



A Traveler's Guide to the Afterlife

A Bible Literacy Study Guide on the Eternal Destiny of the Individual

Dr. Timothy Gordon

Summary on the Afterlife

A Traveler's Guide to the Afterlife



- Introduction to the Afterlife
- Death and the Mortality of Man
- The Immortality of the Soul
- The Intermediate State of the Dead
- The Second Coming of Christ
- The Resurrection of the Body
- The Day of Judgment and Rewards
- Hell and Eternal Destruction
- Heaven and Eternal Life

Dale E. Bertram, PhD, Professor of Marriage and Family Therapy, Campbellsville University-Louisville, Louisville, KY.

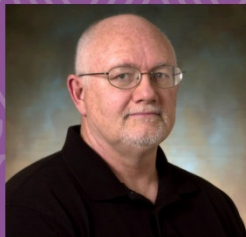
Tim has written three unique study guides that are designed to make a person biblically literate in the specific topics they cover. *Introduction to the Bible*, *Basic Bible Doctrines*, and *A Traveler's Guide to the Afterlife* are a great compliment to an exposition of the Bible text. Bible literacy research has shown that many people in churches are illiterate in these areas covered by Tim's study guides. Bible literacy is a passion of Tim's and I am familiar with his research and teaching in this area over the years. I wholeheartedly endorse these books for churches, small groups, and personal enrichment to use for the purpose for which they are designed.

Clark Peddicord, D.Phil, Philosophia International, Berlin, Germany.

The future of Christian faith in the Western world hangs by a thread. Many who call themselves "Christians" are functionally illiterate about the basic teachings of the Bible. Tim Gordon's work can, in the right hands, help turn that around. Use these guides yourself, give them to your friends and family, and make them part of the youth and adult program of your church. Immediately!"

Bill Pubols, DMin, Executive Director, The Biblical Studies Center, Boise, Idaho.

As I have observed him teach theological studies over the past decade, Tim has continually impressed me with not only the incisive depth comprehensive breadth of his biblical and scientific knowledge, but with his thoroughness of his pedagogical preparation. In short, he has painstakingly labored to produce a quality product. If young people would commit to studying Tim's curriculum, they would see through the emptiness of the world to find the meaning, values and purpose inherent in the living God of Scripture. Just as God's Word does not return to him void, so neither will these study guides fail to help beginners make sense of God's truth. May these find a home in every student's backpack and every family's bookshelf!



Tim Gordon worked as a manufacturing and clinical data analyst for almost 25 years. He is a retired Navy Commander with 30 years of active and reserve military service. Tim completed a doctorate in Christian apologetics with certification in scientific apologetics and has also earned graduate degrees and certificates in religion, public administration, and computer information systems. His wife Judy is a seminary graduate and a retired school counselor. Tim started out in campus ministry at Boise State University and Eastern New Mexico University in the late 70s/early 80s and is currently an adjunct instructor for the Biblical Studies Center in Boise.

