

# IS HELL REAL?



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'Is Hell Real?'  
by  
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# IS HELL REAL?

In my writing I always want to draw you towards God, who loves you with an unconditional love. I want you to hear the good news of all that Jesus has done and won for you. So why am I writing a booklet about Hell? The truth is that Hell is real and so many people are heading there without realizing it. I decided to study it in some detail and share the truth with you, then you can never say that no-one told you. So here goes ...

God created a perfect world for people to live in for eternity, but when they started to sin it was spoilt. So He brought death in to free us from having to live forever on a corrupt earth. That leads to the question, what happens when we die? Where do we go?

## *Why Did God Make Hell?*

The devil was an angel called Lucifer who wanted God's glory for himself. He rebelled against God and took some other angels with him, so God threw them all out of Heaven. Lucifer became the devil or Satan and the other angels became his demons. God created a terrible place of eternal punishment and torture for them into which they will eventually be thrown forever. This is Hell. In Matthew 25:41 Jesus described it as – *“the eternal fire which is prepared for the devil and his angels.”*

However, when people started to rebel, God had to make Hell bigger so there was room in it for them to spend eternity there too. Isaiah 5:14 says – *‘Sheol has enlarged its desire, and opened its mouth without measure; and their glory, their multitude, their pomp, and he who rejoices amongst them, descend into it.’*

## *What is Hell Like?*

Hell is a terrible place of torment – there is no-one who will be happy there. Below are some of the descriptions in the Bible with their references so you can look them up if you want to.

A fiery furnace (Matthew 13:50)

A place of weeping and gnashing of teeth (Matthew 13:50)

A place of eternal punishment (Matthew 25:46)

An eternal fire (Mark 9:45)

A place where the worm doesn't die (Mark 9:48)

The total absence of God and His power (2 Thessalonians 1:9)

The blackness of darkness (2 Peter 2:17)

A lake of fire and sulphur (Revelation 14:10-11, 20:10)

Eternal torment (Revelation 20:10)

## *What Happened to Old Testament People?*

The place where Old Testament people went after they died is called 'Sheol'. It had two parts – Hell or Hades and Abraham's Bosom or Paradise. Those who rejected God went to Hell and those who believed God and put their faith in Him went to Abraham's Bosom which was a blessed place.

Jesus told a story about a rich man who went to Hell when he died, and a beggar called Lazarus who went to Abraham's Bosom. He said in [Luke 16:23-31](#) – *"In Hades, he (the rich man) lifted up his eyes, being in torment, and saw Abraham far off, and Lazarus at his bosom. <sup>24</sup>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 in anguish in this flame.'* <sup>25</sup>*"But Abraham said, 'Son, remember that you, in your lifetime, received your good things, and Lazarus, in the same way, bad things. But here he is now comforted and you are*

*in anguish. <sup>26</sup>Besides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, that those who want to pass from here to you are not able, and that no one may cross over from there to us."*

There was no way to cross from Hell to Abraham's Bosom or vice versa. People's destination was decided in this life before they died and the same applies to us today. We can't wait till we die and hope for the best – it's too late then.

Lazarus was in a good place where he was comforted, but the people in Abraham's Bosom were still not in the actual presence of God because Jesus still had to die to make that possible. He hadn't suffered the punishment for their sins so they couldn't yet be forgiven and be with Him in Heaven.

## *What Happened to Jesus when He Died?*

When Jesus died on the Cross, His spirit also went to Sheol, where He took the keys of death and Hell from the devil. He says in Revelation 1:17-18 – *"I have the keys of Death and of Hades."* He then told the people in Abraham's Bosom the truth about who He was and all He had done. 1 Peter 3:18-19 says – *'being put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the Spirit, <sup>19</sup> in whom he also went and preached to the spirits in prison.'* Although these people were in a good place, they were still captives, waiting for Jesus to bring them out and into God's presence in Heaven. And this is what He did. Ephesians 4:8 says – *"When he ascended on high, he led captivity captive."* He took the people in Abraham's Bosom captive in order to lead them out and into the freedom of Heaven, which He had won for them through His death and where they would live forever in God's presence.

