



# Big Questions

Why does God allow suffering? How could a loving God send people to hell? Do all religions ultimately lead to God? How do I know God really loves me? Does Science disprove God? How reliable is the Bible?

YOU HAVE ALWAYS WANTED TO ASK

Part 2

## How many Heavens are there?

There are 718 references to the word “heaven,” in the Bible sometimes the air, sky, clouds, stars and the citadel of God’s throne.

There are 3 heavens:

1. The clouds, atmosphere and sky – Matthew 24:30.
2. The universe or starry space, galaxies – Genesis 15:5.
3. The epi-centre where God dwells – 2 Corinthians 12:2.

See - 2 Corinthians 12:1-4, Hebrews 11:14-18 and North part of the universe Isaiah 14:12-14,

## What happens after death?

Luke 16:19-31. There are several references to what happens after death. The following text from Luke 16 assures us of the continuity of life.

**1 Corinthians 15: 40-41**  
*There are also heavenly bodies and there are earthly bodies; but the splendor of the heavenly bodies is one kind, and the splendor of the earthly bodies is another.*

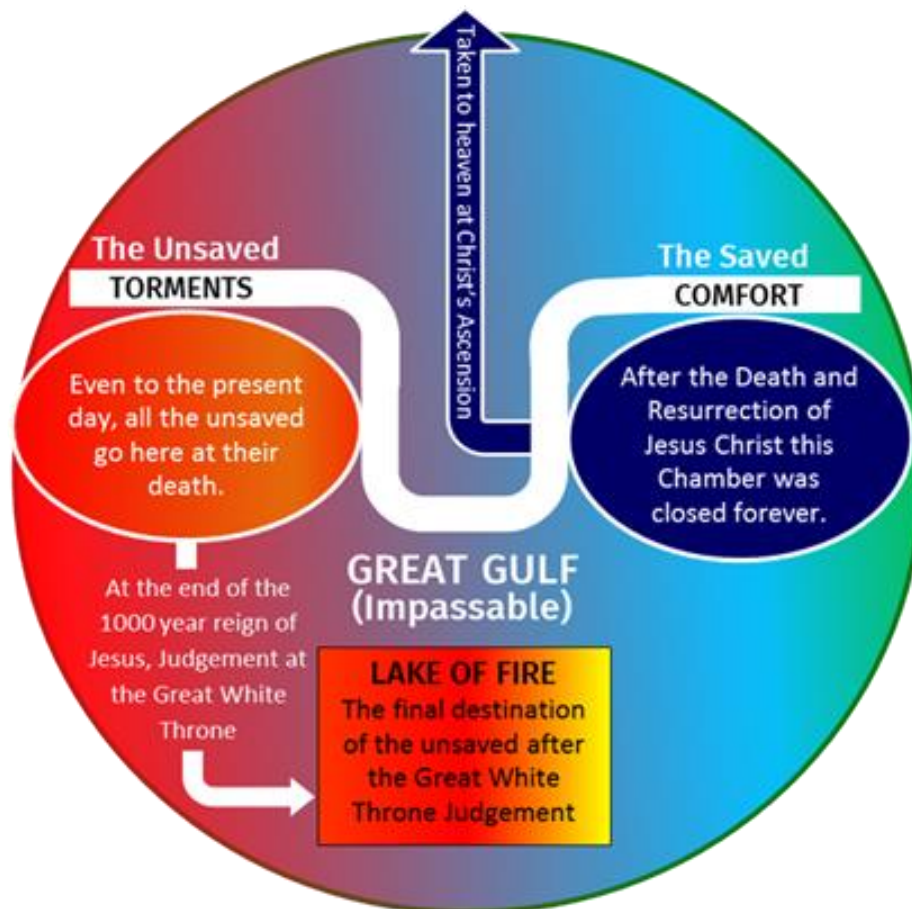
**Consider:-** 2 Corinthians 5:1-8, 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 1 Corinthians 15:40, 1 Corinthians 15:51-58, 1 Corinthians 2:9.

## THE PENITENT THIEF

Luke 23:43

“Therefore He says: “When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men.” (Now this, “He ascended”—what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.”)

EPHESIANS 4:8-10



The souls of the righteous people (Old Testament and Gospel saints) who died before Christ had paid the penalty for sin went to a place called “Paradise” or “Abraham’s Bosom.” This place of comfort was separated from the place of the unsaved, by a great gulf or wide expanse. The unsaved souls were held in Hades. It is here that Jesus describes all those who have died without believing Him. They will remain in Hades until their final judgment at the Great White Throne, described in Revelation 20. They remain there to the present day.

## **The Great White Throne Judgement (For unbelievers)**

*“Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them.*

*And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works.” REVELATION 20:11-13*

## **Judgement Seat of Christ (For believers)**

*2 Corinthians 5:1, 1 Corinthians 3:11-15.*

Those in Hades are there because they made a decision during their life on earth—to refuse the offer of the Lord Jesus Christ and His sacrifice to take away their sins. Instead, having rejected the only means by which God has provided for the forgiveness of our sins, they have condemned themselves. Some people believe that if their good works outweigh the bad, and they are a basically a good person—that God will accept them into heaven. This is a false and untrue belief, which is not supported by the word of God. The Bible teaches that:

*“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...” ROMANS 3:23*

*“There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus...”*

*ROMANS 8:1*

When Jesus rose from the dead, He carried these captives from the Old Testament back to heaven where they remain to the present day. Abraham’s Bosom has remained closed since Jesus resurrection and ascension and today anyone who believes in Jesus as their Saviour, when they die, they are taken immediately to heaven to be with the Lord – *Matthew 27:51-53, Luke 20:38. God of the living.*

**Matthew  
27:51-53**

## **When Jesus Died**

- **Temple veil was torn**
- **Rocks split, earthquake, tombs opened**
- **Many dead saints were raised from the dead**
- **They came out of graves after Christ was raised**
- **They went into Jerusalem and appeared to many people**
- **They were alive again**

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*“...to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.”*

2 CORINTHIANS 5:8

## **What about the Heathen?**

They have creation which testifies of God. We have revelation which reveals Christ to us. They are without excuse - *Romans 1:19-21*.

*Genesis 18:25 “Far be it from You to do such a thing as this, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous should be as the wicked; far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?”*

The Judge of the universe will do right.

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