



## “Your Future in Heaven”

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One of the benefits of hosting a conference is that I get to choose the topics. So I saved the best one for myself, so I apologize to my fellow speakers. I saved the best for last, and I saved the best for myself and I don't feel guilty about it at all because Heaven is what we are going to talk about. And Heaven is an exciting topic because every one of us holds inside of us an innate knowledge that there is something more beyond this lifetime. You can see it is Ecclesiastes 3:11, "He has also set eternity in the hearts of men, yet they can not fathom what God has done from beginning to end." God has put inside of us a knowledge that there is something about us, and about life that goes beyond this existence. And what that is though we are just too small to grasp. Yet we are given an inkling 1 Corinthians 2:9, "No eye has seen, no ears have heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those that love Him." And the reason that we can not conceive of the eternal is because this life is much like we are living in the womb. You know we think of this life as it but you think about it a butterfly for instance has four stages, it is an egg, then it turns into a caterpillar, then it turns unto a cocoon a chrysalis, and then a butterfly. And we too have stages in our life; we start out as a

blastocyte, and then we turn into an embryo, and then we are a fetus, then we are a baby, toddler, elementary, and then finally adults. But there is another stage for our existence that is beyond this stage.

Now I have this great story here I would like to read you. It is about these two fetuses they are in the womb and they are kind of noticing things around them and how each of them responds to it. And this story is written by Henri Nouwen. It goes the sister said to the brother, "I believe that there is life after birth." Or her brother protested vehemently, "No, this is all there is. This is a dark and cozy place and we have nothing else to do but to cling to the cord that feeds us." Well the little girl insisted, "There must be something more than this dark place. There must be something else a place where there is light, where there is freedom to move." But she still couldn't convince her twin brother. Well after some silence the sister said hesitantly, "I have something else to say, and I am afraid you won't believe that. But I think there is a Mother." Her brother became furious, "A Mother," he shouted "what are you talking about? I have never seen a Mother, and neither have you. Who put the idea in your head? And as I told you this place is all we have. Why do you always want more? This is not such a bad place after all, we have all we need. So let's just be content." Well the sister was quite overwhelmed by brother's response and for a while didn't dare say anything more. But she just couldn't let go of her thoughts and since she had only her twin brother to speak to she finally said, "Well don't you feel the squeezes every once in a while? There quite unpleasant and sometimes painful." "Yes." He answered, "But what is special about that? Well the sister said, "I think that these squeezes are there to get us ready for another place, much more beautiful than this, where we will see our Mother face to face. Don't you think that's exciting?" Well the brother didn't answer he was fed up with the foolish talk of his sister and felt that the best thing would be to simply to ignore her and hope that she would leave him alone.

Isn't it interesting the two views between the two fetuses? A baby that perceives the next stage we are very similar to. The little girl listened to the signs around her. She eagerly anticipated that there was something better by recognizing what those signs are. But the boy, he didn't want anything to do with what he saw around him. He was comfortable where he was, he was happy where he was. But even though he made a good face of it, you could tell he was frightened about where he was. And as we exist do we see ourselves as the little boy, or the little girl? Well why is the little boy so scared? Why was he scared of something beyond what he is used to? I think there are a few reasons for that. One life is short, Psalm 144:4 says, "Man is like a breath, his days are like a fleeting shadow." Everybody take a breath. That's it, that's your life, I mean really think about it our lives go almost that quickly. Hebrews 2:15 says, "Those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death." See life is so short. And death always looms on the periphery of our vision, we know that it is out there but we spend most of our time trying to avoid it and not think about it. And to think that even at this conference today there was a funeral just right down the hall.

The second reason why we are scared of death is because there are misconceptions. We are convinced I think I am personally convinced that a lot of the reasons and misconceptions we get about Heaven comes from cartoons. I mean really we were raised on cartoons and how many times did you see the coyote chase the roadrunner and one of his plans would backfire and he would be squished and all of sudden he was in Heaven, he is floating around playing a harp. Or what about the Devil, you know he's got this pitchfork and he has a big pot belly, going, "ha, ha, ha," and he is poking people in Hell with pitchforks and laughing hysterically. Or movies; how about how we disappear like Yoda and become one with the force. We've got all these ideas coming at us from all different directions giving us different views. And it has left us quite confused; I want to show you a video about two guys who are a little confused about what life is like in Heaven. (Video- tots in Heaven)

From our womb perspective we just don't have enough data and we are left guessing aren't we? Like these two guys. But we don't have to totally guess for God has revealed a good number of details about what the afterlife is like. And He puts them inside the Bible. Now don't think 1 Corinthians 2:9, God has prepared, He has prepared our life now and after this life, and He shares a taste of that in the Bible.

