THE ETERNAL STATE

The Bible only gives us a glimpse of what God has prepared for man throughout eternity to come, *I Corinthians 2:9; II Corinthians 12:2-4.* Just as the wondrous creation of the heaven and the earth is encapsulated within the first two chapters of the Word of God, so its last two chapters bless us with a mere overview of God's recreation of a new heaven and a new earth.

1 Corinthians 2:9

9 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

2 Corinthians 12:2-4

2 I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third heaven. 3 And I knew such a man, (whether in the body, or out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) 4 How that he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.

This lecture is concerned with eternity, when time shall be no more.

I. THE PRELUDE TO THE ETERNAL STATE

Time is relative to this present creation. We measure it by the earth's relationship to the sun, moon, and stars. Therefore, eternity begins when this present creation ends. That point is identified in Revelation 20:11.

Eternity is preceded by several events which occur at the conclusion of the Millennial kingdom of Christ:

A. <u>Satan's Final Attempt</u> — Revelation 20:7.

Satan will be loosed from the bottomless pit (Revelation 20:1-3). This is by God's permission. The Lord will use Satan for His own purpose.

Revelation 20:1-3

And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. 2 And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, 3 And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and

after that he must be loosed a little season.

B. Man's Final Rebellion — Revelation 20:8, 9.

The nations referred to here are those who were born during the Millennial kingdom of Christ.

Revelation 20:7-11

7 And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, 8 And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. 9 And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them. 10 And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever. 11 And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

They were born with a sin nature, but, unlike people today, they had no 'world' to allure them — there was no Satan to tempt them! Furthermore, their evil inclinations were suppressed, Revelation 2:26, 27. These people conformed to the demands of righteousness.

Revelation 2:26-27

26 And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: 27 And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father.

Satan is loosed to test these nations. Has there been a heart change? or is there only an outward form of godliness?

1. The Rebellious Crowd.

They number in the millions. What a sad commentary on human nature. Even in the presence of the King Himself, and in a utopian age — man remains unconverted!!

This surely gives the lie to the attempts of the social 'gospel' and those politicians who think they can really help people by making their lot in life better. Man does not need a new BERTH — he needs a new BIRTH!

2. The Rebellious Act.

They attacked the very heart and center of Christ's rule. It is the same old story — "we will not have this Man rule over us!"

3. The Rebellion's End.

There is no longsuffering with God here.

C. Satan's Final Doom — Revelation 20:10.

Satan is cast into the lake of fire. This was especially prepared for him and his minions —*Matthew 25:41; II Peter2:4; Jude 6.* See: *Isaiah 14:15-17*.

Matthew 25:41

41 Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

2 Peter 2:4

4 For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment;

Jude 6

6 And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.

Isaiah 14:15-17

15 Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit. 16 They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, and consider thee, saying, Is this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms; 17 That made the world as a wilderness, and destroyed the cities thereof; that opened not the house of his prisoners?

Note: Satan is dispatched to the place where the beast (Antichrist) and the false prophet *ARE* (not "were"). They have been there for 1,000 years — there is no annihilation.

Note: This is Satan's first time coming to this place. Contrary to popular opinion, Hell is not his present abode.

Note: The lake of fire is "for ever and ever."

D. The Renovation Of The Old Creation — Revelation 20:11.

See also: II Peter 3:7, 10-13.

2 Peter 3:7.10-13

7 But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto

fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. 10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. 11 Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, 12 Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? 13 Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

This is the final chapter of the "Day of the Lord" — an <u>earthly</u> time period which begins (concurrently with the Rapture) with desolations of Daniel's 70^{TH} Week and concludes with the destruction of the present creation.

E. The Great Day Of Judgment — Revelation 20:11-15.

This is without doubt the saddest and most forlorn passage in all of the Bible — the judgment of all those who died Christless.

Revelation 20:11-15

11 And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. 12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. 13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. 14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. 15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

This judgment will be considered in detail in Lecture 20.

F. The Eternal State Begins — Revelation 21:1.

The lost are forever consigned to the Lake of Fire; the saved enter the place of eternal bliss.