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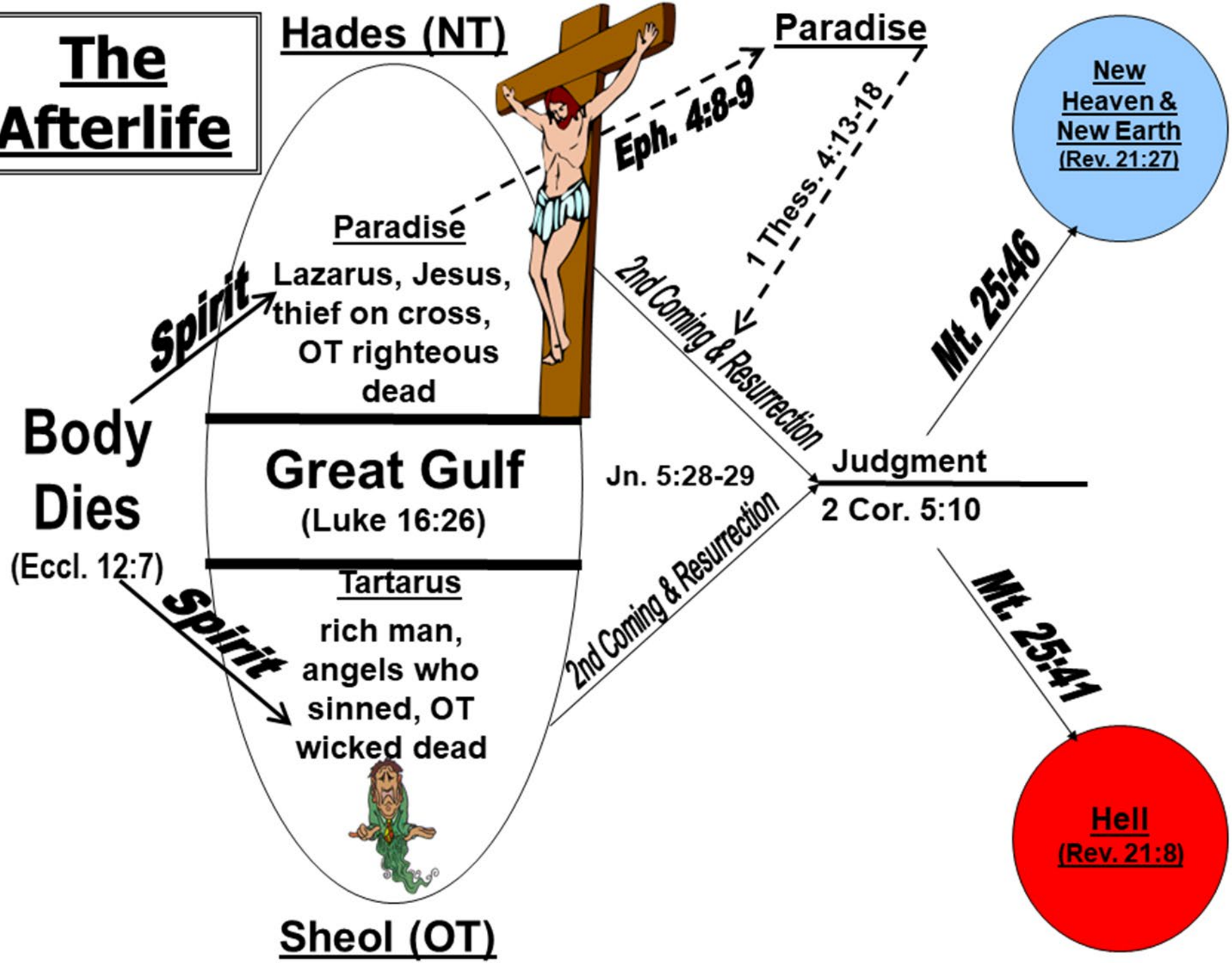
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The Afterlife



Eschatology Defined



- ESCHATOLOGY es-kə-tol'-ə-jē [\leftarrow Gk. *Éschatos* — 'last'].
- The doctrine of the last things.
- Included are two distinct but inseparable questions:
 - *the destiny of the individual*--life, death, immortality, the intermediate state, and resurrection;
 - *the destiny of history*--the Day of the Lord, the end of the world, judgment, and the kingdom of God in the new world. Includes the destiny of the individual.
- Traditionally, eschatology has been concerned primarily with the destiny of the individual; but in biblical eschatology, individual destiny must be understood in connection with the destiny of history as a whole.

Scriptures on the Afterlife



- Eccl. 12:1, 6-7—1 Remember also your Creator in the days of your youth...6 before the silver cord is snapped, or the golden bowl is broken, or the pitcher is shattered at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the cistern, 7 and the dust returns to the earth as it was, *and the spirit returns to God who gave it.*
- Luke 23:43—And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in *Paradise.*"
- Hebrews 9:27—And just as it is appointed for man to *die* once, and after that comes judgment,
- 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;
- Revelation 20:13-14—13 And the sea gave up the *dead* who were in it, *Death* and *Hades* gave up the *dead* who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done. 14 Then *Death* and *Hades* were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the *second death*, the lake of fire.

