

THE BEST IS THE WORST

Int.

1. Aim: To show the best things about Heaven and then show that the exact opposite is the worst thing about Hell!
2. Ecl. 3:1-2 "To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: 2 A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted;"
 - a. Time between birth and death is life
 - b. Heb. 9:27 - After death - judgment - then eternal destiny
3. Only 2 eternal destinies possible:
 - a. Heaven - Jn.5:28-29 "Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, 29. And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation."
 - b. Hell - Mt. 25:46 "And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal."
4. The way we live here will determine which will be our destiny.
5. After life here there will be a judgement and all people will be placed in either heaven or hell.
6. Notice the Best thing about heaven is the worst thing about hell !!

Discussion

I. LIGHT & DARKNESS

A. Heaven is a place of Eternal Light - Rev. 21:23 "And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof."

1. No need of sun or moon - Light is the symbol of holiness
2. God and Christ supply all the light that is needed.
3. Lamb is the light - Jesus is the light of the world
4. Rev. 22:5 no night there "And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever." - it will be a nightless city
5. One eternal day under the direct light of God himself

B. Hell is a place of Eternal Darkness - Mt. 25:30 "And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

1. Cast unprofitable servants - Outer darkness
2. A day less existence
3. Darkness is the symbol of evil and ungodliness
4. Darkness is punishment
5. Ill. Mammoth Cave, Ky. Turned lights out - could not see anything
6. Jude 13 "Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever." Darkest night BBE
7. 2 Pet. 2:14,15,17

C. The best thing about heaven - light- is the worst thing about hell - darkness !

II. **WATER & THIRST**

A. Heaven is a place of Clear Water -

1. Rev. 22:1 "And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb."
2. Rev. 7:16-17 "They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. 17. For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes."
3. Pure river of water of life - Clear as Crystal - Man needs water and loves water
4. Water is used to illustrate spiritual life
5. This is water possessing life-giving powers, water which restores, refreshes, supports life
6. Never thirst any more - spiritual thirst will be quenched in heaven
7. The source of the river is clearly revealed, proceeding out of the throne of God and the Lamb.
8. Matt.5:6 "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled."

B. Hell is a place of Thirst - Lk. 16:24 "And 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."

1. Dip tip of finger - not bucket, or even a cup
2. A large unquenchable thirst
3. Hell is a place of thirst spiritually and physically !!!

C. THE BEST THING ABOUT HEAVEN IS THE WORST THING ABOUT HELL !!!!!

III. TREE OF LIFE - NONE OF BLESSINGS

A. Heaven is the place where we find the Tree of Life -

1. Rev. 22:2 "In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations."
2. Rev. 2:7 "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God."
3. On either side of the river
4. Tree of life - man was expelled from garden and tree of life - Gen. 3
5. It seems that the tree of life produces only one kind of fruit, the fruit of life, as the river has only one kind of water, the water of life.
6. In this section we have the book of life, the river of life, and the tree of life.
7. Even the leaves are beneficial as they are for the healing of the nations.

B. In Hell there are None of God's Blessings to be enjoyed

1. II Thes. 1:9 "Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;"
2. Jas. 1:17 "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning."
3. The rain falls on the wicked and the righteous - Mat. 5:45
4. In hell we will not be in presence of the Lord - Will only be in presence of devil = no good gifts - All good gifts are from God

C. The best thing about heaven is the worst thing about Hell

IV. THRONE OF GOD OR ABODE OF DEVIL

- A. When we are in heaven we will be around the throne of God - Rev. 22:3 "And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him:"
1. Throne represents majesty and power - rulership
 2. Lamb shall be in it = Christ
 3. God and Christ have been separated from man because of sin - but in heaven they will be in the presence of the saved.
- B. In Hell we will be in the Abode of the Devil - Mt. 25:41 "Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:"
1. Prepared for devil and his angels
 2. Hell is where God is not
 3. The devil and the wicked share the same fate
- C. **THE BEST IS THE WORST !!!!**

V. NO MORE CURSE -- CURSED

A. No More Curse in heaven

1. The earth had been cursed because of man's sin - Gen. 3
2. There will be none of these curses in heaven
3. Rev. 22:3 "And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him:"
4. "Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:" Gal. 3:13
 - a. He redeemed us by suffering for us
 - b. He took our curse on himself and suffered in our place
5. Zech. 14:11 "And men shall dwell therein, and there shall be no more curse; but Jerusalem shall dwell safely." (ASV)

B. Cursed - Mt. 25:41 "Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:"

1. Ye cursed are to depart
2. Cursed - penalty for disobedience > punishment
3. No blessings

C. The best thing about heaven is that there is no more curse but that is the worst thing about hell because it is a place where we will be cursed - punished !!