Now let's keep going through some of these misconceptions about what life is like after death. How about annihilation? You know when an atheist comes and they tell you that there is just nothing, when we are done we are out of here, we are gone. Now how would they know? Where did they get the information that this is it? This is all there is? But Jesus explained that there was an afterlife and you can find that in Luke 16, and Revelation 20.

Or how about reincarnation, that we come back again, we try to keep coming back and trying to get rid of the bad karma, the bad energy around us, and eventually we will all become god. But no Hebrews 9:27 tells us, "Just as man is destined to die once and after that to face judgment." Destine to die once.

Or how about purgatory, that you have to suffer in some place to purge yourself of your sin before God will let you into Heaven. No! Ephesians 2:8-9 says, "For it is by grace you have been saved through faith, and this not from yourselves it is the gift of God, not by works so that no one will boast." And 1 John 1:17, "The blood of Jesus, His Son, purifies us from sin." It is Jesus that cleans us; it is not us burning somewhere.

Or how about this one; soul sleep, you call it the big nap, you go into the ground you are unconscious and then someday you will raise again. Well you know I am just terrified just by the thought that I have to spend 8 hours a day unconscious, much less spending decades or millennia unconscious. No 2 Corinthians 5:8 tells us, "To be away from the body and at home with the Lord." So no we will not be unconscious.

How about angels? You see this all the time in cartoons that when you die you become an angel, they will give your wings, and you will get a little halo, but no Hebrews 1:14

tells us, "Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation." Or 1 Corinthians 6:3, "Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more the things of life." Angels are a totally separate creation from us. We don't become angels, we actually become something better.

How about an ethereal world? A spiritual world where we sit on clouds and we play harps all day long. How boring, and I think that this is one of the best things that Satan uses about our idea of Heaven. That Heaven is dull. If you guys ever seen that movie, *All Dogs Go to Heaven* or *All Dogs God to Heaven 2*, the dog spends the entire time running from Heaven because he is worried he is going to be bored to death. But no the idea that Heaven is a place where spirits float around and clouds is just not in the Bible, and it is actually a heresy that came latter in church history.

And I think that clearly the greatest misconception we have about Heaven is how we get there. We are told that we are all traveling down the road of life the minute we are born and we will reach Heaven. But that isn't true as soon as sinned, as soon as we became imperfect we feel under the fall and God's curse. So when you were born you don't automatically go to Heaven, you were born traveling on the road to Hell, and it was Jesus who saves us from that road and pulls us in the direction of Heaven. That is why it is called being saved, He is rescuing us from something, He is rescuing us from our final destination of Hell. If you are out in the ocean and you are drowning and you see a boat coming up, the boat throws the life preserver that life preserver saves you out of where your destination is, which is drowning to death. So that is a huge misconception, and it is a choice that we make, it is a choice that we decide whether we will choose God's rescue or not. If that swimmer is out in the ocean and he pushes the life preserver away, he choose to die, he choose to drown, it was his choice. In John 3:36 tells us this, "However believes in the Son has eternal life. But whoever rejects the Son will not see life, because God's wrath remains on him."

Now for those who are rescued for those who were saved, those who have accepted Jesus' gift of salvation let's talk about what life is like after you die. Today you go outside a tornado sucks you up, you are dead, this is what happens to you if you believe in Jesus as your Savior. Your spirit will go right to Jesus; it immediately upon death is ushered into the presence of Jesus by His angels in Heaven. You can find that in Luke 16:22. When you get there you will be given what is called an intermediate body, it is a real body, you are not a ghost, you are not going "Ohhhh," you are in Heaven with a real body and thank goodness it is clothed, we will spend eternity naked. I am glad for that. And it will be recognizable the people who are up there will be able to recognize you because God alone is spirit, John 4:24. And we can see that for example like Samuel when he came back, or Lazarus and the rich man in Luke 16. Moses and Elijah when they came with Jesus to the transfiguration what did Peter say? "Hey let me build a tent for you guys." We don't build a tent for a spirit, they were clearly recognizable bodies. Or the Tribulation martyrs when the people who died in the Tribulation they are up in

Heaven, what are they wearing? They are wearing white robes, they've got physical bodies. So you will have an intermediate body when you die.