Summary on the Afterlife



- No two people have the exact same view of the afterlife. Christian beliefs about the afterlife vary between denominations, backgrounds, teaching, study.
- 81% of Americans believe in some sort of afterlife.
- 79% of Americans believe in the immortality of the soul.
- Most Christians do not believe that entry into heaven can be earned.
- Many other cultures believe in an afterlife.
- Claims of people going to heaven or hell and back to earth are unbiblical.
- Contrary to folk beliefs, Christian saints do not turn into angels at death.
- Modern science generally regard claims for an afterlife to be pseudoscience.
- Reincarnation as an afterlife belief is unbiblical (Heb. 9:27).
- Universalism is the belief that all will eventually be saved regardless of what they have done or believed.
- Roman Catholic beliefs of limbo and purgatory are unbiblical.

Scriptures on Death and Man's Mortality



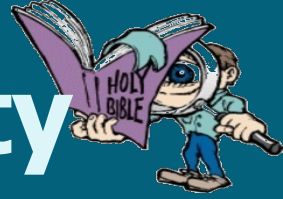
- Genesis 2:17—but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely *die*."
- Psalms 116:15—Precious in the sight of the LORD is the *death* of his saints.
- Eccl. 12:1-7—1 Remember also your Creator in the days of your youth...6 before the silver cord is snapped, or the golden bowl is broken, or the pitcher is shattered at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the cistern, 7 and the dust returns to the earth as it was, *and the spirit returns to God who gave it.*
- Ezekiel 18:23—Have I any pleasure in the *death* of the wicked, declares the Lord GOD, and not rather that he should turn from his way and live?

Scriptures on Death and Man's Mortality



- Romans 5:12—Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and *death* through sin, and so *death* spread to all men because all sinned.
- Romans 6:23--For the wages of sin is *death*, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
- 1 Corinthians 15:26, 56—26 The last enemy to be destroyed is *death*. 56 The sting of *death* is sin, and the power of sin is the law.
- Hebrews 9:27—And just as it is appointed for man to *die* once, and after that comes judgment,
- Revelation 20:13-14—13 And the sea gave up the *dead* who were in it, *Death* and *Hades* gave up the *dead* who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done. 14 Then *Death* and *Hades* were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the *second death*, the lake of fire.

Summary on Death and Man's Mortality



- Death is defined as a term which means the end of life when applied to the lower orders of living plants and animals.
- For humans, death is not the end of life.
- The Bible speaks of death in a threefold way: physical, spiritual, and eternal.
- Everyone who has not been redeemed by Christ is spiritually dead (Luke 15:32; Eph 2:1-3; Col 2:13).
- Mortality is the state of being mortal or susceptible to death
- In the NT, which focuses on a crucified and resurrected Lord, death becomes a theological problem (final enemy to be destroyed).
- Satan is the lord of death while Christ breaks the power of death for his followers.
- The greatest tragedies in the world are not the problems of crime, disease, starvation, war, etc. but rather those who die outside of Christ.
- In Christian theology second death refers to the final condition of those outside of God's salvation. It is the equivalent to the lake of fire.

Scriptures on the Immortality of the Soul



- Romans 2:7—to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and **immortality**, he will give eternal life;
- 2 Corinthians 5:1-4—1 For we know that if the tent, which is our earthly home, is destroyed, **we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.** 2 For in this tent we groan, **longing to put on our heavenly dwelling**, 3 if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. 4 For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened, not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that **what is mortal may be swallowed up by life.**
- 1 Timothy 1:16-17—To the King of ages, **immortal**, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.
- 1 Timothy 6:15-16—15 ... he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, 16 who alone has **immortality**, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see. To him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

1 Corinthians 15:50-54



- 50 I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the **imperishable**.
- 51 Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,
- 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be **raised imperishable**, and we shall be changed.
- 53 For this perishable body must put on the **imperishable**, and this mortal body must put on **immortality**.
- 54 When the perishable puts on the **imperishable**, and the mortal puts on **immortality**, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."

