

What The Bible Says About ---

Wednesday, October 7, 2015

Part Ten

What The Bible Says About - HEAVEN AND HELL

One of my great mentors was author/revivalist Leonard Ravenhill. He is now with the Lord and I miss him greatly. Darlene and I spent many days his home and he also was with us in our home for extended times. Besides ourselves, several of his students included the late Evangelist Steve Hill and Teen Challenge Founder David Wilkerson.

Ravenhill drummed into all of us over and over:

PREACH THE ETERNITIES!

Every person here tonight - and those watching by television - will in a few decades at most be either in Heaven or Hell. And yet many pulpits are strangely silent about these realities. Either Heaven or Hell is where everyone of us will spend forever and ever and ever! The Bible gives us a volume of information about both.

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE TEACH ABOUT HELL?

One only needs to glance through some alleged religious sites on the internet to learn the startling reality that many "alleged religious entities" mock the subject of Hell or deny it altogether. Jesus did not mock it, nor did He deny it. In fact, Jesus warned us throughout His earthly sojourn to avoid Hell! Consider this teaching of Jesus:

Luke 16:19-31

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:

1 but now he is comforted, and **thou art tormented**. [26] And beside all this, between
2 us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to
3 you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence. [27] Then he
4 said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house:
5 [28] For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into
6 **this place of torment**. [29] Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the
7 prophets; let them hear them. [30] And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one
8 went unto them from the dead, they will repent. [31] And he said unto him, If they
9 hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose
10 from the dead.

11
12 While many consider this teaching as one of Jesus' parables (an earthly story with a
13 heavenly meaning), I am not all that certain it is truly a parable. For Jesus began the
14 story telling us about "a certain rich man" and "a certain beggar." I believe personally
15 that Jesus was referring to real people in real places. One thing is for sure: Jesus
16 considered Hell as A PLACE OF TORMENT.

17
18 Here is what we in the Assemblies of God believe the Bible most certainly teaches
19 throughout both the Old and New Testaments:

20
21 **THE FINAL JUDGMENT:** *There will be a final judgement in which the wicked dead*
22 *will be raised and judged according to their works. Whosoever is not found written in*
23 *the Book of Life, together with Satan and his angels, the beast (Antichrist) and the false*
24 *prophet (the trio from Hell who will rule most of the Earth during the Tribulation) will be*
25 *consigned to everlasting punishment in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone*
26 *which is the second death (your earthly demise is "the first death)."*

27
28 Matthew 25:46

29 ***And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life***
30 ***eternal.***

31
32 Mark 9:43-48

33 ***And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed,***
34 ***than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: [44]***
35 ***Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched. [45] And if thy foot offend***
36 ***thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter halt into life, than having two feet to be cast***
37 ***into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: [46] Where their worm dieth not,***
38 ***and the fire is not quenched. [47] And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out: it is better***
39 ***for thee to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than having two eyes to be cast***
40 ***into hell fire: [48] Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.***

1 Rev. 19:20

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

6
7 Rev. 20:11-15

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

17
18 Rev. 21:8

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

22
23 The Bible makes it clear that the lake of fire was not intended for man but for the devil
24 and his angels. (Matthew 25:41 **Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand,**
25 **Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his**
26 **angels:) God's purpose and desire for man has always been GOOD.**

27
28 The first heaven and earth were created good (Genesis 1:31 **And God saw every thing**
29 **that he had made, and, behold, it was very good.) The Law (the Old Testament**
30 **Torah and rules) were given for man's good: (Deut. 6:24 **And the Lord commanded****
31 **us to do all these statutes, to fear the Lord our God, for our good always, that he**
32 **might preserve us alive, as it is at this day.)**

33
34 Further - and this is such a vital truth - GOD DOES NOT PURPOSE OR WILL THAT
35 ANY PERSON SHOULD PERISH! 2 Peter 3:9 **The Lord is not slow in keeping his**
36 **promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone**
37 **to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.**

38
39 People who object to the biblical doctrine of Hell forget this all important reality:

1 **GOD HATES SIN!** He will not allow Satan to spoil the new heaven and the new earth which are to come. God will shut him off in the lake of fire. Those who follow Satan must share his doom. John 16:8 **And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: John 16:11 Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.** Why? They people have Satan, not God, as their father (John 8:44 **Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.)**)

2
3 The Apostle Paul summed it up by including all who do not know God with a personal
4 knowledge of salvation plus all who do not keep on obeying the gospel (2 Thes. 1:8
5 **In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the**
6 **gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:)**

7
8 **IS THE PUNISHMENT IN HELL “FOREVER?”**

9
10 Again - it does not matter what you or I “think” about this, but rather, what does the Bible
11 say?

