

Jesus was clear that Hell is real, Heaven is real, He came to rescue us, and He will return!

Problem: Approximately 38% of American Christians do not believe in hell, based on data indicating 62% believe in its existence. While belief in hell is highest among evangelical Protestants (91%), overall, nearly 3 in 10 Americans do not believe in hell or the devil, a figure that has risen recently, according to the [Gallup Poll](#).

(... if we don't see to believe in hell, we don't need salvation and eternal life)

Luke 16:19–31 (NLT) *Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus*

<sup>19</sup> Jesus said, “There was a certain rich man who was splendidly clothed in purple and fine linen and who lived each day in luxury. <sup>20</sup> At his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus who was covered with sores. <sup>21</sup> As Lazarus lay there longing for scraps from the rich man’s table, the dogs would come and lick his open sores.

<sup>22</sup> “Finally, the poor man died and was carried by the angels to sit beside Abraham at the heavenly banquet. The rich man also died and was buried, <sup>23</sup> and he went to the place of the dead. There, in torment, he saw Abraham in the far distance with Lazarus at his side.

<sup>24</sup> “The rich man shouted, ‘Father Abraham, have some pity! Send Lazarus over here to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue. I am in anguish in these flames.’

<sup>25</sup> “But Abraham said to him, ‘Son, remember that during your lifetime you had everything you wanted, and Lazarus had nothing. So now he is here being comforted, and you are in anguish. <sup>26</sup> And besides, there is a great chasm separating us. No one can cross over to you from here, and no one can cross over to us from there.’

<sup>27</sup> “Then the rich man said, ‘Please, Father Abraham, at least send him to my father’s home. <sup>28</sup> For I have five brothers, and I want him to warn them so they don’t end up in this place of torment.’

<sup>29</sup> “But Abraham said, ‘Moses and the prophets have warned them. Your brothers can read what they wrote.’

<sup>30</sup> “The rich man replied, ‘No, Father Abraham! But if someone is sent to them from the dead, then they will repent of their sins and turn to God.’

<sup>31</sup> “But Abraham said, ‘If they won’t listen to Moses and the prophets, they won’t be persuaded even if someone rises from the dead.’ ”

Jesus was clear that 1.) Hell is real, 2.) Heaven is real, 3.) He came to rescue us, and 4.) He will return!

## 1. [Hell is Real.](#)

Jesus spoke about hell (often termed Gehenna or Hades) more than any other person in the Bible, with references appearing over 70 times in the New Testament, many from Jesus himself. He described it primarily as a place of fiery torment, "outer darkness", and "weeping and gnashing of teeth".

**Key Facts on Jesus and Hell:**

- **Frequency:** Estimates vary, but many sources note that Jesus discussed hell over 70 times, often to warn of coming judgment.
- **Key Contexts:** Jesus frequently mentioned hell during the Sermon on the Mount and parables regarding judgment, particularly in the Gospel of Matthew.
- **Terms Used:** He referred to it as "hell of fire", "eternal fire", and "unquenchable fire"
- **Purpose:** While warnings were direct, the primary focus was often on God's judgment and the need to follow Him to avoid it.

While some debate the exact count depending on whether parallel passages are counted separately, it is widely recognized that Jesus spoke on this subject frequently

Jesus spoke extensively about hell—often using the term *Gehenna* (a burning dump outside Jerusalem) to describe a real place of final, conscious judgment, eternal fire, and separation from God. His descriptions included vivid imagery of "unquenchable fire", "outer darkness," and "weeping and gnashing of teeth".

#### Key Scriptures Where Jesus Mentions Hell (Gehenna/Eternal Fire):

- **Matthew 5:22:** "...whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be in danger of hell fire [Gehenna]".
- **Matthew 5:29-30:** Better to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.
- **Matthew 10:28:** "Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell".
- **Matthew 18:9:** Warning about being thrown into hell fire.
- **Matthew 23:33:** "You snakes, you brood of vipers! How will you escape being sentenced to hell?".
- **Matthew 25:41:** "Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels".
- **Mark 9:43-48:** Repeatedly refers to hell as a place "where their worm does not die and the fire is not quenched".
- **Luke 12:5:** "...fear him who, after he has killed, has authority to cast into hell".

#### Other Warnings of Judgment Used by Jesus:

- **Matthew 8:12, 22:13, 25:30:** "Outer darkness," "weeping and gnashing of teeth".
- **Matthew 13:41-42, 50:** "Fiery furnace".
- **Luke 16:19-31:** The story of the rich man and Lazarus, depicting torment and agony after death.

