

A PLACE CALLED HEAVEN

Answering 10 Questions About Your Eternal Home

DO PEOPLE IN HEAVEN KNOW WHAT IS HAPPENING ON EARTH? Selected Scripture

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INTRODUCTION: One of the most frequently asked questions about heaven concerns the extent to which the residents of heaven are aware what is happening on earth. How could we be happy in heaven if we saw the suffering of our loved ones on earth or the eternal torment of our friends in hell? Interestingly, the Bible provides a very clear answer to the question, “Do people in Heaven know what is happening on Earth?”

I. Biblical Evidence For Heavenly Awareness Of Earthly Happenings

A. The “Cloud of Witnesses” in Hebrews 12:1

Hebrews 12:1 “Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance, and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.”

B. Abraham and the Rich Man (Luke 16:19-31)

C. Martyrs and the Judgment of Earth (Revelation 6:9-10)

Revelation 6:9-10 “⁹ And when He [the Lamb] broke the fifth seal, I saw underneath the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God, and because of the testimony which they had maintained; ¹⁰ and they cried out with a loud voice, saying, ‘How long, O Lord, holy and true, will You refrain from judging and avenging our blood on those who dwell on the earth?’”

Revelation 19:1-2 “¹ ...Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God; ² BECAUSE HIS JUDGMENTS ARE TRUE AND RIGHTEOUS; for He has judged the great harlot [Babylon] who was corrupting the earth with her immorality, and HE HAS AVENGED THE BLOOD OF HIS BOND-SERVANTS ON HER.”

D. Heaven's Saints and the Salvation of the Unsaved (Luke 15:7, 10)

Luke 15:7, 10 “⁷I tell you...there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents, than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. ¹⁰In the same way, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

II. Are Citizens Of Heaven Aware Of The Captives In Hell?

A. Why Hell Exists

B. Understanding the Term “Hell”

3 Words Translated “Hell”

1. “Hades” (Luke 16:23)

Luke 16:23 “And in Hades he lifted up his eyes, being in torment, and saw Abraham far away, and Lazarus in his bosom.”

2. “Tartaros” (2 Peter 2:4)

2 Peter 2:4 “...God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell [tartaros] and committed them to pits of darkness, reserved for judgment.”

Jude 6 “And angels who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode, He [God] has kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day.”

3. “Gehenna” (Revelation 20:10)

Revelation 20:10 “And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.”

C. What Is Hell Like?

D. The Horrors of Hell

1. Hell is a place of eternal, physical _____. (Luke 16:24; Revelation 20:14-15)

Luke 16:24 "...Father Abraham, have mercy on me...for I am in agony in this flame."

Revelation 20:14-15 "14 And death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. 15 And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire."

Revelation 20:10 "And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast [the Antichrist] and the false prophet are also, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever."

2. Hell is a place of indescribable _____. (Luke 13:28; Matthew 8:12)

3. Hell is a place of _____. (Luke 16:26)

III. Will Heaven's Joy Be Diminished By What Happens On Earth And In Hell?

A. God Will Purge Our _____ (Isaiah 65:17)

Isaiah 65:17 "For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; and the former things will not be remembered or come to mind."

B. Christians Will Be _____ with the Joys of Heaven (Psalm 16:11)

Psalm 16:11 “You will make known to me the path of life; in your presence is fullness of joy; in your right hand there are pleasures forever.”

C. We Will Understand the _____ and _____ of God

Conclusion