

## Key Text: Psalms 90:1-2

“O Lord, you have been our refuge throughout every generation. Before the mountains were born, before you gave birth to the earth and the world, you were God.  
***You are God from everlasting to everlasting.***”

## GOD IS ETERNAL...

### ...MAN FACES TIME, THEN ETERNITY.

God reveals through the Bible that He is eternal and outside of time. (*Revelation 1:8 “The Alpha & Omega”*) **Each person has been subjected to a specific arrangement in time & space which also reveals God’s eternal & unfolding plan.** (see the timeline of 7 arrangements between God and Man.) What mankind is consciously experiencing now can be considered a “TIME-OF-PROBATION” called our “Life-span”. This is the only chance given for a man to determine where he will spend eternity. (*Matthew 25:31-46; Hebrews 9:27; 2 Corinthians 5:10; 2 Peter 3:8,9*) Each man’s eternal destiny will be revealed at the JUDGEMENT. This is when every arrangement in time will end and eternity future will begin. At this moment, only two eternal states remain where mankind will spend eternity, they are **Heaven** or **Hell**.

## THE JUDGEMENT (MATTHEW 25:31-46)

Each person is going to face God as judge and will be held accountable for everything done in their life-span. (*Romans 14:10-12, 2 Corinthians 5:10; Revelation 20:11-15*). The specific day when this happens is called “The Judgement”. The judgement includes two closely related titles, one title used is “The Judgement Seat of Christ” where the righteous are rewarded. The other title used is “The Great White Throne” where the unrighteous are sentenced. At the judgement, books will be opened which have a record of everything. One book that will be opened is called, “The Book of Life”. Everyone who’s name is not found in this book of life will be in Hell for eternity.

### “BELIEVERS CAN HAVE CONFIDENCE BEFORE THE JUDGEMENT SEAT OF CHRIST”

A believer is covered by the blood of Jesus and is free to expect a good reward at the judgement. For believers, salvation has been settled in this life-span and it is based on FAITH in Jesus’ GRACE...remember this is the current arrangement in time! (*refer to the timeline of God’s unfolding plan.*) For the unbeliever though, there is nothing but a fearful expectation of wrath and eternal torment at the “Great White Throne” of Judgement. (*1 John 4:13-18; Hebrews 10:26,27; John 3:36*)

## ETERNITY PAST

### CREATION

**“INNOCENCE”**  
 During this arrangement, mankind enjoyed perfection, one requirement, “willful” obedience.  
 This time of innocence ended with the disobedience of man. God excludes mankind from Eden’s Paradise & from the Tree of Life. THE REWARD IS A PROMISE TO RESTORE MANKIND’S RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

### PARADISE LOST

**“CONSCIENCE”**  
 Mankind is conscious of good and evil and is governed by a “Law of Conscience” which is proven to be ineffective.  
 Mankind is filled with violence and immorality, sinning against God’s standards. The ungodly & the earth are judged in the Flood. THE REWARD IS THAT A REMNANT IS SAVED AND IS PROMISED MERCY.

### THE FLOOD

**“GOVERNMENT”**  
 Mankind is given governmental authority to address social issues and maintain morality, which fails to restore paradise.  
 Mankind governs towards sinful purposes with a singular focus. God judges mankind by confusing the them & scattering the people around the world. THE REWARD IS THE PROMISE OF A CITY BUILT & GOVERNED BY GOD.

### TOWER OF BABEL

**“A PROMISE”**  
 God promises to make a single man (Abraham) into a nation through whom all of mankind will be blessed. Abraham responds in faith leaves the land of Babel. God judges the ungodly with plagues for enslaving his chosen people. THE REWARD IS FREEDOM TO WORSHIP AND SERVE GOD WITH ALL OF GODS’ BLESSINGS.

### 10 PLAGUES

**GOD’S UNFOLDING PLAN FOR JUDGEMENTS & REWARDS**

# 2 RESURRECTIONS

**“Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt.”**

~ Daniel 12:2

Before there can be a final judgment, there must be a resurrection. There are TWO resurrections mentioned in the Bible which addresses everyone.

**The first resurrection** is the resurrection of all the righteous (Revelation 20:4-6; I Corinthians 15:50-54; I Thessalonians 4:13-17). **The second resurrection** is of all the unrighteous (Acts 24:15, John 5:29). Those in the first resurrection will receive a REAL body with flesh and bones, it will be an incorruptible body and a glorious body. **Jesus is the first example of this resurrected body. (Luke 24:37-43)** The second group that is resurrected will also receive a body. Not much is described in the Bible about this body except that...it will be a real body, it will have feeling and it will be tormented & **continually-destroyed** in Hell. (Matthew 10:28; Mark 9:43-48)

## HEAVEN

**What is Heaven?** Heaven is the eternal dwelling place of the righteous and it is where Jesus reigns. Heaven is a real place that is constructed by God. The Bible defines Heaven as having “three” parts, they are:

1. The **Third Heaven** - **This is the immediate presence of God** it is also called Paradise. It is like or corresponds to the “Holy of Holies” in Moses’ Tabernacle where the ark of the covenant sat and the presence of God was visible. This is the throne-room and it is the center of the universe, and all things revolve around it. (*Hebrews 9:24*)
2. The **Second Heaven** - **This is the celestial heaven** where all planets, stars and galaxies exist. It is this heaven which the prophets speak of as being darkened and shaken in “the last days” at the coming of the Lord. This heaven also corresponds to the “Holy place” in Moses’ Tabernacle.
3. The **First Heaven** - **This is the atmospheric heaven.** It is immediately above and surrounding the planet earth. This heaven corresponds to the “Outer Court” of Moses’ tabernacle. This is also the realm of Satan’s authority, meaning that he is able to roam the earth and its air. (*Job 1:7; Eph. 2:2*) God proclaimed that He will make this heaven and the earth brand new!