You will experience the Rapture as you live in Heaven with Jesus up until the time of the Rapture that time when Jesus comes for His Church and resurrects their bodies and takes them to Heaven you will be there. And you will get to experience that Resurrection as your earthly body is, that's what sleeps in the ground, and it is combined with your intermediate body and you will have new what is called resurrected or glorified bodies. First the dead in Christ, and then those who are alive at the Rapture and it all happens like that, a twinkle of an eye. First Thessalonians 4:16-17, "For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever." And while we are up there that is when the earth will enter into the stage called the Tribulation, that seven years of time where the world is punished for its continual rebellion against Him.

But not for those who are up in Heaven, they will experience three things while they are in Heaven. One; a judgment, it is called the Judgment of the Just, 2 Corinthians 5:10, but it is not a judgment of salvation, you are in Heaven you are already saved. It is a judgment of what you were doing. Remember we were talking earlier about that we live a life of doing good works, that we were created in Christ Jesus to do. So what are we doing with out time and energy here right now? Well we are going to be rewarded based on the quantity of work, how much we used our time and talents. The quality, how much effort did we really try to do a good job of reaching people. And our motivations, did we do it for ourselves, or did we do it for somebody else. And it will be a great reward ceremony. We will get into that a little more later.

There will also be a party, and it has this real eloquent name, the Marriage Supper of the Lamb, but basically it is a, Hey welcome to Heaven type party. God loves parties; He is not all gloom and doom like some people tell you. He loves a good party. Jesus went to parties all the time when He was on earth. And He is going to throw a party, a celebration for those of us who are in Heaven reunited with Him forever.

And three we are going to prepare to return with Jesus to earth, Revelation 19. We will get I guess armor or something; we are going to get a horse. I don't really know how to ride a horse but we get some kind of horse and maybe I will get a hot rod I hope, I don't know something. And we will go with Jesus back down to earth. That is the next thing that we will experience the Second Coming. Now 500 prophecies in the Bible are about Jesus' Second Coming, 1 in 25 verses in the New Testament. And we will accompany Him, Revelation 19:14, "The armies of Heaven were following Him, riding on white horses, dressed in fine linens, white and clean." Well there is my answer I am not getting a car; I am going to have to ride a horse. And we are going to watch Jesus all by Himself defeat the most, worst scoundrel in the world, 10 times worse than Hitler. A guy

the Bible says is called the Antichrist who will eventually conquer the earth. He will defeat the army at Armageddon and with just a word He will destroy all the armies that follow Satan. And He is going to take Satan, He is going to chain Him up and he will no longer torment us anymore, or torment the world. He will send him into a deep pit. After that Jesus is going to usher in what is called the Millennial Kingdom for 1,000 years Jesus is going to physically reign on earth. And it is going to be a wonderful, it is going to be a new era of peace and righteousness and justice and because of all the destruction in the Tribulation He will cleanse the world and all the eco problems will go away, and it will just be a beautiful paradise once more. And Jesus Himself will rule from Jerusalem, He will rebuild Jerusalem and rule from there. And we will get to reign with Jesus over the people who are still living in earthly bodies, because people who accepted Jesus as their Savior during the Tribulation they are going to pass through what is called the Sheep Goat Judgment, they are going to be allowed to live into the Millennium and have children and all that. And we will be there ruling with Jesus and helping them as administrators and teachers and things like that. But at the end of the Millennial Kingdom Jesus will release Satan because Satan will lead a bunch of people born in the millennium who want to rebel against God. They are given a paradise but they would rather do their own thing and they rebel against God. And when they rebel against God, all again Jesus with so much power just has to say a few words, I guess the molecular bonds of them fall apart it makes it sound like they will just melt, Revelation 20 says, He will defeat them, and we will be there too.

