaks of a man caught up to the third heaven. The first heaven is the area where birds fly. The second heaven is where sputniks go. The third heaven is the home and throne of the Lord God. Heaven is a building. 2 Corinthians 5:1, “For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.” Heaven is a building of God. It is not man-made. 2 Corinthians 5:1. Heaven is called a barn. Matthew 3:12, “... gather His wheat into the barn.” This occurs at the division of the wheat (good going to heaven) and the