

Religious Education

Heaven, Hell and Purgatory

Lesson 11 of 14

Worksheet

Miss Kendrick



Traditionally, Christians believe that Jesus' resurrection isn't only important because it shows that he was God and that he defeated death, but that it's a foretaste of what will happen to all people – that everyone will be raised from the dead and given a new body that will last forever.

This is interpreted in lots of different ways, some Christians believe this is symbolic of the soul having an eternal life, other Christians believe that people will be given new physical and spiritual bodies.



Heaven

The Bible talks about heaven and earth being renewed and all sin and evil being defeated. In the book of Revelation it says:

“He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.” He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Revelation 21:4

Heaven is then described as a golden city where God is worshipped and where people have a renewed and perfect relationship with him. Some people think this is a spiritual place, others believe that this is a physical place uncorrupted by sin – like the Garden of Eden.



Heaven

Some Christians believe that all people will go to heaven as they believe God is all loving. Others believe that only Christians will go to heaven, and some Christians believe that people will enter heaven based on their deeds.

Those who believe heaven is a physical place believe they will be given new, spiritual bodies which will not perish, like the body Jesus had when he was resurrected.

Those who believe heaven is a spiritual place often believe that their perfect souls will have an eternal existence with God.



Hell

There are lots of different understandings of hell in Christianity. Some Christians believe it is a place of eternal, physical torture. Others think it is a place of spiritual suffering. Some Christians believe it is a 'second death' and that the people who sin and reject God won't have eternal life - they'll just stop existing.

Other Christians believe that no one will go to hell and that God will save all people because he is all loving. However there are many references to hell in the Bible where it's described as a place of fire and suffering.

'...and they will throw them into the fiery furnace, where they will cry and gnash their teeth.' Matt 13:42



Hell

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Some Christians will interpret these verses literally. Those who do not interpret them literally may understand them as describing a spiritual torment of being separated from God. Or, they may understand it in terms of what it is like to be far from God in this life.

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<u>Question</u>	<u>Answers</u>
What are the two different understandings of the resurrection of all people?	
How is Heaven described in the Bible?	
Give two different understandings of Hell.	



How is Hell described in the Bible?	
Why are the beliefs in Heaven and Hell an important part of believing that God is just (fair)?	



References

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