12
13 Matthew 25:46 **And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the**
14 **righteous into life eternal.**

15
16 The Greek word for “everlasting” is *aionion* which has the meaning of “unending.” It is
17 the same word Jesus used in teaching about eternal life (*aionion life*).

18
19 In His teaching on the rich man and Lazarus (page 1 beginning with line 25), Jesus taught
20 that the wicked remain conscious and are aware of their state and of what they have
21 missed. This eternal fire is to be identified with what Jesus called *Gehenna* or “the
22 gehenna of fire”: Mark 9:43-47 **And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better**
23 **for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire**
24 **that never shall be quenched: [44] Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not**
25 **quenched. [45] And if thy foot offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter halt**
26 **into life, than having two feet to be cast into hell, into the fire that never shall be**
27 **quenched: [46] Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched. [47] And if**
28 **thine eye offend thee, pluck it out: it is better for thee to enter into the kingdom of**
29 **God with one eye, than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire: Jesus made it clear**
30 **that there is no possible end to the fire.**

1 Jesus also referred to this torment as the “furnace of fire”: Matthew 13:42 **And shall**
2 **cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.**

3
4
5 Note carefully that phrase “wailing and gnashing of teeth.” This is apparently
REMORSE, not repentance. Big difference. The remorse of Judas did not save him
from eternal loss as the “son of perdition” (John 17:12 **While I was with them in**
the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and
none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled.

6
7 **DARKNESS**
8

9 Some years ago, Darlene and I visited one of America’s deepest natural caves. We were
10 with the guide, some 400 feet below the surface of the earth, making our way through a
11 narrow passageway. We could hear gushing water. The guide said to us, “Stand
12 perfectly still!” And he pushed a hidden button somewhere and all the lights in the cave
13 were extinguished. Talk about darkness! And we were well aware of the million bats
14 or so who dwelt there. Oh, the terrible darkness! Then the guide switched the lights on
15 again, and to our horrified shock we learned we were only feet away from a precipice
16 they call “the bottomless pit” where an underground river cascades a waterfall. The
17 guide said, “We’re not sure how deep that pit is - no one knows for sure.”
18

19 Can you imagine the darkness of hell? Matthew 25:30 **And cast ye the unprofitable**
20 **servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.**

21
22 **ETERNAL SEPARATION FROM GOD**
23

24 This is perhaps the worst punishment of all. 2 Thessalonians 1:9 **Who shall be**
25 **punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the**
26 **glory of his power;**
27

28 The lost sinner is now spiritually dead and separated for all time from God. Ephes. 2:12
29 **That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of**
30 **Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without**
31 **God in the world:**
32

33 **THE SECOND DEATH**
34

1 The Bible calls this final separation from God “the second death. As physical death is
2 separation from the body and from the environment of this life, so the second death s a
3 final and eternal separation from God and from the life to be enjoyed in the new creation.
4 Among those consigned to this second death will be all who take the mark of the beast:
5 Rev. 14:9-11 **And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any**
6 **man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his**
7 **hand, [10] The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out**
8 **without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire**
9 **and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb:**
10 **[11] And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have**
11 **no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever**
12 **receiveth the mark of his name.**

13
14 These will be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the angels and Christ.
15 Though shut off from the new creation while there in the lake of fire, they will be able to
16 see across the great gulf between Hell and Abraham’s bosom (Luke 16:23 **And in hell**
17 **he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his**
18 **bosom.**) Note carefully they will not be annihilated, for “the smoke of their torment
19 ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night.” Revelation 14:11.
20

