

Heaven & Hell

Big Idea: We believe that heaven is the glorious eternal home of the living God and of all believers who have accepted Jesus Christ as their Saviour. We believe that hell is a place of darkness, deepest sorrow, and unquenchable fire, which was not prepared for man but for the devil and his angels; yet it will become the place of eternal separation from God for all who reject Christ as their Saviour.

1. Heaven is being in God's Presence.

There are several times where the Bible reveals occasions of being in God's Presence: Lucifer and the angels (Isaiah 14:12; Ezekiel 28:12), Adam and Eve in Eden (Genesis 1:26), Moses on Mount Sinai (Exodus 19) and the Tabernacle (Exodus 25:8).

Most references to "heaven" create an image of otherworldliness. Heaven is perceived as something withdrawn and away. Sin has caused this separation and prevents the kind of communion God enjoyed with Adam and Eve before the Fall.

2. Hell is eternal separation from God's Presence.

"... In hell, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. So he called to him, 'Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.'" But Abraham replied, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony. And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.'" (Luke 16:23-26)

3. Jesus is the one-way bridge between the two.

Throughout Old Testament history, provisions were made to enable sinners to atone for their sins. Sin has always required a blood sacrifice – first with select animals. Ultimately, Jesus became the all-covering atonement for sin through His shed blood. Having lived a sinless life, He was willing and able to create an avenue back into the Presence of God.