



*...but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ, ... (Ephesians 4:15)*

## Part 8 — HEAVEN AND HELL

### The final judgments.

1. Hebrews 9:27-28 *And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many.*
2. In a study of the topic of Heaven, it is important to understand that the Bible speaks of several final judgments which include the Judgment of Believers (2 Corinthians 5:10), the Judgment of the Nations (Matthew 25:31-46), the Judgment of Satan and his angels (Revelation 20:7-10), and the Great White Throne Judgment (Revelation 20:11-15).
3. The Bible also speaks of crowns such as the crown of Righteousness for believers (1 Corinthians 9:24-27; 2 Timothy 4:7-8), and the crown of Life for martyrs (James 1:12; Revelation 2:10).

### The two final destinations (Luke 16:22-31).

1. **Heaven.** (Matthew 25:46; John 10:28, 14:2; 2 Corinthians 5:1-8; 1 Peter 1:3-5; Revelation 21:1-5; etc.)
2. **Hell**, created for the devil and his angels (Matthew 25:41), is often referred to in the New Testament as Gehenna. (Matthew 5:22, 18:9)
  - A. It is a very real place of eternal torment and fire. Revelation 20:10 *And the devil, who deceived them, was 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.* (2 Peter 2:4; Revelation 19:20)
  - B. It is also the destination of the wicked. Revelation 20:11-15 *Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The*

*lake of fire is the second death. Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.* (Revelation 21:7-8)

- C. Hell is described as everlasting fire (Matthew 25:41), shame and everlasting contempt (Daniel 12:2), a place of torment where the fire is not quenched (Mark 9:44-49; Luke 16:23-24), everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord (2 Thessalonians 1:8-9), and a lake of burning sulfur (Revelation 20:10).

### What is Heaven like?

1. To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord. (2 Corinthians 5:6-8)
2. Heaven is eternal life in relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. 1 John 5:11-12 *God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.* (John 17:3)
3. Heaven is a very real place. John 14:2-3 *In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you...*
4. There will be a new Heaven and a new Earth. Revelation 21:1-2 *Then I saw "a new heaven and a new earth," for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away,...* (Isaiah 65:17)
5. We will have new, spiritual bodies created just for Heaven. (1 Corinthians 15:42-57)
6. Heaven is the eternal dwelling place of God with His people. Revelation 21:3-4 *And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. '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."*

### How do we receive eternal life in Heaven? (Romans 10:9-10, 13)

1. Eternal life is having a faith relationship with Christ that begins today and goes into eternity. John 17:3 *Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.* (John 3:16-17; Romans 10:9-10, 13)
2. 1 Peter 1:3-5 *In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade...*
3. For more information on how to be born again, refer to Part 1, "Born Again."