Summary on the Immortality of the Soul



- Immortality is the quality or state of being immortal. The concept of immortality is expressed directly in the Bible, only in the New Testament.
- God is uniquely immortal in that he is without beginning or end of life and is not in any way affected by change or reduction (1 Tim. 6:16).
- Man, on the other hand, is immortal only by derivation and when his mortal body has been replaced by one which is immortal.
- In biblical theology man is not inherently immortal; it is the whole man, body and soul, that is immortal even though the body must undergo a transformation in order to achieve immortality.
- Glorification is only for believers, and it consists of the redemption of the body.
- Traditional immortality assumes that the soul is inherently immortal and was brought into Christian theology by Greek Platonists.
- Conditional immortality views God as alone possessing inherent immortality and any immortality given to humans is derived from him.

Scriptures on the Intermediate State



- 1 Samuel 2:6—The LORD kills and brings to life; he brings down to *Sheol* and raises up.
- Daniel 12:1-2—12 "At that time shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people. And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book. 2 **And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake**, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.
- Luke 8:30-31—30 Jesus then asked him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Legion," for many demons had entered him. 31 And they begged him not to command them to depart into the *abyss*.

Scriptures on the Intermediate State



- Luke 23:43—And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in *Paradise*."
- Acts 2:27, 31—27 For you will not abandon my soul to *Hades*, or let your Holy One see corruption. 31 he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to *Hades*, nor did his flesh see corruption.
- 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;
- Jude 6—And the angels who did not stay within their own position of authority, but left their proper dwelling, he has kept in eternal chains under *gloomy darkness* until the judgment of the great day —

Parable of Rich Man and Lazarus

Luke 16:19-31



19 "There was a rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day.

20 And at his gate was laid a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores,

21 who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man's table. Moreover, even the dogs came and licked his sores.

22 The poor man died and was carried by the angels to **Abraham's side**. The rich man also died and was buried,

23 and in *Hades*, being in **torment**, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side.

24 And he called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in anguish in this flame.'

Parable of Rich Man and Lazarus

Luke 16:19-31



25 But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner bad things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish.

26 And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us.'

27 And he said, 'Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house —

28 for I have five brothers — so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.'

29 But Abraham said, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.'

30 And he said, 'No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.'

31 He said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.'" ESV

Summary on the Intermediate State



- The intermediate state is the period between a person's death and the final resurrection at the end of time.
- Jesus' story of the rich man and Lazarus (Luke 16:19-31) represents the rich man as conscious and tormented in Hades and Lazarus the beggar as conscious and blessed in Abraham's bosom.
- This parable suggests that immediately after death the righteous are rewarded and the unrighteous receive punishment.
- On the cross Jesus said to the repentant thief "Today you will be with Me in Paradise " (Luke 23:43).
- The overall sense of these references identifies Paradise with heaven, to which the righteous go immediately after death.
- Soul sleep is the doctrine that the soul sleeps between death and resurrection.
- *Sheol* in OT thought is the place of the dead.
- *Hades* in NT thought becomes the place of the wicked dead until judgment.
- In Catholic thought, Limbo and Purgatory are unbiblical intermediate states.