At the end of the millennium there will be a final judgment for all those throughout human history have rejected God, and this is called the resurrection of the unjust. Everyone who has held their fist against God and raised it up in rebellion will be resurrected, Philippians 2:9-11, and here at this resurrection every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus is Lord. And that will be end to all who rebel against Him. After that God will reform the earth and there will be a new eternity after that, and a people group winnowed throughout all of human history that's loved Him will live with Him forever. I mean after all God doesn't want to spend eternity just talking to Himself, you know the Trinity sitting saying, "Hey Dad." "Hey Son." "Hey Holy Spirit." No He created all of this because He wants people who want to be with Him forever and we will be part of those people.

Okay, what is Heaven like? If it is not a ghost town and if it is not a place where you play lots of harps, what is it? Well amazingly the Bible teaches, and this is rarely taught but this is true, that Heaven will come down to a restored earth. Now the earth has gone through lots of changes over history, we know during Adam and Eve's time the earth was perfect it was pre-fall, but when Adam and Eve sinned a curse was put on it and the whole earth changed. After Noah's flood we have what the earth is today with its own atmosphere and environment a little different then it was pre-flood times. After the Tribulation Jesus will rebuild the earth and it will be a millennial time but that will get trashed too at the last battle. So the eternal earth God will renovate it with fire it says to

a pre-fall state, 2 Peter 3. It is going to be a paradise it will be perfect and there will be no curse again. And Heaven will finally come down to earth. And it is a city that Jesus built called the New Jerusalem, John 14:2, "In my Father's house there are many rooms. If it were not so I would have told you," says Jesus, "I am coming there to prepare a place for you." Now think of it. God made the whole universe in 6 days. He has been gone for 2,000 years building this place, what is the place going to be like? And it is going to come down to earth. And you know what? This is our home; this is our temporary home that is what we were built for, that eternal home.

Now let me explain a little what this super city will look like, it is described in Revelation 21, it is either a cube or a pyramid we are not sure. But we are told it is 1500 miles wide, long, and high. So it could be a square or it could be a pyramid. So you could say that the city would stretch from Canada to Mexico and from the Atlantic Ocean all the way to Colorado, it is that big. It is so big in fact that if you say there is 20 billion people in it, each person would get 70 acres a piece cubed it is that big, Revelation 21. And what is it made out of, what is this city? God didn't spare any expense, it is not made of gravel, it is made of gold, it is not just gold it is pure gold it is perfect, Revelation 21:18, 21. And its foundations are 12 layers of precious jewels like emeralds, sapphires, and amethysts and the 12 apostles are honored by their names are each put on one of those. Now there are 12 gates to this city and they are all made out of a pearl. Now some of these angels you read in the Bible are big guys, so we are not talking about little pearls or little gates, these are humongous gates made of pearl. And if any of you know a pearl is made inside an oyster, so if the pearls are that big, how big are these oysters? I mean they must be tremendous! And God has His throne in Heaven. People who have gotten to see it and report back say it looks like an emerald with a rainbow around it. He has four creatures in front of it, four angel types that have never been seen anywhere else in the world. There are 24 elders taken from time and they are around there, and there are angels millions of angels worshipping God. And out of the middle of that throne is what is called a River of the Tree of Life. And that life is for the healing of the nations, the tree produces fruits there are trees. Remember the Tree of Life from the Garden there it is again, and it produces crops of fruit once every month. And God lives there and God is really bright, He is the light source of the city. And one of my kids asked me he said, "If God a light source of the city, what about the other side of the planet, how are they getting light?" I said that is a good question, the sun and the moon and stars they will still be out there, but it is God who provides the light.

And what are we? Are we going to be ghosts? Explain our glorified, 1 Corinthians 15:42-50, "The body that is sown is perishable," in other words can be destroyed, "it is raised imperishable," can't be destroyed. It is sown in dishonor," our sin weighs us down like we are filthy, "but it is raised in glory;" purity, "it is sown in weakness," we get sick we get tired. "But it is raised in power; it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body." Spirit powered, Holy Spirit powered body. "And we will bear the likeness of the man from heaven," the man from heaven is Jesus Christ. So we can't be

destroyed, we are immortal, we will live forever, we are powerful we are Spirit controlled rather than sin controlled. We are tangible, you can touch and feel, you can touch and feel Jesus when He was resurrected. You will be recognizable and your body will be perfect. I am hoping for a few more inches and a smaller nose but we are recognizable I guess I am stuck looking like this forever, hopefully younger. But we will have no weaknesses.

