

Heaven and Hell

**“What every believer should know
-What every unbeliever should fear”**

Ron Williams

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Overview

Almost everyone has some notion or perception about the afterlife. However, some Christians and most non-believers have no real understanding. If both groups only knew the whole story....

This series will take an in-depth look at the time beyond our death:

Hell, Sheol, Hades, Abraham's Bosom, Heaven and the new Heaven

The Class Consists of

- This series will consist of ten 1-hr lessons. There will be no homework but review of the previous lesson following each class is encouraged as we will build upon basic concepts as we progress. Class participation, reading of scripture and sharing your insight is needed to make the class a success

Heaven and Hell- Resources

- The Holy Bible (KJV and NIV)
- "Hell" by Oliver Greene
- "As Time Runs Out" by Robert Jeffress
- "Life in the Afterlife" by Tim LaHaye
- "Heaven" by Randy Alcorn

What questions do you have about the afterlife?

- We will try to answer these as we progress through the series. Believe it or not, the Bible provides great insight on many if not all of the questions we normally have about the great beyond.

Topics we will cover

- What happens at the point of death
- Who goes to Heaven or Hell and why
- Defining the Biblical terms (Sheol, Hades, Heaven, etc)
- The difference between pre- and post-Christ times
- What Hell is really like

Topics we will cover

- What Heaven is really like
- Where are the dead now
- Resurrection of the body
- Christians after the resurrection
- The Intermediate (present) Heaven
- The New Heaven
- The degrees of reward and punishment

Topics we will cover

- The New Earth
- What will be our form
- What will we do in Heaven
- The crowns of reward
- and many more

.....Do I have your interest!!!!!!!

What the Bible says about the point of death

- Acts 7:54-60 (Stephens stoning)
- 2 Corinthians 12:2-7 (Paul's stoning)
- A published research study in 1961 (Karlis Osis) involving 10000 health professionals indicated that 750/3500 of their near-death patients reported pleasant experiences and 1300 reported seeing spiritual beings
- Maybe you know of individuals who have reported seeing the other side

The Bible is not mute

- Even with these earthly accounts, the Bible is not mute! It describes life after death in nearly 1000 verses!

Man's eternal question

- What happens to me after death?
- The **O.T.** refers to the place of the dead as Sheol (65X)
- This can best be translated as "grave, hell, and death"
- It should not be translated as "the pit or the lake of fire"
- Believers and unbelievers alike departed to Sheol

Terminology

- The N.T. word (42X) for the world of the dead is Hades
- Sheol and Hades are not really “Hell” as the KJV translates
- The Hebrew word “Sheol” and the Greek word “Hades” both refer to the same temporary place while “Hell” is a permanent location

Hell, Sheol, Hades

- Other words have been used in the Bible to define parts of the afterlife
- “**Tartarus**” used once by Peter (2 Peter 2:4) as the deepest place of Hades (still just a temporary place)
- “**Gehenna**” was a word used by Christ (11X) to define the permanent place of the dead.
- It was also used by James (James 3:6)-having reference to the garbage dump outside Jerusalem that was continually burning.
- Many see this term as a perfect characterization of Hell (as defined by Mark (9:48 and Rev 20:14) for those who reject God’s gift of salvation

Remember

- Keep in mind that Biblical references to Sheol and Hades are temporary places while Hell is always a final place
- Notice that I am capitalizing Sheol, Hades, Hell, Heaven- why? Because they are just as real locations as Durham, Bahama, and Rougemont

O.T. Facts about Sheol

- Proverbs 9:18 - A place where the dead exist
- Psalm 86:13- A place for the soul
- Psalm 9:17 A place for the wicked
- Genesis 44:29- Jacob expected to go there
- Psalm 88:3- David expected to go there
- Psalm 89:48- All men go to Sheol

O.T. Facts about Sheol

- Therefore, the Bible teaches us that both righteous and the wicked immediately went to Sheol. However there was not equal treatment:
- Deuteronomy 33:22- mentions a place of distress for the wicked while,
- Ecclesiastes 9:10 describes it as a place of rest

Basic N.T. facts about Hades

- Read Luke 16:19-31. We see:
- Real people-Lazarus, Abraham, the rich man
- Abraham's Bosom (O.T. term for a place of reward)
- Torment in Hades (physical and continual)
- A real place of separation between those being rewarded and those being punished

Basic N.T. facts about Hades

- In Luke 16:19-31. We see:
- Movement across the gulf cannot be performed
- It will not be “at least I will be with my friends” type of place
- Both Lazarus and the rich man went to temporary places-but not the same part
- It would appear Hades consists of:
 - A place of reward-Paradise
 - A great gulf
 - A place of continual torment

Abraham's Bosom

- A place of comfort for the righteous of the O.T.
- Immediate translation there after death
- Other O.T. figures were there, validating its purpose
- The Great Gulf was:
 - impassable but viewable
 - eternal separation of the righteous versus unrighteous

A place of torment

- Men were warned about this real place (not just a state of existence)
- The passage with Lazarus indicates there is no intermediate place (purgatory or unconsciousness)
- A person would have reason and know why they were in a state of eternal suffering-and what they missed out on
- Its physical location is not fully reported in the Bible.
- Numbers 16:33 uses the term “down” as if indicates the earth, but it might as well be somewhere else in creation

For the Christian ...

- No need to fear Sheol-Hades
- Acts 2:25-31. Jesus was taken up
- 2 Corinthians 5:8. Absent from the body....
- The believer now does not go to Sheol-Hades but rather to Heaven. Why the change as some theologians believe??

