

15 Answers
to
Questions
on

Heaven,
Hell and
End Times

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We are thrilled that you have chosen to read *15 Answers To Questions On Heaven, Hell and End Times* an eBook by What Christians Want To Know. In this eBook we hope to answer some common questions that Christians and non Christians have about Heaven, Hell and the End Times. The pages of this eBook are compiled from the many resources that we have available at What Christians Want To Know and are based upon things found in the Bible, God's holy word.

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Section One: Heaven

What does the Bible say Heaven will be like? Do animals go to Heaven? Is Heaven a real place? What must I do to go to Heaven? These are all questions we can find answers to by looking in the Bible. This section will take a look at these questions and more. Many hope they are Heaven bound, but do you know that you can be sure that you will live in Heaven when you leave this planet? Be encouraged as we discuss what the Bible describes as the home of God the Father and the eternal home of every believer.

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Chapter 1

What Does The Bible Say Heaven Will Look Like?

By Jack Wellman

What does the Bible say that heaven looks like? Are there sufficient scriptures to tell us? Are the images of the saints playing harps while lying on the clouds of heaven accurate? Can we know for sure what heaven will be like?

What Heaven Isn't

The tiny chubby cherub angels playing their harps in heaven are not what heaven will be like or are like at this present time. Heaven exists today but humans who are living on earth cannot yet see it and the pictures that we have seen of it cannot describe it accurately in all its splendor, glory, beauty, and majesty. Those who have died in the [faith](#) in Jesus Christ are said to be present with the Lord and since the Lord is seated at the right hand of the Father on His throne they are in heaven right now. What this means is that heaven is for real; it does exist, and there are Christians who have died and gone to heaven and are now with Jesus Christ.

The Three Heavens

There are actually three heavens described in the Bible. The first heaven is what is called the firmament or sky that covers the earth. This is the realm of birds and clouds that surrounds the entire earth.

The second heaven is where the stars, the sun, and the moon reside. This is the space beyond the earth and it covers the entire universe. It is as far as the human eye can see with the help of gigantic telescopes such as the Hubble Space Telescope.

The third heaven is unseen and is the residence of God, including Jesus Christ. This is where the dead martyrs and saints are today. This is the location of the throne of God and where the holy angels surrounding His throne sing day and night, Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord our God.

Biblical Eye Witnesses to Heaven

There are several people in the Bible who have been eye witnesses to the [heaven](#) before they died. Elijah was caught up into heaven, taken up in a whirlwind; he never tasted death (II Kings 2:1-12). Like Elijah, Enoch who was said to have walked with God, was taken up into heaven without ever tasting death. The apostle John saw heaven through an open door so that he might see and record in the book of Revelation some of the things he saw in heaven (Rev. 4:1).

While Paul was on the Damascus Road on his way to persecute Christians, He saw heaven open up but whether this was heaven itself or just the first heaven where he saw the light, we cannot be sure. Acts 9:3-4 described what Paul saw, *"As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?'"* We do not know for sure, according to the scriptures, whether this was the third heaven, where the throne of God was or not, but can assume it was not for Paul only heard a voice from heaven and he saw only a light from heaven. Nonetheless, heaven is for real and it exists today in every sense of the word.

You may have read or heard about many who have died and seen heaven for themselves. They describe such a realm that is beyond description. Some who died and came back to life have said they have seen their lost loved ones in heaven, their family, friends, and some even their pets. This is difficult to prove, yet the sheer number of those who have seen heaven and came back from death is hard to refute; only they themselves know this for certain. But the Bible does describe some of what heaven is like in the scriptures. It is, from the human standpoint, indescribable (I Cor. 2:9).

Biblical Description of Heaven

There is a constant chant of holy angels that are continually proclaiming Holy, Holy, Holy over the throne of God. The Mercy Seat in heaven where God sits is surrounded by magnificent angels full of glory and power that proclaim and bless the holy name of God without ceasing. Some of these are described as beasts, full of eyes, with six wings and neither rest day or night in their proclaiming the holiness of God (Rev. 4:8-11).

Heaven Descends to the Earth

After the Kingdom of Heaven begins on earth, after Christ's return, the New Jerusalem descends out of heaven and heaven, in the New Jerusalem, will then be on earth. Revelation 21:1-2 describes this: *"Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband."* The very tabernacle of God will be with humans then and heaven is any place where God is (Rev. 21:3). All pain, suffering, and tears will be absent there (Rev. 21:4).

John was carried away to heaven in Revelation chapter 21 and this chapter is perhaps the best description of heaven that we know of; at least the heaven that will be seen by those who are Christ's today. John describes it in Revelation 21:10-27:

10 And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God.

11 It shone with the glory of God, and its brilliance was like that of a very precious jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal.

12 It had a great, high wall with twelve gates, and with twelve angels at the gates. On the gates were written the names of the twelve tribes of Israel.

13 There were three gates on the east, three on the north, three on the south and three on the west.

14 The wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

15 The angel who talked with me had a measuring rod of gold to measure the city, its gates and its walls. 16 The city was laid out like a square, as long as it was wide. He measured the city with the rod and found it to be 12,000 stadia [or 1,400 miles!] in length, and as wide and high as it is long [1,400 miles wide and tall!].

17 The angel measured the wall using human measurement, and it was 144 cubits [that is 200 feet!] thick. 18 The wall was made of jasper, and the city of pure gold, as pure as glass.

19 The foundations of the city walls were decorated with every kind of precious stone. The first foundation was jasper, the second sapphire, the third agate, the fourth emerald, 20 the fifth onyx, the sixth ruby, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth turquoise, the eleventh jacinth, and the twelfth amethyst [these last two stones are unknown or only exist in heaven today].

21 The twelve gates were twelve pearls, each gate made of a single pearl. The great street of the city was of gold, as pure as transparent glass.

22 I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.

23 The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp.

24 The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it.

25 On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there. 26 The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it.

27 Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.

How You Can See Heaven

There is only one way for you to see heaven and [Jesus Christ](#) is the one and only access to it (John 6:44, Acts 4:12, 16:30-31). There is no other way possible to get to heaven but by the Son of God. Getting to heaven is a one-way trip. If you die before [Jesus Christ's Second Advent \(return\)](#) you will go directly to heaven and be in the presence of God. If you never see heaven, you will most certainly see hell and that is also a one-way trip from which there is no return.

Revelation 21:7-8 shows the fate of those not going to heaven: *“Those who are victorious will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be my children. But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars—they will be consigned to the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.”*

Like the story of the rich man and Lazarus, the rich man who died without Christ is forever denied access to heaven and to God. It is an everlasting location from which no one can depart. My hope and prayer is that no one would ever go there. There is one simple way that you can go to heaven. Jesus died after living a perfect life. He spilled His blood to take the Holy Father's wrath upon Himself. This bridged the gap from heaven to hell. It is a free gift; to not accept it is to seal your fate forever. To accept it is to be with God in heaven for eternity in joyful bliss. Right now if you ask Jesus Christ to be your Savior, ask for the forgiveness of your sins, admit you are a sinner in need of saving, and place your faith and trust in Him, He promises to never, ever forsake you. He will keep you in His own hand and never cast you away, even when you die (John 6:37, 10:28-29). If you do this right now you will see heaven for yourself. And you will be with the Lord our God forever and ever when you leave this earth.

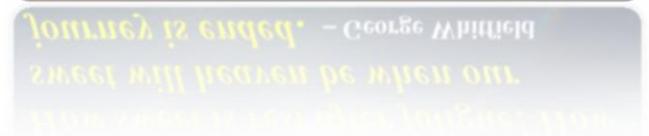
What Coming to Jesus is Not

- It is not about repeating a sinner's prayer
- It is not about walking down an aisle
- It is not about filling out a Decision Card

What Coming to Jesus Is

- Believing that Jesus is your personal Savior
- Believing with your heart and not just your head
- Relying on, fully trusting in, leaning upon, and resting in — Him
- Believing that He is your Savior first and allowing the Holy Spirit to help you make Him your Lord too
- Believing that there is no other way to the Father in Heaven except by Jesus Christ alone

Romans 10:9-10 *“If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.”*



Chapter 2

Do Animals or Pets Go To Heaven?

By Jack Wellman

Almost everyone has lost a beloved pet. They become part of the family and many couples who are childless consider their pets as their own children. So what happens to pets after they die? Do they go to heaven? Will we ever see our dearly departed pets again? What is their fate? What does the Bible say about

animals after they die? These precious loved animals include dogs, cats, horses, and even a few unorthodox pets that families have grown to love and grieve after they are gone. Let's see what the Word of God says about whether or not animals or pets go to heaven?



Pets Are Part of the Family

Are pets part of the family? This may seem like a trivial question for some people but for those who have pets; this is a question that has been asked particularly after the death of their pets. The Bible is clear that babies, young children, infants, or toddlers that die before they are able to accept Jesus Christ as Savior go directly into the presence of the Lord. When a parent loses a child, they can be comforted with this [fact](#), but this does not mean that they will not grieve them. I can remember losing pets and losing them is painful; our family has grieved these who were lost too. They are part of the family. They are treated as a child and I have had a few pets that thought that they were human too in the way they acted.

I know of several couples that were unable to have children and so they were especially close to their pets and loved them as they would their very own children if they were able to bear them. Many elderly couples and those who have had a spouse die are left only with their pets and animal's companionship has sustained them through many lonely days and long nights. A pet's [love](#) is so very often completely unconditional. They don't care what your day was like, what went wrong at work, what your mood is when you come home. They are always ready to jump up into your lap and are so full of joy at seeing you that they display this love in their actions. How often I have come home from a hard day at work only to see my beloved dogs or cats run with joy to greet me. Their sheer joy at seeing me often makes me forget what a difficult day I had because they are there to meet with eager expectation.

Famous Christians Who Believe Pets Go To Heaven

Randy Alcorn in his book called "Heaven" believes that animals will be present in the Kingdom of Heaven. Famous Christian authors who believe that pets go to heaven include: C. S. Lewis, Peter Kreeft, Sylvia Brown, Niki Behrikis Shanahan, James Herriot, and dozens and dozens of others; the list of Christian pastors, theologians, and clergy is too long to list here. Suffice it to say that a lot of Christians believe that pets do go to heaven and that there will be animals in heaven.

