

***Supplemental Notes:***

## **Heaven and Hell**

### **What Happens When You Die?**

We don't like to think about death. It's not a pleasant subject, so we avoid discussing it seriously or giving it any diligent study.

One of the penalties of our casual—or reluctant—attitude about death and dying is that most people are steeped in myths and misconceptions. Almost every commonly held belief is erroneous, misleading, and contrary to what we *do* know about the subject.

What does the Bible say about Heaven and Hell?

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## Heaven and Hell

### What Happens When You Die?

What happens when you die? Is there really an “afterlife”? What is Heaven like? Is there really a “Hell”? What is the nature of eternity and the “reality” we find ourselves in? (The nature of time and “reality” constitutes some basic understandings that must precede any serious discussion of these issues.)

Although the life-styles, values, and self-perceptions of most adults have undergone significant changes—and millions have embraced many elements of a post-modern worldview, the majority continues to believe that there *is* life after death, that everyone has a soul, and that Heaven and Hell probably *do* exist. Yet over 50 million Americans are uncertain about their personal fate!

### Contradictory Findings

Logical contradictions prevail, even among born-again Christians, as many have redefined grace to mean that God is so eager to save people from Hell that He will change His nature and universal principles for their individual benefit. Among “born-again” Christians, 10% believe that people are reincarnated after death; 29% claim it is possible to communicate with the dead; 50% contend that a person can earn salvation based upon good works; and, many believe there are multiple options for gaining entry into heaven.

Atheists and agnostics are also confused: 50% believe that every person has a soul, Heaven and Hell exist, and that there is life after death; 12% believe that accepting Jesus Christ probably makes life after death possible!

## Background

It is essential to “blindfold our prejudices”; the only sure barrier to truth is the presumption that you already have it...God holds us accountable by the Creation itself (Deut 30, Rom 10).

### Creation and our Conceptions of Reality

**Our Finite Universe:** The nature of time; the nature of our “reality,” hyperspaces, and the paradoxes of quantum physics.

**Our Critical Discovery:** We have in our possession an *Integrated* Message System consisting of 66 separate books penned by 40 different individuals, written over thousands of years, which provably has its origin from *outside our time domain!*

**Einstein’s Revolution:** Special Relativity (1905)—length, mass, velocity and time are *relative* to the velocity of the observers; General Relativity (1915)—no distinction between time and space (a four-dimensional continuum, confirmed 14 ways to 19 decimals) Time is *not* uniform. Time is a *physical* property which *varies* with mass, acceleration and gravity ...among other things...We exist in *more* than three dimensions (apparently 10...).

**The Nature of God:** Is God subject to the restrictions of mass? Acceleration? Gravity? He is not simply One with “lots of time,” he is *outside* of the restrictions of time. This uniqueness is His Personal Imprint...

Since God has the technology to create us, He certainly has the means to get a message to us, but how does He *authenticate* His message so that we know that it is really from Him, and not a contrivance or a fraud? *“Declaring the end from the beginning, and*

from ancient times the things that are not yet done... (Isa 46:10).

**The Holographic Universe:** David Bohm's Model: Explicate (Enfolded Order), tangible everyday physical reality; Implicate (Unfolded) Order, more primary, deeper, underlying reality. This model is supported by Roger Penrose of Oxford, the creator of the modern theory of black holes; Bernard d'Espagnat of the University of Paris; leading authorities on foundations of quantum theory; and, Brian Josephson of the University of Cambridge, winner of the 1973 Nobel Prize in physics.

**The Boundaries of Understanding:** *While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal* (2 Cor 4:18). It is amazing—and yet not surprising—that the Word of God presents a view of reality that is not at variance with these contemporary insights from the very boundaries of our present understanding of the physical universe.

## The Architecture of Man

**נֶפֶשׁ Nephesh:** soul, self, life, creature, person, appetite, mind, living being, desire, emotion, passion. It is translated:

soul	475 occurrences
life	117
person	29
mind	15
heart	15
creature	9
body	8
himself	8
yourselves	6
misc./other uses	<u>69</u>
	751

*Nephesh* has more than one meaning. Brown, Driver, & Briggs, *A Hebrew Lexicon of the Old Testament*, highlights three primary meanings:

- 1) Physical Life.** An animal is called a *nephesh* as long as it is living. A dead animal is never called a *nephesh* because its body would be devoid of the life principle. (Adam's body was complete yet unanimated until God placed in it "the spirit of life," Gen 2:7.)
- 2) Figurative Usage:** A synecdoche is a figure of speech in which the specific is used for the general: "Give me a hand"; "lend me an ear"; "fancy wheels, man"; "nice threads"; etc. [In this sense, the Jews were prohibited from touching dead people (Lev 21:1, 11).]
- 3) The Soul:** The Inner Being, the transcendent self, which departs at death and returns with life at the resurrection (Gen 35:18; 1 Kgs 17:21, etc.). That to which is attributed reason, emotion, will, and worship.