For the Present Day Christian

- Change took place at Christ's death/burial/resurrection
- Luke 23:43. "Today you will be with me in..." Paradise, not Sheol-Hades is Jesus' present abode
- Ephesians 4:8-10. Paradise has moved from Hades to Heaven (Old and New Testament saints now joined).
- Sheol-Hades would now be empty
- Why the need for Sheol-Hades in the first place---
 - > O.T. sacrifices could not cover the people sins. Only the redeemed can be in Heaven. Christ's blood opened the door for union of the Pre-and post-Christ righteous

Christ's Sacrifice

- Christ's declaration on the cross, "It is finished" may very well have marked the end of Sheol-Hades in its original form. The redemptive work to unit God and His children had taken place. Some scholars believe Christ visited Hades and led all O.T. believers to heaven. Their debt had been paid.

Body States

- Read I Corinthians 15:52-53
- At first (after death) we receive a temporary body
- Read Luke 16:19-33. This temporary body (believer and non-believer) is conscious and recognizable. It can be comforted and tormented
- At the last trumpet we receive an incorruptible, resurrected body

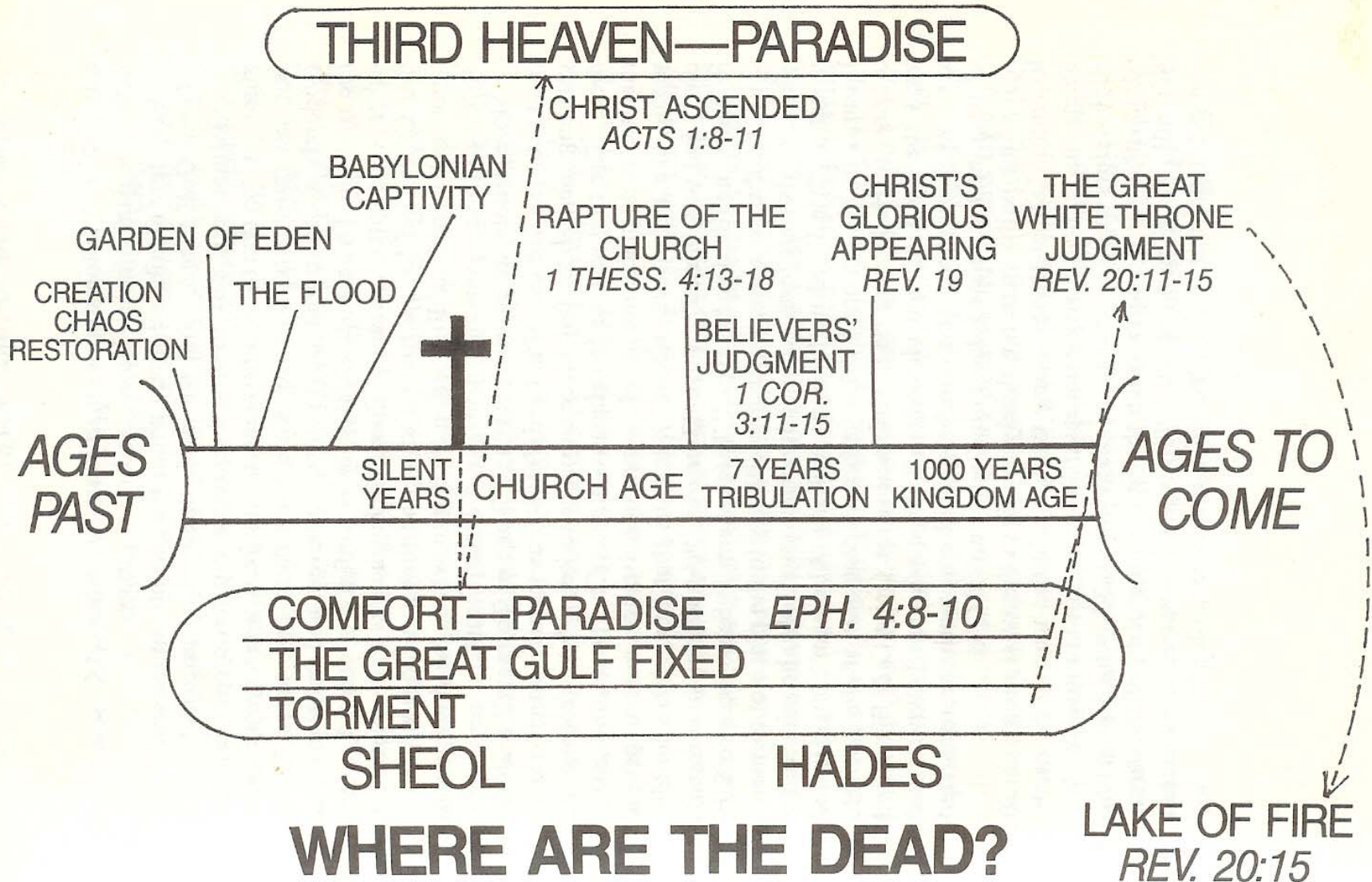
The Myth of Purgatory

- There is no Purgatory or a state of limbo. No such state is every described in the Bible
- No where does the Bible indicate a person can change their place of after death residence
- Read Isaiah 38:18. Once in torment- always in torment

Torment

- John 3:18. Condemnation to torment is man's own doing
- Luke 16:30 holds the key to prevention--REPENT!!!!

The Big Picture LaHaye, p 31



Heaven and Hell- Week 2

**“What every believer should know
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Questions from last week?

- Concepts introduced:
 - Basic terms (such as Sheol)
 - Differences between places of reward and punishment
 - Differences between O.T. and N.T. saints
 - Myths of purgatory, sleeplessness, soulless state
 - Judgment is final, without appeal



Jan Brueghel the Elder – *Aeneas and Sybil in the Underworld*

Estimate: £1,200,000-1,600,000

If they only knew-Hell!

