

Rev. 20:12 – 21:8 - Life, Death, & Life After Death - part 8/9

Heaven & Hell

Intro – We have come to the end of our series LD&LAD. I originally thought of doing 3 but this is 9. It was my desire for these messages to be biblical, practical & personal. It has been personal for me because it grew out of the recent death of my son (therapeutic). We end today being biblical and very practical. There is no more practical thing to think about in this life than to think about the after-life (Mark 8:36). There are only two destinations after death...heaven or hell (biblical). Both places are real places (one is just as real as the other). Both places are prepared places. Both places are perpetual places (eternal). But these places are very different places (Matt. 25:46). The glories of heaven are beyond description and the horrors of hell is no mere fiction. We cannot totally comprehend either place, but we can apprehend that there such places of heaven & hell. We can understand that there is a broad road to destruction and a narrow way to life. Both of these places warrant a whole message, but I wanted to present them together in contrast. Our text puts them side by side so we will consider both places...though only one place will be where each one of us will reside forever.

HELL

- Hell is a four-letter word that is often said but few people dread
 - Often used in one's conversation but rarely considered as one's destination
- The world seems to mention hell more than the church (expletive to emphasize certainty)
 - We must proclaim this uncomfortable reality...if faithful to Christianity.
 - No man would conceive of it if God didn't reveal it
- What Jesus taught about Hell. We should pay attention to His awful description
 - Matt. 5:22 - fiery hell Matt. 5:29-30 - whole body thrown into hell (x's 2)
 - Matt. 8:12 - outer darkness...weeping and gnashing of teeth
 - Matt. 10:28- God should be feared because He can destroy soul and body in hell
 - Matt. 13:42 - furnace of fire with weeping and gnashing.... (13:50)
 - Matt. 18:9 - cast into fiery hell Matt. 22:13-14 - outer darkness...weeping
 - Matt. 23:15 - you can be made a "son of hell" 23:33 - and be "sentenced to hell"
 - Matt. 25:30 - outer darkness...weeping and gnashing of teeth
 - Matt. 25:41 - the cursed go to eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels
 - Matt. 8:29 - torment Luke 8:31 - Abyss
 - Matt. 25:46 eternal punishment
 - The opening Gospel doesn't shy away from revealing the reality of hell
 - The good news is contrasted with the bad news so understand both better.
 - Mark 9 - hell (x's 3) unquenchable fire (x's 4) salted with fire (1) worm (x's 3)
 - To believe Jesus you must believe in hell. to disbelieve one is to disbelieve the other

- Hell is eternal destruction. Not annihilation but perpetual destruction
 - 2 Thess. 1:8-9 Rev. 14:10b-11a Rev. 19:3
- Hell is the 2nd Death a forever dying
 - Rev. 20:14-15 Rev. 21:8 There is a fate worse than death
- We all deserve to go there...but you don't want to go there.
 - There is a hell to avoid and a heaven to embrace
 - Hell is the 2nd death, but Heaven is abundant life

HEAVEN

- Heaven is NEW Rev. 21:1 – new heavens and new earth
 - Rev. 21:2 – new Jerusalem Heb. 11:10; 12:22-23
 - Now...the redeemed go up to heaven but one day heaven will come down
 - The new Jerusalem on the new earth for our new life
 - Rev. 21:5 – all things new
 - I can't comprehend all this entails but I can grasp "NEW".
 - This "newness is promised! – 21:5 "SURE AS HEAVEN!"
- No more negatives in the "New". Rev. 21:4
 - Tears wipes away - new information with new comfort applied with new closeness
 - Death will die...and what a funeral that will be!
 - Mourning and crying will not be a part of the NEW
 - Pain will pass away can you imagine a life without pain?
 - The old order will be gone and the NEW will be enjoyed
 - Is anyone tired of the old and looking forward to the NEW?
- New relationship and fellowship
 - Marriage and family are wonderful blessings but we all intuitively know and feel that they are not what they should be. Something is missing and wrong
 - Heaven is described as the ultimate in marital bliss – Rev. 19:7, 9 Rev. 21:2, 9
 - Heaven is the eternal perfect marriage
 - Heaven is the ultimate in family relationship
 - I think all of us have some kind of "daddy issues"
 - Heaven is perfect fellowship with the Father - Rev. 21:3
 - In Eden man had fellowship with God but sin broke that and it was lost
 - Heaven is the restored relationship with our God - 1 John 1:3-4
 - Psalm 23:6 heaven is the ultimate in intimate family relationship
- New sight
 - With sin we lost our sight of God. We could no longer see God
 - Heaven is a restored sight - Rev. 22:3-4 Psalm 27:4 Psalm 16:11
 - "The Blind Boy and The King" (cited in "Heaven" by R. Alcorn)
 - John 17:24 1 Thess. 1:10 when we see Him as He is it will be marvelous
- Jesus has prepared a place (John 14:3; Matt. 25:34) and there is another place prepared...
 - Which of the two places are you prepared to go?