What the Bible Says About Animals

Let's take a look at the scriptures that relate to animals and what is said of them:

Genesis 1:30 *"And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food."*

Genesis 6:19-22 *"You are to bring into the ark two of all living creatures, male and female, to keep them alive with you. Two of every kind of bird, of every kind of animal and of every kind of creature that moves along the ground will come to you to be kept alive. You are to take every kind of food that is to be eaten and store it away as food for you and for them." Noah did everything just as God commanded him."*

Genesis 9:9-10 *"I now establish my covenant with you and with your descendants after you 10 and with every living creature that was with you—the birds, the livestock and all the wild animals, all those that came out of the ark with you—every living creature on earth."*

Genesis 9:16 *"Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth."*

Job 12:10 *"In his hand is the life of every creature and the breath (literally "spirit") of all mankind."*

Ecclesiastes 3:18-21: *"As for humans, God tests them so that they may see that they are like the animals. Surely the fate of human beings is like that of the animals; the same fate awaits them both: As one dies, so dies the other. All have the same breath (literally "spirit"); humans have no advantage over animals. Everything is meaningless. All go to the same place; all come from dust, and to dust all return. Who knows if the human spirit rises upward and if the spirit of the animal goes down into the earth?"*

Hosea 2:18 *"In that day I will make a covenant for them with the beasts of the field, the birds in the sky and the creatures that move along the ground. Bow and sword and battle will abolish from the land, so that all may lie down in safety."*

Luke 12:6 *"Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten by God."*

Animals in Heaven

The Bible indicates that animals will exist after [His return](#) and the beginning of the Kingdom as Isaiah 11:6-9 reads, *"The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them. The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. The infant will play near the cobra's den, the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest. They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea."* Here is the Word of God declaring that animals will still exist in the future, after Christ's reign begins. Ecclesiastes mentions that there is a "spirit" in man but also in animals in (3:19, 21) but this does not necessarily mean that it is an eternal spirit.

Revelation 19:11-14 indicates, for example, that Jesus returns to the earth with His army of saints on white horses, *"I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and wages war. His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean."*

The Conclusion

Upon examining the scriptures we just don't have biblical support to say this with certainty whether or not our pets will be in heaven, however it does appear that animals will exist in the Kingdom of heaven (Isaiah 11:6-9). If our pets will be resurrected or not, we just cannot say for sure. A more important question is if you, the reader, will be in heaven. It is pointless to ponder the question of whether your pet goes to heaven if you yourself are not there. The only way to be sure is to make certain you can go there. Decide today to accept Jesus Christ as your Savior and have the full assurance that you will go to heaven and receive eternal life. As for your pets being in heaven or not, the only way to find out is to go there yourself. That is my prayer for you.

Chapter 3

15 Bible Verses About Heaven

By Josh Wiley

What does the Bible say heaven will be like? Is there only one way to get to [heaven](#) according to the Bible? These are questions many have asked. This list of Bible verses about heaven is meant to inspire you. Heaven is truly where the citizenship of the Christian is! These verses excite me. Are you sure you are going to Heaven? Read these Bible verses closely along with the path to heaven! I also encourage you to use a study Bible to look up these Bible verses for context and commentary.

Bible Scriptures Describing Heaven

Matthew 18:10 *“See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven.”*

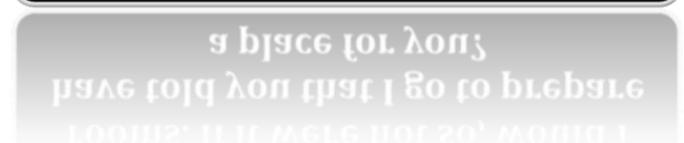
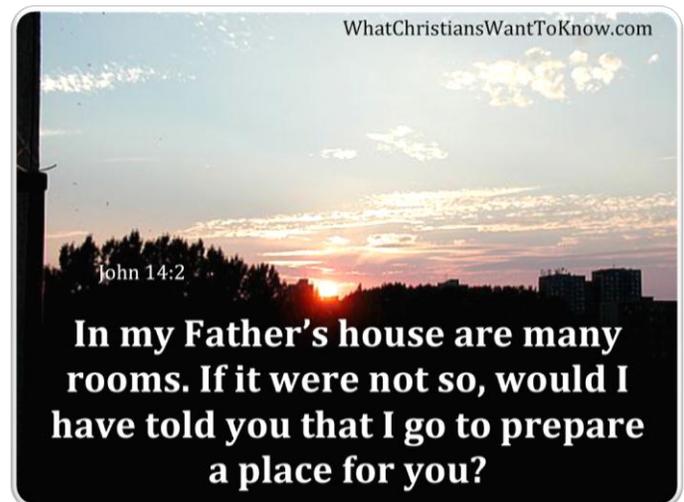
John 14:2 *In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?*

Revelation 5:9-13 *And they sang a new song, saying, “Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.” Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of*

myriads and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice, “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!” And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, “To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!”

Revelation 21:4 *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.”*

Revelation 22:1-5 *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 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. 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. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. 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.*



Heaven Our True and Eternal Home Bible Scriptures

1 Kings 8:30 *And listen to the plea of your servant and of your people Israel, when they pray toward this place. And listen in heaven your dwelling place, and when you hear, forgive*

1 Corinthians 2:7-9 *But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him"*

2 Corinthians 5:8 *Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord.*

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

Philippians 3:20-21 *But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.*

Jesus Is the Only Way To Heaven Bible Verses

John 3:16 *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.*

John 3:36 *Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.*

John 14:6 *Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.*

John 17:3 *And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.*

Acts 4:12 *And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."*

How Do you Get To Heaven?

(excerpt from WCWTK article entitled [Signs of the Second Coming of Jesus Christ](#))

Admit – that you are a sinner and in need of a Savior (Rom 6:23)

Abandon – self-effort and realize that you cannot be saved by your own efforts or works (Acts 16:31)

Accept freely Christ's payment for your sins, required of the Father (John 3:16)

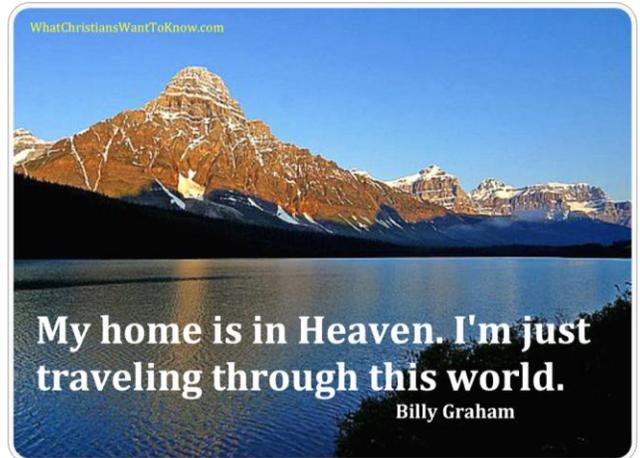
Acknowledge Jesus Christ as your personal lord and Savior (Acts 4:12)

Chapter 4

10 Bible Facts About Heaven

By Pamela Rose Williams

Search the internet and you find that many people are talking about [Heaven](#). However, even in Christian circles there are some that do not [believe](#) that Heaven is a real place. Jack Wellman wrote a great article about what the Bible says Heaven will be like. In that article Jack writes: *“There is only one way for you to see heaven and Jesus Christ is the one and only access to it.”* (John 6:44, Acts 4:12, 16:30-31) You can read that article here: [Heaven](#). To know about Heaven we must go to the place where Heaven was first mentioned; the Bible. Here are 10 Bible facts about Heaven.



#1 Heaven is God’s home and He existed before His creation -this is the Heaven of heavens; the high and holy place

Heaven is real -- God created it For thus says the One who is high and lifted up, who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: “I dwell in the high and holy place, and also with him who is of a contrite and lowly spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly, and to revive the heart of the contrite. (Isaiah 57:17) (also see *Psalms 90:1-4; Psalms 100:5; Matthew 5:16; Revelation 1:8*)

#2 Before creation, Jesus (God’s Son) and Holy Spirit lived in Heaven with God

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one. And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one. (John 1:1-2; 1 John 5:7-8)

#3 Heaven is Real – God created it

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. And God said, “Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.” And God made the expanse and separated the waters that were under the expanse from the waters that were above the expanse. And it was so. And God called the expanse Heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day. (Genesis 1:1-8) (see also *John 1:3-5*)

#4 Jesus, the Christ came down to Earth from Heaven

And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth. Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst. But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day." (John 1:14; John 6:35-40)

#5 Jesus went back to Heaven when He rose from the dead

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple blessing God. (Luke 5:50-53) (see also *Psalms 68:18; Acts 1:9-11*)

#6 Jesus is now seated at the right hand of God (the Majesty) in Heaven

Now the point in what we are saying is this: we have such a high priest, one who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, a minister in the holy places, in the true tent that the Lord set up, not man. For every high priest is appointed to offer gifts and sacrifices; thus it is necessary for this priest also to have something to offer. Now if he were on earth, he would not be a priest at all, since there are priests who offer gifts according to the law.

They serve a copy and shadow of the heavenly things. For when Moses was about to erect the tent, he was instructed by God, saying, "See that you make everything according to the pattern that was shown you on the mountain." But as it is, Christ has obtained a ministry that is as much more excellent than the old as the covenant he mediates is better, since it is enacted on better promises. For if that first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no occasion to look for a second. (Hebrews 8:1-7) (see also *Mark 16:19; Acts 2:33 and Romans 8:34*)

#7 heaven is also known as a place where the birds fly and the clouds float – the Bible also calls this the firmament

And God said, "Let the waters swarm with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the heavens." (Genesis 1:20)

#8 heaven is a place where the stars, sun and constellations shine – this is the stellar heaven

And God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night. And let them be for signs and for seasons, and for days and years, and let them be lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light upon the earth." And it was so. (Genesis 1:14-15) (see also *Isaiah 13:10*)

#9 Heaven is where the believer goes when he leaves this planet – it is home

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. For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. 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. He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. (2 Corinthians 5:1-9) (see also *Philippians 3:20*; *1 Peter 2:11*; and *Hebrews 3:1*)

#10 Believers can look forward to a new heaven – it is the blessed hope and a perfect place

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. And I 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 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. 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.” (Revelation 21:1-4)

If you are not sure Heaven will be your home when you leave this Earth take a look at how easy it is to [Come to Jesus](#). Claim Jesus as your personal Savior today and you are assured an eternal home in Heaven.

Chapter 5

Who Goes to Heaven?

Do Good People Go to Heaven?

By Jack Wellman

A surprising fact is that most people believe they are good enough to go to [heaven](#). Why? Because they feel that they are a “good person.” Do only good people go to heaven? Who really goes to heaven? How can a person know with certainty that they *will* go to heaven. Are there “good people” who think they are going to heaven but in reality will not be going?

Highway to Heaven?

According to a recent news poll from a major news organization, 85% of people who believe in heaven but are not necessarily Christian believe that they will go to heaven. Even more surprising is the fact that 77% of people who claim no religious affiliation feel that they are good enough to go to heaven because they feel they are a “good person.” If this is true, there is a broad 6-lane interstate highway to heaven and there be many who will find it. But what does the Bible say about who goes to heaven? Is there a broad path to heaven? Listen to what Jesus said in Matthew 7:13, “*Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it.*” Two key elements Jesus spoke of here are: the gate that leads to destruction is broad and not narrow; and that many enter through it. This [statement by Jesus](#) seems to contradict what most people believe. Jesus said that instead of a broad path or highway to heaven, there is a narrow gate and in fact “*small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it*” (Matt 7:14). This is in direct opposition to what most people think. The way to eternal life is narrow, the gate is small and most importantly, *only a few find it* -- not many as most people think! This is not good news for those who feel that they are a good person or good enough to go to heaven.