- First mentioned in the N.T. by Jesus (Matthew 5:21) as a:
 - place of fire
- Anything we can do to prevent our damnation should be pursued (Matthew 5:29) as it is a:
 - place to be afraid of
 - place we will have form (bodies)

Hell

- Most people (Christian and non-believer alike) believe they will be going to Heaven (if there is such a place)
- However, the Bible gives a different view
- Matthew 7:13-14 indicates:
 - Entering Heaven is a personal decision
 - Many will chose the easy earthly life and miss the eternal life offered them

Hell

- Sin is the reason we are damned without salvation occurring:
 - Romans 3:23
 - Isaiah 59:2
- Hell is our automatic (default) destination unless we act. The choice is completely ours

Hell

- Hell is a real place, just like London or Chicago
 - Rev 20:12-15
 - John 5:28-29
- Hell will be a place of utter misery
 - Matthew 13:42
 - Matthew 13:50
 - Matthew 22:13
 - Matthew 24:51
 - Matthew 25:30

Hell

- We often hear people proudly claim their spot in Hell as some club for the unsaved where there will be some sort of civilized behavior and companionship, in fact,
- It will be a place of:
 - no mercy (torment)
 - no hope (no options)
 - no love (no savior)
 - no relief (eternity)
 - no community (fellowship)
 - no friends (no family)

Hell

- There will be no rehabilitation
- No comfort, remember it was not designed for man
- no rest day or night (Rev 14:11)
- no peace (Isaiah 57:20)
- eternal sorrow
- no things of earthly beauty or delight
- no water (Luke 16 and Lazarus's account)
- Intense pain and suffering (Matthew 13:31-32)

Hell

- Hell is not an equal opposite to Heaven.
 - It will be a footnote in eternity
 - Each person/being will suffer in individual torment

Hell

- Matthew 16:18. Hell is a place of gates. Why?
- To prevent the damned from getting out
- Matthew 23:33
 - Jesus holds the keys to these gates

Hell

- Luke 16:19-31 teaches us that:
 - the wicked immediately go to Hell and are in torment immediately
- they will see, feel, remember, cry and beg with the senses we understand

The Origin of Hell

- No indication it was created at Genesis (Gen 1:1). No mention of Hell,
- Why?
 - There was no need. Rebellion had no yet occurred
- Keep in mind, Hell was not prepared for man
- Prepared for Satan and his angles following their fall
- Might have been created immediately after the fall of Lucifer (Matthew 25:41: Jude 6

Satan's Origin

- Ezekial 28:11-13. Indicates:
 - a created being
 - given great responsibility (some say equal to or great than Gabriel and Michael)
 - a fallen angel

Satan's Sin

- The "I wills"
- Isaiah 14:12-15
 - Ego
 - Envy
 - Selfishness

Heaven and Hell-week 3

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Hell's Location

- Ephesians 4:8-10
 - Center of the earth? No authoritative text
- Psalm 16:9-10
 - The Messiah did not go to the torment side but the Paradise side of the afterworld
- Matthew 12:38-40
 - Jesus descended into the earth

Hell's Stink

- Revelation 9:1-2. It is a place of:
 - smoke
 - heat like a furnace
 - a place of awareness

Hell is an eternal place

- Matthew 25:46 reveals:
 - no sentencing period
 - no time off for good behavior
 - no clemency, ever
- Rev 20:11-15 reveals that:
 - formal sentencing takes place at the Great White Throne of Judgement

Hell is a differential place

- We each will be judged by our sins
- Matthew 11:20-24 suggests:
 - the degree to which one rejects Jesus and His ways will be accounted for
- Luke 12:47-48 indicates:
 - All will be punished, some more than others

What about those who have not heard the Word?

- II Timothy 4:1 shows Jesus will be a righteous judge
- Romans 1:18-21 reveals:
 - God's invisible Godhead are clearly seen in the universe
 - there is no place without God's presence
 - man adulterated God's presence and often worships the creation or the creature
 - man turned from God, not God from man

What about those who have not heard the Word?

- II Peter 2:21-22 reveals:
 - those who hear and not believe will be worse off than those who are ignorant
 - still all those not accepting Christ will be away from God (no heaven)

Degrees of punishment

- Hebrews 10:26-31
- rejecting Moses law is one thing
- rejecting Christ is another (far worse)

Punishment

- Salvation and punishment is a personal matter
- No one can share either
- The Lake of Fire and the second death are the same and represent the ultimate fate of the unbeliever.

Future Residents of Hell

- Satan
- Demons (fallen angels)
- the unbeliever
- the Satanic trinity (false prophet, anti-christ, Satan)

Residents of Hell

Satan

- Lucifer was esteemed among the heavens (Isaiah 14:12; Ezekial 28:11-19)
- Hell is not his current abode (II Corinthians 4:4)
- He is in charge of earthly beings
- Hell will be his future residence (Isaiah 14:12-15; Rev 19:20)

Residents of Hell

Fallen Angels/Demons

- Demons control some humans (Rev 12:7-12);
- Fallen Angels bound in Hell (II Peter 2:4)
- Demons must be in body form to operate (Matthew 12:43-45)
- Demons come in various wickedness (Matt 12:43-45)

Residents of Hell

Unbelievers

- John 8:44
- Ephesians 2:1-3

Residents of Hell

Satanic Trinity

- Devil, the Beast and the False Prophet
- Revelation 20:10; Matthew 25:41

Resurrection (Life after Death)

- We should expect to live eternally
- Job 19:25-27
- Daniel 12:2
- Hebrews 11:10

Resurrection (Life after Death)

- Jesus taught on the Resurrection
- John 5:25-29; Matthew 22:31-32
- Many N.T. accounts of people raised from the dead (Matthew 27:52-53; Acts 9:40-42)

Resurrection (Life after Death)

- Resurrection and the Second Coming of Christ mentioned **318** times in the N.T. Second only to salvation
- 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17
- Second coming and resurrection of Christ occur at the same time

Resurrection (Life after Death)

- Our resurrection is not dependent upon the dead state of our former bodies
- 1 Corinthians 15:35-44
- Cremated, dismembered or whole, it does not matter. God created you one time; He will re-create you the second time also.

