

THE REALITY OF HEAVEN AND HELL

THEOLOGICAL QUESTION

Is there a real heaven and hell, and what are they like?

BIG IDEA

Scripture teaches that those who place their trust in Jesus will spend eternity in heaven. Rejection of God's free gift of salvation through Christ results in eternal separation from Him in hell.

SCRIPTURE USED

Matthew 13:41-43

The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will remove from his Kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. And the angels will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in their Father's Kingdom. Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand!

Mark 9:43-48

If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It's better to enter eternal life with only one hand than to go into the unquenchable fires of hell with two hands. If your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It's better to enter eternal life with only one foot than to be thrown into hell with two feet. And if your eye causes you to sin, gouge it out. It's better to enter the Kingdom of God with only one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell, where the maggots never die and the fire never goes out.

Revelation 21:3-4

I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, "Look, God's home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them. He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever.

Colossians 3:1-2

Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God's right hand. Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth.

OPENER

For the opener you will need:

- Whiteboard, chalkboard, poster board or flipchart
- Sheets of paper – enough for each student to have 2 sheets
- Pens/pencils or markers
- Sample word clouds – make your own, or use the examples found at the end of this lesson

Part #1

Leaders, the point of this exercise is to encourage your students to help generate a list of movies or TV programs that depict heaven, hell or some aspect of the afterlife. You do not need to be familiar with the specifics of the movies or TV series they suggest for this list. Use the following heaven/hell “cheatsheet” list provided here only as an emergency backup in case your students get stuck.

Movies and TV Shows about Heaven/Hell/Afterlife:

Heaven is for Real
All Dogs Go to Heaven
Ghostbusters
What Dreams May Come
Meet Joe Black *Heaven Can Wait*
The Sixth Sense
The Lovely Bones
Ghost
City of Angels
Clash of the Titans
Hereafter
Down to Earth
Touched by an Angel
Highway to Heaven
7th Heaven
Afterlife
Ghost Adventures
The Haunted
Ghost Hunter

EXPLAIN

What happens when we die? This is a fascinating topic for a lot of people. Movies sometimes make it seem like it is fun to guess at what might happen after this life. We are going to try to make a list as fast as we can about movies or TV shows that deal with life after death. Just shout them out and I will write them down. We want as many as we can get in 2 minutes. Ready? Go!