

HEAVEN & HELL

Heaven — The righteous who have died are NOT in heaven (Acts 2:29, 34; John 3:13). They are just dead awaiting the day when they will finally be resurrected back to life (1 Corinthians 15:50-58). This will occur at the return of Jesus Christ and is called *the first resurrection* (1 Thessalonians 4:13-17; Revelation 20:4-6). They will be brought back to life from their graves as *literal* sons and daughters of God. They will NOT be composed of flesh and blood but will instead be immortal spirit beings (just like Jesus Christ—their elder Brother). They will then rule on this *earth* as kings and priests with Jesus for 1,000 years (Revelation 20:6, 5:10). Then afterwards they will share the entire *universe* with Jesus Christ and God the Father for all eternity—with headquarters on *earth* at the New Jerusalem (Revelation 21:1-3, 7).

Hell — The unrighteous that have died are NOT in a place of everlasting torment and suffering (that many refer to as “hell”). They are just dead awaiting the day when they will be resurrected back to life in the second resurrection (Revelation 20:4-6). This will occur 1,000 years *after* the return of Jesus Christ to this earth. They will be resurrected back to life as physical, flesh and blood human beings. They will then be judged in the Great White Throne Judgment by Jesus Christ (Revelation 20:11-15).

“...And they were judged, each one according to his works [that is—in accordance with how they lived their lives with respect to God’s Word]. Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the *second death*. And anyone NOT found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire” (Rev. 20:13-15).

So the final punishment for the incorrigible—those who refuse to change and live in accordance with God’s Word—will be *death* for all eternity. They will NOT suffer

in a place of terrible torment (i.e. “hell”) for all eternity. On the contrary, they will just die in the lake of fire instantaneously (“the second death”), and then they will never live again.

But those whose names ARE written in the Book of Life—as a result of their works (that is—they lived their lives in accordance with God’s Word)—will be granted eternal life and become members of God’s Family.

Acts 2:29, 34 — “Men and brethren, let me speak freely to you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. For *David did NOT ascend into the heavens...*”

John 3:13 — NO ONE HAS ASCENDED TO HEAVEN...

Ecclesiastics 6:6 — NIV — ...Do not ALL go to the same place?

Genesis 3:19 — In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; *for dust you are, and to dust you shall return.*”

Psalms 6:5 — *For in death there is no remembrance of You;* in the grave who will give You thanks?

1 Corinthians 15:50-55 — Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep [that is—be dead], but we shall all be changed—in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and *the dead will be raised [from their graves; in the future; at the return of Jesus Christ]* incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on im-

mortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory.” “O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?”

John 5:28-29 — Do not marvel at this; for *the hour is coming [in the future; at the return of Jesus Christ]* in which all who are in the *graves [not in heaven or in hell!]* will hear His voice and come forth—those who have done good, to the *resurrection* of life, and those who have done evil, to the *resurrection* of condemnation.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-17 — But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have *fallen asleep [that is—they have died]*, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those *who sleep [are dead in their graves]* in Jesus. For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who *are asleep [are dead in their graves]*. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. *And the dead in Christ will rise first [from their graves]*. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air...

Revelation 5:10 — And have made us kings and priests to our God; and *we shall reign on the earth [NOT in heaven!]*.”

Revelation 20:4-6 — NLT — Then I saw thrones, and the people sitting on them had been given the authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their testimony about Jesus, for proclaiming the word of God. And I saw the souls of those who had not worshiped the beast or his statue, nor accepted his mark on their forehead or their hands. *They came to life again [after being*

dead in their graves; they were not in heaven or hell!], and they reigned with Christ for a thousand years. This is the first resurrection. (THE REST OF THE DEAD DID NOT COME BACK TO LIFE UNTIL THE THOUSAND YEARS HAD ENDED.) Blessed and holy are those who share in the *first resurrection*. For them the *second death* holds no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him a thousand years [*on this earth*—see Rev. 5:10].

Revelation 20:11-15 — And I saw a great white throne, and I saw the one who was sitting on it. The earth and sky fled from his presence, but they found no place to hide. I saw the dead, both great and small, standing before God's throne. And the books were opened, including the Book of Life. *And the dead were judged [after the 1,000 year reign of Jesus Christ on this earth—all those who were NOT resurrected in the 1st resurrection are raised back to life in the 2nd resurrection and judged]* according to the things written in the books, according to what they had done. The sea gave up the *dead* in it, and *death* and the *grave* gave up the *dead* in them. They were all judged according to their deeds. And death and the grave were thrown into the lake of fire. *This is the second death—the lake of fire.* And anyone whose name was NOT found recorded in the Book of Life was thrown into the lake of fire.

Isaiah 65:20 — “No more shall an infant from there live but a few days, nor an old man who has not fulfilled his days; for the child shall die *one hundred years old*, but the sinner being *one hundred years old* shall be accursed.”

Revelation 21:1-3, 21:7 — Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. Then I, John, saw the holy city, *New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.* And I

heard a loud voice from heaven saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and *He will dwell with them [on this earth!]*, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son.”