

Topical Study: *Always Be Ready to Give a Defense*

Life application of the truths of God's Word as it applies to us and our families today

Part 11 – *What Does the Bible Teach about Heaven and Hell? (Part 3)*

Sunday, April 17 2011

Revelation 19 – 22 (S-911-KL)

(All Scriptures are from the New King James Version unless otherwise indicated.)

From Conclusion of Part 2 (Review): *What happened to the souls of people who died before Jesus?*

The answer comes from Luke Chapter 16:

- **Rejecters of God went to the tormenting side of Hades.** Their souls are still there waiting for the final judgment of God before going to the eternal lake of fire.
- **Those who believed in God's promises went to the comforting arms of Abraham, father of the faithful, in the other side of Hades, until Jesus paid the price for sin.** (There was a great gulf separating the two parts of Hades.) Now they are in heaven with Jesus.

But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore He says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men." (Now this, "He ascended;" What does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.) Ephesians 4:7-10

I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death. Revelation 1:18

Now, when people die:

- **Unbelievers go to the tormenting side of Hades**
- **Believers go to be with the Lord in heaven (2 Corinthians 5, Philippians 1)**

Spin the clock forward:

- **Unbelievers who die go to Hades**
- **Believers who die go to Heaven**
 - Rapture of the church – all believers taken to Heaven, with new bodies fit for eternity – 1 Corinthians 15, 1 Thessalonians 4

Rapture of Believers into Heaven

For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words. 1 Thessalonians 4:16 – 18

But we know very little in scripture about what we do there. Revelation 6 does give us some insight.

View of saints in heaven looking down on earth and its troubles:

When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held. And they cried with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed. Revelation 6:9 – 11

Those who are in heaven are longing for Jesus to put an end to the suffering on earth.

Jesus is waiting for more to have faith and come to heaven. Then He returns - the Second Coming of Jesus.

The Battle of Armageddon

The Antichrist and False prophet are killed and sent to the Lake of Fire. All the armies of the Antichrist are killed – their souls go to Hades - Into torment waiting for the Great White Throne Judgment of Revelation 20.

Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God [read Isaiah 34 and 63 for parallel passages]. And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. Revelation 19:11 – 16

And I saw the beast [The Antichrist], the kings of the earth [The kings of the new world order global government], and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army. Then the beast [Antichrist] was captured, and with him the false prophet [religious leader who forced inhabitants to worship the Antichrist] who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh. Revelation 19:19 – 21

Satan is then locked up for 1,000 years to prevent his deception on the earth during the Millennium.

Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years, and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while. Revelation 20:1 – 3

No Satan to tempt those who will be living during the Millennium – These are the sheep of Matthew 25.

**All Tribulation survivors come before Jesus who judges them as sheep and goats
Sheep are allowed to live into the 1,000 year reign**

There are very few human beings (the surviving sheep) now on the earth, but they all love God and want Jesus to rule.

Jesus then establishes his kingdom on earth and restores the earth to a time of paradise.

And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. Revelation 20:4

The saints of time past live and reign with Jesus on earth living in eternal glorified bodies.

*But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. **This is the first resurrection.** Revelation 20:5*

The unbelieving dead are now waiting in Hades for the final judgment.

Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years. Revelation 20:6

What happens during this 1,000-year reign?

The answer gives us a taste of what the eternal heaven is going to be like.

The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, The leopard shall lie down with the young goat, The calf and the young lion and the fatling together; And a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; Their young ones shall lie down together; And the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play by the cobra's hole, And the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper's den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord As the waters cover the sea. And in that day there shall be a Root of Jesse, Who shall stand as a banner to the people; For the Gentiles shall seek Him, And His resting place shall be glorious. Isaiah 11:6 – 10

God restores the animals to the condition before the Fall of Genesis 3.

Those who survived the Tribulation will have children and grandchildren, repopulating the earth

Where a child can lead a wolf and leopard without fear of being attacked

“For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; And the former shall not be remembered or come to mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in what I create; For behold, I create Jerusalem as a rejoicing, And her people a joy. I will rejoice in Jerusalem, And joy in My people; The voice of weeping shall no longer be heard in her, Nor the voice of crying. “No more shall an infant from there live but a few days, Nor an old man who has not fulfilled his days; For the child shall die one hundred years old, But the sinner being one hundred years old shall be accursed [the longevity of man will be restored – people again living for 1,000 years?]. They shall build houses and inhabit them; They shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. They shall not build and another inhabit; They shall not plant and another eat; For as the days of a tree, so shall be the days of My people, And My elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands. They shall not labor in vain, Nor bring forth children for trouble; For they shall be the descendants of the blessed of the Lord, And their offspring with them. It shall come to pass That before they call, I will answer; And while they are still speaking, I will hear. The wolf and the lamb shall feed

together, The lion shall eat straw like the ox, And dust shall be the serpent's food. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain," Says the Lord. Isaiah 65:17 – 25

"For as the new heavens and the new earth which I will make shall remain before Me," says the Lord, "So shall your descendants and your name remain. And it shall come to pass that from one New Moon to another, And from one Sabbath to another, All flesh shall come to worship before Me," says the Lord. "And they shall go forth and look upon the corpses of the men who have transgressed against Me. For their worm does not die, And their fire is not quenched. They shall be an abhorrence to all flesh." Isaiah 66:22 – 24. (Also read Ezekiel 47:1-12 – A river from the throne heals the Dead Sea.)

Satan is released from his chains and is allowed to try and deceive those who have been living under Jesus' rule for nearly 1,000 years.

*Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea. They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them. The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone **where the beast and the false prophet are**. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. Revelation 20:7 - 10*

Doesn't sound like God's love wins them ALL over! Some would rather serve Satan than God, no matter what God has done for them.

The final judgment of all souls who have died in unbelief:

Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead [the unbelieving dead – except for the Antichrist, False Prophet, and "Goats" of Matthew 25], small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life [Only those who believe in Jesus as their Savior are in the Book of Life]. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. Revelation 20:11 – 13

The tormenting side of Hades is now empty as all the unbelieving souls have been judged

Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire. Revelation 20:14 – 15

Forever and ever.

With all judgment complete, Jesus then establishes the eternal (and new) Heaven and Earth

*Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. And God will wipe away **every tear from their eyes**; there shall be **no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying**. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away." Revelation 21:1 – 4*

The condition of the final eternal heaven:

*Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful." And He said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts. He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son. **But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.**"*

Revelation 21:5 – 8

Because those who lived to do these things would have corrupted heaven

In verses 9 through 21 of Revelation Chapter 21, John describes the New Jerusalem – The new heaven with pearl gates (representing the twelve tribes of Israel) and its foundation (representing the twelve apostles).

But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light. And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it. Its gates shall not be shut at all by day (there shall be no night there). And they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it. But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

Revelation 21:22 – 28

In Revelation Chapter 22, the Apostle John *emphasizes* that heaven is for those who have their names in the Lamb's Book of Life

And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month [the tree of life is back for first time since Genesis 3]. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him.

Revelation 22:1 - 3

The curse of the earth is forever removed and there is no more death.

And he said to me, "Do not seal the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is at hand. He who is unjust, let him be unjust still; he who is filthy, let him be filthy still; he who is righteous, let him be righteous still; he who is holy, let him be holy still." Revelation 22:10 -11

Jesus does not force people to be nice and to go to heaven!

"And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last. Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city. But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie. I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star." And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely. Revelation 22:12 – 17

Is this you?