Isaiah 35:8 confirms the fact that there will be a highway as the prophet says, “*a highway will be there; it will be called the Way of Holiness. The unclean will not journey on it; it will be for those who walk in that Way; wicked fools will not go about on it.*” This highway is called the Way of Holiness. That doesn’t sound like a highway for “good persons” but for holy persons and the wicked will not be traveling it. Jesus warns everyone to “*Make every effort to enter through the narrow door, because many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able to*” (Luke 13:24). Here the way to enter is called a door and the doorway is narrow, not broad. Jesus even says that many will try to enter it and “will not be able to.” What is even more frightening is Jesus saying that many will come to Him expecting to go to heaven but He says, “*Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’*” (Matt 7:22-23). How tragic that will be. Many will come to Him calling Him Lord but He who is your Lord is the one whom you obey. If Jesus says, “*I never knew you*” this means that He really didn’t know them and they didn’t know Him. They were not in His Word (the Bible), in His Body (the Church), in fellowship with Him (in prayer), and in relationship with Him (saved by His blood).



Do Good People Go to Heaven?

Of the many doors that I [knock on to share the gospel](#) with the community, most people believe that they are a good person and expect to go to heaven. I did an informal poll one Saturday as I was doing outreach in the city where our church is located and ask people, "Do you think you will go to heaven?" Around 3 out of every 4 thought that they would go to heaven. I asked them why they thought that. Their response was almost universal: "I'm a good person." When I ask [young students](#) at the college campus one Saturday "Do you consider yourself a good person?" about 9 out of every 10 said yes. Of those who do not have a relationship with Jesus Christ --they are not born-again believers -- most people still think they will go to heaven. It seems that most people think that they have done enough good things to go there. They confess they are not perfect but they feel that they have done more good things in their lives than bad and so they think that God being a God of love would not send them to hell. My thought was "is something missing?" Jesus Christ! The Bible says that *"Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved"* (Acts 4:12).

Who is Really Good?

No human is really good. Only God is good. Listen to what the young rich ruler said when He ran up to Jesus to ask Him how he might inherit eternal life. This is the account from Mark 10:17-22, *"As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. "Good teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" "Why do you call me good?" Jesus answered. "No one is good—except God alone. You know the commandments: 'Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not give false testimony, do not defraud, honor your father and mother.'" "Teacher," he declared, "all these I have kept since I was a boy." Jesus looked at him and loved him. "One thing you lack," he said. "Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." At this the man's face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth."*

This young rich man asked a great question when he asked how do I inherit eternal life. People who think they are a good enough person to go to heaven might want to ask this but one thing that Jesus points out is that "No one is good except God alone." The young rich man apparently thought he was a good person and since he kept the commandments, he felt he was good enough to go to inherit eternal life. What does Jesus tell him? That he still lacks something. That he needs to sell everything he has and give it to the poor. Jesus, knowing the young man's heart, must have realized that riches were his god because when Jesus told him to give it all away, *"the man's face fell...and he went away sad"* because he was rich; so much for trying to inherit eternal life by keeping the commandments. That didn't work for this man nor will it for any of us. Besides, this man coveted his wealth and made it his god, thereby breaking the 1st and 10th Commandments. Jesus is not saying that we need to give everything away to the poor but He knew that the man was making a god of his money and coveting it.

None Are Good Enough

No human can inherit eternal life by doing good things, being a good person, or trying to keep the commandments. The Psalmist writes, *"Everyone has turned away, they have together become corrupt; there is no one who does good, not even one"* (Psalm 53:3). Paul testifies that *"All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one"* earth, in fact, *"Even from birth the wicked go astray; from the womb they are wayward and speak lies"* (Psalm 53:3).



Matthew 15:19 agrees by saying, “For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies.” Mark writes, 7:21-23: “For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness.” All these evil things come from within and defile a man” (Mark 7:21-23).

Just as Jeremiah described “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it? I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, even to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his doings” (Jer 17:9-10). Again, Paul reiterates the state of humanity, “As it is written: “There is none righteous, no, not one; There is none who understands; there is none who seeks after God. They have all turned aside; they have together become unprofitable; there is none who does good, no, not one” (Rom 3:10-12).

More Than Good Enough, But Holy

There is no other way to heaven except through Jesus Christ and His righteousness that is imputed to us. Only the [holy](#) will go to heaven so just being a good person will never be enough to inherit eternal life. How can a sinner be made holy? Doesn't this seem impossible? The writer of Hebrews gives us good news by saying that, “we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all” (Heb 10:10). John writes, “For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified” (John 17:19).

Thank God for there is hope for us because “Both the one who makes men holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers” (Heb 2:11). Ephesians 5:25-27 makes a fitting conclusion to how believers are made holy, “Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.”

Being good enough is not enough...only good enough to send people to hell. To go to heaven and receive eternal life we must be holy, perfect, and blameless and have no stain, blemish or wrinkle. How is this possible? With humans it is impossible but with Christ it is absolutely possible.

Christians are already made holy by Jesus Christ's atoning work on Calvary. Won't you place your faith and trust in the only One Who can make you holy and wholly acceptable to God and put you on the Way to Holiness? That is the *only* way to inherit eternal life and there is no other.



Section Two: Hell

A topic of great disagreement among believers and nonbelievers alike is that of Hell. Some believe there is no such place as Hell, while others believe it is a real place and some people go there when they die. Questions like, “Is there really a being called Satan?” and “What does the Bible say Hell will be like?” are just two of the many questions about Hell that we will look at in this section. Throw away your preconceived notions about Hell as you read what we share with you here.

<i>Chapter 6 What Does The Bible Say Hell Will Be Like?</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>Chapter 7 21 Bible Verses About Hell</i>	<i>21</i>
<i>Chapter 8 Is There Really a Place Called Hell?.....</i>	<i>24</i>
<i>Chapter 9 Does The Bible Say What Satan or Demons Look Like?.....</i>	<i>28</i>
<i>Chapter 10 Is There Really a Being Called Satan?</i>	<i>31</i>

Chapter 6

What Does The Bible Say Hell Will Be Like?

By Jack Wellman

More people believe in heaven than believe in hell, but hell is a literal place. There can be no heaven without a hell. Jesus actually spoke more about hell than He did heaven and He described it as a real place. He used vividly descriptive language when He spoke about it. Hell was never intended for humans but was a place of eternal punishment prepared for the Devil and his followers, the demons (Matt. 25:41). The Bible describes hell with words that simply cannot be imagined.

For a related article check here for: [What Does The Bible Say Heaven Will Be Like](#)

Biblical Scriptures of the Physical Nature of Hell

Revelation 14:11 “And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever; and they have no rest day and night, those who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name.”

II Thessalonians 1:9 “And these will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power.”

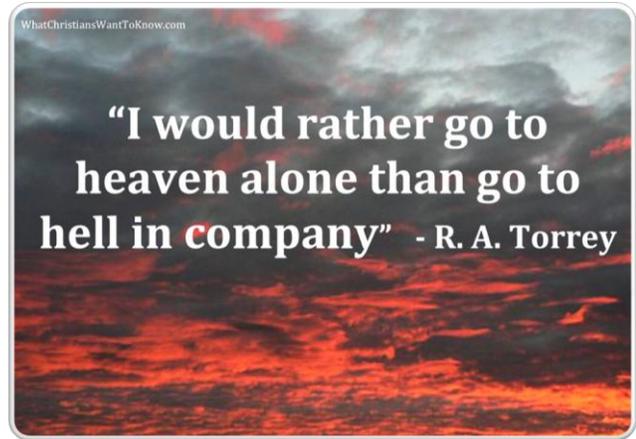
Revelation 21:8 “But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars—they will be consigned to the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.”

Matthew 25:41 “Then He will also say to those on His left, ‘Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels.’”

Mark 9:47-48 “‘And if your eye causes you to stumble, cast it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye, than having two eyes, to be cast into hell, where their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched.’”

Revelation 20:10 “And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.”

Matthew 13:41-42 “The Son of Man will send forth His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all stumbling blocks, and those who commit lawlessness, and will cast them into the furnace of fire; in that place there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”



Biblical Words that Describe Hell

Biblical words to describe hell often involve fire

- Fire and brimstone
- Furnace of fire
- Judgment by fire
- Fiery oven
- Lake of fire
- Eternal punishment
- Pits of darkness
- Flames of fire
- Burning wind
- Unquenchable fire
- Judgment by fire

Who Goes to Hell?

Revelation 21:8 describes who goes to hell: *“the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars—their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur.”*

A critically important word in this list is “the unbelieving.” Who are the unbelievers that go to hell? John 3:18b is clear that those who do not believe in [Jesus Christ](#) suffer eternal punishment, *“whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son.”*

Anyone who does not believe in Jesus Christ, anyone who does not repent of their sin, and anyone who does not ask for forgiveness, is doomed to eternal separation from God and His holy angels.

Every human who has ever lived, anyone that is alive today, and anybody who will yet live in the future who does not or did not believe in Jesus Christ are destined for hell fire. The way to avoid this unspeakable torment is to choose to trust in Jesus, place their faith in Christ, and ask for forgiveness from our Lord.

Everyone has a choice to make in this life. They can either choose eternal life or eternal punishment. No one is saved by being a good person or doing good works. Many people who say they are a good person will end up in hell because they have placed their faith in their own good works. Many people who believe this believe they are going to heaven. This is not what the Bible says though.

A great number of people say they are a “nice person”, but in this sense, there will be a lot of “nice people” in hell someday because they have rejected the only One Who had God’s wrath placed on Him (Jesus). Either take God’s wrath on yourself someday or ask Jesus to forgive you and believe in Him because He has taken upon Himself God’s wrath. Your good works are like filthy rags to God – but Jesus imputation is what can send you to heaven. Let Him impart His righteousness on your behalf.

What Sends a Person to Hell?

God has never sent *anyone* to hell. God *will* never send anyone to hell. Actually, people do this themselves by their unbelief. God never sends anyone to hell just as He never forces anyone into [heaven](#), but the good news is that God desires that no one perish and suffer eternal torment (2 Peter 3:9) and He takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked (Ezek. 18:32). People send their own selves to hell by choosing not to believe in Jesus Christ as their personal Savior. Jesus can save you today (John 3:16). You simply have to believe in Him and place your trust in Him (Rom 10:9-13). There is no other way on earth to escape hell except through faith in Jesus Christ (Acts 4:12). It may well be that you are reading this for a reason. That reason could be that this *very day* is your day of salvation (2 Cor 6:2). That is my hope and prayer for anyone that reads this. Just believe in Him and you *will* be saved (Act 16:31).