Revelation 21:1

And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

II. MAN IN THE ETERNAL STATE

There are 3 things the Scriptures make very clear concerning man and eternity:

• Eternal existence is certain. Man was created with a soul and a spirit, which

live on after death (*Ecclesiastes 12:7*). Every person will consciously spend eternity somewhere.

Ecclesiastes 12:7

7 Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.

• There is no intermediate state between this life and eternity. There is no purgatory, no soul sleep, no re-incarnation — II Corinthians 5:8; Luke 16:22, 23; 23:43.

2 Corinthians 5:8

8 We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.

Luke 16:22-23

22 And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; 23 And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.

Luke 23:43

43 And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.

• The eternal destiny of man is determined this side of the grave. Every individual determines by his or her acceptance or rejection of Jesus Christ where they shall spend eternity. There is no "proxy religion." There is no second chance (*Hebrews 9:27*). There is no "praying or paying" a soul out of hell.

Hebrews 9:27

27 And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:

According to the Word of God, the present heavens and earth will pass away, giving rise to a new Heaven and a new earth — *Revelation 21:1.* Correspondingly, the abode of the damned will be the lake of fire — *Revelation 20:15; 21:8.*

Revelation 21:1

And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

Revelation 20:15

15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

Revelation 21:8

8 But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

This is the eternal state.

While the subject of *Heaven* is possibly the most agreeable to man, no doubt the subject of *Hell* is the most distasteful. Yet both are Bible doctrines — and what is contained between the covers of the Word of God is the preacher's message.

A. The Doctrine Of Hell And The Lake Of Fire.

1. The Fact Of Hell.

The proof of Hell is abundant. Unbelief or any rejection of the place by infidel or cultist does not lower the temperature by one degree!

a. Hell Is A Scriptural Fact.

The place of torment and eternal punishment is mentioned 88 times in the Word of God. During His earthly ministry, the Lord Jesus Christ warned men of Hell more than He ever taught about Heaven.

Some Scriptural references are:

Deuteronomy 32:22; II Samuel 22:6; Job 26:6; Psalm 9:17; Psalm 116:3; Psalm 139:7-12; Proverbs 15:24; Isaiah 5:14; 14:9,15; 33:14; 66:24; Ezekiel 31:16; Amos 9:2; Matthew 3:12; 5:22,29,30; 7:13; 10:28; 11:20-24; Matthew 13:41,42,49,50; 22:13; 23:23; 25:30,41-46; Mark 9:43-49; Luke 12:5; 16:23; Revelation 1:18; 6:8; 9:1,2: 14:10,11; 19:20; 20:15; 21:8.

Deuteronomy 32:22

22 For a fire is kindled in mine anger, and shall burn unto the lowest hell, and shall consume the earth with her increase, and set on fire the foundations of the mountains.

2 Samuel 22:6

6 The sorrows of hell compassed me about; the snares of death prevented me;

Job 26:6

6 Hell is naked before him, and destruction hath no covering.

Psalm 9:17

17 The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God.

Psalm 139:7-12

7 Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? 8 If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there. 9 If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; 10 Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me. 11 If I say, Surely the darkness shall cover me; even the night shall be light about me. 12 Yea, the darkness hideth not from thee; but the night shineth as the day: the darkness and the light are both alike to thee.

Proverbs 15:24

24 The way of life is above to the wise, that he may depart from hell beneath.

Isaiah 5:14

14 Therefore hell hath enlarged herself, and opened her mouth without measure: and their glory, and their multitude, and their pomp, and he that rejoiceth, shall descend into it.

Isaiah 14:9,15

9 Hell from beneath is moved for thee to meet thee at thy coming: it stirreth up the dead for thee, even all the chief ones of the earth; it hath raised up from their thrones all the kings of the nations. 15 Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.

Isaiah 33:14

14 The sinners in Zion are afraid; fearfulness hath surprised the hypocrites. Who among us shall dwell with the devouring fire? who among us shall dwell with everlasting burnings?

Isaiah 66:24

24 And they shall go forth, and look upon the carcases of the men that have transgressed against me: for their worm shall not die, neither shall their fire be quenched; and they shall be an abhorring unto all flesh.

Ezekiel 31:16

16 I made the nations to shake at the sound of his fall, when I cast him down to hell with them that descend into the pit: and all the trees of Eden, the choice and best of Lebanon, all that drink water, shall be comforted in the nether parts of the earth.