Jesus doesn't only reference hell, he describes it in great detail. He says it is a place of eternal torment ([Luke 16:23](#)), of unquenchable fire ([Mark 9:43](#)), where the worm does not die ([Mark 9:48](#)), where people will gnash their teeth in anguish and regret ([Matt. 13:42](#)), and from which there is no return, even to warn loved ones ([Luke 16:19-31](#)). He calls hell a place of "outer darkness" ([Matt. 25:30](#)), comparing it to "Gehenna" ([Matt. 10:28](#)), which was a trash dump outside the walls of Jerusalem where rubbish was burned and maggots abounded. Jesus talks about hell more than he talks about heaven, and describes it more vividly. There's no denying that Jesus knew, believed, and warned about the absolute reality of hell.

#### Reason for Hell

Jesus has to talk about hell because it is the fate that awaits all people apart from him. Because of Adam's sin, we're all guilty and deserve God's eternal punishment. Contrary to popular belief, hell is not a place where God sends those who have been especially bad; it's our default destination. We need a rescuer or we stand condemned.

So we're left with two options: stay in our state of depravity and be eternally punished, or submit to the Savior and accept his gift of redemption.

## 2. Heaven is Real

Jesus frequently described heaven as his Father's house, a place of prepared rooms, eternal reward, and the ultimate destination for believers, mentioning it over 70 times in Matthew alone. Key teachings include describing it as a place where he will live with disciples (John 14:1-3), a paradise (Luke 23:43), and the realm where angels see the Father (Matthew 18:10).

Here are key scriptures where Jesus speaks directly about heaven:

- **John 14:1-3:** "In my Father's house are many rooms... I am going there to prepare a place for you... I will come back and take you to be with me..."
- **John 14:6:** "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me".
- **Luke 23:43:** "Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise".
- **Matthew 6:19-20:** Encourages storing "treasures in heaven" rather than on earth.
- **Matthew 5:12:** "Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven".
- **Matthew 18:10:** "...in heaven their angels always see the face of My Father who is in heaven".

. **Jesus invites everyone to spend eternity in heaven with Him.**

"Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes may have eternal life in Him" ([John 3:14-15](#)).

Heaven isn't reserved for a select few. It's open to everyone who will put their trust in Jesus.

Jesus described heaven as a tangible, real, and eternal place—the "Father's house"—offering intimate communion, reunion, and joyous rewards. Key, actionable, and specific details include:

- **A Prepared Home:** Jesus promises he is preparing a place for believers, referred to as "many rooms" or "mansions" in his Father's house.
- **Intimate Presence:** Heaven is primarily characterized by being with Jesus.
- **A Place of Abundance:** Described as a banquet or a paradise where joy is restored.
- **Eternal Life:** A kingdom with no death, sorrow, or pain.

**Key Scriptural Descriptions from Jesus:**

- **"My Father's house"** (John 14:2): A secure, familial dwelling place.
- **"Paradise"** (Luke 23:43): Described to the thief on the cross, highlighting it as a place of immediate joy after death.
- **"Eternal dwellings"** (Luke 16:9): Places that will last forever.
- **A place for resurrection bodies:** Believers will have new, glorious, incorruptible bodies, similar to Jesus' resurrected body.

In Revelation, which many interpret as a vision of this promised heaven, it is depicted as a stunning city (the New Jerusalem) with gold, jewels, and the light of God, representing supreme beauty and holiness

## 3. He Came to Rescue Us

Luke 19:10 (NLT) <sup>10</sup> **For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost.**"

1 Timothy 1:15 (NLT) <sup>15</sup> This is a trustworthy saying, and everyone should accept it: “Christ Jesus **came into the world to save sinners**”—and I am the worst of them all.

Colossians 1:13–14 (NLT) <sup>13</sup> For he has **rescued us from the kingdom of darkness** and **transferred us into the Kingdom of his dear Son**, <sup>14</sup> who **purchased our freedom** and forgave our sins.

1 Thessalonians 1:10 (NLT) <sup>10</sup> And they **spea**k** of how you are looking forward to the coming of God’s Son from heaven**—Jesus, whom God raised from the dead. **He is the one who has rescued us from the terrors of the coming judgment.**

John 3:16 (NLT) <sup>16</sup> **“For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.**

#### **4. Be Ready (Jesus advised)**

##### **Chapter 24 – 25. *Jesus Speaks about the Future***

As Jesus was leaving the Temple grounds, his disciples pointed out to him the various Temple buildings. <sup>2</sup> But he responded, **“Do you see all these buildings? I tell you the truth, they will be completely demolished. Not one stone will be left on top of another!”**

<sup>3</sup> Later, Jesus sat on the Mount of Olives. His disciples came to him privately and said, “Tell us, when will all this happen? What sign will signal your return and the end of the world?”

<sup>4</sup> Jesus told them, ....

....