Chapter 7

21 Bible Verses About Hell

By Pamela Rose

Is Hell a real place? If Hell is real, how can a loving God send people there? Is there escape from Hell even for people who [have committed](#) unconscionable crimes? These are all questions that can be answered in the Bible. Hell is not only described as a [literal place](#), but the concept of Hell – eternal separation from God — is also explained as the wages of sin (Romans 6:23). The Old Testament alludes to Hell but it is really Jesus' teaching in the New Testament that gives a clearer picture of its reality. Actually, when Jesus taught on earth He taught more about Hell than Heaven. Hell is a place that many, even some Christians, refuse to believe, however because the [Bible teaches](#) about Hell we must believe it to be real and true. Here are 21 eye opening Bible verses about Hell.

The word Hell is translated from several different words

Hebrew: sheol

Translated “pit” (3 times)

Numbers 16:33 *So they and all that belonged to them went down alive into Sheol, and the earth closed over them, and they perished from the midst of the assembly.*

Job 17:16 *Will it go down to the bars of Sheol? Shall we descend together into the dust?”*

Translated “grave” (31 times)

Genesis 37:34-35 *Then Jacob tore his garments and put sackcloth on his loins and mourned for his son many days. All his sons and all his daughters rose up to comfort him, but he refused to be comforted and said, “No, I shall go down to Sheol to my son, mourning.” Thus his father wept for him.*

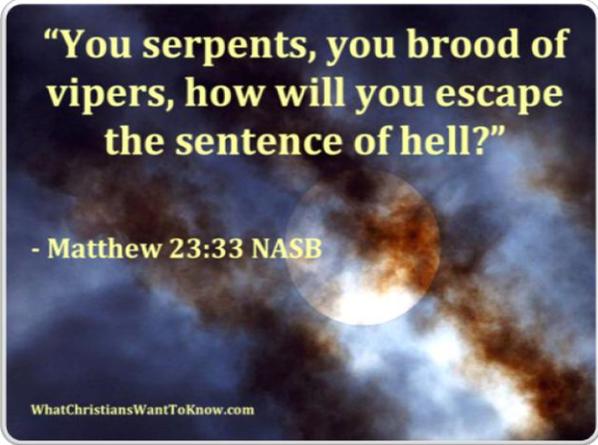
1 Samuel 2:6 *The Lord kills and brings to life; he brings down to Sheol and raises up.*

Translated “Hell” (31 times)

2 Samuel 22:5-6 *“For the waves of death encompassed me, the torrents of destruction assailed me;⁶ the cords of Sheol entangled me; the snares of death confronted me.*

Proverbs 23:13-14 *Do not withhold discipline from a child; if you strike him with a rod, he will not die.¹⁴ If you strike him with the rod, you will save his soul from Sheol.*

Hebrew: Valley of Hinnom



“You serpents, you brood of vipers, how will you escape the sentence of hell?”

- Matthew 23:33 NASB

WhatChristiansWantToKnow.com

A picture of Hell; misery and punishment

2 Chronicles 28:1-3 *Ahaz was twenty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem. And he did not do what was right in the eyes of the Lord, as his father David had done, but he walked in the ways of the kings of Israel. He even made metal images for the Baals, and he made offerings in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom and burned his sons as an offering, according to the abominations of the nations whom the Lord drove out before the people of Israel.*

Jeremiah 7:31 *And they have built the high places of Topheth, which is in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, to burn their sons and their daughters in the fire, which I did not command, nor did it come into my mind.*

Greek: hades (translated from the Hebrew sheol)

Translated “Hell” ten times and “grave” one time

1 Corinthians 15:55 (KJV) *O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?*

Greek: tartaros

Translated “hell” meaning eternal torment”

2 Peter 2:4 *For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to chains of gloomy darkness to be kept until the judgment;*

Greek: gehenna (from the Hebrew Valley of Hinnom)

Translated “hell” meaning place of everlasting torment

Matthew 10:28 *And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.*

Hell is the place of torment for the lost (unsaved). Because everyone has sinned no one deserves to live with the Holy and righteous Heavenly Father (Romans 3:10; 3:23). But God is a loving Father and He offers [salvation](#) from death to all, and for those that reject the offer, God’s justice will be executed and the wage of sin will be paid in Hell.

Torment will be physical

Luke 16:24 *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.’*

Jude 12-13 *These are hidden reefs at your love feasts, as they feast with you without fear, shepherds feeding themselves; waterless clouds, swept along by winds; fruitless trees in late autumn, twice dead, uprooted; wild waves of the sea, casting up the foam of their own shame; wandering stars, for whom the gloom of utter darkness has been reserved forever.*

Revelation 14:11 *And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever, and they have no rest, day or night, these worshipers of the beast and its image, and whoever receives the mark of its name.”*

Revelation 19:20 *And the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who in its presence had done the signs by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped its image. These two were thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur.*

Revelation 20:10 *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, 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.*

Torment will be mental

Luke 16:25 *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.'*

Torment will be spiritual

2 Thessalonians 1:5-9 *This is evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are also suffering— since indeed God considers it just to repay with affliction those who afflict you, and to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might,*

Torment will be just – at different degrees

God's judgment will be less for some

Matthew 11:20-24 *Then he began to denounce the cities where most of his mighty works had been done, because they did not repent. "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. But I tell you, it will be more bearable on the day of judgment for Tyre and Sidon than for you. And you, Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven? You will be brought down to Hades. For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. But I tell you that it will be more tolerable on the day of judgment for the land of Sodom than for you."*

God will have greater judgment for some

Luke 11:32 *The men of Nineveh will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and behold, something greater than Jonah is here.*

God's judgment will be double for others

Revelation 18:5-6 *for her sins are heaped high as heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities.⁶ Pay her back as she herself has paid back others, and repay her double for her deeds; mix a double portion for her in the cup she mixed.*

Chapter 8

Is There Really a Place Called Hell?

By Jack Wellman

Is there such a place as hell that is described in the Bible? Why do more people believe in heaven than they do in hell? How can heaven exist and not hell? What does the Bible say about hell being a real place?

What is Hell?

Jesus actually spoke more about hell than He ever did about heaven. [Jesus spoke](#) about hell as a literal place of torment that is never ending. What are the three different types of hell that are mentioned in the Bible? Some believe that there are different levels of hell where suffering is worse than other levels. To a degree, the torment someone will suffer in hell is determined by the works of the unsaved person. One of the hells mentioned in the Old Testament and New is the grave itself. The word “hell” is actually an Old English word that originally meant just a hole in the ground that can be thought of as a grave. The English used to keep their potatoes in “hell” or in the ground cellar that they used for storing them. The term hell can also mean a place of the deceased or dead and merely described the abode of the dead. Since Jesus spoke more about hell than heaven, we know that this place must be real and that there are also different degrees of punishment and torment in hell (Luke 12:47-48).



Hades

Hades is referred to as the place where the dead go and is not necessarily a place of torment for the wicked. This Greek term was used in the New Testament to mean the grave. It can also refer to death as it does in 1 Corinthians 15:55, in the King James Version of the Bible, “O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?” Jesus used it in this context in Matthew 16:18 saying, “upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell (Hades) shall not prevail against it.” Hades also appears to be a place of refuse and is not normally associated with a place of torment. The one exception is where it is used in reference to Lazarus and the rich man (Luke 16:23).

Gehenna

Another term for hell that is used is Gehenna. This refers to a place that was called Valley of the Sons of Hinnom. In the New Testament it is referred to as being a place of fire (Matt 23:15, 33; Mk 9:43, 45, 47; Lk 12:5, Matt 5: 29, 30; Matt 10:28; Matt 18:9). This valley was a place where refuse and sometimes dead bodies were thrown and the fire never went out because it was continually being added to. It is much like a city dump that is constantly being burned to keep it from piling up to unmanageable size.

Sheol

The word Sheol is a Hebrew word that means much the same as the word Hades does. It is a grave or place where the dead abide. It is described as the common grave of all of mankind who have died. [Job](#) describes it as a place where the righteous and unrighteous go (Job 3:11-19). The old Italian proverb describes Sheol perfectly: "After the game, the pawn and the king go into the same box." This means that the rich and mighty go the same way and to the same place as the poor and powerless – the grave.

Lazarus and the Rich Man

When we read about hell, most people that know the Bible think of Lazarus and the rich man. It appears that this is not an analogy or parable that Jesus spoke about since Jesus used a name of a known figure in the New Testament – Lazarus – and he spoke about a rich young ruler that came to Jesus (Luke 18:18-23). Is this the same young rich ruler who came to Jesus? It is entirely possible. Whatever the case may be, Jesus is telling us what happens to the unrepentant and what happens to the believer after death. This picture of the afterlife is in Luke 16:19-31:

"There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores and longing to eat what fell from the rich man's table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores. "The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried. In Hades, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. So he called to him, 'Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.' "But Abraham replied, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is

comforted here and you are in agony. And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been set in place, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.' "He answered, 'Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my family, for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.' "Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.' "No, father Abraham,' he said, 'but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.' "He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.'"

One thing we see is that once a person dies without Christ, they are separated from any possibility of being saved from the fires of hell. You might notice that Abraham said that no one can cross over from their place in agony or expect to receive any relief. Once a person has been judged, they cannot cross over or go back to warn their friends or their family. Neither will any relief come from their torment or even a quenching of their severe thirst. It is described as a place of torment that is the result of fiery flames. It is no wonder then that Jesus spoke more about it and warned more people more often about hell than any other subject in the New Testament.

Description of Hell

Certainly no one needs to go to hell and into eternal punishment. The eternal torment of hell was created not for man but for Satan and the fallen angels or demons (Matt 25:41, Rev 20:10). Here is what hell is described to be like from the Holy Scriptures and many of these come directly from Jesus Christ's own lips:

Matthew 13:49-50 *"This is how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."*

Matthew 13:41-42 *"The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. They will throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."*

Mark 9:43-48 *"If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life maimed than with two hands to go into hell, where the fire never goes out. And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life crippled than to have two feet and be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to stumble, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell, where the worms that eat them do not die, and the fire is not quenched."*

Matthew 25:30 *"And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."*

Matthew 25:46 *"And these shall go away into everlasting punishment."*

Revelation 19:3b *"The smoke from her goes up for ever and ever."*

Revelation 14:9-11 *"A third angel followed them and said in a loud voice: 'If anyone worships the beast and its image and receives its mark on their forehead or on their hand, they, too, will drink the wine of God's fury, which has been poured full strength into the cup of his wrath. They will be tormented with burning sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment will rise for ever and ever. There will be no rest day or night for those who worship the beast and its image, or for anyone who receives the mark of its name.'"*

Hell and the Five Senses

Being in hell will all of the five senses and their associated sensations from the above Scriptures and from the story of Lazarus and the rich man:

- Utter darkness (blackness)
- Burning fire (agonizing pain)
- Weeping (regret)
- Gnashing of teeth (anger)
- Smoke (utter thirst)
- Blazing furnace (torturous heat)
- Screaming (continuous noise of your own agony)
- Unbridgeable gap (eternal separation)
- Loss of human contact (family, friends – severe loneliness)
- Mental anguish (memory of rejecting the gospel from friends, family, acquaintances)



So you can see that all five senses will be involved: Smell, sight, touch, hearing, and tasting. In addition and perhaps worse of all memories happen in hell too. The rich man still knew about his unsaved family members. The rich man knew about Lazarus who was then being eternally comforted and had eternal rewards and everlasting life.