Scriptures on the Second Coming



- Matthew 24:36, 44—36 "But concerning *that day* and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only." 44 Therefore you also must be ready, for the *Son of Man is coming* at an hour you do not expect.
- Mark 8:38—For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when he *comes* in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."
- 1 Thessalonians 5:2—For you yourselves are fully aware that *the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.*
- Hebrews 9:28—so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will *appear a second time*, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

Scriptures on the Second Coming



- 2 Peter 3:10-12—10 But *the day of the Lord will come like a thief*, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. 11 Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, 12 waiting for and hastening the *coming of the day of God*, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn!
- Revelation 1:7—Behold, he is *coming with the clouds*, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18



- *13 But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope.*
- *14 For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep.*
- *15 For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep.*
- *16 For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.*
- *17 Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.*
- *18 Therefore encourage one another with these words.*

Summary on the Second Coming



- The certainty of the second coming has been proclaimed by Jesus, angels, and the apostles.
- Jesus will come in person with the clouds and without warning.
- The purposes of the second coming will be to raise the dead, deliver up the kingdom to God, judge the world, punish evil, destroy and to usher in the new heavens and new earth.
- In preparation for the second coming, Christians are to be watchful, waiting, and working.
- The time of the second coming will be like a thief in the night with God alone knowing the day which He has fixed.
- The second coming will be universal and every eye will see Jesus' coming.
- The Day of the Lord will be a day of terror for unbelievers and a day of rejoicing for believers.

Scriptures on the Resurrection



- Isaiah 26:19—*Your dead shall live; their bodies shall rise. You who dwell in the dust, awake and sing for joy! For your dew is a dew of light, and the earth will give birth to the dead.*
- Daniel 12:2—*2 And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.*
- John 5:28-29—*28 Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice 29 and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.*
- John 6:44—*No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day.*
- John 11:25—*Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live,*

1 Corinthians 15:50-54



- *50 I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.*
- *51 Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,*
- *52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed.*
- *53 For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality.*
- *54 When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."*

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- 13 But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope.
- 14 For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep.
- 15 For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the *coming of the Lord*, will not precede those who have fallen asleep.
- 16 For the *Lord himself will descend from heaven* with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.
- 17 Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.
- 18 Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Summary on the Resurrection of the Body



- The central, defining doctrine and claim of the Christian faith is the resurrection of Jesus Christ, whom God brought forth from the dead.
- The resurrection of the dead refers to the promise based on the bodily resurrection of Jesus, that all believers will one day join Christ in the resurrection.
- Believers will be transformed, that is, renewed both morally and physically with "spiritual" bodies adapted for eternal life with God.
- Is. 26:19 and Dan. 12:2 seem to be the clearest OT passages for the resurrection of the righteous.
- The New Testament contrasts the resurrection to life with resurrection to judgment (John 5:29; Acts 24:15).
- The Rapture is a word used by premillennialists to refer to the church being united with Christ at his second coming (from the Lat. *rapio*, "caught up").
- The resurrection of the righteous will be conformed to the glorious body of our Lord! - Phil 3:20-21.
- The bodies of the wicked will also be raised but the clear teaching from Scripture is that immortality is only promised to the saved, never to the lost.

Scriptures on Judgment Day



- Ecclesiastes 12:14—For *God will bring every deed into judgment*, with every secret thing, whether good or evil.
- Matthew 12:36—I tell you, on the day of *judgment* people will give *account* for every careless word they speak,
- Acts 17:31—because *he has fixed a day* on which he will *judge* the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."
- John 5:22—The Father *judges* no one, but has given all *judgment* to the Son,
- John 12:48—The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a *judge*; the word that I have spoken will *judge* him on the *last day*.
- 2 Corinthians 5:10—For we must all *appear* before the *judgment* seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

Scriptures on Judgment Day



- Romans 14:10-12—10 Why do you pass *judgment* on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the *judgment* seat of God; 11 for it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God." 12 So then each of us will give an *account* of himself to God.
- Revelation 20:11-13—11 Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them. 12 And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the *book of life*. And the dead were *judged* by what was written in the books, according to what they had done. 13 And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were *judged*, each one of them, according to what they had done.

Matthew 25:31-46



31 "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne.

32 Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.

