

# Anchor of Hope

## Bible Study

**H**ow repugnant to every emotion of love and mercy, and even to our sense of justice, is the doctrine that the wicked dead are tormented with fire and brimstone in an eternally burning hell; that for the sins of a brief earthly life they are to suffer torture as long as God shall live. Yet this doctrine has been widely taught and is still embodied in many of the creeds of Christendom. . . . Where in the pages of God's word, is such teaching to be found? Will the redeemed in heaven be lost to all emotions of pity and compassion, and even to feelings of common humanity? . . . No, no; such is not the teaching of the Book of God. Those who present these views . . . may be learned and even honest men, but they are deluded by the sophistry of Satan. He leads them to misconstrue strong expressions of Scripture, giving to the language the coloring of bitterness and malignity which pertains to himself, but not to our Creator. *The Great Controversy*, p. 535

*Christ is the truth of all that we find in the Father. The definition of heaven is the presence of Christ. SDA Bible Comm., vol. 7, p. 989. Human language is inadequate to describe the reward of the righteous. It will be known only to those who behold it. No finite mind can comprehend the glory of the paradise of God. In the Bible the inheritance of the saved is called 'a country. Hebrews 11:14-16. There the heavenly Shepherd leads His flock to fountains of living waters. . . . Pain cannot exist in the atmosphere of heaven. There will be no more tears, no funeral trains, no badges of mourning. "There shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying; for the former things are passed away."*

*"In the city of God 'there shall be no night.' . . . The people of God are privileged to hold open communion with the Father and the Son. . . . Then we shall see Him face to face, without a dimming veil between. We shall stand in His presence and behold the glory of His countenance. There the redeemed shall know, even as also they are known. . . . The pure communion with holy beings, the harmonious social life with the blessed angels and with the faithful ones of all ages who have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb, the sacred ties that bind together, 'the whole family in heaven and earth' Ephesians 3:15—these help to constitute the happiness of the redeemed. . . . With unutterable delight the children of earth enter into the joy and the wisdom of unfallen beings. . . .*

*The great controversy is ended. Sin and sinners are no more. The entire universe is clean. . . . From the minutest atom to the greatest world, all things, animate and inanimate, in their unshadowed beauty and perfect joy, declare that God is love." *The Great Controversy* p. 675-678*

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## Heaven & Hell

### Being With Jesus

1. What makes heaven to be heaven indeed? John 14:3 (Last part)
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**Note:** Heaven without Christ wouldn't be heaven. Suppose that you could knock at the gate of heaven and an angel's voice said, "Come in. You're welcome. All the wonderful things you've always dreamed of are here. But not Jesus." Would you go in?

### A Real Place Doing Real Things

2. Will we recognize our family and friends? 1 Corinthians 13:12
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3. What are some of the things that God's people will do when the earth is made new? isaiah 65:21-23, 25
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4. What will the great city, New Jerusalem, be like? Rev. 21:9-27
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5. When will all of God's people gather together with Jesus and the Father regularly for fellowship? Isaiah 66:22, 23
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6. What will be our greatest joy? Revelation 22:4
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7. What will be God's greatest joy? Revelation 21:3, 4
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8. Why will the destruction of the wicked be Jesus' final heartbreak? 2 Peter 3:9; Ezekiel 18:30-32
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9. For whom was hell originally prepared? Matthew 25:41. What is God's purpose for it? Revelation 21:27
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# e Bible Study

10. What is hell, and where will it be? Revelation 20:9, 10

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11. Are the fires of hell burning now? When will it happen? Matthew 13:40-42

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12. Where are the wicked dead now? John 5:28, 29

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13. How long will the fires of hell burn? Malachi 4:1-3; Jude 7; 2 Peter 2:6, 9

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**Note:** Sodom and Gomorrah are not burning today; these cities lie in ruins under the Dead Sea. The effects, or results, are eternal, or everlasting.

14. What does *forever* mean in the following texts? 1 Samuel 1:22, 28

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15. If people are lost, whose fault will it be, theirs or God's? Matthew 23:37

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**Note:** All of heaven is earnestly working 24 hours a day to save us. In order for people to be lost or to burn they will either have to reject or neglect God, or basically push God out of their life. This was the situation in Jerusalem; they were not willing to come to God.

16. How does Jesus feel about people rejecting Him or pushing Him out of their life? Luke 19:41

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## MY HEART'S RESPONSE

- I long to be with God and hear Him sing over me. Zephaniah 3:17
- It is good to know that the lost will not blame God

## **My Decision**

It is clear that God does not punish the wicked eternally while the saved are spending eternity with Jesus.

I long to spend eternity with Jesus, my best Friend.