Amos 9:2

2 Though they dig into hell, thence shall mine hand take them; though they climb up to heaven, thence will I bring them down:

Matthew 3:12

12 Whose fan is in his hand, and he will throughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.

Matthew 5:22,29-30

22 But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire. 29 And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell. 30 And if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell.

Matthew 7:13

13 Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:

Matthew 10:28

28 And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

Matthew 11:20-24

20 Then began he to upbraid the cities wherein most of his mighty works were done, because they repented not: 21 Woe unto thee, Chorazin! woe unto thee, 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. 22 But I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the day of judgment, than for you. 23 And thou, Capernaum, which art exalted unto heaven, shalt be brought down to hell: for if the mighty works, which have been done in thee, had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. 24 But I say unto you, That it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for thee.

Matthew 13:41-42,49-50

41 The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; 42 And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. 49 So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just, 50 And shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

Matthew 22:13

13 Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Matthew 23:23

23 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.

Matthew 25:30,41-46

30 And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. 41 Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: 42 For I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink: 43 I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not. 44 Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee? 45 Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me. 46 And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

Mark 9:43-49

43 And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: 44 Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched. 45 And if thy foot offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter halt into life, than having two feet to be cast into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: 46 Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched. 47 And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out: it is better for thee to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire: 48 Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched. 49 For every one shall be salted with fire, and every sacrifice shall be salted with salt.

Luke 12:5

5 But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell; yea, I say unto you, Fear him.

Luke 16:23

23 And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.

Revelation 1:18

18 I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.

Revelation 6:8

8 And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth.

Revelation 9:1-2

And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit. 2 And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit.

Revelation 14:10-11

10 The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: 11 And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.

Revelation 19:20

20 And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.

Revelation 20:15

15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

Revelation 21:8

8 But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

b. Hell Is A Reasonable Fact.

A number of established principles make Hell a reality:

i. The Principle Of Separation.

"Every garbage can is an argument for Hell." Why? Life is built upon separating good from bad

ii. The Principle Of Consequence.

Hell is the logical outcome of sin. The principle of "sowing and reaping" is applicable to this life and the next.

iii. The Principle Of Restraint.

If there were no Hell, if there were no eternity separated from God, man would feel free to live as he pleases. (The fact that many now reject this doctrine is reflected in the behavior of society!)

iv. The Principle Of Justice.

God is just For God to have no Hell would be contrary to Himself and His holiness.

v. The Principle Of Calvary.

If Hell is a myth, then why did God send His Son to die for our sins on the cruel cross?

vi. The Principle Of Missions.

If there is no Hell, why then are our churches commanded to take the Gospel to the world?

2. The Nature Of Hell.

a. Hell Is A Place.

There are those who say simply, "Hell is where God is not." This statement is true, but incomplete. Hell is a place — e.g. *Matthew* 13:49,50.

We are not told where Hell is located, except that the Bible says it is "down" — Isaiah 14:9.15: Ezekiel 31:14: Numbers 16:33.

Matthew 13:49-50

49 So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just, 50 And shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

Isaiah 14:9,15

9 Hell from beneath is moved for thee to meet thee at thy coming: it stirreth up the dead for thee, even all the chief ones of the earth; it hath raised up from their thrones all the kings of the nations. 15 Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.

Ezekiel 31:14

14 To the end that none of all the trees by the waters exalt themselves for their height, neither shoot

up their top among the thick boughs, neither their trees stand up in their height, all that drink water: for they are all delivered unto death, to the nether parts of the earth, in the midst of the children of men, with them that go down to the pit.

Numbers 16:33

33 They, and all that appertained to them, went down alive into the pit, and the earth closed upon them: and they perished from among the congregation.

b. Hell is A Prepared Place. God deliberately prepared this expful

God deliberately prepared this awful place for fallen angels — *Matthew 25:41-46*.

Matthew 25:41-46

41 Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: 42 For I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink: 43 I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not. 44 Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee? 45 Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me. 46 And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

Hell was not prepared for man, for God is 'not willing that any should perish.' In fact, God never sends anyone to Hell — it is sin uncovered by the blood of Christ that will do that.

c. Hell Is A Painful Place.

The story Jesus related in *Luke 16:19-31* is true.

