

## Will You Have Your Memory In Eternity?

### I. Introduction:

A. When you die, you do NOT go straight to eternal life or everlasting punishment. You go to a place which we know as hades (**Luke 16:19-31**).

1. Though translated "hell", hades [Strong's # 86] is the place Jesus went when He died (**Acts 2:22-31**) and referred to as Paradise before His ascension to Heaven (**Luke 23:39-43**) or "prison" (**I Peter 3:18-20**).

2. Eternal life or everlasting punishment are not destinations for people until the final Judgment Day (**Matthew 25:31-46**).

3. No one, except for Christ, has ascended into Heaven (**John 3:13** and **Acts 1:6-11**).

B. What we KNOW is...

1. Jesus will return and this world will end (**Mark 13:31-37**).

2. There will be a bodily resurrection of the dead and an ascension to judgment for the living (**I Thessalonians 4:13-18**).

a. Jesus promised His faithful that place where He would be they would be too (**John 14:1-3**).

b. Where Jesus went was Heaven (**I Peter 3:21-22**).

3. At that point, life or damnation will be granted (**John 5:28-29**).

### II. Body: What Should You Really Be Concerned With (**II Peter 3:1-14**)?

A. Many read Scriptures such as **Revelation 21:4** and they then question how that could be if they'll be separated from lost loved ones. They then question if God will wipe our memories in Heaven.

1. First, CONTEXT... What **Revelation 21:1-4** is talking about is something coming to earth, not anyone going to Heaven.

a. Where things would be new (**Revelation 21:5**).

b. Where they would have the water of life freely (**Revelation 21:6**; cf. **John 4:14** and **Revelation 22:1; 17** and **Matthew 11:28-30**).

c. Overcoming what they face would be an inheritance, failing to do so would be punishment (**Revelation 21:7-8**).

d. The beautiful image presented in the remainder of **Revelation 21** is a vision of a beautiful bride, the church (**Revelation 21:9-10**), coming back to earth. After a great apostasy, this is HIGHLY figurative language about restoration. The congregations that were faithful had been told this time they were facing was brief (i.e. **Revelation 2:10-11**). These things are like Isaiah's prophecies of the past concerning physical Israel.

2. A new heaven and earth, doesn't necessarily infer eternal Heaven. Consider how Isaiah used such language (**Isaiah 65:17**) which, contextually, was about the restoration of the physical, Old Testament Israel (**Isaiah 65:18-25**; cf. **Isaiah 66:15-24** and **Jeremiah 30:1-3**).

- a. Remember, even if we miss the context, those old prophecies were not about things concerning the Second Coming of Christ (**Matthew 5:17-18**; cf. **Colossians 2:14**).
  - b. Like in the Old Testament times wherein God's plagues were shed on men for unfaithfulness (**Jeremiah 16:1-4**), the saints in Asia were facing like things as God was punishing the wicked in power (**Revelation 18:8**).
  - c. There was such death that, like as days of old (**Ezekiel 39:17-20**), the creatures of the earth fed on the dead (**Revelation 19:17-18**).
  - d. After this short period of time Revealed to John of things that would shortly come to pass (**Revelation 1:1-4**), these plagues would pass and the sky would open up again for rain and the earth for food, JUST LIKE DAYS OF OLD (**Ezekiel 34:25-31**).
3. We read in **Revelation 21:2** that this bride, the holy city (hmm.. **Ephesians 5:22-33** and **Hebrews 12:22-23**) will come down to earth... As we've already read, in the end, there will be no earth (**II Peter 3:10**).
4. Even the language of **Revelation 21:3** is not strictly Heavenly language (**II Corinthians 6:14-18**, **I Timothy 3:15**, and **Hebrews 8:10**).
5. In Heaven, we will not longer be the bride of Christ. We will be joint heirs with Christ (**Romans 8:17**).
6. **Revelation 21:1-4** doesn't FIT eternal life! It fits the restored church!
7. When it comes to "no more tears", keep it in context. The church was facing heavy persecution and apostasy (**Revelation 2:1-3:22**). Like Israel of old, restoration changed the emotions of those days (**Isaiah 25:1-12**).
8. Furthermore, regarding these difficult contexts, remember that VISIONS [like John's visions; **Revelation 9:17**] are not clear in meaning to those seeing them (**II Corinthians 12:1-4**).
- B. Who is to say there will be no sorrow, at all, in Heaven?
1. God has emotions in Heaven (**Genesis 6:5-6**, **Isaiah 63:10**, and **Ezekiel 6:9**).
  2. Joy is experienced in Heaven (**Luke 15:3-7**).
  3. The TRUTH is: *"it doth not yet appear what we shall be"* (**I John 3:1-3**).
- C. Rather than pursuing knowledge that is not available, shouldn't we focus on living to be ready for the return of Christ (**II Corinthians 5:7-11** and **Titus 2:11-14**)?
1. The Scriptures do not set our minds on "how beautiful heaven must be". The Scriptures teach us to look forward to eternal life (**I John 5:11-13**).
  2. Regarding fearing Hell... Fear has its place (**Psalms 111:10** and **Philippians 2:12**), but if fear of Hell is all that is keeping you faithful; are you really faithful (**I John 4:18**)?
  3. What should our relationship with our Lord be motivated by (**I John 4:19**)? How would that help us (**I John 5:2-3** and **II Corinthians 5:14-15**)?

4. What would you say of a woman who is married to a man ONLY for the house he can provide, the wealth, etc. She only married him because she feared being homeless, hungry, suffering, etc. She is ONLY attracted to what he has to offer rather than to him at all. What is a woman who engages in a relationship for wages rather than the relationship itself? Think on those things (**Proverbs 23:27-28**)!

5. If a person's mentality is a carnally beneficial mindset, even towards eternal life, that person or group of people will ultimately fall as a whole looking for what she can gain better elsewhere (**Ezekiel 16:1-58** and **II Peter 2:1-3**).

6. Don't get caught up in trivial questions about what is not revealed or hopes/fears that are not found in the Scriptures (**I Timothy 1:3-4**).

7. Rather than avoiding Hell or getting an eternal vacation to the world of carnal beauty that many imagine, let your relationship with our God be rooted and grounded in love (**Ephesians 3:17-19** and **I John 4:16**).

III. Conclusion: Live To Get There Where You Shall Be Made To Be Like Him (**Philippians 3:7-21**).