Resurrection (Life after Death)

- What will our resurrected bodies look like?
- We will be like Christ (Phil 3:21)
- Real bodies (flesh and bones, no blood)
- Able to eat (Luke 24:41-43)
- Recognize each other (John 21:12)

Resurrection (Life after Death)

- Those previously dead and those at the Rapture will have the same type of body during the Millenium (1000 year reign of Christ)

The First Resurrection

- All Christians will eventually receive new bodies:
 - some at the Rapture
 - some during the Millennium
 - some after the Millennium
- But all in due order (I Corinthians 15:22-24)

The First Resurrection

- Christ was the first fruit
- Those who are Christ's during his coming will be:
 - Christians who have already died
 - Believers passing the tribulation
- O.T. saints and tribulation saints receive new bodies following the second coming of Christ (Rev 20:4)

The Second Resurrection

- First resurrection enables all believers from all time to have a new body like Christ's (I John 3:2)
- Second resurrection is reserved for the lost so that formal sentencing can be issuing

Heaven and Hell-week 4

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Judgements

- I Corinthians 3:14-15
- 2 Corinthians 5:10 Christians will be rewarded for their earthly actions
- Unbelievers will face the Great White Throne and sentencing
- First resurrection reserved for Christians (2 Corinthians 5:8)
- Second resurrection reserved for unbelievers (Rev 20:6)

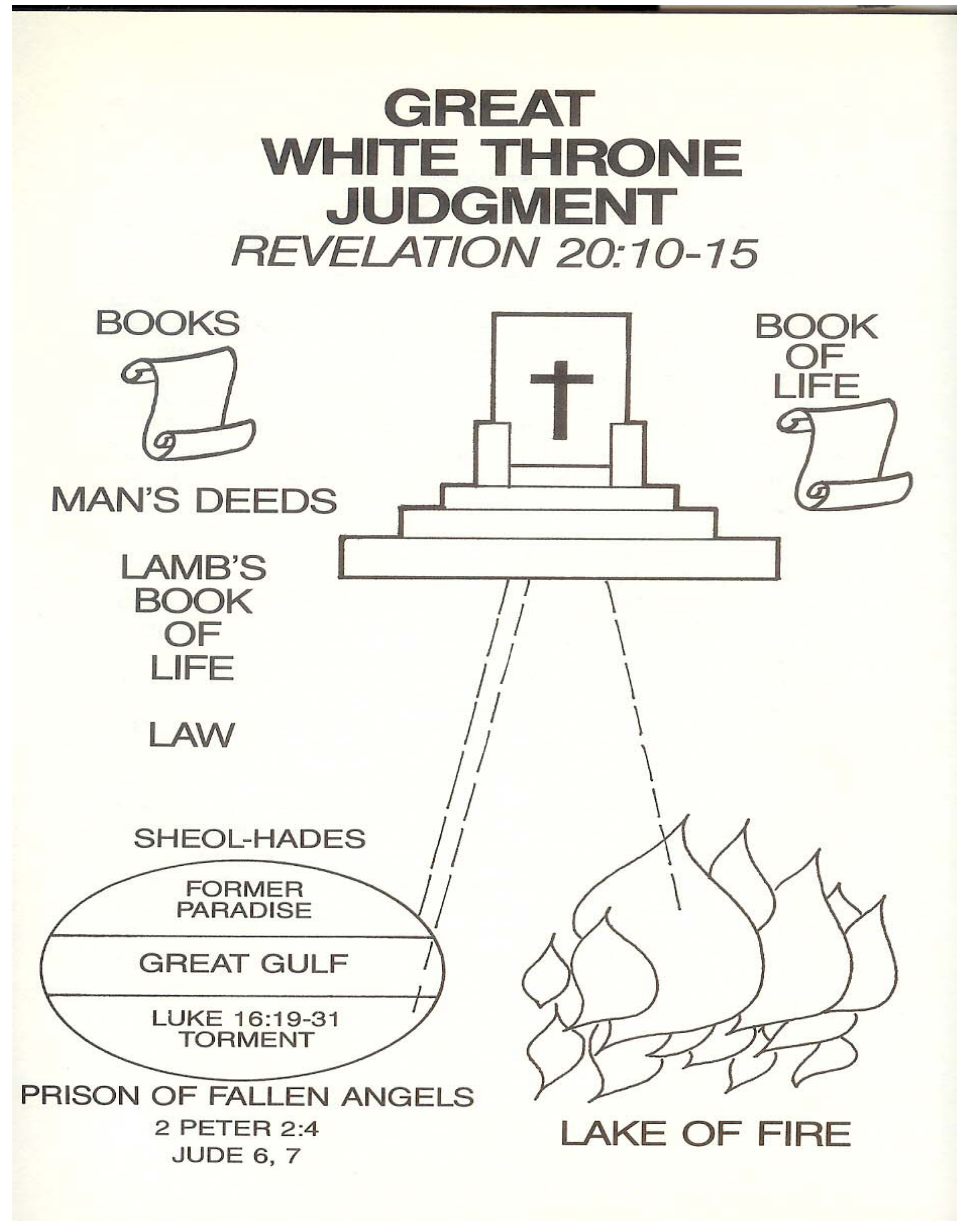
The Great White Throne

- Fully described in Rev 20:11-15
- Unbelievers judged by their works
- Earthly deeds were recorded in the book of deeds
- Judgement occurs after the Millennium
- A Christian's salvation is recorded in the Book of Life and never encounters this throne
- Note: every good and bad work is recorded for a Christian in an unnamed set of books

The Great White Throne

- Earthly position will not matter-Rev 20:12
 - some will be surprised (Matt 7:21-23)
 - Only those born again will be saved (John 3:3)
- Revelation 20:13 teaches that a physical resurrection with eternal life occurs for the believer