Luke 16:19-31

19 There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day: 20 And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores, 21 And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. 22 And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; 23 And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. 24 And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame. 25 But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented. 26 And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that

would come from thence. 27 Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house: 28 For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment. 29 Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them. 30 And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. 31 And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.

It is nowhere said to be a parable. It shows Hell to be a place of torment. The pain of Hell is a:

i. Conscious Pain.

The man in Hell could see, hear, feel, and thirst. All five senses are seen in this passage.

ii. Physical Pain

See: Psalm 116:3; Matthew 5:29,30; Luke 16:24.

Psalm 116:3

3 The sorrows of death compassed me, and the pains of hell gat hold upon me: I found trouble and sorrow.

Matthew 5:29-30

29 And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell. 30 And if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell.

iii. Mental Pain.

See: Luke 16:25.

This man was told to "remember." How the lost in Hell will remember! Every sin, every opportunity, every church, every sermon, every song, every prayer, every tear, every tract, and every warning! What anguish!

iv. Spiritual Pain.

The man in Hell suddenly became concerned for his lost brothers. He wanted to be an evangelist, but could do nothing about it.

v. Eternal Pain.

The Hell of the Bible is not a reform school. There is no "second chance" when eternity begins. A "great gulf' is fixed. Hell is eternal — *Matthew 25:46* — as *everlasting* as our salvation.

Matthew 25:46

46 And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

Note: Jehovah's Witnesses, Christadelphians, and other cults believe in the doctrine of annihilation (of all who are not part of their group!). Annihilation means "into nothing," the cessation of existence after death or after the judgment. This view is based on a misconception of the meaning of "death." Many think of death as 'the end,' but in the Bible death means "separation." <u>Physical</u> death = the separation of the soul and spirit from the body; <u>spiritual</u> death = the separation of the sinner from God in this life; and eternal death = the separation of man from God for ever (*Revelation 20:14b*).

Luke 16:22-31 proves that man's existence does not cease after physical death. Matthew 25:41 and Jude 7,13 ("everlasting," "eternal," and "for ever") prove that the second death is a continual, never-ending punishment.

Matthew 25:41

41 Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

Jude 7,13

7 Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire. 13 Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever.

3. Hell And The Lake Of Fire Distinguished.

There is a difference between "Hell" and the "Lake of Fire."

We observe this in *Revelation 20:13,14* where we are told that the inhabitants of Hell will be brought to the judgment, then cast (along with Hell itself) into the lake of fire.

Revelation 20:13-14

13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. 14 And death and hell

were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

The distinction is best explained by comparison to human justice:

HELL = the "remand lock-up," where

the prisoner awaits trial.

GREAT WHITE THRONE = the trial.

LAKE OF FIRE = the penitentiary, where the

sentence is executed.

A criminal, once captured, is "behind bars" before and after his trial. A Christ-rejecting sinner is in torment before and after the great and terrible day of judgment.

a. Hell Before The Ascension Of Christ.

Scripture also indicates a difference in Hell prior to the resurrection and ascension of the Lord.

Hell was initially the region of departed souls and spirits of all men, saved and lost, and consisted of two compartments — the place of '*Torments*' and '*Paradise*.' A great gulf was fixed between the two — *Luke 16:22,23,26; Luke 23:43*.

This explains the passage concerning the Lord Jesus Christ going to Hell — *Acts 2:27, 31.* During the 3 days in the tomb, the Lord went to the Paradise section of the region of the dead — as He had promised the thief on the cross — *Luke 23:43.*

Luke 23:43

43 And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.

Acts 2:27,31

27 Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. 31 He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption.

b. Hell After The Ascension Of Christ.

Since the apostle Paul was "caught up" into the third Heaven (the

abode of God), or Paradise — *II Corinthians 12:2-4*. This indicates a change in the location of Paradise. The souls of dead saints are now "with the Lord."

2 Corinthians 12:2-4

2 I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third heaven. 3 And I knew such a man, (whether in the body, or out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) 4 How that he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.

This change in the location of Paradise occurred at the ascension of Christ — *Ephesians 4:8*.

Ephesians 4:8

8 Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.