Rabbinical Literature understood the soul to be invisible and immortal; Josephus wrote that all Jews except the Sadducees believed in the immortality of the soul; Eusebius wrote that the doctrine of "soul sleep" was invented by 3<sup>rd</sup> century heretics.

**רוּחַ Ruach:** breath, wind; God's Spirit, the Holy Spirit; angels—good and evil; life in men; disembodied spirits; disposition or attitude; seat of the emotions, mind and will. It is translated:

Spirit or spirit	232
wind	92
breath	27
side	6
mind	5
misc.	<u>16</u>
	378

**ψυχή Psuche:** LXX translated *Nephesh* in 785 out of 810 cases. Never uses **βίος**, the Greek word for physical life, as the equivalent of *Nephesh*. Deliberately avoids equating the soul with mere physical life. The word “*psychology*” is derived from *psuche*.

**Meaning:** breath; the breath of life, of animals or of men; that in which there is life; a living soul; the seat of the feelings, desires, affections, aversions; the soul as an essence which differs from the body and is not dissolved by death. It is translated:

soul	58
life	40
mind	3
heart, etc.	<u>4</u>
	105

**πνεῦμα Pneuma:** a movement of air; the wind; breath of nostrils or mouth [Cf. “pneumatics” etc.] The spirit; i.e., the vital principle by which the body is animated; the rational spirit, the power by which the human being feels, thinks, decides; the soul. A spirit; i.e., a simple essence, devoid of all matter, and possessed of the power of knowing, desiring, deciding, and acting. A spirit higher than man but lower than God; i.e., an angel; used of demons, or evil spirits, as inhabiting the bodies of men. The 3<sup>rd</sup> person of the Trinity, God the Holy Spirit. It is translated:

Spirit	137
Holy Ghost	107
Spirit (of Christ)	19
human (spirit)	49
(evil) spirit	47
misc.	<u>26</u>
	385

**Software Characteristics:** Software includes self-modifying codes; software is generated from high level language layers into “machine code”; its architecture cannot be inferred from its external behavior. Software has no “mass.” It can be transmitted

through the air waves. [The inability to infer the architecture of an “infinite state machine” from its external behavior is what dooms the field of psychology to ultimate frustration.]

**The Physics of Immortality:** Frank J. Tipler, Professor of Mathematical Physics, Tulane University, using the most advanced and sophisticated methods of modern physics, “in exactly the same way physicists calculate the properties of an electron,” arrived at two conclusions about God and immortality:

1) He discovered proof of the existence of God.

2) *He also now believes that every human being who ever lived will be resurrected from the dead.*

## Tape 2: The Mystery of Our Destiny

### The Dark Side

Angel of Light? (2 Cor 11:13-14); Channeling, etc.? (Lev 19:31; 20:6, 27; Deut 18:9-12; Isa 8:19-20; 1 Cor 10:14-22); Necromancy? (Deut 18:11,12); Saul & the Witch of Endor (1 Sam 28:3-5); Entities and Entries (Isa 8:19-20); Reincarnation (Heb 9:27).

### Near-Death Experiences

Stephen (Acts 7:56); Paul (2 Cor 12:4); Lystra? 14 yrs earlier (Acts 14:19-20). Satan’s Strategy = deception (no judgment; no accountability... many paths... narrow vs. broad).

### Effects of the Fall?

Universe “fractured?” Separation of the 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> dimensions? Separation of the “spiritual” and “physical”? Entropy (the “Bondage of Decay”) introduced?

Redemption involves more than Man alone: "...a New Heavens and a New Earth."

### Gen 3: The Seed Plot of the Entire Bible

*Nachash*, the "Shining One," and the Forbidden Fruit. Satan's methodology of the deception: first, doubt. "Yea, Hath God Said...?" Then, denial. "Ye shall not surely die." God's Declaration of War: Seed of the Woman against Seed of the Serpent.

*And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel* (Gen 3:14-15).