Jesus then came back from the dead – He re-entered His body which was now transformed into a glorified body which would

never die but live forever. Jesus says in Revelation 1:17-18 – “*I was dead, and behold, I am alive forever and ever.*”

## ***What Happens to Us when We Die?***

Many people don't believe in life after death, but that's not what the Bible teaches. We will all go somewhere and live forever – the question is, where? Because Jesus led everyone out of Abraham's Bosom into Heaven, it is not needed anymore. Today it either remains empty or it no longer exists. So our destination today is either Heaven or Hell. We know that our bodies are left here on earth to be buried or cremated. But our spirits and our souls will never die. So who goes to Heaven and who goes to Hell? First let's look at some wrong answers to that question.

### **The good go to Heaven and the bad are destroyed – wrong**

Paul says in Acts 24:15 that – “*there will be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust.*” No-one will be destroyed and no longer exist. Everyone will live forever.

### **Everyone will go to Heaven – wrong**

People who believe this quote Philippians 2:10-11 – ‘*at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in Heaven, those on earth, and those under the earth,<sup>11</sup> and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*’ Yes, when Jesus comes again in glory, it will be obvious to everyone that He is Lord and everyone will bow before Him, but it will be too late for those who had previously rejected Him. Anyone can believe in something when it's proved to them, but God wants us to believe in Him by faith. In John 20:29 Jesus said – “*Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.*”

## **The good go to Heaven and the bad go to Hell – wrong**

You will know people who are good and kind and you feel they should be allowed into Heaven. Jesus did say in John 5:28-29 – “... *those who have done good, to the resurrection of life; and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of judgement.*” But He also said in John 3:3 – “*Most certainly I tell you, unless one is born anew, he can't see God's Kingdom.*” (To read about being born-again, go to the end of this booklet.)

So what is the truth? James 2:26 explains that – ‘*faith apart from works is dead.*’ If you are truly born-again you won't do everything perfectly but you will inevitably do good. Jesus said in Matthew 7:16 – “*By their fruits you will know them.*” So it isn't ‘good’ people who go to Heaven, but people who are truly born-again. But because they are born-again, they will do good things. If you believe ‘good’ people are allowed into Heaven whether they are born-again or not, then there has to be a line drawn somewhere – that's a worrying thought. Where is it drawn? No-one is perfect so which side of the line am I on? Which side are you on? This is what all other religions teach – that you have to earn your way into the afterlife. Only Christianity teaches the truth – that you can never be good enough to earn your way to Heaven, but Jesus has earned it on your behalf. Therefore, it's only as you accept Him and what He has done for you that you are able to enter into Heaven and be completely sure of it.

We will be judged by whether we have accepted Jesus or not, not whether we were good or bad. In John 16:8-9 Jesus says – ‘*When he has come, he will convict the world about sin ...<sup>9</sup> because they don't believe in me.*’ This is the one sin which will decide if you go to Heaven or Hell, not all the things you did wrong or all the things you did right. Just one thing – have you accepted Jesus as your Lord and Saviour? If the answer is ‘Yes’,

you go to Heaven. If the answer is ‘No’, you go to Hell. It’s black and white. To do neither is the same as rejecting Him. The ‘good’ will go to Heaven if they have accepted Jesus and they will go to Hell if they haven’t. The ‘bad’ will go to Heaven if they have truly accepted Jesus no matter what they had previously done, and they will go to Hell if they haven’t.

## *The Right Answer – it’s Good News*

Jesus told His followers to preach the gospel which means good news. It isn’t good news to tell people they are going to Hell, but it is good news to tell them that they don’t have to go there and show them the way to Heaven. Jesus said in John 14:6 – *“I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father, except through me.”* There is only one way to Heaven – it’s Jesus.