B. The Doctrine Of Heaven.

While the Word of God abundantly assures the Christian of a Heavenly home, little is said about Heaven by way of description. This is because a full description of what awaits the child of God falls outside the understanding and vocabulary of man — I *Corinthians 2:9.*

1 Corinthians 2:9

9 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

The major teaching about Heaven is found in the last two chapters of the Bible — *Revelation 21 and 22.*

1. The Use Of The Word "Heaven" In The Bible.

There are in fact four heavens found in the Bible:

a. <u>The First Heaven</u> — the earth's atmosphere. See: *Jeremiah 4:25; Daniel 4:12; Matthew 6:26; 8:20.*

Jeremiah 4:25

25 I beheld, and, lo, there was no man, and all the birds of the heavens were fled.

Daniel 4:12

12 The leaves thereof were fair, and the fruit thereof much, and in it was meat for all: the beasts of

the field had shadow under it, and the fowls of the heaven dwelt in the boughs thereof, and all flesh was fed of it.

Matthew 6:26

26 Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?

Matthew 8:20

20 And Jesus saith unto him, The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head.

b. <u>The Second Heaven</u> — outer space. See: *Genesis 22:17: Psalm 19:1.*

Genesis 22:17

17 That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies;

Psalm 19:1

1 The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.

c. <u>The Third Heaven</u> — the abode of God. See: *II Corinthians 12:2; I Kings 8:27,30; Matthew 6:9.* A glimpse of this place is given in *Revelation 4:2-11.*

2 Corinthians 12:2

2 I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third heaven.

1 Kings 8:27,30

27 But will God indeed dwell on the earth? behold, the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain thee; how much less this house that I have builded? 30 And hearken thou to the supplication of thy servant, and of thy people Israel, when they shall pray toward this place: and hear thou in heaven thy dwelling place: and when thou hearest, forgive.

Matthew 6:9

9 After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

Revelation 4:2-11

2 And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the

throne. 3 And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and there was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald. 4 And round about the throne were four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold. 5 And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices: and there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God. 6 And before the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal: and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four beasts full of eyes before and behind. 7 And the first beast was like a lion, and the second beast like a calf, and the third beast had a face as a man, and the fourth beast was like a flying eagle. 8 And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come. 9 And when those beasts give glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne, who liveth for ever and ever, 10 The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, 11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

> d. <u>The New Heaven</u> — the recreated first and second heavens. This is mentioned in *Revelation 21:1; II Peter 3:13; Isaiah 65:17; 66:22*.

Revelation 21:1

And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

2 Peter 3:13

13 Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

Isaiah 65:17

17 For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind.

Isaiah 66:22

22 For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before me, saith the LORD, so shall your seed and your name remain.

The context of these passages shows that the new heaven replaces the first and second heavens which will be destroyed by fire.

2. The Heavenly Jerusalem.

This is the city of God. Although it is usually referred to as "heaven" by

believers, in actual fact is NOT heaven.

- It is a city *Revelation 21:2a; Hebrews 11:10.*
- It comes down from heaven *Revelation 21:2c, 10.*
- It is connected to the new earth *Revelation 21:24, 26.*

Revelation 21:2

2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

Hebrews 11:10

10 For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

Revelation 21:10

10 And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God,

Revelation 21:24.26

24 And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it. 26 And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into it.

The following details are given about the Heavenly Jerusalem:

a. The New Jerusalem Is A Literal City.
This we know from the Savior Himself — *John 14:2, 3.*

John 14:2-3

2 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. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

b. The New Jerusalem Is A Prepared Place.
See: John 14:2,3; I Corinthians 2:9; Revelation 21:2.

1 Corinthians 2:9

9 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

Revelation 21:2

2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

The time a bride takes in preparing herself for her husband is but a tattered example of God's loving preparation for those who love Him.

c. <u>The New Jerusalem Is A Happy Place</u>. See: *Revelation 21:4*.

Revelation 21:1-4

And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. 2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. 4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

There are seven "no mores" associated with God's eternal order:

- i. No more sea *Revelation 21:Ic.*
- ii. No more death *Revelation 21:4*.
- iii. No more sorrow, nor crying *Revelation 21:4*.
- iv. No more pain Revelation 21:4.
- v. No more temple *Revelation 21:22*.
- vi. No more sun, moon Revelation 21:23; 22:5.

