



What Is The Difference Between Heaven, Paradise, Hell, Hades and Purgatory?

Part 1

Episode #148

Introduction

I. Today's Question

What Is The Difference Between Heaven, Paradise, Hell, Hades and Purgatory?

It is common to hear various terms used to describe the eternal state of mankind. What do these terms mean and do some of them describe the same thing?

II. Heaven and Hell: General Sense

- a. It is not uncommon to hear both Heaven and Hell in the church and the world.
- b. These terms are often used in a general sense to reflect greater truths.
- c. Often their use is due to a lack of understanding concerning the specifics of Biblical truth.

III. Heaven, Paradise, And The New Creation

- a. It is not uncommon to hear people talk of heaven as their destination.
- b. The Scriptures present a more complex picture than the general statement we use.
- c. Heaven is the abode of God where he dwells with his good angels.

Scripture Isaiah 66:1

Thus says the Lord: "Heaven *is* My throne, And earth *is* My footstool. Where *is* the house that you will build Me? And where *is* the place of My rest?"

- d. Our spirits go to be with the Lord in heaven until the resurrection of our bodies.

Scripture 2 Corinthians 5:8

We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.

- e. Paradise is also known as Abraham's Bosom in Hades.

Scripture Luke 23:43

And Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise."

Scripture Luke 16:19-31

¹⁹ "There was a certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously every day. ²⁰ But there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, full of sores, who was laid at his gate, ²¹ desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table. Moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. ²² So it was that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried. ²³ And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. ²⁴ "Then he

cried and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.' ²⁵ But Abraham said, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are tormented. ²⁶ And besides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot, nor can those from there pass to us.' ²⁷ "Then he said, 'I beg you therefore, father, that you would send him to my father's house, ²⁸ for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them, lest they also come to this place of torment.' ²⁹ Abraham said to him, 'They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.' ³⁰ And he said, 'No, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' ³¹ But he said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.' "

f. This is where the spirits of the saints dwelt until the death and resurrection of Jesus.

g. When our bodies are resurrected, we will dwell forevermore with Christ

Scripture 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

¹³ But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. ¹⁴ For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. ¹⁵ For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive *and* remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. ¹⁸ Therefore comfort one another with these words.

h. Believers will enter the Eternal state as a part of the New Creation.

Scripture Revelation 21:1

Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea.

i. Believers will dwell in the New Jerusalem in the New Creation.

Scripture Revelation 21:2-3

²Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God *is* with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them *and be* their God.

Conclusion