

You Asked For It!

Heaven and Hell

The short letter of Jude was written to expose the realities of heaven and hell.
He provides the most precise insight into the eternities of heaven and hell.

Heaven is real.

Hell is real.

Jude writes that real people will spend eternity in either heaven or hell.

He doesn't leave much to the imagination.

He gives several descriptions of hell.

It is a place of condemnation (vs. 4, 9, 15).

It is a place of ungodliness (vs. 4, 15, 18).

It is a place of perversion (vs. 4).

It is a place of unbelief (vs. 5).

It is a place of destruction (vs. 5, 10).

It is a place of rebellion (vs. 5, 11).

It is a place of eternal chains (vs. 6).

It is a place of gloom (vs. 6).

It is a place of punishment (vs. 7).

It is a place of lust (vs. 7).

It is a place of rebuke (vs. 8).

It is a place of blemishes (vs. 12, 24).

It is a place of selfishness (vs. 12).

It is a place of death (vs. 12).

It is a place of shame (vs. 13).

It is a place of sin (vs. 15).

It is a place of grumbling (vs. 16).

It is a place of dissatisfaction (vs. 16).

It is a place of division (vs. 19).

It is a place of doubt and suspicion (vs. 22).

It is a place of fire (vs. 7, 23).

Hell is a Godless place.

Jude provides a bleak description of hell.

There is not a single, solitary thing about hell that is positive.

How does Jude know all this?

Has Jude been to hell to see it first hand?

Is He an eye-witness to the reality of hell?

No he doesn't need to experience hell in order to know what it is like.

He pinpoints the lifestyle of those who will spend eternity in hell.

Hell dwellers are those who have expelled God from their lives.

He recognizes the tragic choices people make who choose hell for eternity.

Hell will tragically be populated by those who live for themselves.

Who does this Jude think he is anyway?

What gives him the right to make those kinds of conclusions?

Jude is a very humble man.

He isn't trying to lord it over anyone.

He claims to be nothing more than a servant of Jesus Christ (vs. 1).

He is a slave of Jesus.

He has chosen Jesus over everything else in his life.

Jesus is Jude's Master.

Jesus has his total allegiance.

He has only one focus - He has embraced the focus of Jesus.
 Jude then identifies himself as a brother of James.
 The most important things for Jude was being a servant of Jesus.
 But he also has an earthly brother who is called James (vs. 1).
 And tradition says that James was the brother of Jesus.
 Jude refuses to build his writings on any earthly reputation.
 He may very well have grown up with Jesus.
 He may have lived and eaten with Jesus.
 If they were brothers they probably shared the same room.
 When Jesus was 12 His family left Him in Jerusalem by mistake.
 The family returned to frantically look for Jesus.
 Jude may have been in that three day search party for Jesus.
 Luke tells the story of Jesus in Jerusalem.
 Jude may have passed that story on to Luke.
 Luke relied heavily on eye witnesses for writing his gospel.
 Jude may have heard Jesus talk about the glory of heaven.
 He may have heard Jesus talk about the horror of hell.
 Of these things Jesus was most definitely an eye witness.
 Jesus Himself may very well have been Jude's authority.
 But any family connection to Jesus was not important to Jude.
 What was important was the Lordship of Jesus in his life.
 Growing up with Jesus and around Jesus did not transform his life.
 Jesus growing in Him made all the difference.
 That is what gave him hope.
 And that is what compelled him to write about heaven and hell.
 Jesus was born for this very reason.
Jesus came to expose and destroy the works of the devil.
 He came to set us free from the chains and corruption of sin.
 He came to be our Redeemer.
Jesus offers the gift of faith by which we see Him as our Saviour.
Christmas is a message of hope that proclaims freedom from sin.
 All the proclamations of the angels were true.
"He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High and the Lord God will give to Him the throne of His father David, and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever; and of His kingdom there will be no end. ... therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God." (Luke 1:32-33, 34b)
"For to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." (Luke 2:11)
"She will bear and son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." (Matthew 1:21)
It is possible to live a life of victory over sin.
 And that brings us to what Jude has to say about heaven.
 Heaven is a place of **peace** (vs. 1).
 Heaven is a place of **mercy** (vs. 1, 21, 23).
 Heaven is a place of **love** (vs. 1, 21).
 Heaven is a place of **abundance** (vs. 1).
 Heaven is a place of **faith** (vs. 20).
 Heaven is a place of **holiness** (vs. 20, 24).
 Heaven is a place of **eternal life** (vs. 21, 25).
 Heaven is a place of **perfection** (vs. 24).
 Heaven is a place of **glory** (vs. 24).
 Heaven is a place of **rejoicing** (vs. 24).
 Heaven is a place of **God's presence** (vs. 25, 20).
 Heaven is a place of **majesty** (vs. 25).
 Heaven is a place of **authority** (vs. 25).
 Heaven is a place of **dominion** (vs. 25).
 Jude knows heaven is like that.

He pinpoints the lifestyle of those who will spend eternity in heaven.

Heaven dwellers are those who have embraced God in their lives.

He recognizes the choices people make who choose heaven for eternity.

Heaven will triumphantly be populated by those who live for God.

Heaven and Hell are realities and they are the result of your choices.

But most people live as if this world is the only reality.

Those living without Christ live for this world only.

Those living for Christ are called to care for others.

We can boldly go to our world in Christ's strength and reach in love.

We dare not isolate ourselves from others in fear.

We serve a God who is able to keep us from falling (vs. 24).

Jesus can present us without blemish (vs. 24).

Those living without Christ live a blemished life.

But that, my friends, is not contagious.

If it were, Jesus would have contracted sin long before the cross.

He was a friend to sinners.

If blemishes of sin could be caught Jesus would have caught them.

But Jesus lived a sinless, selfless life.

He never fell from grace and into sin.

Jesus can keep you from falling.

You can love and be merciful through the strength Jesus gives.

You can live a life of holiness in a sin-darkened world.

You can live in God's abiding presence.

God's love can envelop you while you engage this world.

You can save some by snatching them out of the fire.

Hell is an unnecessary place.

No one needs to spend eternity in hell.

Christ was born for all and died for all.

He came to offer us eternity with Him.

God gives us a taste of heaven through Jesus.

Our Communion Table is a part of that taste.

Receiving the bread of the cup makes us care about the eternity of others.

A man spoke with the Lord about heaven and hell.

The Lord said to the man, "Come, I will show you hell."

They entered a room where a group of people sat around a huge pot of stew.

Everyone was famished, desperate, and starving.

Each held a spoon that reached the pot.

But the spoon handles were longer than their arms.

The spoon handles prevented them getting the stew into their own mouths.

The suffering was terrible.

"Come, now I will show you heaven," the Lord said after a while.

They entered another room, identical to the first.

There was the pot of stew, the group of people, the same long-handled spoons.

But in this room everyone was happy and well-nourished.

"I don't understand," said the man.

"Why are they happy here when they were miserable in the other room?"

"Everything looks the same."

The Lord smiled, "Ah, it is simple," he said.

"These people served others on earth as Jesus did."

"They learned to feed others and care for others in Jesus' name."

That oversimplifies heaven and hell.

That is the message of our Communion Table today.

Jesus is here in our midst and invites us to partake in His life and death.

Jesus' broken body and shed blood assure us of the resurrection.

These are the emblems of hope for all in this world.

And they call us to enter this world with boldness.

Will you come and receive to your soul's comfort and joy?