And you know Jesus did some pretty remarkable things when He was resurrected, He would occasionally appear out of nowhere. I would think it would be so great to pop in and out without having to travel. Or how about He flew, He ascended to Heaven. We will get to fly? If that city is a huge pyramid you can beat we are flying. You know why take an escalator? And think about our bodies? Our bodies are degraded here, so our taste, our touch or smells, I am wearing contacts, are all weaker. But in Heaven they will be perfect, so think about the colors that we can see, maybe we will see outside of this light spectrum into the ultraviolet. Or what about tastes, I mean you will get to savor certain foods because we will get to eat, Jesus ate. We will get to savor certain foods, smells I am not big on the smells but I think it would be wonderful to be able to smell all sorts of different things. And Jesus when we are up there He has rewards for us.

For one our glorified bodies, which we just talked about is made in Jesus' image. We won't be like God, we can't be like God, but we will be like Him physically. Jesus' promise crowns for us, physically representations of our life here on earth. What you are doing here and now on earth and making use of your time and talents will be turned into physically that we can show. But not to just brag on ourselves but to give back to Jesus, the 24 elders that sit around the throne put their crowns in front of God and say, "Holy, holy, holy." It is a sacrifice to the Lord. We are going to be given robes, they might be white, I am hoping for a little style, but I am sure we will have clothes so the toga party will be up there. And you know it is awesome we will be given new names. When I was a kid I hated Nathan it was a nerd name I thought, it is cool now but at the time it wasn't. I used to tell people called me Jason. And kids would come up to the house and knock on the door, "Can I play with Jason." And everyone would look around, "Who is Jason?" So I will get a new name. And He puts it on a white stone and it might be a marble stone, Revelation 2:17 explains it and it will be representative most in likely of who we are, bravery, power, faithful. I mean what would it be like to have a name that represents you for the rest of eternity. And you know what Heaven is a place of comfort with no tears, Matthew 5, and Revelation 21. You know don't have to worry about crying or hurting anymore. The Lord is there to comfort us, to give us mercy and to give us justice, true justice finally. Authority that is another reward we will get. We will have a ruling authority during the Millennial Kingdom; we will be administrators and teachers and executives, and majors and governors, not legislatures because Jesus Himself makes the law. And you know what? We are talking about authority, maybe towns or cities but God has made a whole universe. Our solar system has planets and there are more stars and more planets, and there are more galaxies. I mean who is to say we are

limited to ruling a few cities on the new earth. Maybe we are ruling a solar system or two as people go out into the whole universe God created. I mean again no mind can comprehend what God has prepared for us.

Or how about salvation, the Lord gave us salvation from the Tribulation; He gives us salvation which is called the second death, Revelation 2:11, we will get into that more later. And from death to have eternal life, we were saved to have eternal life. How about the honor, can you believe that God would give someone like me honor? We get the honor to live in heaven, God's home where He hangs out. I don't like people living in my home, not particularly, but God is going to have billions of us living in His home. And Jesus comes up to us and he says, "Hey Dad, look we are confessed to the Father." Matthew 10:32, Revelation 3:5, we are confessed. He says, "Here my Father." God isn't sitting up on some throne somewhere and we are looking miles up at Him and never get to talk to Him, or brought to Him. And you know the Father comes around and He honors us, John 12:26, can you imagine getting honor from God the Father? Now it isn't honor for us particularly, but it is honor for what Jesus accomplished and what we accepted. And you know what and this gets me, we are loved and adopted as children, Romans 8:23, that the God of the Universe would adopt us as His own children. I mean that is love.

So what will life be like? What are we going to do throughout eternity? Are we going to be playing harps and singing? I am the worse singer in the world and I do hope that even with my new glorified body I am not singing throughout eternity. But we will get to that. There is fellowship with God, you know that is why we were created, John 4:23, we were made to fellowship with God forever, but it is a choice that we make, if we want to spend eternity with God or not. And I hate to tell for some of you, there will be work we have lots of work to do. But you know what if it is work that is fulfilling and satisfying as Matthew 5:6 tells us then it isn't work at all right, it is our sweet spot, if you are doing what you love to do then it isn't work and God will have some great work for us. And you know what think about the talents, He has given each of you special abilities and special gifts that enable you to achieve things and to work here on earth. Think about augmenting them and making them better and better not limited by our human bodies. And you know we have ages to learn something. When I was a kid I played the violin until my teacher asked me to stop, I was that bad. Well I would like to learn the cello that is my goal is to learn the cello. And it is probably going to take me a few thousand years to learn the cello, but we have forever to get really good. I could have 10 doctorate degrees and still have forever. And we could be studying all the riches and knowledge of Christ and since He is infinite it is like chasing your tail we could spend forever and we would still not learn it all. But think about how smart we will be by then and we will have a brain that not just 10% is using but maybe all 100% is using.