Some teach that those who are lost will have a second chance and that they will be offered another opportunity for eternal life after Christ returns again, but I cannot find Scriptural support for this belief. Jesus never mentioned anything about another opportunity after judgment.

That is why He spoke so often of hell and gave some of the most serious warnings in the Bible, like in Matthew 7: 21-23,

“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?’ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’”

There can be nothing more terrifying than to discover on the day of Christ’s return that you thought you were on your way to heaven but Jesus doesn’t recognize you and tells you to go the way of all evildoers.

Revelation 20:15 says this: *“Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.”* The only way your name gets written in the book of life is when you believe in what Jesus did on the cross for you. If you do not believe then it is still not too late.

I pray that today will be your day of salvation (Heb 4:7). Jesus could return at any moment. Will you be headed to heaven or to hell? The choice is yours. Heaven is for real and so is hell. Please choose life – [eternal life](#) in Jesus Christ (John 3:16-17). And do it today while it is still called today (2 Cor 6:2).



Chapter 9

Does the Bible Say What Satan or Demons Look Like?

By Jack Wellman

Have you ever wondered what Satan or the Devil looks like? What about demons? What are their appearances? Does the Bible say what Satan or the demons look like? Are demons fallen angels? Is so, why did they fall away and did they become demons?

What Satan Does Not Look Like

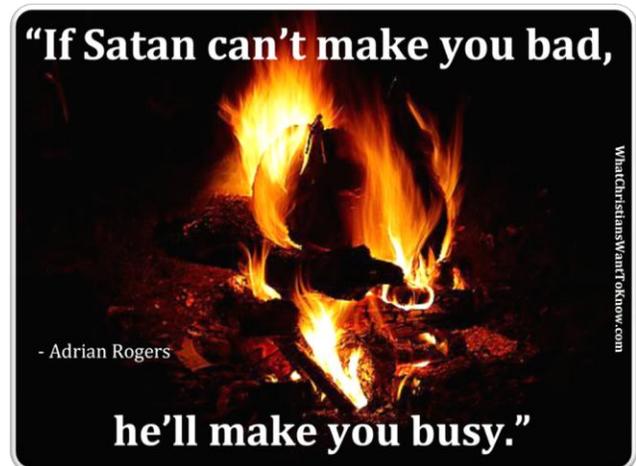
First of all, the images of Satan or the Devil with horns and a pitchfork are inaccurate according to the Bible. If we use the Bible as our authority, then the Devil looks nothing like we can imagine. His name originally was Lucifer and he was described like a bright morning star. Satan was the greatest of all of God's creation. The greatest of all the angels and the most [powerful](#) being that God has ever created, including any human being ever made. When he was created by God, there was nothing like him in the entire universe and in all of God's creation.

In Hebrew, the name Satan means "the accuser". And the Bible describes him as the accuser of the brethren or the saints of God in Revelation 12:10, *"For the accuser of our brothers and sisters, who accuses them before our God day and night."* The Devil is sometimes, shockingly, behind a pulpit and spewing forth false gospels as he appears as an angel of light, yet he is the father of lies (2 Cor. 11:14).

Satan; Created in Power and Beauty

In Ezekiel 28:12-18 you will find God describing him: *"Thus says the Lord GOD, You had the seal of perfection, Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God; Every precious stone was your covering: The ruby, the topaz, and the diamond; The beryl, the onyx, and the jasper; The lapis lazuli, the turquoise, and the emerald; And the gold, the workmanship of your settings and sockets, was in you. On the day that you were created they were prepared. You were the anointed cherub who covers, and I placed you there. You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked in the midst of the stones of fire. You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created. Until unrighteousness was found in you."*

So Satan was created a cherub and originally was *"the anointed cherub that covered"* the very throne of God. He was perfect and "blameless". Reading God's description in Ezekiel, you see all the precious stones that have ever been created are a covering of his: gold, emeralds, jasper, and so on. He was "full of wisdom and beauty" but his pride lifted up his self-worth and he became "unrighteousness" before God.



Satan's Power and Rank

Satan was of the highest rank of all angels created; greater in power and rank than Michael and Gabriel. But Satan's pride caused his downfall and he managed to convince about 1/3 of the angels to rebel with him and these rebellious angels became demons. This is explained in Revelation where "...another sign appeared in heaven: and behold, a great red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads were seven diadems. And his tail swept away a third of the stars of heaven, and threw them to the earth" (Rev. 12:3-4). They too are powerful but not as powerful as Satan or as Michael or Gabriel. Satan also convinced Eve to take from the tree of the [Knowledge](#) of Good and Evil. Regardless of what you have read or heard, it was not an apple nor was it even mentioned that it was fruit. We really don't know what it was on that tree but the fact is Eve and her husband Adam disobeyed God and were cast out of the Garden of Eden, just like Satan was cast out of heaven.

What Satan and Demons Look Like

So Satan is a cherub angel. What do cherubs look like? If you could actually see an [angel](#), they would frighten you. They are not the chubby little angelic and winged baby-looking creatures you see pictured so often. In fact, not all angels have wings. But a cherub, in particular Satan, is enormous in size, power, and [strength](#). Every cubit is 1.5 feet (18 inches) and so I have formulated the cubits per feet in measuring just how big these demons and Satan are. Satan himself and all other cherubs stand 18 feet tall! However Satan is the most powerful of all beings that God ever created in the universe. Satan and likely, a number of his demons, have wing spans of 8 feet long and under each of their four wings there were what looked like the hands of a man (Ezek. 10:8). They had not only four wings but they had four faces too (Ezek. 10:21)! Imagine how frightened Ezekiel was when he was recording this in Ezekiel chapter ten.

Satan and likely most of the demons entire body, including their back, their hands, and their wings were completely full of eyes, including the four wheels they had (Ezek.10:12). Their four faces where faces of a cherub, a man, an eagle, and a lion (Ezek. 10:14). Similar creatures or angels that may have become fallen were likely those that were over the Most Holy. These had six wings and one looked like an ox, another like a lion, one like a man, and another like that of an eagle (Rev. 4:6-8). Satan and these fallen angels are spirit beings and so, thankfully, they cannot be seen because they would be terrifying to anyone. Even so, Satan and his demons are subject to God's sovereignty and can do nothing over and against the will of God and are not allowed to take human lives (Job chapter one and two).

Satan Deceives and Blinds the Whole World

Satan has deceived the whole world and much of the world doesn't even know he exists (Rev. 12:9). In fact he has blinded the eyes of those who are lost so that they cannot see the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ (2 Cor. 4:4). If you don't know Christ as Saviour, as far as God is concerned, you are blind too. Here's how you can have the scales removed. Mark 10:46-52 tells us how:

"Then they came to Jericho. As Jesus and his disciples, together with a large crowd, were leaving the city, a blind man, Bartimaeus (which means "son of Timaeus"), was sitting by the roadside begging. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Many rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" Jesus stopped and said, "Call him." So they called to the blind man, "Cheer up! On your feet! He's calling you." Throwing his cloak aside, he jumped to his feet and came to Jesus. "What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus asked him. The blind man said, "Rabbi, I want to see." "Go," said Jesus, "your faith has healed you." Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road."

I too was once blind and a poor beggar and could not see the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ, but God gave me the free gift of grace and now I can see. And like the blind man who could now see I received my sight, I "...followed Jesus along the road." Will you follow Him too? I pray you will.

Chapter 10

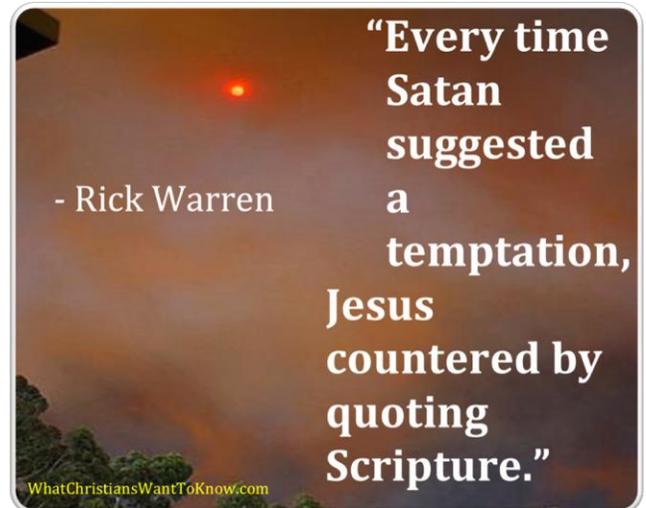
Is There Really a Being Called Satan?

By Jack Wellman

More people believe in God than they do in Satan. Is there really a being called Satan? Does he really exist? Is Satan a threat to Christians? What does the [Bible](#) say about a being called Satan?

Believing in God

It is ironic that more people believe in God than believe in Satan, even though the Bible clearly teaches that Satan does exist. If God exists, and He does, then Satan must exist too because that is what God's Word, the Bible teaches. You can't have a God and not have an adversary, Satan also called the Devil. Fox News reported that 93% of Americans believe in God but only 68% believe in the Devil. How can one believe in God and not believe in the Devil? Good question. Just as perplexing is the fact that more people believe in [heaven](#) (86%) than in hell (82%).



Did God Create a Devil?

No, actually God created a powerful angel called Lucifer which means “light-bearer.” He was said to be perfect in every way. Before he was the Devil or Satan, he was Lucifer. Ezekiel, 28:12-13 shows that he was most beautiful, “*You were the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone adorned you.*” God created him to be over the throne of God, and was created without flaw, “*You were anointed as a guardian cherub, for so I ordained you. You were on the holy mount of God; you walked among the fiery stones. You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created till wickedness was found in you*” (Ezek 28:14-15).

Lucifer was created in beauty and in knowledge but he became lifted up in his mind or as the Bible says, he became proud. God said that Lucifer became full of pride and he “*sinned. So I drove you in disgrace from the mount of God, and I expelled you, guardian cherub, from among the fiery stones. Your heart became proud on account of your beauty, and you corrupted your wisdom because of your splendor. So I threw you to the earth*” (Ezek 28:16-17). He was cast down to the earth because he became prideful and wanted to overtake God's throne -even to be like the Most High God ([Isaiah 14:14](#)). Lucifer said in his heart, “*I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars (angels) of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain*” (throne of God) (Isaiah 14:13). Pride is listed as the number one sin amongst the seven deadly sins mentioned in Proverbs 16:16-19. In fact, pride is present in all sin.

