Eternity
Answers About Heaven and Hell
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Sunday, October 11, 2026

Answers About Heaven and Hell

Question 1:
Why would a loving God send people to an eternal place of punishment (hell)?

Revelation 20:1–10 NKJV
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.
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. But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This *is* the first resurrection.
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. 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.

Question 2:
Will we know each other in Heaven?

1 Corinthians 13:12 NKJV
For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.

1 Corinthians 15:40–49 NKJV
There are also celestial bodies and terrestrial bodies; but the glory of the celestial *is* one, and the *glory* of the terrestrial *is*
another. There is one glory of the sun, another
glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars;
for *one* star differs from *another* star in glory. So also *is* the resurrection of the dead. *The body* is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption. It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body. And so it is written, *"The first man Adam became a living being."* The last Adam *became* a life-giving spirit. However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural, and afterward the spiritual. The first man *was* of the earth, *made* of dust; the second Man *is* the Lord from heaven. As *was* the *man* of dust, so also *are* those *who are made* of dust; and as *is* the heavenly *Man,* so also *are* those *who are* heavenly. And as we have borne the image of the *man* of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly *Man.*

Question 3: Are there degrees or levels of Heaven and Hell?

Matthew 11:20–24 NKJV
Then He began to rebuke the cities in which most of His mighty works had been done, because they did not repent: "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. But I say to you, it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in the day of judgment than for you. And you, Capernaum, who are exalted to heaven, will be brought down to Hades; for if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. But I say to you that it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment than for you."

2 Corinthians 5:10 NKJV
For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things *done* in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

1 Corinthians 3:11–15 NKJV
For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on this foundation *with* gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. If anyone's work which he has built on *it* endures, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

Question 4: Do children go to hell?

Matthew 18:10 NKJV
Take heed that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that in heaven their angels always see the face of My Father who is in heaven.

Question 5: What will we do in Heaven? Will it be boring?

Psalm 16:11NKJV
In Your presence *is* fullness of joy; At Your right hand *are* pleasures forevermore.

Small Group Guide: Answers About Heaven and Hell

Opening Question

Of the five questions about Heaven and Hell from the message notes, which one(s) have you wondered about the most?

Heaven and Hell Are Real

Most people's objections to the existence of hell are actually objections to a misunderstanding of it. The question "why would a loving God send people to hell?" assumes that God is the one doing the sending, but Scripture reveals that God created hell for Satan and his angels, not for people. He gave His Son so that no one would have to go there. The story of the Bible is God desiring a family – us – and ultimately sacrificing His own Son so we could know God as our Father. Despite being rejected time and time again, God has always been in patient pursuit of His people. A better reframing, then, of the question, "Why would God send people to hell?" is, "Why would people, given every opportunity to know a perfect and loving God, choose to reject Him?" Read Revelation 20 and find the answer: even after a thousand years of Jesus reigning on earth in person, people rebel again. Hell, therefore, is not God sending people there as punishment for not choosing Him, it is God granting their desire to live without Him.

C.S. Lewis captured it precisely: "There are only two kinds of people in the end: those who say to God, 'Thy will be done,' and those to whom God says in the end, 'Thy will be done.' All that are in Hell, choose it." The final heaven will be populated only by those who have chosen God, and it is the only way to guarantee a stable eternity without future rebellion. Free will, which is our most precious gift from God, means consequences. The most important consequence hangs on the most important choice.

Heaven, meanwhile, is almost certainly far beyond anything we have allowed ourselves to imagine. We will know each other perfectly and completely, more than we know anyone here. We will have real, tangible, glorified bodies that are natural and spiritual at once, patterned after Jesus' resurrection body: able to eat and be touched, but also to transcend physical limits entirely. Every sense will be heightened rather than diminished. The pleasures we chase on earth are, in comparison, cheap substitutes. And there are levels of reward in heaven corresponding to how

faithfully we built on the foundation of Christ during our lives. These are not different qualities of eternity, but different measures of treasure.

For Discussion

1. Pastor Jimmy reframes the hell question: it's not "why would God send people there" but "why would people, given every opportunity, choose to reject a perfect and loving God?" How does that reframe change the way you think about or talk about hell with people who push back on it?
2. C.S. Lewis said that all who are in hell choose it, and that no soul who seriously and constantly desires God will ever miss heaven. Does that land as comforting, convicting, or both? How does it shape the urgency with which you think about the people in your life who haven't yet chosen God?
3. Scripture says we are saved by grace but judged by works — that there are varying degrees of reward in heaven based on what we built on the foundation of Christ. How does that truth motivate you? Is there something you sense God calling you to that you have been postponing?
4. If heaven is as real, tangible, and extraordinary as Scripture describes — perfect knowledge, perfect bodies, pleasures that make earth's best look like substitutes — how much does that picture shape how you live now?

Closing Prayer

Father, You are a good God — patient beyond measure, reaching across centuries of human rejection with the same open hand. Thank You that hell was never made for us and that You gave everything so we would not have to go there. Thank You that heaven is not a vague, ethereal place but a real and extraordinary home that You have been preparing. Give us clarity about eternity that changes the way we live in the present. Increase our urgency about the people around us who have not yet chosen You, help us be generous with the treasure You have entrusted to us, and give us confidence that everything we give up for Your sake is more than worth it. Jesus, You are the way. In Your Name, Amen.