There will be a total restoration of Paradise with a new heaven and new earth. In heaven there will be the river of life & the tree of life, no death, no mourning or crying, no pain & sorrow...there will only be the fullness of Joy!

**Key Scriptures on Heaven:** (Hebrews 8:1-2, 9:23-28; Acts 7:54-56; 2 Corinthians 12:2-5; Isaiah 13:13, 34:4, 51:6, 66:1,2; Revelation 12:7-12; Revelation 21:1-27)

## 10 PLAGUES

### “LAW”

God gives His chosen people the law by which to distinguish them from all others. This proves only to bring an awareness of sin & the need for a greater righteousness than mankind is capable of. God judges His people by abolishing the temple, the sacrifices, the priesthood and the law. **THE REWARD IS THE LAMB OF GOD WHICH TAKES AWAY THE SINS OF THE WORLD**

## THE CRUCIFIXION

### “GRACE”

Jesus brings Grace & Truth to the world. Under this New Arrangement, all of mankind is offered a restored relationship with God that is based on faith in the grace of God. Jesus accomplished the purposes of God through redemption on the cross. Judgment and wrath remain upon all who reject Jesus Christ as their Lord and savior. **THE PROMISE IS LIFE ETERNAL IN HEAVEN**

## FINAL JUDGEMENT

### “KINGDOM”

Christ’ return brings about eternal judgments and rewards. Those who have rejected Christ will be resurrected and receive eternal torment. Satan, his angels and the unrighteous will all be thrown into the lake of fire. The righteous will be resurrected and receive an eternal kingdom. **A NEW HEAVEN & EARTH WILL BE REVEALED WHERE THE RIGHTEOUS WILL WORSHIP & SERVE GOD FOR ETERNITY.**

## PARADISE RESTORED

### KEY SCRIPTURES

Ephesians 1:3-10; Genesis 1:2-2:25; Romans 2:1-2-16; Genesis Chapters 8-11; Galatians 3:1-9-22; Romans 3:21-26; John 1:17; Romans 3:21-24; Revelation 20:1-21:1-4

**WHAT DOES THIS UNFOLDING PLAN FOR REWARDS AND JUDGEMENT REVEAL ABOUT GOD’S CHARACTER?**

## ETERNITY FUTURE

▶▶▶ GOD’S UNFOLDING PLAN FOR JUDGEMENTS & REWARDS ▶▶▶

# HELL - GEHENNA

**Hell is a real place. It is the place of eternal punishment for the wicked & all who die in their sins.** Hell was created or prepared for Satan & the fallen angels but mankind will also go there if they reject Christ as Lord & savior. (*Matthew 25:41*). The Bible speaks more of Hell than it does Heaven and Jesus spoke more of it than anyone else in the Bible. Hell is the English word for "Gehenna" which means "Valley of Hinnom". This valley is a vivid description of the final eternal state of Hell mentioned in **Revelation 20:10,14-15 & 21:8**. If we want to know what Hell is like we must understand the Valley of Hinnom.

## WHAT IS HELL GOING TO BE LIKE?

The "Lake of Fire"

The valley of Hinnom is a narrow valley outside the city of Jerusalem. This was the spot where Canaanites worshiped Baal and the god Molech by sacrificing their children in a fire that burned continuously. The prophet Jeremiah said this place would be a place of slaughter. By Jesus' time, this ravine was where dead animals and the bodies of prisoners were dumped without burial. It was also the place where all the garbage of Jerusalem was dumped. Fires burned continuously filling the air with the stench of rotting corpses and decomposing trash. This became the perfect analogy for Hell.

Hell is a place where the stench, the worm, and the fire never stop.

Jesus spoke more about this terrible place than about Heaven. He came to earth to save us from Hell. Knowing, therefore, this terror, let us persuade people to escape the coming wrath of God!

## DIFFERENT WORDS ASSOCIATED WITH TORMENT AFTER DEATH

The Bible has a few different words associated with torment after death. All of them refer to one of three divisions of torment after death. (*Luke 16:9-31*)

1. Sheol or Hades - These two words mean the place of departed spirits. Sheol or Hades are considered to be beneath the earth and unseen by the living. When these words are used it can be referring to one of two different places in the unseen spiritual world. One was a place for the righteous called, "Abraham's Bosom" and the other place was for the unrighteous. Until the resurrection of Jesus, believers who died were in Sheol or Hades but kept away from suffering and separated from the unrighteous by a bottomless pit. The ungodly were also kept in Sheol but in torment without any relief.
2. Tartarus - A prison for fallen angelic spirits in Hades/Sheol where they await final judgement. (*Jude 6; 2 Peter 2:4*)
3. The Abyss - The third a lowest region of Hell. This is the bottomless pit, sometimes translated as "Abaddon" or "Apollyon". This is where demon spirits are kept in torment. (*Luke 8:31; Revelatioin 9:1,2; Rev. 20:1*)

At the final judgement, DEATH & HADES will be thrown into the Lake of Fire which is Gehenna or HELL. This is defined as the final death and the Eternal Destination of all the unredeemed and unrighteous.