And you know we will mature; I won't have stupid immature thoughts or say stupid things, or react immaturely, it' not like we will become all stuffy and boring but we will mature into the true humans that we were meant to be. Because you know what no

matter how old you are on earth you are a child and you need to get rid of that immaturity, and we will have all of eternity to mature.

And yes there will be worship. And now people get this idea that worship is just, “Oh, Holy, Holy, Holy,” but it is not true, worship is thanksgiving, it’s thanking God. And when you’ve got all this how can you not be thankful, you will want to say, “Oh, Lord Holy, Holy, Holy is your name.” And speaking about a choir I went on a men’s retreat once and there was 500 men and when you have 500 men sing, *A Mighty Fortress is Your God*, it blows you out of your seat. I mean that kind of power that men preach, think about 5 million people singing to the Lord, what a choir.

And you know what? There is a universe out there to explore. God created so much that we are only just beginning to fathom from our pinpoint in the universe. We will get eternity to explore what God has created. And again we will reign with Jesus in the Millennial Kingdom and the nations, Revelation 21 talks about this group of nations that will exist, we aren’t given any more information then that, but we will be given ruling authority. Can you believe that God would share His power? He’s not a selfish guy is he? So it is amazing the future that we ahead of us.

But as good as that is there is the other track, the track that goes to Hell. And I would be remiss if I didn’t share what happens to those people who die without accepting Jesus as Savior who continue on that path to their judgment and what is going to happen to them. Remember John 3:36, “God’s wrath remains on him.” Those people who continue to live on that straight road without accepting Jesus’ rescue have a different destination. They are going to die in rebellion and they have no hope whatsoever. This is what is going to happen to them when they die. After they die they are going to go to a place called Hades, the Bible also calls it Sheol or torments, you can read all about it in Luke 16 it is a holding place for the dead who are going to prison. It at one time had two compartments a place called Paradise and a place called Torments. Now the Old Testament saints used to go to the Paradise part, they couldn’t go to Heaven yet because Jesus’ blood hadn’t been shed to cover their sins, by faith they were there but Jesus’ blood allowed it and Paradise was taken up to Heaven. And so what we have now is just what is left is Torments a place of torment. Now after that at the end of the millennium there will be the Great White Throne Judgment that is a special name for basically the resurrection of the unjust and we can read about it in Revelation 20:11-13, “Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it and earth and sky fled from his presence and there was no place for them. And I saw the dead great and small standing before the throne and the books were opened. And another book was opened which is the book of life, the dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. The sea gave up the dead that were in them and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them and each person was judged according to what he had done.” Now they are going to be judged just like the just were, they are going to be judged on their works, but without the saving work of Jesus Christ the only work that matters they will be found wanting. God’s a perfect litmus test and those

works can not add up. Everyone who tells you that you have to work your way to Heaven is lying to you because the Bible says other wise. And when they are all found guilty their next and final destination is a place called Hell. Revelation 20:14-15, "Then death and Hades were thrown into the Lake of Fire," the Lake of Fire is called the second death. And if anyone's name was not found written in the books of life he was thrown into the Lake of Fire.

Now a lot of people get some really false ideas, there are as many misconceptions about Hell as there is Heaven. As for instance Satan is down there stoking the fires he is already there waiting to punish and torment us with pitchforks. No they don't rule in Hell, there are no demons or Satan waiting to torment us in Hell. Actually believe or not there is nobody, there isn't a single person in Hell right now. Hell is the punishment created for Satan and his demons, Matthew 25:41, it was created for them when they rebelled, and then when we rebelled that same punishment came on us. It was never meant for us.