### Basics

The Fall of Man is the basis of death. Death is an inescapable fact (Heb 9:27); science will never conquer death (Job 14:1-5; Eccl 3:1); death is man's punishment for disobedience (Rom 5:12-17; 6:23; James 1:14,15). Separation, not annihilation. The sufficiency of Christ's atonement undercuts any theory of reincarnation or transmigration (Heb 1:3; 1 Jn 1:7; 1 Pet 2:24).

### שְׁאוֹל *Sheol*

Not the "grave" (which is the destination of the body). The location of departed souls; the abode of the dead (both good and bad). First occurrence (Gen 37:35). Jacob assumes that his son was still conscious after death and he would be united with him. Joseph was still his son; still retained his identity. "Go down" implies geocentric metaphor. Grave: *kever*, opposite, not synonymous (Isa 14:19).

LXX: *Sheol* is never translated *mneema* (grave); always *Hades*. Always contrasted, never equated (Ps 16:8-11). *Sheol*: "Under the earth," "underworld," "lower parts of the earth" (Ps 63:9; Isa 14:9; 44:23; Ezek 26:20; 31:14,16,18; 32:18,24); sepulchres were above the earth or in caves; opposite of heaven (Ps 139:8).

### שְׁאוֹל *Sheol* vs. קֶבֶר *Kever*

Verb *kebar* (to bury) never used of *Sheol* (Gen 23:4,6,9,19,20; 49:30, 31, etc.); *Kever* can be pluralized; *sheol* is never pluralized. A grave is located at a specific site; *sheol* is never localized; accessible at death no matter where it takes place. No grave is necessary to go to *Sheol*. One can purchase or sell a grave; *Sheol* is never spoken of as being purchased or sold (Gen 23:4-20). You can own a grave as personal property; nowhere is *Sheol* owned by man (Gen 23:4-20); bodies are unconscious in the grave; those in *Sheol* are conscious (Isa 14:4-7; 44:23; Ezek 31:16; 32:21; Luke 16:19ff).

### Ἅδης *Hades*

Classic Greek: *Hades* or Pluto, the god of the lower regions; Orcus, the netherworld, the realm of the dead. Biblical Greek: the infernal regions, a dark and dismal place in the very depths of the earth, the common receptacle of disembodied spirits (idiomatically, a geocentric concept).

### γέεννα *Gehenna*

This was originally the Valley of Hinnom, south of Jerusalem, where the filth and dead animals of the city were cast out and burned; the "lake of fire" that is the ultimate destiny of the unsaved temporarily held in *Hades* or *Sheol*. Topologically, the opposite of *Hades*: in the outer darkness (Mt 8:12; 22:13; 25:30).

## Hell

“Fire and brimstone” are metaphors. Hell will be greater than all the weak and feeble metaphors the human language can provide. How else can you characterize the ultimate alienation from God outside the limitations of time and space? Let’s examine the report of the only true expert...The Rich Man. Some insights:

The man in *Hades* was fully conscious (memory; speaking; pain; desires); his eternal destiny was irrevocably fixed; he knew that what he was experiencing was fair and just; he also knew what his brothers needed to do to avoid his own fate: *repent* (He was not yet in Hell, but only *Hades*.) This is the OT picture. After the Cross, Jesus came, declared His victory and took those in “Abraham’s Bosom” with Him. (Mt 27).

This is the negative side of the Gospel: Sinners are warned to “flee from the wrath to come” (Mt 23:33; Luke 3:7). Lately, this has been ignored and deferred, with focus on the “positive side.” Hell is acknowledged to be true but rarely preached. (When was the last time you heard a sermon on this topic?)

## The Justice of God

At the Last Judgment, every person will be resurrected and judged individually and there will be an accounting of every detail of each of our lives (every thought, every motive, every intention...what did we do with what we knew? All religions indeed lead to God—as *Judge!* (It won’t be Buddha, Mohammed, or any of the pagan gods that will be sitting as Judge!)

The Father has given all authority to Jesus Christ (Jn 5:27). At the *Bema* Seat, believers are rewarded (1 Cor 3:10-15). At the end of the Millennium the

Great White Throne consigns the wicked to their eternal state (1 Cor 4:5; 2 Thess 1:5-10).

## Punishment

Conscious and aware of their passions, desires, memories and regrets; eternal (“Abandon all hope who enter here”); exposed to our own sin for eternity; disconnected from all pain killers, etc. That rich man in *Hades* has not yet received that drop of water he so desperately longed for. Forever is a long, long time. And without even a remote hope—ever.