The Big Picture On the Thrones LaHaye, p 88



The Books of Life

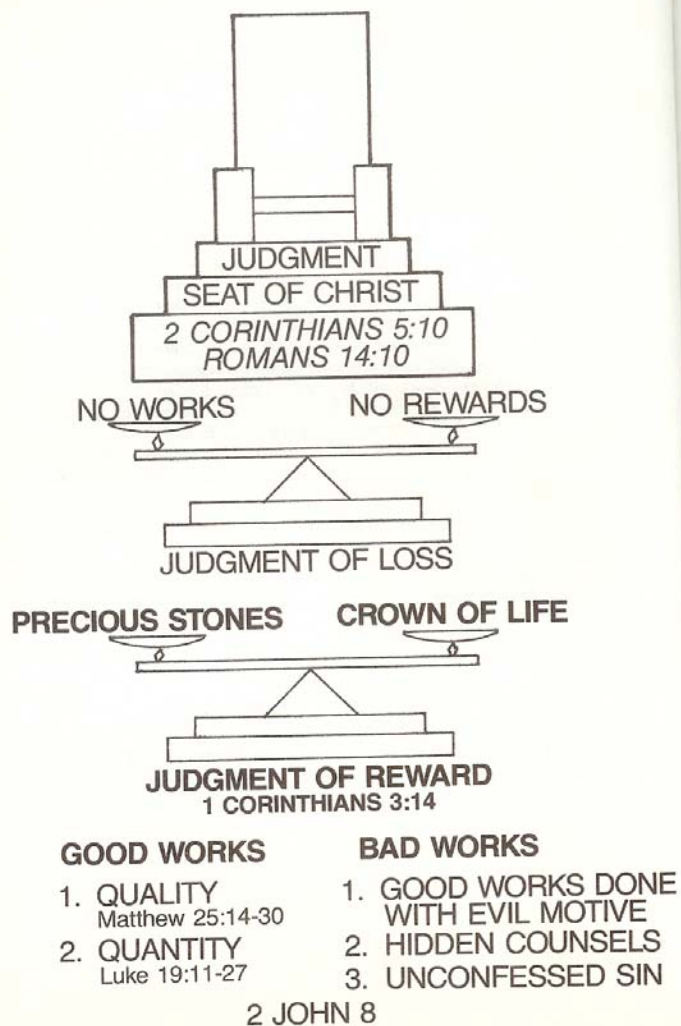
- Book of Life referred to in O.T. 8X (Psalm 69:28)
- Probably includes all who ever lived (Exodus 32:33)
- Lamb's Book of Life records those who accepted Him (Rev 3:5)

Christians will be judged

- For kingdom works such as:
- witnessing (Matt 5:16)
- worshipping (Matt 26:7-10)
- generosity (1 Timothy 6:18)
- kindness (Matt 10:42)

The Big Picture On Judgements LaHaye, p 54

JUDGMENT OF THE BELIEVERS



Rewards will be based on

- Quantity (Luke 19:11-27)
- Quality (Matt 25:14-30)
- Time (Rev 2:10)

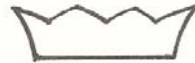
- Quantity + Quality + Faithful service = rewards
(like the parable of)
- Pounds + Talents + Time = reward

Loss of Rewards

- Bad works (I Corinthians 3:15)
- Good works-poor motives (Matt 6:2)
- Hidden counsels (1 Corinthians 4:5)
- Unconfessed sin (I John 1:9)

The Big Picture On Rewards LaHaye, p 62

JUDGMENT OF REWARD



CROWN OF
REJOICING

1 THESSALONIANS 2:19, 20

CROWN OF GLORY

1 PETER 5:4

INCORRUPTIBLE
CROWN

1 CORINTHIANS 9:25

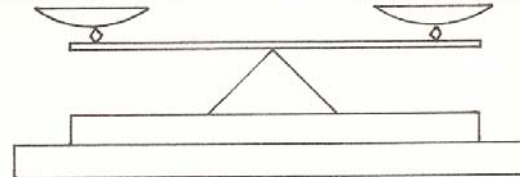
CROWN OF
RIGHTEOUSNESS

2 TIMOTHY 4:8

PRECIOUS STONES

CROWN OF LIFE

REVELATION 2:10



1 CORINTHIANS 3:14
**“WELL DONE, THOU GOOD
AND FAITHFUL SERVANT”**

Rewards

- Silver symbolic of redemption (witnessing)
- Gold symbolic of good works
- Precious stones symbolic of the fruit of those we witnessed to

Crowns of Reward

- Righteousness (2 Timothy 4:8)
- Given to those living a holy and righteous life while awaiting Christ's return

Crowns of Reward

- Incorruptible Crown (I Corinthians (:25-27)
- The "Victor's crown"
- Given to those who master their own body and its actions
- Given to those who sacrifice comfort and pleasure to serve God

Crowns of Reward

- Crown of Life (James 1:12)
- The “Martyr’s crown”
- Given to those who suffered much yet had maintained an uncompromising Godly nature

Crowns of Reward

- Crown of Rejoicing (I Thessalonians 2:19)
- The “Soul Winner’s crown”
- Reserved for those who evangelize

Crowns of Reward

- Crown of Glory (I Peter 5:1,4)
- The “Shepherd’s crown”
- Given to those who give their lives in sharing and teaching God’s Word

Purpose of the Crowns

- Symbols of authority
- Granted during the Millennial reign
- Individual can “wear” multiples crowns at that time based on their reward

Loss of Crowns

- Revelation 3:11
- Means that we are called to serve Christ our entire lives and not back slide in our efforts
- Lack of continued effort/dedication=loss of rewards previously won!!!!!!