21 There is no work in Scripture that indicates any promise of rehabilitation or restoration
22 once the final judgment is pronounced. No sanctifying agent is revealed in connection
23 with the lake of fire. There is no second chance. **THIS SHOULD STIR CHRIST’S**
24 **CHURCH TO PROCLAIM THE MESSAGE: 2 Cor. 6:2 behold, now is the**
25 **accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.**

26 27 WHAT DOES THE BIBLE TEACH ABOUT 28 HEAVEN? 29

30 The church in general doesn’t hear all that much about Heaven any more - either in the
31 pulpit or in songs. The alleged prosperity Gospel (which is not the Gospel at all) and
32 what Charisma magazine terms “Jesus Is My Boyfriend” choruses have little or not
33 mention of the eternities, either Heaven or Hell.
34

35 I checked in the index of the last hymnal produced by the Assemblies of God under
36 “Heaven” and found these and more songs - and I daresay most of us here tonight don’t
37 know and/or have never heard of:
38

39 Beulah Land/ Everybody Will Be Happy
40 For All the Saints / He The Pearly Gates Will Open/ How Beautiful Heaven Must Be /

1 I'll Meet You In The Morning/ Just Over In The Glory Land/ Looking For A City/
2 Mansion Over The Hilltop/ Marching On/ My Savior First Of All/ No Tears In
3 Heaven/ O I Want To See Him/ O That Will Be Glory/ Saved By Grace / We're
4 Marching to Zion/ What A Day That Will Be/ When The Roll Is Called Upon Yonder
5 When We All Get To Heaven/ When We See Christ/ Won't It Be Wonderful There
6

7 One has to wonder why people today don't sing those songs. There has to be more to it
8 than the music style alone. Pastor John Mac Arthur proposes that one of the reasons is
9 today's reoccupation with "no deferred gratification." That is, we want our pleasures
10 NOW, now later. Hence credit cards, lack of savings accounts, unpaid bills, financial
11 pressures, etc., just so we can have our "goodies" now. Well, Heaven definitely
12 deferred gratification. Prosperity teachers and preachers proclaim God wants you rich,
13 happy and healthy right now, though their scriptural foundation for such proclamations is
14 short of scripture. But, friend, Heaven is worth waiting for.
15

16 An old gospel song, written back in the 40's by Oliver Cooper and Minzo Jones, declares
17 HEAVEN WILL SURELY BE WORTH IT ALL. I have posted the lyrics for you and
18 on the screen you will see Naomi Sego and the Bill Gaither Singers sing it for you:
19

20 *Often I'm hindered on my way / Burden so heavy I almost fall.*
21 *Then I hear Jesus sweetly say, Heaven will surely be worth it all.*
22

23 *Chorus:*
24

25 *Heaven will surely be worth it all/ Worth all the sorrows that here befall.*
26 *After this life with all its strife/ Heaven will surely be worth it all.*
27

28 *Many the trials, toils and tears/ Many a heartache may here appall;*
29 *But the dear Lord so truly says, Heaven will surely be worth it all!*
30

31 I watch that video and see so many of my friends there through the years who are now in
32 Heaven. I also understand fully that at my age, even if the Rapture does not occur in my
33 lifetime, I will be joining those dear people in Heaven in the not-too-distant future. This
34 certainly is not a macabre subject to me; far from it. Heaven will surely be worth it all!
35

36 Last Sunday at First Assembly we enjoyed the accounts of the Billy Graham family, as
37 told by his oldest daughter Gigi. She spoke so much of her mother Ruth who passed into
38 eternity some years ago. In his marvelous book *NEARING HOME*, written just four
39 years ago, Graham described the loss of his precious wife and his resulting grief:
40

1 *As I write this, it has been four years since Ruth went home to be with the Lord. I feel*
2 *her loss more keenly now. Not a day passes that I don't imagine her walking through my*
3 *study door or us sitting together on our porch as we did so often, holding hands as the*
4 *sun set over the mountaintops. I have asked myself why this is the case; after all,*
5 *shouldn't our grieving over the loss of a loved one fade as time passes? Yes, it should—*
6 *and in some ways it has for me. But in other ways it hasn't, nor do I expect it to. One*
7 *reason, I think, is because my strongest memory at the time of her death was of her last*
8 *days—her weakness, her pain, her yearning for Heaven. Much as I longed to have her*
9 *stay with us, I also knew that for her, death would be a welcome release from the burdens*
10 *of this life. But with the passing of time, memories of the happiness we shared over*
11 *more than sixty-three years of marriage come to mind. I remember our lat years*
12 *together as my travels lessened and we had more time just to be together. Those were*
13 *some of the best years of our lives - almost as if we were falling in love again. And with*
14 *those memories has come a deeper sense of loss. The other reason I still feel her death*
15 *so deeply, I think, is because mingled with my grief is a new sense of expectancy that*
16 *someday soon the Lord will come for me also, and before long, Ruth and I will be*
17 *reunited. More than ever I look forward to that day!*