Revelation 21:22-23

22 And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it. 23 And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.

Revelation 22:5

5 And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.

vii. No more curse — Revelation 22:3.

Revelation 22:3

3 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:

d. The New Jerusalem Is A Holy Place.

See: Revelation 21:8, 27; 22:11.

Revelation 21:8,27

8 But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

27 And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Revelation 22:11

11 He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still.

There will be, can be, no sin in this wonderful place.

e. The New Jerusalem Is A Glorious Place.

The construction of the New Jerusalem defies the imagination.

See: Revelation 21:10-21.

Revelation 21:10-21

10 And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, 11 Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal; 12 And had a wall great and high, and had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written thereon, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel: 13 On the east three gates; on the north three gates; on the south three gates; and on the west three gates. 14 And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. 15 And he that talked with me had a golden reed to measure the city, and the gates thereof, and the wall thereof. 16 And the city lieth foursquare, and the length is as large as the breadth: and he measured the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs. The length and the breadth and the height of it are equal. 17 And he measured the wall thereof, an hundred and forty and four cubits, according to the measure of a man, that is, of the angel. 18 And the building of the wall of it was of jasper: and the city was pure gold, like unto clear glass. 19 And the foundations of the wall of the

city were garnished with all manner of precious stones. The first foundation was jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, a chalcedony; the fourth, an emerald; 20 The fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolite; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, a topaz; the tenth, a chrysoprasus; the eleventh, a jacinth; the twelfth, an amethyst. 21 And the twelve gates were twelve pearls; every several gate was of one pearl: and the street of the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass.

i. Its Shape.

There has been some discussion as to its shape.

- Some believe it is a pyramid, based on the dimensions of the wall being only 144 cubits (216') *Revelation* 21:17.
- Some believe it is a cube, based on the reference to the tabernacle (*Revelation 21:3,22*). The holy of holies was a perfect cube. See: *Revelation 21:16*.

Revelation 21:3.22

3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. 22 And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it.

• Some believe it is a sphere, hanging in space like a planet. This is refuted by *Revelation 21:16a*.

ii. Its Dimensions.

See: Revelation 21:15-17. There are 8 furlongs to a mile. This makes the city about 1,500 miles square — and 1,500 miles high!!!

iii. Its Features.

- A pure, transparent jasper <u>wall</u> *Revelation 21:12, 17, 18.*
- Twelve single-pearl gates, each one named after a tribe of Israel *Revelation 21:12,13,21*.
- A multi-layered precious gem <u>foundation</u> under the wall, each layer named after an apostle *Revelation* 21:14, 19, 20.
- Streets of pure, transparent gold *Revelation 21:21*. "It has often been asked, how can this be? There isn~t

that much gold in the earth!" Consider the following quote: "The results and technical application of atomic physics throw a surprising light on this. Today the transmutation of elements is already possible and men can at any time carry it out in atomic laboratories and plants. .. The basic constituents of matter are everywhere the same. Whether it is mercury, gold, or sulphur carbon or oxygen, we are ultimately only concerned with protons, neutrons, and electrons. Which element it is depends only on their number If an atomic nucleus consists of...[eighty] protons, then it is mercury if seventy-nine, then it is gold. If the atomic nucleus gains or loses one or more protons or neutrons, then the element becomes another ...should we therefore succeed in shooting a proton out of the nucleus of a mercury atom, then the transmutation of mercury into gold has been accomplished.., admittedly man requires mighty power stations for this [kind of] transmutation. But does not God, the Almighty have Infinitely greater sources of power at His disposal, than man's greatest power plants? 1

• A <u>river</u> of life-giving water — *Revelation 22:2; Psalm 46:4.*

Revelation 22:2

2 In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

Psalm 46:4

4 There is a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacles of the most High.

• A giant <u>tree</u> of life — *Revelation 22:2*. The fruit of this tree is not curative ("no more sickness") but "health-giving" ('therapeian').

¹Sauer, Erich. **The King of the East**.. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Eerdmans, 1955: pg. 179

iv. Its Brilliance.

This city will have the brilliance of the glory of God — *Revelation 21:11,23; 22:5.* See: *I John 1:5; Psalm 50:2.*

Revelation 21:11,23

11 Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal; 23 And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.