Other Rewards

- Peter listed positional awards we may inherit:
- (All) - Praise (I Corinthians 5:4)
- (Some) - Honor (John 12 :26)
- (Less) - Glory (1 Peter 4:12-14)
- (Less) - Position (Matt 25:21)

Other Rewards

- Some Christians will receive:
- special entrance into the Kingdom of God (2 Peter 1:11)
- special access to the tree of life (Rev 2:7)
- special treatment by Christ (Luke 12:37)

Heaven and Hell-week 5

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First and Second Heaven

- The existing Heaven will remain for 1000 years following the tribulation
- New Heaven and a New Earth will follow (Rev 21:1-2)

First and Second Heaven

- The new city is described as:
 - 1500 miles long, wide, high
 - Home to all God's children
 - Being built (created) by Christ even now

Heavenly Specifics

- How old will we be-no information
- Will there be animals-some say not, others disagree
- Will there be marriage-not as we know
- What will we do there: serve, reign, rest, feast
- Are Christians in present Heaven aware of us (maybe- Rev 6:10)

Heaven-Why some don't get excited

- Misconceptions about what it will be like
 - floating on clouds, playing harps
 - lack of desire relative to present earthly pleasures
 - thinking about it with out present soul

First Heaven (intermediate)

- Temporary abode
- an angelic place (not of this earth)
- temporary bodies
- God resides in His own area

Second Heaven (New)

- Ultimate eternal abode for us all
- human realm (earth like)
- resurrected, perfected bodies
- God will dwell with man

Resurrected Bodies

- Elijah, Enoch, Moses
- Enoch-Gen 5:24 never died
- Elijah- 2 Kings 2:11-12
- Moses, Elijah present at the transfiguration. What does this all mean?

Resurrected Bodies

- Indicates God removed “curse” from their bodies, or
- Gave them new bodies, or
- Temporary (earth-like bodies) will be present in the intermediate heaven

Life in the Intermediate Heaven

- Rev 6:9-11. This reveals:
- believers go to heaven after death
- we don't lose our identity in heaven
- our old lives accompany us (memories or at least some of them)
- we will be recognized by others
- communication will be possible, maybe speech
- we will be rational, emotional

Life in the Intermediate Heaven

- Rev 6:9-11. This reveals:
- a place of unified thoughts
- awareness of happenings on Earth
- Direct communication with God
- Close proximity to God
- Indignant about injustice
- Recognition of good versus evil in the world

Life in the Intermediate Heaven

- God's attributes will be seen first hand
- prayer given to those undergoing earthly trials
- individuality/physicality
- even in Heaven we will not know everything
- Our requests will be fulfilled in due time
- Awareness of time passing
- There is a family relationship
- God is aware of the smallest detail happening on earth

Life in the Intermediate Heaven

- We will remember:
- events on Earth (Luke 16:25)
- our actions (2 Corinthians 5:10)

Life in the Intermediate Heaven

- Observing events on earth:
 - Rev 18:20 (yes it occurs)
 - Rev 19:1-5
 - 1 Samuel 28:16-19
 - Luke 15:7

Life in the Intermediate Heaven

- Praying for us:
 - Revelation 6:10

Earth is waiting to be renewed

–God's original plan did not include a cursed earth

- Romans 8:22
- Isaiah 11:7
- Isaiah 62:11
- Isaiah 65:17-19

How will the Old Earth be destroyed?

- Psalm 102:25-26
- 2 Peter 3:10
- Rev 21:1
- I Corinthians 3:12-15
- God does not have to totally destroy the present earth. Some scholars think the best translations mean “reborn, laid bare, renewed”

Life in the New Earth

- Eden was not destroyed but put off limits
- Jesus is preparing a New Heaven/New Earth (Isaiah 65:17; John 14:2-3)
- While it can't be fully described, it can be pondered based upon the current earth:
 - a city (Hebrews 11:10)
 - a country (Hebrews 11:16)
 - Earth-like (Rev 21-22)
 - Materials we know (jewels, water, trees, light, smoke, streets)

Life in the New Earth

- Present earth was cursed by sin. Now God acts to restore it to perfection (renewal)- Matthew 19:28
- Man was meant to be earthbound (Eden) where he could glorify God. Why should we expect New Earth to be something so different?
 - Psalm 102:15-16
 - Isaiah 66:19-20
 - Acts 3:21.
- Isaiah 60:5 refers to ships, animals, goods, trees. This may be a Millennial reference

A Righteous New Earth

- Revelation 21:27
- Isaiah 60:21
- A curse free life (Revelation 22:3)
- Ours as an inheritance (Matthew 25:34)
- Real property/real land
- Unity with Heaven (truly Heaven on Earth)
 - Ephesians 1:10
 - Revelation 21:3

We will reign on the New Earth

- Satan currently reigns on this earth
- Christ will reign on the New Heaven (I Corinthians 15:28)

Our Perfected Bodies

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| – Earthly bodies | – New Earth Bodies |
| ■ subject to the curse | ■ raised non-cursed |
| ■ born imperfect | ■ raised in perfection |
| ■ subject to weakness | ■ raised full of power |
| ■ born with a natural body | ■ raised with a spiritual body |

1 Corinthians 15:44

A real body with supernatural abilities

Heaven and Hell-week 6

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Assumptions about New Heaven

– We assume

- Non-earth.....
- Unfamiliar.....
- disembodied.....
- Foreign.....
- leaving everything behind...
- no time/space.....
- Static.....
- Strange.....
- Boring.....
- full of knowledge.....
- loss of desire.....
- absence of evil but lacking..
little of the things we
presently desire

– Bible says

- New Earth
- earth-like
- resurrected bodies
- home
- good with be retained
- time and space will exist
- full of action
- containing old and new features
- friends, work, worship, God, Christ
- a place of learning
- fulfillment of Godly desires
- presence of the wonderful

What will it mean to see God?

