

# The Glories of Heaven and the Horrors of Hell

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Let us embark on a short journey through Scripture to unveil a few distinct glories of heaven and the horrors of hell.

## The Glories of Heaven

### 1. *Heavenly Homecoming*

The Lord has promised to return to take us home. According to His own words found in John 14:2: ***“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.”***

Paul tells us in the rapture passage of 1Thessalonians 4, of the promise of meeting our Lord in the air and afterwards being with Him always. Where He is, we shall be. Believers have the promise of a heavenly homeland.

### 2. *Celestial City*

Heaven is depicted as a breathtaking, celestial city. A city of pure gold made by God Himself.

John in Revelation 21:10 tells us how he was carried away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and God showed him that great city.

***“I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.”*** - (Revelation 21:2)

The holy city is the bride of Christ displayed in her glory. Therefore, Heaven is a real, material place. In Heaven, the brilliance of the New Jerusalem will be like a glorious gem, shining pure like crystal. The city glistens and shines forth with blazing glory.

The city's measurements are foursquare. It is a cubic city. It is 1500 miles in each direction and 1500 miles straight up.

The city's foundations, described in Revelation 21:14, are adorned with precious gems. The main street is of pure gold like transparent glass, and the gates are made of one single pearl each.

The city wall is great and high, which speaks of absolute protection and safety. It guards the city from intrusion from those outside. The bible says on the outside are the unbelieving dogs.

***"And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb." Revelation 21:23***

The city is Heaven's holy sanctuary. There is infinite illumination there. There is no artificial or created light there. Divine, uncreated light permeates everything, symbolizing God's eternal presence. The glowing light signifies the dispelling of all darkness from our presence.

### ***3. Joyous Jubilation***

The citizens of Heaven shall experience joyous jubilation, free from sorrow and tears. ***"He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."***  
(Revelation 21:4)

Believers in Heaven savor eternal enjoyment in the presence of God. Psalm 16:11: ***"You make known to me the path of life; in your presence, there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore."***

We cannot begin to fathom the eternal bliss of that heavenly city. It is a place of eternal peace and comfort, where all suffering is wiped away.

***"No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him."***

Sin is what has messed up planet Earth. Sin is ultimately behind every sorrow, tear, heartbreak, sickness, and pain. We live in a world that has a curse of sin upon it.

In Heaven, believers enjoy victorious victory over sin and death. ***"To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I was victorious and sat down with my father on his throne."*** - (Revelation 3:21)

#### ***4. Heavenly Hosts***

Heaven is a place of glorious gathering, where believers unite from all nations.

Heaven brings unity beyond our imagination, as billions of believers from all social classes, from all the ages, gather together in perfect, unbroken fellowship with each other and with the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

John 17:22 – Jesus in praying to the Father prayed, ***"The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one."***

Rev. 7:9-10 – ***"After this, I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, 'Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!'"***

Dressed in radiant robes God's people will sing praises to the Lamb who was slain, celebrating redemption and eternal life. Redeemed Jews and Gentiles will sing the redemption song of Moses and of the Lamb. It is a place of perpetual worship and adoration of God's majesty and sovereignty.

Heaven is a place that resounds with harmonious hallelujahs and praises to God and the Lamb. ***“Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the roar of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, crying out, ‘Hallelujah! For the Lord, our God the Almighty reigns.’”***

### ***5. Endless Eternity***

Believers in Heaven experience an endless eternity, free from the constraints of time. In Heaven, believers experience divine delight beyond imagination as we bask in His glory and love for all eternity. Moreover, we will share in the rule of the Kingdom of God.

***“We will finally see His face, the face of our Sovereign Saviour, and his name will be on our foreheads....and we shall reign forever and ever.”*** (Rev. 22:4-5).

What I have described about the glories of Heaven are but a dim, dim picture of what is in store for the believer. This side of heaven, we cannot begin to conceive of what the glories of heaven are like.

***“For it is written, ‘What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him.’”*** - (1 Cor. 2:9)

Heaven is a prepared place for a prepared people. What do I mean by that? We all know that without a passport a person cannot travel freely to some foreign countries. This is true for anyone who wants to be in heaven someday. No one is permitted to enter heaven, God’s holy and eternal dwelling place, unless he possesses a “spiritual passport.” A validated passport stamped “Forgiven.”

Faith gets a person into heaven. ***“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved”*** (Acts 16:31). Only through faith, one gets the right to part of heaven and become its citizen.

## The Horrors of Hell

While the topic is unpleasant and unpopular to say the least, it is vital for us to gain a clear understanding of this unescapable reality.

### ***1. Dreadful Destination***

Hell, as depicted in Matthew 25:41, is a dreadful destination prepared for the devil and his angels. It is a place which was not created for man. But sinful man, by himself chooses that place as his final destiny.

Jesus will say to the unsaved on judgement day, ***“Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.”***

This reality reminds us of the justice of God and the consequences of unrepented sin, for those who are children of wrath, and sons of disobedience and die under the curse of sin.

### ***2. Pit of Perdition***

Hell is portrayed as a pit of perdition, the bottomless pit or abyss. It signifies the depth of despair and separation from God.

Rev. 9:2— ***He opened the bottomless pit, and smoke went up out of the pit, like the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by the smoke of the pit.***

Men without Christ are blindfolded, walking straight toward the precipice of “the pit of perdition.” The bible says that Satan has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel. They walk in darkness and do not know where they are going. They march toward the pit.