18 NEARING HOME / BILLY GRAHAM / THOMAS NELSON PUBLISHING / PAGES 99-100

19 20 WHAT ABOUT THOSE WHO REPORT THEY HAVE BEEN TO HEAVEN AND 21 HAVE COME BACK TO TELL US ABOUT IT?

22
23 I understand there are books now being read, written by people who allege they have been
24 to Heaven and have come back to report, one of them by a four-year-old boy. I frankly
25 do not believe any of those reports for they are not scriptural. The only person in
26 scripture who was actually whisked into heaven and came back was the Apostle Paul,
27 who wrote about it in:

28 2 Cor. 12:2-5 [The Message]

29 **For instance, I know a man who, fourteen years ago, was seized by Christ and**
30 **swept in ecstasy to the heights of heaven. I really don't know if this took place in the**
31 **body or out of it; only God knows. [3] I also know that this man was hijacked into**
32 **paradise—again, whether in or out of the body, I don't know; God knows. There he**
33 **heard the unspeakable spoken, but was forbidden to tell what he heard. [4] [5]**
34 **This is the man I want to talk about. But about myself, I'm not saying another word**
35 **apart from the humiliations.**

36
37 If this was so sacred that not even Paul himself could write about it, I seriously must
38 question that a 4-year old boy was given such privilege. King David lamented that his
39 missed his young son, who died in infancy, and wanted to see him in heaven but was
40 forbidden: 2 Samuel 12:23 **But now he is dead, wherefore should I fast? can I**

1 **bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me.**
2

3 The Apostle John was also given a vision concerning Heaven but made it clear it was a
4 vision only: Rev. 22:1-5 **And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as**
5 **crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. [2] In the midst of the**
6 **street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare**
7 **twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree**
8 **were for the healing of the nations. [3] And there shall be no more curse: but the**
9 **throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him: [4]**
10 **And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads. [5] And there**
11 **shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the**
12 **Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.**
13

14 IS THE NEW JERUSALEM DESCRIBED IN REVELATION 21 HEAVEN? 15

16 We must be careful here in adopting all the wonders of this chapter to Heaven. John
17 made it very clear that he envisioned this “New Jerusalem” coming down from God out
18 of Heaven: Rev. 21:1-2 **And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first**
19 **heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. [2] And I**
20 **John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven,**
21 **prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.**
22

23 Was John referring to “heaven” as “the sky?” Or did this startling and incredible city
24 actually originate in Heaven itself, which is the abode of God? I want to be careful here
25 because there are many differences of opinion. In 2 Corinthians 12, Paul referred to the
26 “third heaven.” It is my understanding that our earth’s atmosphere is the first “heaven;”
27 space, traveled by rockets and astronauts with the suns, moons and planets, is the second
28 “heaven,” and the very abode of God - Heaven itself - is the third “Heaven.” It is my
29 understanding that at the end of the Tribulation period on Earth, that God will destroy this
30 Earth by fire (nuclear war???) and create a new Heaven (atmosphere) and a new Earth.
31 Then this fantastic city - 1800 miles cubed described in Revelation 21 - comes out from
32 God’s presence and becomes the headquarters city of the glorified redeemed saints of
33 God throughout all eternity. We will not be confined to it, but rather go in and out of it.
34 John himself intimates such: Rev. 21:24-27 **And the nations of them which are**
35 **saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and**
36 **honour into it. [25] And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall**
37 **be no night there. [26] And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into**
38 **it. [27] And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither**
39 **whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the**
40 **Lamb's book of life.**