Revelation 22:5

5 And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.

1 John 1:5

5 This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

Psalm 50:2

2 Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God hath shined.

f. The New Jerusalem Is An Inhabited Place. Who are the inhabitants of this glorious city?

i. The Father.

See: Hebrews 12:23c; Revelation 21:3,22,23; 22:3-5.

Hebrews 12:23

23 To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect,

Revelation 21:3,22-23

3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. 22 And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it. 23 And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.

Revelation 22:3-5

3 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: 4 And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads. 5 And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God

giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.

The throne of God is located in the very center of the Holy City. No longer will we look through a dark glass, we shall see Him face to face.

ii. The Lamb.

See: Hebrews 12:24a; Revelation 21:23; 22:3; John 14:3d.

Hebrews 12:24

24 And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.

John 14:3

3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

iii. The Lamb's Wife.

See: Hebrews 12:23; Revelation 2:7; 3:12,21; 21:9; 22:17; John 14:3d; 17:24.

Hebrews 12:23

23 To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect,

Revelation 2:7

7 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.

Revelation 3:12,21

12 Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name. 21 To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.

Revelation 21:9

9 And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife.

Revelation 22:17

17 And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

John 17:24

24 Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.

The New Jerusalem is the eternal home of the Bridegroom and His Bride.

- Revelation 19— Marriage
- Revelation 20— Honeymoon
- Revelation 21 Home

iv. The Spirit.

See: Revelation 4:5; 22:17

Revelation 4:5

5 And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices: and there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.

Revelation 22:17

17 And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

v. <u>Innumerable Angels</u>.

See: Hebrews 12:22d

Hebrews 12:22

22 But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels,

vi. The General Assembly Of New Testament Saints.

See: Hebrews 12:23

Hebrews 12:23

23 To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect,

vii. The Old Testament Saints.

See: Hebrews 11:10,16; 12:23d.

Hebrews 11:10,16

10 For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God. 16 But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city.

3. The Relationship Between The New Jerusalem And The New Earth.

Revelation 21:24-26 and Revelation 22:2f seem to suggest the new earth will be populated. See also: Ephesians 1:10. There has been considerable speculation as to the nature of those who would be on the new earth during the eternal state.

Revelation 21:24-26

24 And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it. 25 And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there. 26 And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into it.

Revelation 22:2

2 In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

Ephesians 1:10

10 That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him:

There is nothing specific in the Word of God about what will happen to the saved Jews and Gentiles living on the old earth at the conclusion of the millennial kingdom of Christ. They will have natural bodies, but there is no mention of any resurrection or glorification of this large group.

It may well be that God will establish on earth a new Eden — the state of pure innocence (without the tempter) that God originally intended (Genesis 1:28, 31).

Genesis 1:28,31

28 And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

31 And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

STUDY QUESTIONS

Lecture 15

- 1. At what point in the Book of The Revelation does eternity begin?
- 2. For what reason will the Lord allow Satan to be loosed from the bottomless pit at the end of the 1,000 years?
- 3. By what means will God renovate the present earth and heavens?
- 4. Where will the lost spend eternity?
- 5. Where will the saved of this present age spend eternity?
- 6. Where does the Bible indicate the location of Hell to be?
- 7. What is the teaching of annihilation?
- 8. How does *Luke 16:19-31* refute the doctrine of annihilation?
- 9. How may we distinguish between Hell and the Lake of Fire.
- 10. Describe the place called Hell before the ascension of Christ.
- 11. What chanced in Hell after Christ ascended?
- 12. List (and briefly explain) the various "heavens" mentioned in the Bible.
- 13. What is the "New Jerusalem?"
- 14. What is the like shape of the New Jerusalem?
- 15. What are the dimensions of the New Jerusalem?
- 16. Describe the wall of the New Jerusalem.
- 17. Describe the gates of the New Jerusalem.
- 18. List the precious stones which make up the foundation of the Holy City.

- 19. From what kind of gold will the streets of the New Jerusalem be made?
- 20. How will the New Jerusalem be illuminated?
- 21. List 5 inhabitants of the New Jerusalem.
- 22. What does the Bible seem to teach concerning the inhabitants of the new Earth?