

The Doctrine of Heaven and Hell

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Synopsis: The doctrine of heaven and hell deals with various issues of Creation as well as salvation. The existence of evil in the domain of a creation in which God had made and declared everything as “Good” leaves us with a few mysteries for which curious minds desire answers. If God and all His creation were good, whence evil? Is hell, the place of the damned, a part of the six days of the original creation or an addition created as a consequence of sin? As no man has been to heaven and returned save Christ and a few of His saints, what are we promised about heaven, what will be our experience there, and what can we possibly know about hell?

Of course, God has revealed to us everything we need to know for our Salvation in His Son and in the Word of the Holy Scriptures, Old Testament and New, so some questions we have on these topics will either be delayed in their answers until when we get there or never answered since the other place will then be irrelevant to us, but inasmuch as God has revealed some things to us, we rejoice to have our questions answered by God Himself through His Word.

Goals:

- To come to a Biblical understanding of heaven and hell.
- To become familiar with Biblical references for defending such Biblical teachings.
- To fear and love God for the revelation of these doctrines in the light of our salvation in Christ.
- To properly fear God for the sake of our sins and God’s justice.
- To receive God’s love and grace in the means He’s instituted for their distribution.
- To give God proper glory both for His judgement of the damned and His grace to sinners.
- To be grateful to God for delivering us to heaven and to accept any reward there as purely by grace.

Creation

Heaven:

Genesis 2.1-3: Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished. ²And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. ³Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.

Matthew 25.34: Then the King will say to those on His right hand, ‘Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom **prepared for you from the foundation of the world:**

Revelation 13.8: All who dwell on the earth will worship him (the dragon), whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of **the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.**

Hell:

Matthew 25.41f: “Then He will also say to those on the left hand, ‘Depart from Me, you cursed, into **the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels.** . . . ⁴⁶And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

Revelation 19.20: Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet 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.**

Revelation 20.10f: **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...¹⁴Then **Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.** ¹⁵**And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.**