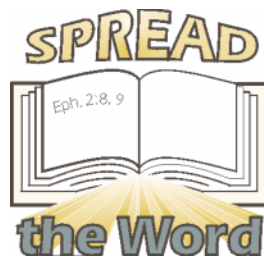


# **FROM HERE TO ETERNITY**

**Everyone Lives Forever ...  
But Where?**

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## FROM HERE TO ETERNITY

Very little is spoken about these days regarding eternity. The universe in which we live is going to be completely destroyed by fire. It is spoken of in 2 Peter 3:5 (*"For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the Word of God the heavens were of old, and the Earth standing out of the water and in the water."*), 2 Peter 3:7-13 and 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."*).

There is a certain vocabulary in reference to Heaven and to planet Earth. We have original creation spoken of in Genesis 1:1 (*"In the beginning God created the Heaven and the Earth."*) and 2 Peter 3:5. We have the restored Earth spoken of in Genesis 1:3-31 and 2 Peter 3:7 (*"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."*).

And we have the new Heavens and Earth spoken of in Revelation 21:1, and 2 Peter 3:13, *"Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new Heavens and a new Earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness."*

The "new Heavens" is the residence of the Church, although the New Jerusalem will play an important part in the believers' eternal state. The reason for that is that the **Lord Jesus Christ will headquarter there**. We are the bride of Christ, so there will be no divorce or separation in eternity.

**The "new Earth" will be the residence of Israel.** This is the fulfillment of the Abrahamic and Palestinian covenants. A specific part of the land was promised to Abraham and his descendents forever. The eternal aspect of the promises brings a new Earth in the picture.

Now, there are three characteristics of the eternal state listed for us in Revelation 21:3-5, *"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. 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. And He that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And He said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful."*

1. Jesus Christ will be present and accessible at will to all.
2. There will be perfect happiness.
3. There will be a perpetual newness.

**There will also be nations in eternity, as a memorial to the Grace of God in preserving the human race so they could be born again. Nationalism is the basic principle for the survival of the human race.**

The New Jerusalem, which comes from God, arrives as a completed package. Apparently it will be suspended above the Earth. The New Jerusalem will be the headquarters for the universe of eternity and the personal residence of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The New Jerusalem fulfills a promise to Abraham still outstanding. Hebrews 11:9, 10, *"By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise: For, he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God."*

**It shows us once again the faithfulness of God.** Abraham lived in a tent, died in a tent, and was promised a city in the future. **God keeps His Word.** The Holy City of eternity illustrates something of the glory of eternity. The description of the New Jerusalem is in Revelation 21:9-22:5. **Multiply this by infinity and you have a picture of the eternal state.**

Angels guard the gates, which is peon work. Regenerate man, in his position now, and later, also in resurrection body, is and will be higher than angels. **So the eternal state thus is indescribably beautiful.**

Now man's initial relationship to God is one of a creation to the Creator. God is the

God of the whole human race by virtue of creation, whether you acknowledge it or not. But He is **not** the Father of the human race. **He is only the Father of those who accept His Son as personal Saviour.** Galatians 3:26 says, *"We are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus."*

Man is a living soul (see Genesis 27). We know from Scripture that all souls belong to God. Ezekiel 18:44, *"Behold, all souls are Mine."* Daniel 5:23b, *"And the God in whose hand thy breath is, and whose are all thy ways, hast thou not glorified."*

**Man's eternal relationship to God is determined by his response to God's offer of salvation by faith in Jesus Christ.** John 3:36 says, *"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him."*

**God says there are two kinds of people in the human race. He calls them believers and unbelievers. In other words, a saved soul or a lost soul.**

There are also two destinations for the two categories of the human race. There is a place of bliss – John 14:1-3, *"Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in Me. 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. 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."* Revelation 21:1-22:7. It is described by such words as **mansion, abode, home**. There is also a place of **torments (torture)**. Luke 16:19-31 and Revelation 20:15, *"And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the Lake of Fire."*

What can the believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, what can the saved soul, anticipate? Well, in John 5:29 it says **"a resurrection to life."** (*"And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation."*) **"To that which is good"** speaks of those who accept Jesus Christ as personal Saviour. *"And to that which is evil."* *"The evil"*

is rejection of Christ as Saviour. In Philippians 1:23 we are told to expect *"a far better place."*

**Eternity, therefore, in the very presence of God, 2 Corinthians 5:8, is a far better place.** *"We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be face to face with the Lord."*

We are to expect also *"an inheritance reserved for us in Heaven,"* 1 Peter 1:4. We are also told to expect a reunion with our departed loved ones, Christ included, 1 Thessalonians 4:15, 16, *"For the Lord Himself shall descend from Heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord."* That is what the believer can anticipate, the saved soul.

What about the unbeliever? He has a soul, but it is a lost soul. What can he anticipate? What can he expect? Well, he can expect eternity, but it is a **complete separation from God**. In John 5:29 it is called *"the resurrection of damnation."* We are also told that the unbeliever can expect the Lake of Fire.

Matthew 25:41 says, *"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."* Revelation 20:25 says, *"And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the Lake of Fire."* He can also expect "fear" as described in Revelation 21:7 (*"He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be My son. 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."*).

The soul of the believer is said to be:

- 1) **Saved, that is at the point of salvation.**
  - a. 1 Peter 1:9, *"Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls."*
  - b. Mark 8:36, 37, *"For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and*

lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?"

- c. Psalm 19:7, "The Law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the Testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple."
- d. Psalm 34:22, "The Lord redeemeth the soul of His servants: and none of them that trust in Him shall be desolate."

And 2) **after salvation the soul of the believer is stabilized.**

- a. Acts 14:22, "Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God."