- Our greatest desire (Psalm 63:1)
- Our hope (Rev 22:4)
- Our reward (Matt 5:8)
- We shall recognize Christ (I John 3:2)

****Keep in mind that Heaven is about God.
He is the focus!

Unification

- Heaven and Earth will be unified
- No longer two universes
 - one for God and the angels
 - one for man
- Ephesians 1:10

Unification

- Intermediate Heaven will come to earth
- Hebrews 11:16
- Access to God is eternally of benefit
 - Presence of God=heaven
 - Absence of God=Hell

The Trinity

- The Trinity will still exist
- John 16:7 (indwell)
- Judges 3:10 (empower)
- John 16:14 (help us worship)

How will we worship?

- We need to put aside feelings eternal worship will be boring (Rev 5:13-14)
- Worship will be different than today's convention: no church building, no service-it will be spontaneous (Rev 21:22)
- Everything we will do will be an act of worship
- We will not be robots in our actions (Matt 16:25)
- Consider this: We were made for a person (Christ) and a place (heaven). We will be fully at peace, full of love, adoration and excitement.
- Service will be a reward (Rev 7:14-15)

How will we reign-The New Earth

- Jesus will be our King (Psalm 2:9)
- We were created to be in authority (Rev 5:10; Psalm 25:13)
- Delegation example now exists : God the Father, the Son, angels (Jude 1:9)
 - we should expect no less in Heaven
- Perfection of leadership will occur (Daniel 7:14)
- We will have specific duties (1 Corinthians 6:2-3)
- Duties based on our present lives (Luke 16:10)
- Envy of position, selfish ambition, slackness, greed, pettiness. There will be need to “get to the top” or stay ahead of the Joneses”
- We need to throw away our concept of good government and authority (Luke 22:29-30)
- You will have authority as was intended (Genesis 1:26-28)
- We need not fear being leaders. God has created you specifically for a role. It will be your dream calling (Daniel 7:27)

The Kingdom will increase!

- It will not be a static situation (Isaiah 9:7).
This may mean:
 - expanding into previously ungoverned territories, or
 - creating new territories (with new worlds and creatures)
- Think of the billion of stars and planets.
Imagine our role in shaping them to glorify God.
- God is a creator. We should not be amazed that creation might resume or multiply greatly in the Kingdom.

Questions often asked...

- What will Heaven look like?
 - Cities, nations, geographical places (probably not exactly Eden but certainly will have some Eden qualities), earth features of some sort
- If we thought some feature on earth was marvelous-expect similar features in New Heaven to be even more so.

Questions often asked...

- What about the New Jerusalem?
- It will be a place of streets, buildings, people, much activity
- The center of Heaven. Its walls would run from Canada to Mexico and Asheville to California
- Existing as a a 1400 mile cube, it could easily have 600,000 (12 foot stories)
- Easily hold billions of people having many square miles per person

Questions often asked...

–Why will there be gates?

- Rev 21:12-13
- Gates will exist, be guarded, but be open (no enemies will be present)
- Reminds us that we have full access to God
- That there will be reasons for us to come and go

Questions often asked...

–What will New Jerusalem be like?

- Beyond present day measure (Rev 21:11)
- Bling, Bling, Bling!!!! (Rev 21:21)

Questions often asked...

- What about the River and Tree of Life?
- Flows down from the throne (Rev 22:1-2)
- Water needed for nature, maybe even necessary for us
- Fruit bearing (Rev 22:2)
- First mentioned in Genesis 2. Is currently in Intermediate Heaven (Rev 2:7)
- Death entered man when he could not longer eat of this fruit in Eden. Conversely, we should believe this tree and its fruit will be for our benefit in Heaven
- Fruit will not be for show, but consumed-12 crops (Ezekiel 47:12)
- Tree will be on both sides of the River, thus we might expect there will be multiple trees with different fruits

Questions often asked...

– What about time? Yes it will exist in some fashion.

- 2 Peter 3:8
- Luke 15:7
- Genesis 8:22
- Rev 8:1
- Isaiah 66:22-23
- We should not think of time as our enemy⁶.
The curse made it our enemy- but not in Heaven.

Questions often asked...

–Will there be oceans in Heaven?

- Some say Isaiah 60:5 refers to their presence-some say this is just a millennial reference.

Heaven and Hell-week 7

**“What every believer should know
-What every unbeliever should fear”**

Ron Williams

University of Life

Ridgecrest Baptist Church

Questions often asked...

–Will we become angels?

- No, a thousand times no!
- Humans will govern angels (I Corinthians 6:2-3)
- They have already begun serving us (Matt 18:10)
- We can expect them to fill us in on all that really happened (or did not happen to us) relative to their protection and intercession

Questions often asked...

– Will we run out of desire

- No, No, a thousand times no!
- do you look forward to your next vacation
- Do you look forward to seeing your friends/children
- Do you look forward to your next meal
- Do you enjoy reading the scriptures and spending time with the Master
 - We should expect to be fulfilled yet looking forward to the next pleasure (Psalm 37:4)

Questions often asked...

– Will there be different races?

- Yes (Rev 5:9)

- But only one people!

– Will there be gender?

- Yes. We should expect this. Just as Christ remained in male form following his resurrection.

- The Bible never mentions the names of any female angels so maybe angels are male only

Questions often asked...

- How old will we be in Heaven?
- There is no direct teaching but there is no mention of babies and only adults are shown as examples

Questions often asked...

– What about the food?

- Manna referred to as “bread of the angels” (Psalm 78:25)
- Lake side meal showed that the resurrected Christ could take in food. Was it necessary- we don't know (John 21:4-14)
- Jesus spoke of having drink in his kingdom (Luke 22:18)
- Angels have spoken of a great feast (Rev 19:9). The word “feast” specifically relates to having a meal, does not appear symbolic

Questions often asked...

- Will there be meat in Heaven?
- Some believe meat was not consumed until after the fall of man (Genesis (:3)
- Therefore, maybe in a non-cursed world (with no death), animals if they exist will not be a source of food
- However, Ezekial 47:9-10 points to the catching of fish (may be a millennial reference)
- Bottom line- not fully described

Questions often asked...