33 And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left.

34 Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

35 For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me,

36 I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.'

37 Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink?

38 And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you?

Matthew 25:31-46



39 And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?'

40 And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'

41 "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.

42 For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink,

43 I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.'

44 Then they also will answer, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?'

45 Then he will answer them, saying, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.'

46 And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

Scriptures on Rewards



- Matthew 10:42--And whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his **reward.**"
- Matthew 25:14-15, 29--14 "For it will be like a man going on a journey, who **called his servants and entrusted to them his property.** 15 **To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability.** Then he went away. 29 **For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away.**
- 2 Corinthians 5:10--10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that **each one may receive what is due him** for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.
- 2 John 8--8 Watch yourselves, so that you may not lose what we have worked for, but may win a full **reward.**

Summary on the Judgment



- The purpose of the judgment will be for publication and execution of the sentence so that each one may receive their reward or punishment, to glorify God, and to vindicate His righteousness.
- The Bible speaks of one judgment to follow the 2nd coming at the end of time on a day that has been fixed by God.
- God has made Jesus Christ the judge. We will all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.
- Angels and human beings will be judged.
- We will give an account for our thoughts, words, and deeds.
- Jesus' spoken words will judge all on the last day.
- The standard of the judgment will be the righteousness of God.
- At the judgment, the book of life will be opened. All whose names are written therein will receive eternal life. All whose names are not found therein will be thrown into the lake of fire.

Summary on Rewards



- Heavenly rewards are offered by God to a believer on the basis of faithful service rendered after salvation.
- Rewards will be dispensed at the judgment seat of Christ (2 Cor 5:10; Rom 14:10).
- The dispensing of rewards will determine what responsibilities Christians will have in the coming kingdom (Matt 25:21).
- Some Christians will be saved but with little, if anything, to show for their years on earth due to wrong motives, laziness, or misplaced priorities (1 Cor 3:15).
- In Matt 25 it is clear that the lord of the servants expected more from the five-talented man than he did from the two-talented or the one-talented individuals.
- Rewards can be forfeited resulting in severe sense of shame and remorse (1 John 2:28) and a possible divine reprimand for wasted living as a Christian (Matt 25:26-28).
- God is not obligated to give us rewards but Jesus promised that even as small a service as a cup of cold water given in the Lord's name (Mark 9:41) will not go without divine notice and reward.

Scriptures on Hell and Eternal Destruction



- Malachi 4:1—"For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when *all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble. The day that is coming shall set them ablaze*, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch.
- 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*.
- Matthew 22:13—Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot and *cast him into the outer darkness*. In that place there will be *weeping and gnashing of teeth*.'

Scriptures on Hell and Eternal Destruction



- Mark 9:47-49—47 And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into hell, 48 'where *their worm does not die* and the *fire is not quenched*.'
- Revelation 20:14-15—14 Then Death and Hades were *thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire.* 15 And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was *thrown into the lake of fire.*
- Revelation 21:8—But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the *lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.*"



Summary on Hell and Eternal Destruction

- The Bible teaches that humans are perishable creatures wholly dependent upon God for existence. *Gen. 2:7; Ps. 103:14-16; Rom. 6:23; 1 Tim. 6:16.*
- Two historical events which biblical writers use most often to illustrate God's final judgment against the wicked are the Flood and the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. *Gen. 6-9; 19:24-29 2 Pet. 3:5-7; Jude 7.*
- Based on an actual event, the Bible uses the expression "eternal fire" to signify fire that destroys forever (Sodom and Gomorrah). *Jude 7; Matt. 25:41; 10:28.*
- Throughout the Bible, "gnashing of teeth" denotes extreme anger and hostility. *Job 16:9; Ps. 35:16; Lam. 2:16; Acts 7:54; Matt. 13:43; Luke 13:28.*