## The Sufferings of the Impenitent

- From the loss of all earthly good.
- From utter expulsion from the presence and favor of God.
- From utter withdrawal of the Holy Spirit.
- From consequent unrestrained dominion of sin and sinful passions.
- From the operations of conscience.
- From despair.
- From evil associates.
- From external circumstances.
- From their perpetuity.

— Charles Hodge

## Retributive Justice

- To vindicate the King’s righteousness.
- To defend the moral order of His Kingdom.
- To highlight the preciousness of the Servant who died to make us just.
- It is the response of positive holiness reasserting the moral order of the world against all that is evil.

## Degrees of Punishment

- Not all equal; to whom much is given, much will be required.

- Even withholding the truth can be an act of mercy! *For if there be first a willing mind, it is accepted according to that a man hath, and not according to that he hath not* (2 Cor 8:12).

### Difficulties

Does the punishment fit the crime? Do we really understand God's attitude toward sin? Adultery was a capital crime in Israel; horoscopes were a capital crime (our sensitivity to sin is calloused).

The magnitude of sin vs. The Majesty of God: sin is a violation of the character of an Infinite Being. He makes the rules; the potter chooses what he builds... No one is God's counselor. He will be unimpressed by our attempts to get Him to see things from our point of view. Even the wicked in hell will glorify Him. A God deserving of worship cannot issue an arbitrary amnesty for humanitarians or pantheists who persist in worshiping and serving themselves more than their personal Creator.

The condemnation of everyone who is lost will be wholly attributable to himself or herself for having disregarded God's revealed will.

### Reasons to Disbelieve

- Materialism (ignorance of the nature of reality);
- Universalism (attempts to take the forever out of hell);
- Annihilationism (attempts to take the hell out of forever).

### Heaven: What Will it be Like?

The joys of Heaven include a newly created environment unsullied by moral evil that houses the ultimate model city: "New Jerusalem." There will be

deathless existence in resurrection bodies: knowing and loving God maximally in fellowship with all other believers. We will retain our gender and ethnic characteristics. We will have renewed intellectual, emotional and volitional abilities.

### What About Children?

Examples: David's son (2 Sam 12:23) and Paul (Rom 7:9): *For I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died.* They are not innocent; their accountability is waived. They're subject to death just like Adam (Rom 5:12).

### Our Resurrection Bodies

Remember the lesson of *Jurassic Park*: molecules are fungible raw materials. All that was needed was *information*. Our resurrection bodies are hyper-dimensional (1 Jn 3:2) and we will retain personal knowledge and identities.

### What Is the "Gospel"?

*Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures...* (1 Cor 15:1-4)

No mention of His teachings, His example, His miracles... Christ's crucifixion was not a tragedy: it was an achievement! For each of us!

## The Plan of Redemption

**The First Act of “Religion”:** *And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons [covering, armor] (Gen 3:7).*

*Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them (Gen 3:21).*

God was teaching them that only by the shedding of innocent blood they would be covered (on another tree in another garden).

## The Attributes of God

Omnipotence = Infinite Power. Omniscience = Infinite Knowledge. Infinite Love? Knowing that Man, if left free to choose, would enter a predicament that only the death of God would suffice to extricate him. *Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends (Jn 15:13).*

*Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved (Acts 4:12).*

God makes the rules. He has chosen to measure all things through His Son. His righteousness is the only one that qualifies. No one will enter heaven without the proper credentials. No visas are granted on the other side of the border; you need to arrange them here first.

*He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him (Jn 3:36).*

**The Basis of Your Fate?** “I’m as good as the next guy” (Strike 1). “I’m doing the best I can” (Strike 2).

“I try to live by the Ten Commandments and the Sermon on the Mount” (Strike 3)!

## Why Now?

Your eternity is only a heartbeat away: a car crash, a stray bullet, an unexpected stroke...*You* have an appointment and there are no “accidents” in God’s Kingdom. Where will you find yourself? *How sure are you? What is your basis of conviction?*

Is there anything keeping you from accepting God’s free gift of salvation right now? If there is any doubt in your mind, bring it to the Throne right now. You don’t need an appointment. Don’t even read on without nailing this one down... with Him. It’s your highest priority over anything—everything—else.

We don’t become saved by acting saved. We don’t become married by acting married. Faith bridges the gap between our need and God’s provision. Faith is simply the way we say “yes” to His offer. What are you trusting in? Christ, plus something? Or is your hope and your trust in Christ alone? He did the whole job. To imply something must be added is a form of blasphemy!

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