<sup>36</sup> **“However, no one knows the day or hour when these things will happen, not even the angels in heaven or the Son himself. Only the Father knows.**

<sup>37</sup> **“When the Son of Man returns, it will be like it was in Noah’s day. <sup>38</sup> In those days before the flood, the people were enjoying banquets and parties and weddings right up to the time Noah entered his boat. <sup>39</sup> People didn’t realize what was going to happen until the flood came and swept them all away. That is the way it will be when the Son of Man comes.**

<sup>40</sup> **“Two men will be working together in the field; one will be taken, the other left. <sup>41</sup> Two women will be grinding flour at the mill; one will be taken, the other left.**

<sup>42</sup> **“So you, too, must keep watch! For you don’t know what day your Lord is coming. <sup>43</sup> Understand this: If a homeowner knew exactly when a burglar was coming, he would keep watch and not permit his house to be broken into. <sup>44</sup> You also must be ready all the time, for the Son of Man will come when least expected.**

<sup>45</sup> **“A faithful, sensible servant is one to whom the master can give the responsibility of managing his other household servants and feeding them. <sup>46</sup> If the master returns and finds that the servant has done a good job, there will be a reward. <sup>47</sup> I tell you the truth, the master will put that servant in charge of all he owns. <sup>48</sup> But what if the servant is evil and thinks, ‘My master won’t be back for a while,’ <sup>49</sup> and he begins beating the other servants, partying, and getting drunk? <sup>50</sup> The master will return unannounced and unexpected, <sup>51</sup> and he will cut the servant to pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.**

#### **Chapter 25**

##### *Parable of the Ten Bridesmaids*

**“Then the Kingdom of Heaven will be like ten bridesmaids who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. <sup>2</sup> Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. <sup>3</sup> The five who were foolish didn’t take enough olive oil for their lamps, <sup>4</sup> but the other five were wise enough to take along extra oil. <sup>5</sup> When the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and fell asleep.**

<sup>6</sup> **“At midnight they were roused by the shout, ‘Look, the bridegroom is coming! Come out and meet him!’**

<sup>7</sup> **“All the bridesmaids got up and prepared their lamps. <sup>8</sup> Then the five foolish ones asked the others, ‘Please give us some of your oil because our lamps are going out.’**

<sup>9</sup> **“But the others replied, ‘We don’t have enough for all of us. Go to a shop and buy some for yourselves.’**

<sup>10</sup>“But while they were gone to buy oil, the bridegroom came. Then those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was locked. <sup>11</sup> Later, when the other five bridesmaids returned, they stood outside, calling, ‘Lord! Lord! Open the door for us!’

<sup>12</sup>“But he called back, ‘Believe me, I don’t know you!’

<sup>13</sup>“So you, too, must keep watch! For you do not know the day or hour of my return.

#### *Parable of the Three Servants ....*

<sup>30</sup> Now throw this useless servant into outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

#### *The Final Judgment*

<sup>31</sup> “But when the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit upon his glorious throne. <sup>32</sup> All the nations will be gathered in his presence, and he will separate the people as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. <sup>33</sup> He will place the sheep at his right hand and the goats at his left.

<sup>34</sup> “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. <sup>35</sup> For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home. <sup>36</sup> I was naked, and you gave me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me.’

<sup>37</sup> “Then these righteous ones will reply, ‘Lord, when did we ever see you hungry and feed you? Or thirsty and give you something to drink? <sup>38</sup> Or a stranger and show you hospitality? Or naked and give you clothing? <sup>39</sup> When did we ever see you sick or in prison and visit you?’

<sup>40</sup> “And the King will say, ‘I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!’

<sup>41</sup> “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. <sup>42</sup> For I was hungry, and you didn’t feed me. I was thirsty, and you didn’t give me a drink. <sup>43</sup> I was a stranger, and you didn’t invite me into your home. I was naked, and you didn’t give me clothing. I was sick and in prison, and you didn’t visit me.’

<sup>44</sup> “Then they will reply, ‘Lord, when did we ever see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and not help you?’

<sup>45</sup> “And he will answer, ‘I tell you the truth, when you refused to help the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were refusing to help me.’

<sup>46</sup> “And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous will go into eternal life.”

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#### Action Items:

1. **Know God** – Be Born Again – A New Creation In Christ – Repent, Believe, & Surrender To Jesus as Lord!
2. **Be Ready** – Live Expecting His Return – Many Will Be Surprised
3. **Share With Others About Eternity As God Guides** – Their eternity is important
4. **Keep Your Eyes on Eternity In Every Decision and Moment of Life**

2 Corinthians 4:16–18 (NLT) <sup>16</sup> That is why we never give up. Though our bodies are dying, our spirits are being renewed every day. <sup>17</sup> For our present troubles are small and won’t last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever! <sup>18</sup> So we don’t look at the

troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever.

Colossians 3:2 (NLT) <sup>2</sup> Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth.

Philippians 3:20 (NLT) <sup>20</sup> But we are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are eagerly waiting for him to return as our Savior.

1 John 2:17 (NLT) <sup>17</sup> And this world is fading away, along with everything that people crave. But anyone who does what pleases God will live forever.