Lucifer Becomes Satan or the Devil

When Lucifer sinned, he no longer was a “light-bearer” but became an adversary and the accuser of the brethren (Christians). His name became Satan, which means the opposer or to obstruct, to accuse, or to be an adversary. And Satan is certainly the opposer of every Christian today and day and night he accuses all the believers before the throne of God (Rev 12:10).

The name he is also assigned is the Devil, which means the slanderer or the destroyer in some languages. So when Lucifer sinned and became full of pride, he fell and great was his fall. He has further to fall because someday he will be “*thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever*” (Rev 20:10). The Devil knows that his time is running out and we should expect an increase in demonic activity the closer we come to the return of Christ at the Second Advent (Rev 12:12).

When Lucifer-turned-Satan was cast down to earth, he took 1/3 of the [angels](#) with him (Rev 12:4). When these angels rebelled with Satan, they became demons and they too are headed for the lake of burning sulfur. Their fate is sealed (2 Peter 2:4) and today the demons and Satan try to tempt and influence the believers of God into sin but God (1 Peter 5:8), through Jesus Christ, has already achieved victory over the Devil (John 12:31, John 16:11, Heb 2:14-15, James 2:19). Jesus defeated Satan (John 19:30). John 16:11 shows that, “*the prince of this world (Satan) now stands condemned.*”

Is Satan a Threat to Christians Today?

Satan or the Devil is only a threat to Christians in that he tempts us, as do the demons, to sin and rebel against God. Today Satan is the ruler of the world of those who do not belong to Christ as 1 John 5:19 says, “*We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one.*” Satan has blinded those who do not believe in Jesus, and is called, “*The god of this age (who) has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God*” (2 Cor 4:4).

Satan is no longer a threat to a believer’s salvation but he still holds sway over the unsaved world ([Rev 12:9](#)). In fact, Satan tempted Jesus in the wilderness by offering him a short cut to be king over the world that Satan already had as his own and thus Jesus could have avoided Calvary but only if he worshiped Satan. Satan, “*took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. “All this I will give you,” he said, “if you will bow down and worship me*” (Matt 4:8-9). Of course Jesus rebuked Satan and when we flee temptation and rebuke him in Jesus’ name, he must depart (Matt 4:10). Satan is an adversary to believers even if he can’t rob our eternal life from us, but this is why Peter warned us to, “*Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour*” (1 Pet 5:8).

War in Heaven - God One; Satan Zero

Revelation 12:7-9 tells just how warped Satan is by thinking he can overtake the throne of God: *“Then war broke out in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.”*

How warped the Devil's mind must be to think that he could overtake the God that created him. Satan never had a chance, but pride blinds one to one's own capabilities and Satan was cast down to the earth.

Even the angels that Satan persuaded to rebel with him deceived themselves. Their fate is sealed. *“And the angels who did not keep their positions of authority but abandoned their proper dwelling—these he has kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for judgment on the great Day.”* (Jude 6).

Satan or the Devil is a real being. The Bible tells us he is real. The Bible also says his fate is sealed but those who belong to Christ are no longer in the Devil's hold and we are no longer blinded by him to the gospel. He will be cast into the lake of burning sulfur someday. All those who have NOT placed their trust in [Jesus](#) will also be cast into hell...a place that was originally created for the Devil and all his demons.

Jesus says to those who refuse to repent and believe in Him that they are headed for the same fate as Satan. [Jesus says](#), *“Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels”* (Matt 25:41). Hell was not created for humans but for Satan and his fallen angels (demons).

Today, before Christ returns, you can choose heaven over hell - eternal life over eternal torment. I pray you will place your faith in Christ Jesus and be spared the same fate that awaits Satan and all his dastardly demons.

Section Three: End Times

The End Times events frighten many people and so they simply never take the time to learn about these things. In this section you can read about that number “666”; events that lead up to the end of this world and even the rapture of the Church. Many of these events are heavily discussed in popular Revelation seminars but unlike the deep theological discussions at those meetings, these pages are written so that you can learn and understand easily. We don’t share this to scare you, but rather so that you can study for yourself.

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Chapter 11

Biblical Signs of the Second Coming Of Jesus Christ

By Jack Wellman

When Jesus Christ's disciples asked Him about His return and the "end of the world" their focus was not on the physical end of the earth and its civilization per se. They had in mind the end of the age of man's rule (the Greek word translated "world" is *aion*, meaning "age") and the commencement of a different age ruled by Jesus Christ as king, a reign identified elsewhere in [Scripture](#) as the kingdom of God.

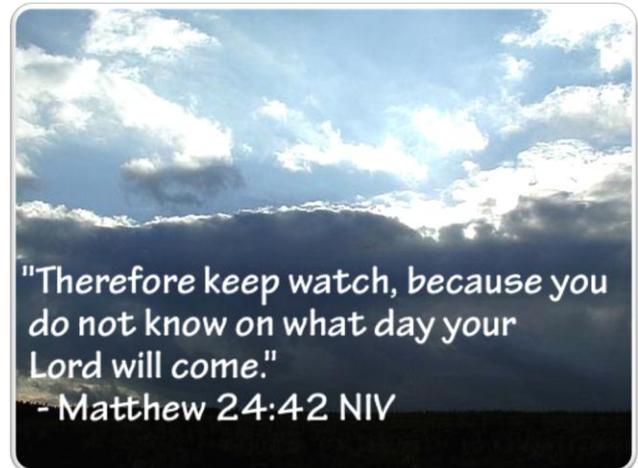
In His reply, Christ described the many and varied conditions that would precede His return. They included such things as deception, wars, famines, disease epidemics, [earthquakes](#) and religious persecution, all culminating in an unprecedented time of worldwide calamity. We have already experienced in the disastrous 20th and 21st centuries many signs of just such a calamity. The earthquake in Japan and ensuing tsunami is a good example. But if we are to believe the prophecies of Scripture, there are many worse events yet to come. (Matt. 24: 3-29)

Just before Jesus' return He continued by say, *'Nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and great earthquakes shall be in divers places, and famines, and pestilences; and fearful sights and great signs shall there be from heaven. And there shall be signs in the sun and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken.'* (Luke 21 v.10-11, 25-26)

The Apostle Paul Addresses Signs of Jesus' Return

Know this also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. (2 Tim 3:1-7)

According to this, a communication gap is not the problem. The cause of increasing immorality is simply an increase in pride and sinfulness; a decrease in desire for true godliness.



The Apostle Paul accurately predicted, "The time will come when men will not put up with [sound doctrine](#). Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths" (2 Tim 4:3, 4). It is understood, the "desires" which some will try to "suit" are sinful! Could it be that doctrinal mythology is the result of people with "itching ears" turning to "a great number of teachers" who will say what itching ears with sinful desires want to hear?

Without Natural Affection - One of the most basic Judeo Christian principles has been the natural and beautiful attraction between the sexes. The love of a mother and father for their children, the love of the extended family for each other, and the love of one's country were similarly considered "natural." Today we are living in a depraved Romans chapter one world that many fear God has given or will give up to "vile passions" that reverse the normal order of things. (Roman 1:26-27)

The Apostle Peter Addresses Signs of Jesus' Second Coming

It is fascinating to note that almost 2000 years ago the apostle Peter, an untrained Galilean fisherman, predicted the exact thinking patterns that would characterize these scoffers. He prophesied that ... *"Scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, and saying, 'Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation.' For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water. But the heavens and the earth which now exist are kept in store by the same word, reserved for fire until the Day of Judgment and perdition of ungodly men."* (2 Peter 3:3-7)

Why does Peter say that the scoffers are so blind? He provides us with 2 reasons why: The first is found in 2 Peter 3:5, *"For this they willfully forget."* The unregenerate minds of unbelievers resist the idea of the intervention of God in human affairs. Their problem is spiritual, a matter of the will, and the unbeliever remains deliberately ignorant of the truth. Peter mentions a second reason for the scoffer's intellectual blindness in verse 3. He was told that *"the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end."*

The Prophet Daniel on the Final Days When Jesus Comes Again

"Many shall be purified, made white, and refined, but the wicked shall do wickedly" But Daniel was told that the remaining prophecies are sealed until the last days and that "the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end." (Dan. 12 v.9)

Why not accept the Lord as Savior today and cleanse all sin from your life and your entry into heaven is secure. Jesus sacrifice renders you blameless before God in the Great Day of Judgment (Rev. 20:12). You will stand before one of two different Judgment Seats: the Judgment Seat of Christ, where the believers are given their eternal rewards, (you don't need to worry about your eternal destination as a believer, it is already heaven), or as an unbeliever at the Great White Throne Judgment, where the only judgment is to be separated from Jesus Christ for eternity. No one knows the day Christ will return. Your chance to be saved from eternal separation from God can come anytime because no one has any guarantee that they will live beyond tomorrow. Die without Christ and the end is now. Here's how to make certain you are ready at any time:

The Top 7 Signs of the Tribulation

Rev. 9: 20 lists the top 7 signs of the Tribulation:

- Rebellion against God ("They did not repent").
- Worship of Demons
- Idolatry
- Murders
- Sorceries ("Phar-mak-voos", from pharmaco for drugs)
- Sexual Immorality
- Thefts

How to Receive & Know you Have Eternal Life

Admit - that you are a sinner and in need of a Savior (Rom 6:23)

Abandon - self-effort and realize that you cannot be saved by your works or your own efforts (Acts 16:31)

Accept freely Christ's payment for your sins, required of the Father (John 3:16)

Acknowledge Jesus Christ as your personal lord and Savior (Acts 4:12)

Now you can never be lost again and can live forever (John 10:28-29). As I said, no one has any guarantee that they will live beyond tomorrow and if you die without Christ, for you, the end is now; and for all eternity. Make the decision today, right now. His return has never been closer than it is today. No one knows exactly when Jesus returns but Hebrews 3:7-15 and 2 Corinthians 6:2 say that, Today is the accepted day of salvation, and now is the day of salvation. Tomorrow may never come. I beg you to come today, while it is still called today.



Chapter 12

Are We In The Last Days?

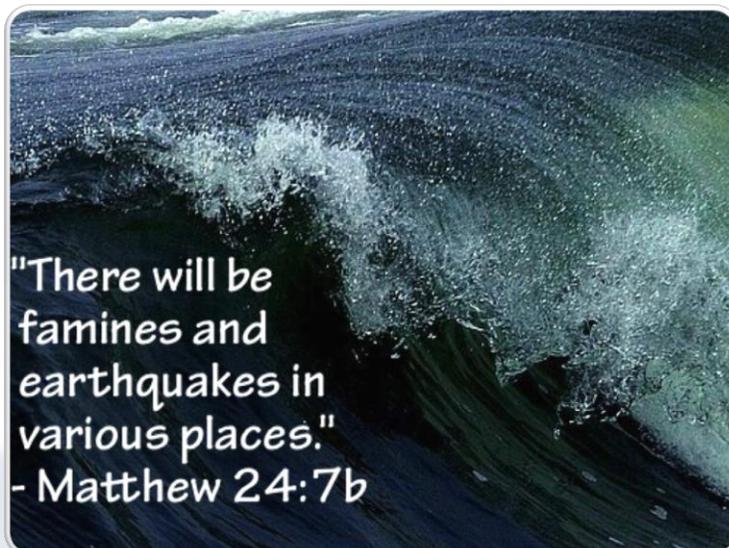
By Jack Wellman

What are the signs that we are living in the last days before Jesus Christ's return? Are we in the end times? Are there signs in the Bible which we can read that tell us that we are living in the days just prior to His [coming again?](#) What Scriptures reveal that we could be living in the very last days before Jesus comes to judge the world?