If God punished us as we deserve, no-one would be in Heaven, and yet sin has to be punished for there to be justice. So, instead of punishing us for all our sins, He sent His Son, Jesus, to suffer our punishment in our place. That’s how much God loves us. The price for our entry into Heaven was paid by Jesus, not us.

When we believe in Jesus, in who He is, in what He has done and won for us and commit to follow Him, all our sins are forgiven and we are given a brand-new spirit which is perfect and holy. He makes us a new righteous creation. We still have our old minds, but we are now able to start to renew them by His Word. Now we can go to Heaven, not because we have done everything perfectly or are ‘good’ in the world’s eyes, but because God has forgiven us all our sins and made us perfect.

What about people who have never heard of Jesus? Romans 1:20 says– *‘For the invisible things of him since the creation of the world are clearly seen, being perceived through the things*



*that are made, even his everlasting power and divinity, that they may be without excuse.'* Everyone is instinctively aware of God through creation, though they may deny it and suppress it. God is just and if someone asks Him to show Himself to them, He will do so. Many people with no understanding of Jesus have seen Him in a dream and responded to Him.

God has made it possible for everyone to go to Heaven. He doesn't send anyone to Hell. They choose that for themselves by rejecting Jesus, and God looks on and grieves. How can you expect to go to Heaven when you reject the way into it? Being born-again is available to all – no-one is disqualified because of what they've done or not done. This is wonderful, good news.

## *What Will Happen to Our Bodies?*

In the last days every dead body will be raised back to life and reunited with its spirit and soul. Those who have not accepted Jesus will spend eternity in torment in Hell with Satan and his demons. And those who have accepted Jesus will live forever with Him in eternal love, joy and peace, free from all suffering and in a glorified body which will be perfect forever.

## *God Loves You*

I said at the beginning that my writing focuses on God's love for all people and for you personally. Let's end with this wonderful truth. Know that God loves you and does not want you to go to Hell when you die. He wants you with Him in Heaven, enjoying all the blessings He has for you. In John 3:16 Jesus says that – *'God so loved the world, that he gave his only born Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life.'*

Never doubt God's unconditional love for you for one minute. All your life He has been drawing you to Jesus so you can be in relationship with Him both now and for eternity. If you haven't been born-again, let me encourage you right now to choose Jesus and know that you have nothing to fear when you die. Instead, you will know that you have Heaven to look forward to.

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## *Being Born-Again*

When you make Jesus your Lord and Saviour you are born-again. God becomes your Father and you His child, and you can start to enjoy a personal love relationship with Him. Romans 10:9 says – *'if you will confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.'* Say this, believing it in your heart – “Jesus, I declare that You are Lord and that God raised You from the dead to live forevermore. Thank You for dying for me personally. I receive my salvation now. Thank You Jesus, my Lord and Saviour.”

If you've done that sincerely, you are now born-again and Jesus has come to live in you. Everything you've ever done wrong or ever will do wrong is forgiven, and after this life is over, you'll live in peace and joy with your loving Father God for ever.

As a child of God, you have a whole new family. Tell a trusted Christian that you are now born-again so they can help you in your new life in Jesus. And you have the Bible to help you understand and experience more of God's love for you and all Jesus has done and won for you. It will help you to live your life in the best possible way – His way.

# *Life in Jesus*

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and all He has done and won for us  
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People talk about hell –  
they use the word as an exclamation,  
they joke about people going there.  
But does hell really exist?  
And if it does, other questions follow –  
Who will go there?  
Will you go there?

Find out the truth and discover the way to avoid hell  
and live forever in the love, peace and joy of God.



**Katherine Hilditch** has been teaching in local churches for many years. In 2013 she wrote her first booklet and since then has written many more. She created her website to make all the booklets freely available to everyone. They can be read online or printed out. Katherine's threefold purpose is to help people understand more about Jesus and all He has done and won for them, to encourage them to go deeper in their relationship with God and to provide material to help them share their faith with others. To read her story and find all the booklets go to –

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