Then stage 3). **This is the believer's life in eternity. He is completely delivered.**

- a. 2 Corinthians 5:8, "We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be face to face with the Lord."
- b. Philippians 3:21 describes a resurrection body minus the old sin nature. "Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto His glorious body, according to the working whereby He is able even to subdue all things unto Himself."

**So, there is an eternity for everyone. All souls live forever.**

**You will live forever, but where you spend eternity is in your hands. It is all based upon whether you accept or reject Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour.** For comparison we will use the terms Heaven and Hell and make the comparison:

**Believers will go to Heaven.** This is found in John 14:1-6.

**The unbeliever goes to Hell.** John 3:36b, "And he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him."

**Believers have eternal life.** John 5:24, 29a, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth My Word, and believeth on Him that sent Me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into con-

demnation, but is passed from death unto life." "And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life."

**But the unbeliever has eternal death.**

Proverbs 14:12, "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." John 5:29b, "And they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation."

**Heaven is prepared for the believer in the Lord Jesus Christ.** 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. 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."

**But Hell is prepared for the unbeliever. He shares the same fate of Satan.** Matthew 25:41b, "Depart from Me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels."

**The believer in Heaven will have perfect knowledge.** Isaiah 11:9, "They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain: for the Earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea."

**While the unbeliever will have knowledge but it will be too late,** as per Luke 16, where the rich man becomes a missionary and wants someone to get the Gospel to his five brothers because he doesn't want them to go to Hell, where he is.

**When the believer goes to Heaven, to be home with the Lord, it is referred to as glory.** 2 Corinthians 4:17, "For light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory." It is a trip from Grace to Glory.

**But for the unbeliever arriving in Hell is not glorious, but it is the Lake of Fire.**

Revelation 20:14, "And death and hell were cast into the Lake of Fire. This is the second death."

**The believer in Heaven has fellowship with the Lord and with other believers.** 2

Corinthians 5:8, "We are confident, I say, and

*willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord."*

**While with the unbeliever there is no fellowship.** Revelation 21:8, *"But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whore-mongers, 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."*

**We are told that Heaven is the residence of God and the elect angels.** Hebrews 12:22-24, *"But ye are come unto Mount Zion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, 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, And to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel."*

**We know that Hell is the residence of Satan and the fallen angels.** Matthew 25:41b, *"Depart from Me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels."*

**We are told that Heaven to the believer, is a place of rest.** Revelation 14:13, *"And I heard a voice from Heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them."*

**To the unbeliever there is no rest and there is no peace.** Isaiah 57:21, *"There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked."*

**In Heaven we know that the believers will worship.** Revelation 19:1, *"And after these things I heard a great voice of much people in Heaven, saying, Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God."*

**We know that with the unbeliever there will be no worship.**

**We know that Heaven to the believer will be a place of perfect happiness.** Revelation 21:4, 5, *"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. And He that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And He said unto me, Write: for these Words are true and faithful."*

**We know to the unbeliever in eternity, separated from God, there will only be misery, torment.** Luke 16:24, *"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."* Revelation 20:10, *"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."*

**We know that there will be a service for the believers in Heaven.** Revelation 22:3, *"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."*

**We know that because of being unbelievers and separated from God, eternity will have no service for them.**

**We know that in Heaven the believers no longer sin, or will not be able to sin.**

**But we know that the unbeliever will live in their sins forever and ever.** John 8:24, *"I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am He, ye shall die in your sins."*

**The believer is said to be with Christ forever.** John 14:3, *"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."*

**The unbeliever is said to be without Christ forever.** Matthew 25:41, *"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."*

**For the believer it is said that in Heaven there will be light.** Revelation 21:23, *"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."*

**But to the unbeliever the description of Hell is not light, but blackness, darkness.** Jude 13, *"Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever."*

**We are told that in Heaven the believer will have a body just like the Lord Jesus Christ's body.** Philippians 3:21, *"Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto His glorious body, according to the working whereby He is able even to subdue all things unto Himself."* 1 John 3:1, 2, *"Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew Him not. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him: for we shall see Him as He is."*

**But the unbeliever will have a body that will burn forever.** John 5:29b, *"And they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation."*

So there is eternity, and there is eternal life. We are all going to live forever, and **where you spend eternity depends upon your own free choice. You can spend it with the Lord or without the Lord.** *"I give unto them eternal life and they shall never perish."*

Is there Heaven? Is there a Hell? Well, notice the comparison of designations:

- Heaven is for believers only.
- Heaven is a place where there is eternal life.
- Heaven is prepared for the believer in the Lord Jesus Christ.

- Heaven has a perfect knowledge for the believer.
- Heaven is called by God, a place of glory.
- Heaven is where we can have fellowship.
- Heaven is actually the residence of God and the elect angels.
- Heaven is called a place of rest.
- Heaven is a place where you can have perfect happiness forever.
- Heaven is a place where sin is no longer the issue.
- Heaven is a place of willing service.
- Heaven is a place where you will spend eternity with the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Heaven is a place that is called Light.
- Heaven is where we will have a resurrection body, just like the Lord Jesus Christ's.
- Heaven is a place where there is no judgment. Romans 8:1.
- Heaven is a place where the second death is cancelled. Hebrews 9:27-28.
- Heaven is a place where we have a new home. John 14:1-2.
- Heaven is a place where we receive an eternal inheritance. 1 Peter 1:4, 5.
- Heaven is a place where there are no more sorrows, no more tears, no more pain and no more death. Revelation 21:4.
- Heaven is where we receive our resurrection body. Philippians 3:21, 1 Corinthians 15:51-57, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, 1 John 3:1-2.
- Heaven is a place where death is gain. Philippians 1:21.

If you add to all of that the fact that there is no sorrow, no tears, no pain, and no death, **then who is afraid to go home?**

**"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved."**

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