Every unrepentant sinner is near the brink of Hell. He is “one breath of life away.” A few more steps and he is gone.

The bottomless pit is where the unsaved will sink forever and ever. It will be a continual sinking deeper and deeper in despair, moment after moment, never reaching the bottom of their despair.

### ***3. Fiery Furnace***

Hell is described as a fiery furnace of fury, where the ungodly face God's fierce, hot wrath.

Psalm 21:9—***You will make them burn like a fiery furnace when you appear; the Lord will engulf them in his wrath, and fire will devour them.***

In Matthew 13:42, Jesus speaks of hell as a fiery furnace, ***“And the angels will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”***

This imagery suggests intense suffering and torment. The flames symbolize the unquenchable agony of those who reject God's salvation and Christ's offer of free grace.

The rich man in the fierce flames of Hell, in Luke 16:24, lifted up his eyes and called out, ***'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in anguish in this flame.'***

For that tormented soul, a single drop of water would have been a taste of heaven.

Mark 9:43 : ***And if your hand causes you to sin, cut it off! It is better for you to enter into life crippled than, having two hands, to go into hell—into the unquenchable fire!***

This fire will never annihilate the damned. The fire shall never be quenched. Some think they will suffer in Hell awhile and then be “snuffed out.” That is a lie! The doctrine of annihilation is the devil's doctrine. When God says the flames are eternal, He means what He says. It will be an eternal, unquenchable fire!

Rev. 14:11—” ***And the smoke of their torment ascends up forever and ever.***”

The furnace of Hell has a “wide open mouth,” which is never satisfied. It continually yearns to devour more souls.

#### ***4. Dreadful Darkness***

In Matthew 25:30, Jesus describes hell as a place of “***outer darkness.***” This darkness signifies the absence of God's light, truth, and love.

The outer darkness emphasizes the utter hopelessness and isolation of those who reject the Light of the world. Jesus urged the people in John 12:36 by saying – ***Believe in the light while you have the light, so that you may become the children of the light.***”

Jude 1:13— The apostates are compared to, “***Wild waves of the sea, casting up the foam of their own shame; wandering stars, for whom the gloom of utter darkness has been reserved forever.***”

Hell is shrouded in dreadful darkness. ***For, uttering great swelling words of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh... to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever.*** (2 Peter 2:18)

Peter also warns of “***chains of darkness,***” in his second epistle.

#### ***5. Wailing Wilderness***

Hell is depicted as a wailing wilderness, echoing with the cries of the condemned. ***In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.*** (Matthew 13:42). We can not imagine the echoes of Hell. The sufferers moan, cry, and curse and yell and scream without stoppage.

This vivid image portrays the excruciating pain and anguish experienced by the damned. Hell is the madhouse of the universe. The gnashing of

teeth signifies the torment of regret and the realization of eternal separation from God's mercy.

**Mark 9:48 –" For their worm shall not die, their fire shall not be quenched, and they shall be an abhorrence to all flesh."**

The unsettling imagery of a worm that does not die means that the accusing conscience of the lost will never cease to torment them—day and night, night, and day. The memory of their sins will never leave them, nor will the pain associated with that regret and remorse.

### **6. Perpetual Punishment**

**"And the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever." - (Revelation 20:10)**

**And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life." - (Matthew 25:46)**

Hell is portrayed as a realm of relentless retribution, where the condemned face ceaseless incarceration and suffering. *"All hope abandon, ye who enter in!"* - (Inferno 3:9, Dante's Divine Comedy)

There are no exits in Hell, no sign that says, "This way out!" Once you are in, there is no chance of escaping. No one can come to get you out; you are locked up for good. You will want to kill yourself, but you will not be able, your soul is eternal, and your existence will be one of solitary confinement. Shut in the prison house of devils forever.

Hell is a place of mournful misery and unending desolation. Hell is a marked by a chilling void. A place devoid of God's presence, love, and grace.

**"But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars,**



***their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.***" - (Revelation 21:8).

In that place of intense suffering, the rebellious find themselves facing the just consequences of their choices. They were unwilling during their lifetime to surrender their lives to Christ when they had the opportunity to do so. Time and time again they resisted the work of the Holy Spirit's convicting work and ignored the message of salvation.

## **Conclusion**

The destinies of heaven and hell hinge on our choice to embrace God's Son and offer of salvation or face the doom of rejecting Him.

Romans 6:23 reminds us that ***the wage of sin is death—separation from God, but God's gift is eternal life.***

All this Hell that I have described is what you and I justly deserved. But Christ has suffered Hell in our place, so that we might avoid that horrific place.

If you still have not trusted Jesus and are unsaved, and want to avoid Hell, then I will tell you this.

No matter how you may have messed up your life, and how broken you may be, and how many people you may have hurt, or have hurt you, no matter how desperate things have become, God loves you and will forgive you, if you come to Christ. God has not changed, his offer to save you still stands.

But do not run away from God for whatever reason, perhaps for fear of judgment, but rather run to Jesus and be saved. He has already taken your judgment on the cross. It takes the blood of Jesus to keep you out of Hell.

Do not run towards the flames, run away from them. Choose to turn, not burn!

Call upon Jesus today. Confess and repent of your sins. Ask Him to forgive you and acknowledge Him as Lord and Saviour of your life and you will be saved. Do not put it off!