Perilous Times

The study of the end times is called Eschatology which basically means a study of the end things. The end things in this case is a study of the end times and deciphering the nearness of Christ's return based upon Scriptures. Eschatology is concerned with the end of the present age and events that lead up to Jesus Christ's return to judge the unsaved world and to reward believers for their good works or the lack thereof.

In the first place, we don't have to look for *any* prophecy in the Bible to be fulfilled before Jesus can return again. The sad fact is that for those who choose today to not believe in Jesus Christ, that day will be a terrible one. For those who are not believers, they will face eternal judgment and have no second chance for salvation and escaping hell. For those who today have already placed their [faith](#) in the Lord Jesus Christ, they will receive their rewards. Today is the day of salvation for the unsaved because He can return at any given moment (2 Cor 6:2).



In Paul's last letter to Timothy and having the knowledge that his death was imminent, he warned Timothy by telling him to:

"mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God— having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with such people"
(2 Tim 3:1-5).

Certainly, Paul was right that *"evildoers and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived"*
(2 Tim 3:13).

These verses have come to pass into their fullness today. Read these things written in 2 Timothy and you can see them already prevalent in society: greed is unbelievable, children are rebelling against parents, people are lovers of themselves, people are full of pride, boastful, abusive, ungrateful, having no natural love, unforgiving, no self-control (with sexual immorality rampant), brutal, and having a hypocritical look of godliness but living in duplicity. These appear to be more so today than in Paul's day.

Scoffers of God

When someone scoffs at the idea of there being a God they ridicule believers even more when they say that people have been talking about Jesus' coming for hundreds of years. This persecution has not been helped by the many false prophets who have claimed to have special revelations from God and set dates for Jesus' return. Not one of them of course has been right because no one knows the date of Christ's Second Advent (Matt 24:36). The Benny Hinns and [Harold Campings](#) of this world have served to only exacerbate the idea of Jesus' certain coming as being a myth and they have, unfortunately, helped to create a world of skeptics. These false prophets are fortunate that they didn't live in the Old Testament times because false prophets were stoned to death for such false prophecies then.

The longer the period of time of Christ's return is, the more skepticism will increase, but Peter warned us about this natural tendency in 2 Peter 3:3-4, *"Above all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. They will say, 'Where is this 'coming' he promised? Ever since our ancestors died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation.'"*

What [Peter](#) is saying in his last letter is that people have been saying this ever since his ancestors were around. It is much like in the days of Noah, prior to the flood, in which Noah spent 120 years warning people of an impending flood of judgment to come. If they laughed at Noah, they will laugh at believers. But believe God, judgment is coming as Peter warned by the comparison of Noah's time saying, *"By these waters also the world of that time was deluged and destroyed. By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the Day of Judgment and destruction of the ungodly"* (2 Pet 3:6-7).

Signs of the End Times

Jesus gave the greatest list of the signs of the times that would be occurring prior to His return to the earth. The Olivet Discourse is known as the single, longest and greatest prophecy of the end of the age in the Bible and since Jesus Himself gives it, we can certainly know that it is accurate. His disciples had just come out of the temple with Christ and they had commented on the majesty of the temple, but Jesus instead turned their attention to the end time events that would occur just prior to His return. In Matthew 24:3 the disciples asked [Jesus](#) a very pointed question of *"what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?"* Many of these prophecies have already been fulfilled.

In Matthew 24, Jesus gives us these signs that we are living in the last days.

"Jesus answered: 'Watch out that no one deceives you. For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Messiah,' and will deceive many" (v 4-5). There have been no shortages of fanatics claiming to be Jesus, even in the 1st Century.

"You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of birth pains" (v 6-8). Once more, these have been already occurring and at an ever increasing rate. The number of earthquakes and famines that follow war are growing exponentially, but a sober warning from Jesus is that He says that *"these are (only) the beginning."*

Jesus continues by prophesying, *“At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold”* (v 10-12). Many have turned their back on God, on believing in a God, on church attendance, and have begun to hate one another instead of Christ’s command to [love](#) one another and become lukewarm not only for Christ but for other people (1 Cor 13, John chapters 15-17, Rev 3:14-19).

“As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. 38 For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; 39 and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man” (v -37-39). Peter may have used the days of Noah from the reference given by Christ (2 Pet 3:3-4). People will be going on as if everything were normal; marrying, eating dinner, drinking at parties, like it would go on forever, but suddenly, just like the flood came, so too will be *“the coming of the Son of Man”* but it will then be too late.

Just as it will be too late for those in Noah’s day to escape death from the flood, the unsaved will face judgment from Jesus Christ. The people in Noah’s day pounded on the door of the Ark, but it was God Himself that sealed the door shut and it was too late (Gen 7:16). God had given them 120 years to repent but they only laughed at Noah. Just when people see the Son of Man coming, they will realize that it is too late. Jesus said, *“And then all the peoples of the earth will mourn when they see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory”* (Matt 24:30). What mourning it will be for the lost for they will be eternally separated from God and be judged, but for those who are Christ’s own, *“he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other”* (Matt 24:31). These are they who have already placed their faith in Christ and trusted Him with their eternal salvation. What a time of rejoicing for them but

what a time of terrible grief for those who will not ever be with their departed loved ones who are believers in Christ.

Conclusion

Here is a summary of the signs in the world that precede Jesus Christ’s second coming:

- Skepticism
- Greed
- Pride
- Scoffing
- Sexual immorality
- Boastfulness
- Hypocrisy
- Unforgiving
- Slander
- Abusive
- Rebellious
- Wars increasing
- Earthquakes increasing
- Increasing famines
- Increase of false profits
- Increase of false prophecies of Jesus’ Second Advent
- Drinking parties

If you have not yet placed your trust in Jesus Christ, today you can have the saving faith that comes only in believing in Him. There is no other way to escape judgment (Acts 4:12). If you want to be saved from the wrath of God and receive eternal life, click on the link at the top of this website where it says, [“Come to Jesus”](#) and you can be saved today. God is patient but He will not wait forever (2 Pet 3:9). Today is the day of your salvation because no one has any guarantee that they will live beyond today (2 Cor 6:2). My [hope](#) and prayer is that anyone who is unsaved and reading this might understand that we are indeed living in the last days. These are the end times and it will be the beginning of their eternity in hell if they don’t come to saving faith today in Jesus Christ our Lord. God doesn’t want you, your family, your friends, your co-workers, or anyone to perish (2 Peter 3:9). I do not want that and neither should you.

Chapter 13

What Is The Rapture?

By Jack Wellman

What is the rapture? Is it in the Bible? Why do some believe in the rapture and some do not? Who is right?

The word rapture is not in the Bible but neither is the word Trinity. Some theologians, Christians, and churches believe in the rapture and others do not. Some believe in the Great Tribulation, while others do not. What are we to believe if some teach about the rapture while others do not?

Theologians Who Do Not Believe in the Rapture

There are many outstanding theologians who do not believe in a Rapture. Some of these include R.C. Sprouls with Ligonier Ministries, John Piper with Desiring God, Hank Hanegraaff, the Bible Answer Man, and many outstanding Bible scholars. These men are theologically sound teachers and evangelists. They believe that there is no rapture and that there is also no Great Tribulation from what many presume Jesus taught in Matthew 24 or the Olivet Discourse. Several scholars, like those mentioned above, believe that the events in the Book of Revelation have already occurred or might have already occurred in A.D. 70 when Jerusalem and the Temple were destroyed by the Romans.

We must have grace for those who do not believe in non-essentials. If a believer feels differently about something than we do, and the subject is not essential to salvation, then there should be tolerance. It is wrong for Christians to argue over doctrines that are not crucial to the gospel and how a person is saved. For example, we know that there is only one way to the Father and that there is no other way to salvation except through placing your faith in Jesus Christ (Acts 4:12, 16:30-31; Rom 10:9-13, etc.). We also know that we are not saved by works (Eph 2:8-9; Rom 3:20, 28, etc.). These issues are non-negotiable. These truths cannot be compromised.

One person I know argued over the question of whether Adam had a navel or not because he did not have a mother. An ensuing argument erupted over this single topic that was not considered important enough to be included in the Scriptures. Paul wrote to Timothy and said to *"Keep reminding God's people of these things. Warn them before God against quarreling about words; it is of no value, and only ruins those who listen"* (2 Tim 2:14).



Theologians Who Believe in the Rapture

The vast majority of Bible scholars, churches, theologians, evangelists, and Christians do believe in a coming rapture. Even though the word rapture does not appear in the Bible, they base their beliefs on a passage from [1 Thessalonians](#). In 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 Paul writes,

“Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. According to the Lord’s word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.”

The church at Thessalonica were worried that Jesus would return and that those who had already died were going to be left behind in their graves. That is the reason why Paul wrote to the church at Thessalonica. Paul reassures them by writing that *“we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep”* (1 Thes 4:15).

Even though the word rapture is not in the Bible, the Greek word for “caught up” in 1 Thessalonians 4:17 is *harpazo*. In Latin it is called *Rapturo* from which we get the word rapture. The New Testament was written in Greek and the English words “caught up” is literally *harpazo*. *Harpazo* means “to seize, carry off by force; claim for one’s self eagerly; to snatch out or away”. A good rendering of *harpazo* is like that of being kidnapped. The Lord is thought to be coming to seize or carry off by force all believers, just before the coming Great Tribulation.

Many believe that the rapture occurs just before the Great Tribulation (Pre-tribbers). Others believe it will occur during the middle of it (some call it Mid-tribbers). Still others believe the church will go through the Great Tribulation. And of course the first group mentioned at the beginning of this article neither believes in the rapture or the Great Tribulation. The vast majority of Christians believe that the rapture will occur just before the Great Tribulation. This belief is based upon Scriptures like 1 Thessalonians 5:9 (and elsewhere) that, *“God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

The wrath of God was poured out on Christ at Calvary so it would not have to be poured out on those who have placed their faith in Christ. The wrath of God is said to be “poured out” on the sinful world in the Book of Revelation and since God has not appointed Christians to suffer His wrath, He will take believers out of harm’s way in a rapture. I find it interesting that 1 Thessalonians 5:9 is mentioned right after what many believe is the rapture where Paul wrote about being “caught up” in 1 Thessalonians 4. Another reason that many believers feel that the church will be raptured is that the church is not mentioned when the Great Tribulation events begin to occur in the Book of Revelation.