VI. REST VS. NO REST

A. Heaven will be a place of Rest - Rev. 14:13, Heb. 4:9

1. Rev. 14:13 "And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them."
2. Rest from sin, temptations, trials, stresses, strains, conflicts, sufferings, etc.
(REV 21:3,4)
3. Heb 4:9 "There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God."
4. Rest from labours that man did on earth
 - a. Teaching & restoring
 - b. Helping the Needy
 - c. Battle against sin
5. Works do follow them - laying up treasures in heaven
6. "Rest" does not mean inactivity, but non stressful activity.
 - a. No more unsettling experiences. No more chasing dreams and shadows.
 - b. No more worrying about whether one will be successful or not. he is already infinitely successful. Night will never fall on our joy there (Rev. 21:22-26).

B. No Rest - Rev. 14:11 "And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name."

1. No rest day nor night
2. No let-up it will never cease
3. It will be forever stressful.

VII. NO HEAT VS. TORMENT

A. No Heat

1. Rev. 7:16. "They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat."
2. Summer heat - no oppressive harmful heat !
3. They will not suffer any ill effects from the sun
4. In heaven we will not be subjected to any suffering such as the traveler often experiences in the burning sands of the desert.
5. In heaven we will be exempt from the sufferings like we have on earth.

B. Tormented with Fire - Luke 16:24, Rev. 14:10-11

1. Lk.16:24 "And 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."
2. Tormented in this flame
3. Fire and brimstone
4. Rev. 14:10-11 v. 10 "The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb:"

C. THE BEST IS THE WORST !!!

VIII. NO TEARS vs. WEeping AND GNASHING OF TEETH

- A. Heaven is a place where God will Wipe Away Tears - Rev. 21:4 "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away."
1. Human beings are the only creatures on earth to shed tears in times of emotional distress.
 2. In heaven God shall wipe away all tears
 3. With the passing of the old heaven and earth, there also passed all the bad things that made for unhappiness.
 4. By erasing the causes of tears - no hospitals, no funeral homes - no police
 5. There will be no disappointments in heaven.
 6. There will never be a tear shed in heaven.
- B. But in Hell there will be Weeping & Gnashing - Mt. 25:30 "And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth."
1. Weeping - a loud expression of grief
 2. But such tears are much too late to avail. "Rivers of tears run down the face, but none of the pain can they erase."
 3. Hurting = crying - Sign of intense pain
 4. Gnashing of teeth is a graphic way of expressing the despair of those in Hell.
- C. The best thing about heaven no more tears is the worst thing about hell!!! - It will be a place of constant crying, misery, disappointment, pain, hurt and sadness.

Conclusion

1. The Best thing about heaven is also the Worst thing about Hell - **IT LASTS FOREVER**
 - Mt. 25:46 "And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal."
 - a. Not just for a life-time
 - b. Time will cease to exist
 - c. Everlasting - punishment or life
2. Hell will last just as long as Heaven - forever
 - a. Think about the worst tragedy or event that could ever happen to you
 - b. Multiply that a million times or a billion times
 - c. Hell is much worse
3. The beauty of heaven is the horror of hell!
 - a. Think about the best or happiest time you could have
 - b. Multiply that a million times or a billion times
 - c. Heaven is much better
4. Heaven is being prepared for God's people
 - a. God knows how to build a place of rest for his people
 - b. John 14
5. Hell was designed for the devil not us...
 - a. No place of darkness, pain and suffering could be too terrible for Satan
 - b. Do you want to be in a place designed for the devil ?
6. Obey the gospel so you can enjoy that eternal home with God in heaven !
7. The Best thing about Heaven is God
8. The Worst thing about Hell is Satan

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