– Can we sin in Heaven?

- The old order of man will be cast away (Rev 21:4)
- Sin will no longer be in our nature (Hebrews 10:14)
- Christ's death secured a sin-less heaven (Hebrews 9:26)
- *****We will not want to sin because we will will recognize God's love for us and all temptation to sin will be gone!!!!!!

Questions often asked...

– Will we know everything?

- Only God is omniscient
- We will have a fuller understanding on everything-but not like God (1 Corinthians 13:12)
- We will be learning from the Master (Ephesians 2:6-7)
- Learning about God and His creation will be an ongoing eternal process and totally enjoyable

Questions often asked...

- Will there be earth-written books in Heaven
 - Certainly the Bible (Matt 24:35)
 - Book of the Lamb, Book of Life
 - No information on others. Consider this-- they would have to be perfect to be in Heaven. Is there a perfect book other than the Bible that we have access to?

Questions often asked...

- What will a “day” in Heaven be like?
- Rest. God rested after creation (Genesis 2:2)
- Revelation 14:13-defines a place of rest
- Question-Why do you work now?

<u>Now</u>	<u>God will provide</u>
food	✓
clothes	✓
housing	✓
education	✓
lesisure	✓
medical	✓

Questions often asked...

–Will we sleep?

- No Bible reference

Questions often asked...

- Yes, there will be work
- God is the example (John 5:17)
- Adam and Eve worked (Genesis 2:15)
- God already has your job lined up (Matt 25:23)
- Don't consider work in Heaven to be a negative because:
 - our work will be fully pleasureable
 - will fit our pre-heaven experiences and personalities
 - 100% devoted to glorifying God

Questions often asked...

– Consider this. Maybe your job in Heaven will be:

- governing a city
- landscaping an entire area (or planet)
- gardening under perfect conditions
- making delicious food and drink
- building entire cities
- writing books on Heaven, think of the topics to be covered
- creating new hymns
- Every good thing you are has been given to you now to be used by God in Heaven

Questions often asked...

- What cul-de-sac will I live on?
- God has promised us a place to live (John 14:1-2)
- We should expect it to be varied, as God loves variation (Isaiah 65:21)
- It will be familiar to some degree (Isaiah 65:21-may be a millennial reference)

Questions often asked...

– What about family?

- Not earthly marriage as we now recognize (Matt 22:30)
 - Christ will be our spouse- a perfect marriage

- What does a spouse normally provide? Christ will provide:
 - love
 - encouragement
 - necessities
 - resources
 - fulfillment

Questions often asked...

- What about family?
- Earthly relationships were but a shadow of things to come.
- We will surely recognize our earth family
- A new family (Mark 10:29-30)
- We will be reunited (I Thess 4:13-18)
- Instantly know others (Luke 9:23-33) with the example of Moses and Elijah

Questions often asked...

– What about sex?

- Sex on earth was for both procreation and pleasure
- Single most intimate act between husband and wife
- There will be no man-woman marriage in heaven (Matthew 22:30)
- Therefore, we should expect our perfect relationship with Christ to **overflow** our need for any physical intimacy. Our every longing will be fulfilled.

Questions often asked...

- Will we be reunited with non-professing infants and young children?
 - The Bible never speaks of an “age of accountability”
 - However, the Bible clearly teaches God’s love for the young (Matthew 18:10)
 - and their unknowing praise of Him (Matthew 21:16) indicating His love for them

Questions often asked...

– Will there be equality in Heaven?

- We will be fully and equally loved by God
- Each of us will be unique and given a special name (Rev 2:17)
- However, we will be rewarded differently based upon your earthly life (2 Corinthians 5:10)

Questions often asked...

– Will there be animals in Heaven?

- God created animals and originally gave man dominion over them (Gen 1:28)
- Heaven will have animals during at least the millennium (Isaiah 11:6-9)
- God cares about animals (Numbers 22:32-33)
- Earthly animals praise God (Psalm 148:10-13)
- What about our pets?
 - Some debate the “soul” issue of animals and their resurrection to be present on the new earth. God might:
 - create new animals of existing types
 - re-create earthly animals
 - create brand new animal types
- If so, we might expect these animals to also be removed from the curse and be more intelligent and probably able to understand them

Questions often asked...

–Will I get bored in Heaven?

- It is a mistake to consider that sin = enjoyment and the absence of sin = boredom (Psalm 16:11). We will have a completely new mindset (literally the mind of Christ)!!!

Questions often asked...

–We can expect to:

- sing and enjoy music (Rev 14:2-3)
- tell stories about Christ (John 21:25)
- laugh (Luke 6:21)
- sports (without man's sin state)?
- Continually expand who we are and our experiences, so that we:
 - never have a bad day, never reach our peak, never regret, never fail, never be sorrowful, never hurt, never cry, never stumble, never sin, never.....

Well, what else?

–We can expect to:

- sing and enjoy music (Rev 14:2-3)
- tell stories about Christ (John 21:25)
- laugh (Luke 6:21)
- sports (without man's sin state)?
- Continually expand who we are and our experiences, so that we:
 - never have a bad day, never reach our peak, never regret, never fail, never be sorrowful, never hurt, never cry, never stumble, never sin, never.....

Well, what have we learned?

- be looking forward to it
- no need to hold on to anything in this world-not worth the trade!!
- Life here is a run-up to our real life. We are only practicing
- Joy here is but a shadow of the joy we will experience
- make sure your friends, relatives, others don't miss out on the greatest adventure ever. It is waiting for us!!!

Questions often asked...

–Concerning the kingdom...

- Only one central government (Rev 5:9-10)
- A common language (Rev 7:10)
- God will reverse Bable (Genesis 11:1-6) or,
- the ability to understand all languages (Acts 2:11). In some manner we will fully be able to communicate with each other