

## The Spiritual Realm - Lesson 8: Heaven and Hell

### Heaven and Hell as Real Places

- ❖ Heaven and hell are not metaphors or mere states of mind. They are **real places**, with **locality and spatial reality**.
- ❖ Paul longed to be with Christ at death.

**Philippians 1:21–23** *For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. 22 If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. 23 I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better.*

**2 Corinthians 5:1–8** *For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. 2 For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, 3 if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. 4 For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened—not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. 5 He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.*

### Heaven and Hell Described as “Up” and “Down”

**Psalms 139:8** *If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!*

**Amos 9:2** *If they dig into Sheol, from there shall my hand take them; if they climb up to heaven, from there I will bring them down.*

**Mark 16:19** *So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God.*

- ❖ Heaven as “up” and hell as “down” reflects the reality that heaven and hell exist in **different dimensions**—with heaven in a higher dimension and hell in a lower one.

### Heaven Is Near, Not Distant

- ❖ Heaven is a real place with **material, spatial beings** occupying it. Therefore, heaven must have some form of **dimensional location**.
- ❖ George Musser, writing about string theory, unknowingly captures this idea of heaven being close: *Is there a galaxy right next to you? It might be just an eyelash’s width away... To get there, you’d have to travel in a fourth dimension of space... It’s all around you, everywhere and nowhere at once.*
- ❖ God spoke from heaven to Hagar.

**Genesis 21:17** *And God heard the voice of the boy, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, “What troubles you, Hagar? Fear not, for God has heard the voice of the boy where he is.*

- ❖ God spoke to Abraham from heaven

**Genesis 22:11** *But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.”*

**Genesis 22:15** *And the angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven*

### Hell as a Lower Dimension

- ❖ Hell is consistently described as **downward** in Scripture.
- Psalms 55:15** *Let death steal over them; let them go down to Sheol alive; for evil is in their dwelling place and in their heart.*
- Ezekiel 31:16** *I made the nations quake at the sound of its fall, when I cast it down to Sheol with those who go down to the pit...*
- 2 Peter 2:4** *God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell (tartaroō) and committed them to chains of gloomy darkness.*

- ❖ Hell is separation from God—not only relationally, but **dimensionally**.

**2 Thessalonians 1:9** *They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might.*

### The Dimensional Separation Between Heaven and Hell

**Luke 16:19–31** *“There was a rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. 20 And at his gate was laid a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, 21 who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man’s table. Moreover, even the dogs came and licked his sores. 22 The poor*

man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried, 23 and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side. 24 And he called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in anguish in this flame.' 25 But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner bad things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish. 26 And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us.' 27 And he said, 'Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house— 28 for I have five brothers—so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.' 29 But Abraham said, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.' 30 And he said, 'No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' 31 He said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.'"

### **The Reality of Hell**

❖ Jesus spoke of hell often, using the phrase **"weeping and gnashing of teeth"** repeatedly.

**Matthew 8:11-12** *I tell you, many will come from east and west and recline at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, 12 while the sons of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.*

**Mark 9:43-44** *And if your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life crippled than with two hands to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire.*

❖ Hell is away from the presence of God.

**2 Thessalonians 2:9** *They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might*

### **The Finality of Hell**

**Revelation 20:7-10** *And when the thousand years are ended, Satan will be released from his prison 8 and will come out to deceive the nations that are at the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them for battle; their number is like the sand of the sea. 9 And they marched up over the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, but fire came down from heaven and consumed them, 10 and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.*

❖ The sinfulness of humanity is highlighted at the end of the 1,000 years as Satan successfully deceives millions to rebel and revolt against God.

❖ The devil is cast down in to finally reside in the Lake of Fire which was prepared for he and his angels (Matt. 25:41).

**Revelation 20:11-15** *Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them. 12 And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done. 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.*

❖ This is the throne of God where He will issue the final judgment upon those who refused to believe in Christ or who have placed their faith in their works or anything or anyone other than Christ.

❖ Unbelievers will present their works before God as they will not be enough to remove their sins and give them entrance into heaven.

❖ Eternal separation from God in the lake of fire or hell is the second death.

### **1. Live with Eternal Focus, Not Earth-Only Focus**

### **2. Take the Gospel and Eternity Seriously**

### **3. Find Comfort and Courage in the Nearness of Heaven**