

Bible Extra

Revelation 20

Part 2

Judgment & Salvation

What happens when a Christian dies?

1. The Christian is immediately in the presence of God (Phil 1:21-23, Lk 23:43, 2 Cor 5:8), but this is an “intermediate state”.
2. Resurrection comes at the last trumpet (1 Cor 15:50-53, 1 Thess 4:13-18)
3. There is no threat of hell or condemnation to fear (Rom 8:1, Jn 5:24), but there is an accounting to give (2 Cor 5:10, 1 Cor 3:12-15) and a testing of our lives.

THINGS THAT ARE CLEAR

1. God is love

For God so loved the world... Jn 3:16

God is love 1 Jn 4:8

THINGS THAT ARE CLEAR

2. God is both holy and just

*He is the Rock, his works are perfect,
and all his ways are just.*

*A faithful God who does no wrong,
upright and just is he.*

Dt 32:4

Who may ascend the mountain of the LORD?

Who may stand in his holy place?

Psa 24:3

THINGS THAT ARE CLEAR

3. Judgment is real but will be fair and is *“according to what we have done”*

“people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment” Heb 9:27

“God will repay each person according to what they have done.” Rom 2:6

“The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books.” Rev 20:12

THINGS THAT ARE CLEAR

4. The problem is that we haven't done very well

“There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”

Rom 3:23

As it is written: “There is no-one righteous, not even one.”

Rom 3:10

“Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath.”

Eph 2:3

THINGS THAT ARE CLEAR

5. Christ has died to take away our sins and reconcile us to God, so that we might not perish, but have everlasting life.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” Jn 3:16

“whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life.” Jn 5:24

THINGS THAT ARE CLEAR

5. Christ has died to take away our sins and reconcile us to God, so that we might not perish, but have everlasting life.

“Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God’s wrath remains on them.” Jn 3:36

THINGS THAT ARE CLEAR

6. We are therefore **EITHER** saved by faith in Christ and will find ourselves in heaven on account of HIS righteousness.

OR we are judged and condemned and will find ourselves in hell on account of OUR sins.

“Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.”

1 Jn 5:15

THINGS THAT ARE CLEAR

7. Judgment is proportionate

“The servant who knows the master’s will and does not get ready or does not do what the master wants will be beaten with many blows. But the one who does not know and does things deserving punishment will be beaten with few blows.”

Luke 12:47-48

WHY is there a hell?

1. God is holy and we are not. We are simply not fit to go to heaven in our current condition. As sinners we deserve punishment and as rebels we face banishment.
2. The laws of sowing and reaping cannot be arbitrarily repealed. There cannot be a sudden discontinuity between this life and the next. Our choices here really do matter.

WHY is there a hell?

3. The unrepentant man cannot be allowed to have the last laugh on God. There is no justice in a universe if sin and evil are not finally exposed and dealt with.
4. Every possible thing has already been mercifully done on God's part to remove the possibility of hell. What he did, cost him everything, and there is no more God can do.

WHY is there a hell?

5. Relationship cannot be forced. To request heaven for the person who has resisted God is to ask for something meaningless.
6. You could say God “sends” no-one to hell. God simply grants us what we demanded: freedom, independence, autonomy and self-absorption. That is hell!

WHY is there a hell?

7. Heaven, for the unsaved, would actually be an impossibility at every level – logically, judicially, relationally and experientially. It would be as nonsensical as discovering that a person who only ate burgers and never exercised had just turned up and won the Olympic 100 metres. Our eternity is intimately connected to the life we lived here. God cannot conjure up discontinuities at the moment of our death.

Summary

- The NT teaching on hell is hard to escape
- There are also rational and reasonable arguments for the existence of hell,
- But the details are hotly debated