

Heaven and Hell Study Questions

Heaven is the ultimate hope of every believer in Jesus Christ. God has promised eternity with Him for all of His chosen people.

Hell is the eternal destination of those who reject the work of Jesus Christ on the cross in this life. It promises separation from God and eternal torment.

The Bible does not give us complete details about either place but does give us enough information to gain a basic understanding of both. We will see that both places exist, both are part of God's plan, and our eternal destination has been determined before the foundation of the world. We will also see from the scriptures that we can know which one we are going to.

What we believe about heaven and hell will affect the way we live.

Ask God to give you a greater understanding of His truths about heaven and hell and His plan for you before you begin.

1. Do you know for sure where you will go when you die? To heaven or hell?

2. Salvation is defined by Webster's dictionary as "deliverance from sin and the penalty of sin." What is the penalty of sin according to Romans 6:23? _____

3. There are four commonly held beliefs about an afterlife in our culture. Read each one and then look up the verses following them. Decide if each one is true or false and record any observations from the verses that are relevant.

A. When we die, we cease to exist. Ecclesiastes 3:11; Luke 16:22-24; John 3:16 T / F

B. Everyone goes to heaven when they die. Matthew 25:31-34, 41; Luke 13:26-30 T / F

C. When we die, we will be reincarnated, working our way out of the consequences of works we have done that have not pleased God. Hebrews 9:27 T / F

D. When we die, people will go either to heaven or to hell based on their faith in Jesus Christ. Matthew 25:31-34, 41; Luke 7:50; Ephesians 2:8-10 T / F

4. In hell, people will be eternally separated from God. Using what you know to be true of God, describe what you think that would be like.

5. Read 1 Corinthians 3:11-15. In these verses, Paul is urging the Corinthian Christians to take the foundation of their faith, Jesus Christ, and build on it with materials that withstand fire.

A. Which of the materials listed will withstand fire? Which will not?

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 1. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 2. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 3. _____ |

B. What does Paul promise to those who will build on their foundation with imperishable materials?

C. What does he say will happen to those built with wood, hay, or straw?

D. What do you think it means to “be saved, but only as through fire”?

E. Are the works you are doing in the Lord’s service being built on gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, or straw? What, if anything, do you need to change about the service you are giving to God?

6. Revelation 20:14-15 says, “Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.”
Who will be thrown in the lake of fire?

7. Read Revelation 3:3; 20:12,15; and 21:27 and record what you learn about those whose names are written in the book of life.

8. Romans 8:1-2 says, “There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.” According to this verse what are those who are in Christ set free from?

9. Matthew 16:27 says, “For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done.” What does this verse say that believers will answer to the Lord about?

10. There are several areas of life that each Christian will be judged on at the second judgment. Look at the following verses and record what might be part of judgment for the believer.

A. Matthew 7:21

B. 1 John 1:8-10

C. Matthew 25:34-46

D. 1 Corinthians 12:4-11

E. Matthew 5:13-16; 28:19-20

F. Hebrews 12:1, 7; 2 Timothy 4:5

11. The following verses speak of rewards that believers will receive at the second judgment. Look up each verse and record what you learn about the rewards and why God gives them.

A. James 1:12

B. 2 Timothy 4:6-8

C. 1 Corinthians 9:24-27 (NIV)

D. 1 Thessalonians 2:19

E. 1 Peter 5:2-4

12. Read Revelation 4:10-11. How will these rewards be used in heaven?

13. 2 Peter 2 warns of God's judgment for false teachers. There four verses that describe something about hell. Record what you learn from each verse.

A. 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."

B. 2 Peter 2:6, "if by turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to ashes he condemned them to extinction, making them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly;"

C. 2 Peter 2:12 – 13a, “But these, like irrational animals, creatures of instinct, born to be caught and destroyed, blaspheming about matters of which they are ignorant, will also be destroyed in their destruction, suffering wrong as the wage for their wrongdoing.”

D. 2 Peter 2:17, “These are waterless springs and mists driven by a storm. For them the gloom of utter darkness has been reserved.”

14. More descriptions of hell come from the following verses. Read them and record what you learn.

A. Matthew 25:30

B. Mark 9:43

C. Mark 9: 47-48

D. 2 Thessalonians 1:9

E. Revelation 20:10

F. Revelation 20:14

15. In your opinion, what is appealing about hell? What scares you the most?

16. Read Luke 16:19-31

A. What two reasons does Abraham give for not helping this man at his initial request?

B. His second request is for his living brothers. How does Abraham respond?

C. Does the rich man understand why he is in anguish?

D. Does Abraham's response seem right or wrong to you? Why?

17. As you read Revelation 21:1-7 (below) highlight what you learn about heaven.

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." And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." And he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty, I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son." Revelation 21:1-7

18. Read 1 Corinthians 15:40-44. What do you learn about new bodies in heaven?

19. From all of the verses that you have looked at in this study do you think that we will recognize each other in heaven? Why or why not?

20. Revelation 20:4 says that there will be no more tears, no mourning, and no crying.

A. What things make you cry, mourn, or feel sad on earth?

B. How will it be different not to have those things?