What is Hell like? We read about it. Is it a place where we party down? Is it a place where it is warm and we hang out with our friends? Matthew 25:46 tells us it is a place of punishment for rebellion. Punishment is not good; it is not a good place. And it is where the wrath of God, John 3:36 is the wrath of God. (Thunder) We read about the wrath of God, I like the sound effects. We read about the wrath of God. Whenever God judges the earth in its entirety we saw it at the flood, we will see it at the Tribulation, He will judge all who have rejected Him at the second death. And that is what it is called, the second death, Revelation 21:8. It is also called eternal destruction 2 Thessalonians 1:9, eternal forever destroyed and you know what? There is no escape, Luke 16 there is no way out it's not some fancy Star Trek episode where they hitch a few wires the doors open and they always escape. It's not like that in Hell; there is no escape in Hell.

What is it physically like? Matthew 25:41 and Revelation 20:15 tell it is a lake of fire. Some people think maybe it is in the underworld, you see lava it flows like a lake. I tend to think it is a star, if you ever get a good picture of a star you see the plasma boiling and rolling like lakes. It could be the Bible doesn't tell us. But it is a place of flames, it is a place of burning, and you would think with all that fire it would be a bright place, but Matthew 8:12 tells us it is a place of utter darkness, there is no light, you will not get to see in Hell. And the stench of it, Luke 16 tells us that it stinks, it has a bad smell to it. And the people who are there they will be conscious, they will not be knocked out, they won't be driven mad to they don't think about. They have a conscious existence, Deuteronomy 18:11, and what they are consciously aware of is that they choose to separate themselves from the Father. Luke 16 God says, "I love you come to me." You can choose that or you can say, "No way," and they will spend eternity regretting that decision. And because they regret it, because they are separated from God, God is life without Him, He holds the universe together. You hear about people always trying to find the God particle of the String Theory, the underlining force that holds everything together, Jesus says it is Him He is the bread and the life, He's what holds us together.

Without Him there is only loneliness and separation, being convicted by your memories. Luke 16 says you thirst and believe it or not there doesn't seem and again this is another reason I think it is a star or some other place, Luke 16 tells us that you fall, there is no ground, it is a continual feeling of falling and falling and not stopping. And because of all the agony and the destruction that you feel there it says in Matthew 8:12, there is gnashing of teeth, there is weeping and crying it's a place of torment, Revelation 14.

It's an awful place of torment because you are alone with yourself forever, just as you decided you wanted to do because you didn't accept Jesus salvation. Now this is why our destination, why we need to think about something bigger than our life here on earth. Why we need an eternal perspective because our life on this earth it really is short isn't it? It's just a breath. And it makes sense that we need to look at the bigger picture in life. You need to know where you are going. You can't just live for the now because if you die this next minute that is it. A good friend of mine in high school his mother was making him dinner she slipped on a water while she was making dinner banged her head against the cabinet and it snapped her neck she was dead instantly. One minute she is making the meatballs and the next minute she is dead and her son is standing there over his dead mother. It happens that way, we don't think it can happen to us, especially the younger we are we think it doesn't happen. But it will, it will catch up to us. Death is inevitable unless you are raptured. So live with an eternal perspective. If you live with an eternal perspective then everything else you do in life and think about will make sense, it has purpose. Now the Bible, it is all in here, it's not a hard concept. Don't listen to what the cartoons and the movies are telling you, it is all in here, read it. If you want people to help make it easy for you to understand I recommend this book by Dr. David Reagan, *Eternity*, our own Dr. Reagan it is out there on the sales table. And it is awesome for telling you about all that it has he has done all the research. Also Dr. Ron Rhodes, *The Wonder of Heaven*, excellent book, they will give you more details than what I can cover in my short time here. And my kids and I have been going through this lately, *Heaven for Kids*, by Randy Alcorn, which brings it real easy for kids to understand. These resources are out there. Now you know now where your destiny lies. Have you made that choice for Jesus? Have you asked Jesus to forgive me of my sins and be my Savior, rescue me please, I want to live with you forever. There is all of that ahead of us why, what are we doing here on earth that is so important? What sins are we committing that are so great that we want to stay here, when we've got all of that ahead of you? So turn to Jesus right now and ask Him to forgive you of your sins and be your Savior and think of the future you have. Don't write Hell off as not a real place. The Bible the God of the Universe who is outside time who knows what is beyond here has told us that that is what it is. And that is our future, so you have a decision to make today. Have you accepted Jesus as your Savior, or have you not. You need to make that.

[Prayer]