Summary on Hell and Eternal Destruction

- When Scripture speaks of smoke rising "forever," it signifies a destruction that will be irreversible. *Gen. 19:27-28; Is. 34:10-15; Rev. 14:11; Mal. 4:1-3.*
- The "worm" in the expression "worm that dies not" is a maggot that feeds on something dead. *Is. 66:24; Mark 9:47-48.*
- The Old Testament final description of the end of sinners states that they will be ashes under the soles of the feet of the righteous. *Mal. 4:1-3.*
- Throughout the Bible, the expression "unquenchable fire" always signifies fire which is irresistible and therefore consumes entirely. *Is. 1:31; Jer. 4:4; 17:27; Ez. 20:47-48; Am. 5:5-6; Matt. 3:12.*
- Jesus personally described Gehenna (hell) as a place where God is able to destroy both soul and body. *Matt. 10:28.*



Summary on Hell and Eternal Destruction

- The phrase "eternal punishment" signifies punishment which occurs in the Age to Come with everlasting results. *Matt. 25:46; 2 Thess. 1:9.*
- The context and "punch line" of the Rich Man and Lazarus talk about the urgency of responding to God while there is opportunity. *Luke 16:9-16, 31.*
- Throughout his writings, Paul says that the lost will die, perish, and be punished with eternal destruction. *Rom. 6:23; 1 Thess. 5:2-3; 2 Thess. 1:9; 1 Cor. 3:17; Phil. 1:28; 3:19.*
- The Bible is consistent that God's punishments for sin are consistent with his unchanging character. *Gen. 18:25; Ex. 21:23-25; Ps. 15:4; Mal. 3:6; Matt. 5:38-39; 2 Pet. 3:9.*
- The New Testament uses the adjective "immortal" to describe the resurrection bodies of the saved but not of the lost. *1 Cor. 15:54-57; 2 Tim. 1:10; 1 Jn 5:11-13.*

Scriptures on Heaven and Eternal Life



- Matthew 25:21—*His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.'*
- John 3:16, 36—*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. 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 14:2-3—*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? 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.*
- 1 John 5:13—*I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life.*

Scriptures on Heaven and Eternal Life



“...No **eye** has seen,
no **ear** has heard,
no **mind** has imagined
what God has prepared
for those who love him.”
1 Cor 2:9

Revelation 21



- *21:1 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.*
- *2 I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.*
- *3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.*
- *4 He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."*

Revelation 21



- *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. NIV*

Summary on Heaven and Eternal Life



- "Heaven" designates two interrelated and broad concepts-the physical reality beyond the earth and the spiritual reality in which God dwells.
- A person's new and redeemed existence in Jesus Christ which is granted by God as a gift to all believers.
- Eternal life refers to the quality or character of our new existence in Christ as well as the unending character of this life.
- Jesus made it clear that eternal life comes only to those who make a total commitment to Him (Matt 19:16-21; Luke 18:18-22).
- John emphasizes eternal life as the present reality and the present possession of the Christian (John 3:36; 5:24; 1 John 5:13).
- The first and second heavens are the physical heavens that can be seen by the naked eye.
- Presently believers are citizens of heaven (Phil 3:20-21) with a heavenly calling (Heb 3:1); their names are written in heaven (Luke 10:20).

Summary on Heaven and Eternal Life



- In addition to ascription of worth, worship will involve service-unspecified works done in obedience to God and for God (22:6).
- In contrast to present suffering, God promises believers that they will reign with Christ in heavenly glory (2 Tim 2:12; see Matt 19:28; Rev 20:4,6).
- In heaven believers will have fellowship with God and with each other in a perfect environment (Heb 12:22-23).
- A new heaven and earth refers to the perfected state of the created universe and the final dwelling place of the righteous.
- Scripture speaks of the old heavens and earth being completely replaced.
- The New Jerusalem is the holy city described by John in Rev 21-22; God's perfect and eternal order of the future.
- Over half of the general public believes that if a person is generally good, or does enough good things for others during their life, they will earn a place in heaven.