

## HEAVEN

- Do animals go to heaven? Do they have a soul?

The Bible is silent here, but we have some significant hints ...

- Genesis tells us that man was given dominion over animals (he is different).
- There is no prohibition in the Bible against killing animals (no soul).
- There will be animals on the new earth, but not in heaven.

**Ecclesiastes 3:19-21** For that which befalleth the sons of men befalleth beasts; even one thing befalleth them: as the one dieth, so dieth the other; yea, they have all one breath; so that a man hath no preeminence above a beast: for all is vanity. All go unto one place; all are of the dust, and all turn to dust again. Who knoweth the spirit of man that goeth upward, and the spirit of the beast that goeth downward to the earth?

**Ecclesiastes 3:11** He hath made every thing beautiful in his time: also he hath set the world in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end.

**Ecclesiastes 3:11 (AMP)** He has made everything beautiful in its time. He also has planted eternity in men's hearts and minds [a divinely implanted sense of a purpose working through the ages which nothing under the sun but God alone can satisfy], yet so that men cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.

Human beings have eternity in their hearts – they exist forever somewhere!

- If a baby or a small child dies do they go to heaven?

**Genesis 18:25** That be far from thee to do after this manner, to slay the righteous with the wicked: and that the righteous should be as the wicked, that be far from thee: Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?

An infant is not capable of rejecting Jesus Christ or of disobeying the gospel.

**John 3:18** He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

**2 Thessalonians 1:8-9** In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;

**Ezekiel 18:20** The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him.

**2 Samuel 12:22-23** David said, While the child was still alive, I fasted and wept; for I said, Who knows whether the Lord will be gracious to me and let the child live? But now he is dead; why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he will not return to me.

- Do people live in hell for eternity or do they eventually cease to exist?

**Revelation 20:10** And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

**Revelation 14:11** And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.

**Matthew 25:41** Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

**Daniel 12:2** And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.

**Mark 9:43** And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched:

- Why are there dogs, sorcerers, whoremongers, murderers, etc. just outside the gates of the New Jerusalem?

**Revelation 22:14-15** Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city. For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.

This doesn't mean these horrible sinners are "just outside the gates" of the New Jerusalem. The key is the word "without" which can be translated "foreign" or "foreigner" – it is not a point of LOCATION, but a point of REFERENCE – they are "without" or "they will never be allowed "within."

- What will a "glorified body" look like? Will we know our loved ones in Heaven?

One of the best ways to see what this glorified body will look like is to look at the body of Jesus after His resurrection.

**1 John 3:2** Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear

what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

John 20:20 And when he had so said, he shewed unto them [his] hands and his side. Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the Lord.

- Jesus was recognizable as Jesus after His resurrection
- Moses and Elias were recognized on the Mount of Transfiguration.

Luke 24:39 Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have.

Philippians 3:21 Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.

"We're just the same individual on the other side as we are here, minus sin and corruption and death." - J. Frank Norris

- Are there people in Heaven right now? When someone dies and people **comfort you by saying “they are in heaven waiting for us” or “they are watching us from heaven” is that true?** Where does your spirit go when you die?

Ecclesiastes 12:7 Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.

2 Corinthians 5:6-8 Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord: (For we walk by faith, not by sight:) We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.

The spirit returns to God who gave it, so the moment a believer dies they are conscious of the presence of the Lord. However, they are not conscious of us in the sense of looking down at our lives (that would certainly not be Heaven!). SPIRIT has no consciousness of its own – it must be united with a body – that's why there is a resurrection! So, it is correct to say that departed believers are “waiting for us” but it is not correct to say they are “watching over us.” They are actually in a “holding place” called PARADISE.

Hebrews 12:1 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, These people are not witnesses OF us, but witnesses TO us – that we can run the Christian race successfully, just like they did!

## FOR THE REST OF OUR QUESTIONS, LET'S ANSWER BY LOOKING AT A LITTLE CHART CALLED "WHERE ARE THE DEAD?"

- If someone repents before they die but they've never experienced the new birth (Acts 2:38) are they saved? What happens to other Christian denominations?

- If it is true that no one can be saved during the tribulation, then what would be the incentive for someone not to take the mark of the beast?

- What does the Bible mean when it talks about the new Heaven and the new Earth?

- **If people are held responsible by God for what they know, wouldn't it be better for people not to know the truth?**

**Revelation 22:10-12** <sup>10</sup> And he saith unto me, Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the time is at hand. <sup>11</sup> He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still. <sup>12</sup> And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward *is* with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.

According to Scripture, there are FOUR KINDS of people on the earth:

- Two kinds of BAD people: the unjust and the filthy (WICKED)
- Two kinds of GOOD people: the righteous and the holy

The **UNJUST** are people who are basically good in man's opinion, but because they are without faith in Jesus Christ they are considered wicked in God's opinion; regrettably, their eternal destination is hell.

The **FILTHY** are people who would be considered wicked in both man's opinion and God's opinion; they also are without faith in Jesus Christ and their eternal destination is hell.

In summary, the **WICKED** are people who do not obey the truth.

- **Psalm 9:17** The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God.

The **RIGHTEOUS** are people who obey all the truth they know; they will be judged at the Great White Throne Judgment (along with the wicked), and their eternal destination is the New Earth.

- **1 Peter 4:18** And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?

The **HOLY** are people who obey all the truth God has revealed in their dispensation; they will be judged at the Judgment Seat of Christ, and their eternal destination is the New Jerusalem (Heaven).

- **Ephesians 5:27** That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.
- **2 Timothy 1:9** Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,

### **CHART: WHERE ARE THE DEAD?**

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

The New Jerusalem's walls are 212 feet thick and 1500 miles high. The city would reach all the way from Maine to Florida and from the Atlantic Ocean to the state of Colorado. If the main avenues were a mile apart and a mile above one another, there would be no less than eight million avenues! If heaven contained rooms each a one-mile cube, it could contain 3,375,000,000 of them. If we started with the time of Adam and spent one hour in each room we would by now have visited less than one quarter of them! (G.T. Haywood)

But the best way to describe Heaven is by contrast to earth: no more night (22:5), no more curse (22:3), no more death (21:4), no more tears or pain (21:4).