



faith 1.0

GOD REIGNS.

matthew 6.10

Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.

You will die. We don't know what to do with death, so we hide it. We put the dying into hospitals, care centers, and nursing homes. When people do die, we put them in boxes in the ground, and when the caskets are open, we hire people to make them look as alive as possible.

You will die, though. Are you ready for that? Do you know what happens?

when you DIE

- The Naturalists - you are only a body without a soul, and once you die, there is nothing more
- The Universalists - everyone goes to heaven, no matter what they've done in this life
- The Catholics - purgatory is a place or state where those who died in the grace of God expiate their unforgiven sins by being punished before they enter heaven
- The Reincarnationists - after you die you will come back repeatedly until you have paid off your karmic debt

Who are you going to trust with the answers for what happens?

when you DIE

- Two main views of death within Christianity:
 - When you die, your body and soul “sleep” until the return of Christ, when you will be resurrected to judgment - either eternity in heaven or hell
 - When you die, your soul and your body separate, the body into the grave, and the soul to an afterlife to face judgment. When Christ returns there will be a reuniting of the soul and the body, to eternity in heaven or hell
- Both views can be supported with Scripture (1st Thess. 4, 2 Cor. 5)
- Christianity differs from all other religions in that our eternal status depends entirely on our relationship with Jesus

what does the bible teach about HEAVEN?

- Is not:

- A fluffy white cloud that we'll sit on with tiny wings playing tiny harps

- Is:

- A house not made with hands (2 Cor. 5.1)
- A heavenly kingdom (2 Tim. 4.18)
- An inheritance imperishable, undefiled, and unfading (1 Pet. 1.4)

HEAVEN

- Revelation 7.9-10, 13-17
- God is there.
- And so that is why we want to be there.
- What will we be like in heaven?
 - 1 Corinthians 15.35-58
- Not all questions are answered.
 - Will we know each other? Will there be gender? Animals? Etc.

– Vacation visiting friends story – we don't go to heaven to walk on soft gold streets and marvel at pearly gates – we go to be with God.

what does the BIBLE teach about hell?

- It is a place of eternal punishment
- Biblical descriptors include:
 - Fire, darkness, punishment, exclusion from God's presence, restlessness, second death, and the weeping and gnashing of teeth
- Satan does *not* rule in hell - he's there for the same punishment as everyone else
- Hell is real and terrible, and once there, you have no possibility of amnesty or reprieve

Satan reigning in hell is a myth started in Paradise Lost, by John Milton, where the devil famously claims, "better to reign in hell than serve in heaven"

the objections to HELL

- A loving God would not send billions of people to a horrible hell
- A loving God would be more tolerant
- Hell is mean
- Eternity in hell is unjust punishment for people who only sinned a few decades

– God doesn't send anyone to hell – in a very important sense, hell is populated by people who have rejected his offer of grace, and suppressed the truth he has made plain

– Ludicrous – by whose standard of tolerance? Should he be tolerant to rapists, pedophiles, and the like? Or just tolerant to your standard of morality? No

– Yes, very much so, as it is filled with mean people. But God has done everything possible to keep you from there

– By whose standard of fairness? We have treasonously sinned against the creator of the universe, and worshipped the things he made in his place. Who are we to decide what fair punishment for that transgression looks like? Treason is a capital offense.

what about people who never hear the GOSPEL?

- John 14.6
- Acts 4.12
- There is only one way to the Father, and that's through Jesus
- Matthew 28.18-20
- The idea of the great commission is simple: tell everyone
- Beyond that? God is God, and he'll decide
- What you need to worry about is you, and then telling everyone you know

am I going to HELL?

- Revelation 22.16-17
- Jesus, the very Son of God, died and rose and is exalted in heaven
- If you believe that, then in believing you have life in his name
- You're commanded to repent and be baptized
- You'll receive forgiveness of your sins, new life in the Holy Spirit, membership in the church of Jesus Christ, a part in the rescue mission of souls in this world, and citizenship in his Kingdom
- You will be with Jesus now and forever

Where are you headed?