Millennium Views: Premillennial, Postmillennial and Amillennial

Different beliefs include the premillennial view. In this view, Christ comes *before* the millennium. Then there is the postmillennial view which teaches that Christ comes *after* the millennium. There is also the amillennial view which holds that Christ also comes after the millennium, and it is also sometimes called the no millennial view. This is quite confusing to many Christians but this a theological issue that is not essential to salvation. The Second Advent where Christ returns to judge the world *is* a certainty. We therefore are told to witness to those who do not know Christ as their Savior. Jesus *will* return again; either as a person's Judge or as person's King. If someone does not place their faith in Christ and He returns, He will be their Judge at the Great White Throne Judgment in Revelation 20. They will be cast into the Lake of Fire. However, if someone believes in Christ today, or does so before He returns, then they will love His appearing. Paul wrote about this in his last letter to Timothy. Paul is about to be executed and tells Timothy, "*Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing*" (2 Tim 4:8). A crown of righteousness is reserved for those who long for Jesus' return. But for those who are not believers, then it will be a most dreadful day indeed (Rev 20:12).

When I am asked whether I hold a postmillennial view, the amillennial view, or a premillennial view, I tell them that I am a panmilleniast – that is, I believe it will all pan out in the end. I think we need to be ready for His return at any moment. A danger in believing in the rapture is that Christians may become lazy or slothful and not want to grow in the [grace](#) and knowledge of our Lord.

They feel that they can rest on their laurels and not worry about the future because they'll be taken out of this world by Christ before it gets bad. The danger in that thinking may be why Jesus gave this parable:

Parable of the Ten Virgins in Matthew 25:1-13:

"At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise. The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. The wise ones, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep. "At midnight the cry rang out: 'Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!' "Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.' "No,' they replied, 'there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.' "But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut. "Later the others also came. 'Lord, Lord,' they said, 'open the door for us!' "But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I don't know you.' "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour."

That last line, "*Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour*" is a sobering reminder to always be ready for His return.

Whether you believe in the Great Tribulation, the Millennium, the rapture, or none of these, you must believe in Jesus Christ and place your faith in Him today.

Tomorrow may be too late and you might hear Jesus say, "*I don't know you*". My prayer for you is that Jesus does know you and that you might know Him and that by knowing Him, you may have eternal life (John 20:31).

Chapter 14

What Does 666 Represent?

By Jack Wellman

What does the number 666 in Revelation mean? Who is the dragon? Who is the Beast and what is the mark of the beast?

The book of Revelation is an enigma to many. In the first place it is not the Revelation of the Apostle John. It is Jesus Christ's revelation to John who in turn recorded it for our sakes. Revelation 1:1-2 says that it is *"The revelation from Jesus Christ, which God gave him [John] to show his servants [the church] what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, who testifies to everything he saw—that is, the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ."* So the book of Revelation is not of human origin and this includes the Apostle John – it is the Revelation of Jesus Christ given to John. But what is this mark of the beast and the number 666 speaking about in Revelation chapter 13?



The Dragon

Revelation 13:1 says that *"The dragon stood on the shore of the sea. And I saw a beast coming out of the sea. It had ten horns and seven heads, with ten crowns on its horns, and on each head a blasphemous name."* The dragon is none other than Satan himself. He is called a dragon many times in the Bible. In Revelation 20:2 this is made clear: *"He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years."*

The Beast

The beast combines features from four beasts (Dan. 7:1-8, 17-27) and represents idolatrous kingdoms. The beast could also represent the Antichrist. Now several antichrists are mentioned by John in his letters (1 John 2:18, 2 John 1:7). But there is a difference between antichrists (small "a") and *the* Antichrist (capital "A"). The antichrist (small "a") is anyone who denies that [Jesus is the Christ](#) and is God as John says in 2 John 1:7, *"I say this because many deceivers, who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh, have gone out into the world. Any such person is the deceiver and the antichrist."* And in 1 John 2:18, *"Dear children, this is the last hour; and as you have heard that the antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come. This is how we know it is the last hour."* Since there are "many antichrists" coming, this means that this is not *the* antichrist John mentions in Revelation 13. This is understood to be true because many antichrists had already come in John's day (2 John 2:18).

The Antichrist has also been called the “*man of lawlessness*” or sin and is mentioned by Paul in 2 Thessalonians 2:1-11 where he speaks of the last days just before Christ’s return, “*Concerning the [coming of our Lord Jesus Christ](#) and our being gathered to him, we ask you, brothers and sisters, not to become easily unsettled or alarmed by the teaching allegedly from us—whether by a prophecy or by word of mouth or by letter—asserting that the day of the Lord has already come. Don’t let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness [sin] is revealed, the man doomed to destruction. He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God’s temple, proclaiming himself to be God [see Revelation 13:4 & 8]. Don’t you remember that when I was with you I used to tell you these things? And now you know what is holding him back, so that he may be revealed at the proper time. For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way. And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming. The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with how Satan works. He will use all sorts of displays of power through signs and wonders that serve the lie, and all the ways that wickedness deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie.*”

The “*one who now holds it back*” I believe is the Holy Spirit and the Spirit must be taken out of the way, with what most believe will be the church’s rapture, before the man of sin (or the Antichrist) is revealed. Satan is the power behind this beast, which could be an end-times ruler of evil and darkness (Rev 13:2). This beast will have such power that he will control the world’s market and the ability for anyone to purchase or sell anything (Rev 13:17).

666 – The Mark of the Beast

The beast apparently can control who can and cannot buy and sell. If they do not have the beast’s mark, then they have no power to buy or sell since “*It also forced all people, great and small, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hands or on their foreheads*” (Rev 13:16). This mark was “*so that they could not buy or sell unless they had the mark, which is the name of the beast or the number of its name. This calls for wisdom. Let the person who has insight calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man [literally the number of humanity]. That number is 666*” (Rev 13:17-18). The number 666 falls one short of God’s number of perfection, which is 7. This number is like a false trinity of sinful origin and reflects an imperfection times three.

Many people have falsely had the number 666 assigned to someone or others by using the old Roman Numerals system where X = 10, V = 5 and so on. Over the years many have tried to take the letters of human leader’s names and total their numbers to six hundred and sixty-six. These attempts have obviously been wrong. They ascribed this mark or number to various Popes, to Hitler, and to Rome itself (in the manner using “Latin Man”) but to no avail. The number 666 may simply be a number like everyone has for their Social Security card or their driver’s license and this same number will need to be memorized (thus on their forehead) or be implanted in their hand somewhere (Rev 13:16). No one is certain about this but the number is of human origin. The main thing is that the number 666 is anti-Christ or anti-God and is supremely carnal and sinful. The source of this number and all evil in the world is Satan or the Devil (Rev 12:9).

Because the Bible reveals so little about the number 666 it is unwise for me to speculate. The important thing is that anyone who is not Christ’s is susceptible to this beast and the Antichrist but those who are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life have nothing to fear from the beast nor [anything to worry](#) about the number 666 and having the mark of the beast on them (Rev 13:8).

Chapter 15

How Will The World End?

By Jack Wellman

Does the Bible say how the world will end? Does the Bible say that the world will end? What is the “end” all about when the end is mentioned in the scriptures?

Does the Bible Say How the World Will End?

The Bible actually says that the earth abides forever; so then how can the Bible also declare the end of all things? You have seen the signs and placards that have sometimes declared, —The end is near!! But does the earth actually end? The —end times!! is more of a reference to the end of the age and not an actual end of the world or earth.

It certainly does not mean the end of mankind. Jesus talked about the end of the age coming and that the end times would be like the days of Noah and like Sodom and Gomorrah (Luke 17:27-30). That is much like 2 Timothy’s description of the end of times but not of time itself. It is the end of the time of human self-rule.

Second Timothy 3:1-5 is a vivid description of what the end days will be like: —*But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God— having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with such people.*”

The “end” is the end of the rule of Satan who is the god of this world. The end is actually the end of the age and not the end of the world or the earth. Second Corinthians 4:4 testifies to this fact: —*The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.*” The —*god of this age*!! who has —*blinded the minds of unbelievers*” is no less than Satan or the Devil who is ruling the earth as we speak. Even so, he can only do what God’s sovereignty allows (Job 1).

The heavens will disappear with a roar;

the elements
will be destroyed by fire...
2 Peter 3:10b



So to say that the world will end is to lack understanding that it is really the end of the age and the age of Satan's rule of this earth. Satan has deceived the entire world except for those who are Christ's (Rev 12:9). The earth will abide forever (Psalm 78:69; Eccl 1:4) but there will be a new heaven and a new earth someday. The old earth will go through purification by fire as Peter describes in 2 Peter 3:5-13:

“By the same word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the Day of Judgment and destruction of the ungodly....But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare. Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be?...That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells.”

So the old world will end and a new heaven and a new earth will come (Rev 21). That is encouraging for those who are believers in Christ but it ought to be a fearful thing for those who are not believers and are not born-again.

Does the Bible Say That the World Will End?

As we have read, the Bible never declares that the world will end. It is only the old earth that will be gone and the old age; a new heaven and a new earth will exist but it will still be the earth in the same sense. Most Bible scholars believe the end of the old earth as we know it today will be at the end of the millennium or after the thousand year reign of Christ and His saints on earth. Then the New Jerusalem or actually heaven itself descends out of the sky and rests where Jerusalem is at the present time (Rev 21). So we can say that heaven will be on earth because heaven is any place where God is. And it will be 1,500 miles wide, with four sides and 1,500 miles high (Ezek 41:2-4). It cannot even be imagined right now. But first the earth will be melted and all the elements in it because at the end of the millennium, Satan will be loosed from his chains and will again deceive many who are on the earth. But heaven will be untouchable forever because God is in it. Then there will be no need for the sun and the moon for God Himself will be the light. And even the ocean will be gone for the kingdom will be all encompassing then.

What is the “End” All About According to the Scriptures?

The “end” of the world is really the end of the age of Satan's rule. His rule will end, and Christ's reign will begin and His saints will rule with Him. Those who are not Christ's will be judged at the Great White Throne Judgment (Rev 20). No person who is a Christian will have to go through this judgment or through the coming Great Tribulation. This judgment will be for those who have never accepted Jesus Christ as Savior. The unbelievers will be cast into the lake of fire. Satan will eventually be tossed into the abyss, a type of bottomless pit and will never, ever again tempt or deceive people. In fact, even death itself will be cast into the lake of fire and there will be no more death, no more tears, and no more sorrow. But for those who end their life not believing in or professing faith in Jesus Christ, their state will never end. Unfortunately they will be in torment forever and ever without end.

This is all the more reason for you, if you are not a believer in Jesus Christ right now, to confess your sins, admit your need for a Savior, and believe in Him as your Lord and Savior. Then you too will live, without end, in joyful bliss and eternal happiness with the Lord. And it will never end. This is what is known as eternal life.

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