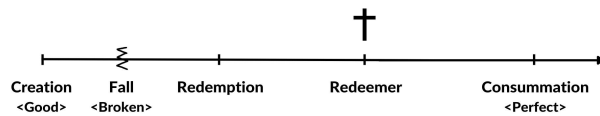


Heaven and Hell: Life after Life after Death

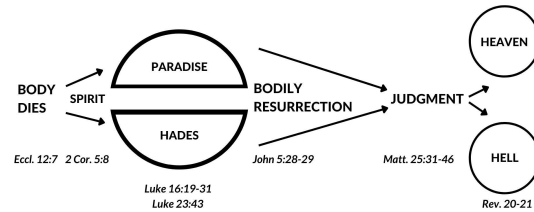
Revelation 20:11-21:8

Lord's Day, April 24, 2022 | Jason Finley, Lead Pastor for Equipping

THE STORYLINE OF SCRIPTURE



ETERNITY



BIG IDEA: God will be glorified in bringing final retribution in hell and perfect restoration in heaven.

Our eternal state is a matter of ultimate consequence.

4 dangerous approaches to this topic:

1. Arrogance

Job 38:1-2 | “¹ Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind and said: ² ‘Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge?’”

Romans 9:20 | “But who are you, O man, to answer back to God? Will what is molded say to its molder, ‘Why have you made me like this?’”

“We have turned to a God that we can use rather than to a God we must obey; we have turned to a God who will fulfill our needs rather than to a God before whom we must surrender our rights to ourselves...And so we transform the God of mercy into a God who is at our mercy. We imagine that he is benign...and if the sunshine of his benign grace fails to warm us as we expect, if he fails to shower prosperity and success on us, we will find ourselves unable to believe in him anymore...It is our fallenness fleshed-out in our modernity that makes God smooth, that imagines he will accommodate our instincts, shabby and self-centered as they so often are.” -David Wells

2. Speculation

3. Emotionalism

Revelation 22:6 | “These words are trustworthy and true.”

4. Short-sightedness

Jesus spoke of hell more frequently than he spoke on heaven and love.

I. Hell: Place of final retribution where the unrighteous receive eternal, conscious torment (20:11-15, 21:8)

Common Misconceptions of Hell:

- Universalism
- Annihilationism
- Conditional Immortality
- Devil's playground
- Joke

Romans 1:18-20 | “¹⁸ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. ¹⁹ For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. ²⁰ For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.”

Romans 2:5 | “But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed.”

1. Lake of Fire (20:13-15; 21:8)

Revelation 20:13-15 | “¹³ And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done. ¹⁴ Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. ¹⁵ And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire...”

Revelation 21:8 | “But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.”

2. Banishment from God's Presence

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.’”

Matthew 25:46 | “And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

3. Eternal, Conscious Torment

Revelation 14:10-11 | “¹⁰ he also will drink the wine of God's wrath, poured full strength into the cup of his anger, and he will be tormented with fire and sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. ¹¹ And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever, and they have no rest, day or night,”

II. Heaven: Place of perfect restoration where the redeemed receive blessing in the fullness of God's glorious presence (21:1-7)

Common Misconceptions of Heaven:

- Spirit-beings, body-less orbs
- Jesus-less pleasure
- Pleasure-less Jesus

1. Perfect Place: New Heavens and New Earth

Revelation 21:1-2 | “¹ 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. ² And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.”

Revelation 21:5 | “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.’”

Romans 8:18-25 | “¹⁸ For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. ²³ And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.”

2. Perfect Presence of God

Revelation 21:3, 7 | “³ 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’...⁷ and I will be his God and he will be my son.”

Revelation 22: 3-5 | “³ No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. ⁴ They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. ⁵ And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.”

3. Perfect Peace in God's Consummated Kingdom

Revelation 21:4-5 | “⁴ ‘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.’ ⁵ 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.’”

Revelation 22:1-2 | “¹ Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ² through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.”

Isaiah 65:25 | “The wolf and the lamb shall graze together; the lion shall eat straw like the ox, and dust shall be the serpent’s food. They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain,’ says the Lord.”

4. Perfect Provision and Satisfaction

Revelation 21:6 | “And he said to me, ‘It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment.’”

Psalms 16:11 | “You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.”

“All their life in this world and all their adventures in Narnia had only been the cover and the title page: now at last they were beginning Chapter One of the Great Story which no one on earth has read: which goes on forever: in which every chapter is better than the one before.”
– C. S. Lewis, *The Last Battle* [*The Chronicles of Narnia*]

III. Implications of life after life after death

1. Hope

John 14:1-6 | “¹ Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ² In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. ⁴ And you know the way to where I am going.” ⁵ Thomas said to him, ‘Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?’ ⁶ Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.’”

2. Hope-motivated maturity

2 Peter 3:11, 13, 18 | “¹¹ Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness...¹³ But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells...¹⁸ But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”

1 Timothy 4:7-8 | “...train yourself for godliness; ⁸ for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.”

3. Hope-motivated forgiveness

Matthew 18:32-35 | “³² Then his master summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴ And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. ³⁵ So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”

4. Hope-motivated mission

Revelation 22:17 | “The Spirit and the Bride say, ‘Come.’ And let the one who hears say, ‘Come.’ And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price.”

- Prayer
- Share the Good News
- Give/Send to the greatest cause in the world
- Go on mission

Benediction

1 Peter 1:3-5

Leader: ³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!

All: According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

Leader: ⁴ to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you,

All: ⁵ who by God’s power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

“This is My Father’s World”

Maltbie Babcock, 1901

This is my Father's world:

O let me ne'er forget

That though the wrong seems oft so strong,

God is the Ruler yet.

This is my Father's world:

Why should my heart be sad?

The Lord is King: let the heavens ring!

God reigns; let earth be glad!