

VISIONS OF HEAVEN AND HELL BY JOHN BUNYAN

John Bunyan's Vision and Visit to Hell – Fourth Encounter A Lost Soul Speaks – Part 2

April 5th, 2020

In today's Illustrated Message, we're continuing with the conversation that Mr. Bunyan had with this lost soul in hell, so please read pages 12, 13 and half of 14 of the PDF above of John Bunyan's, "Vision of Heaven and Visit to Hell", with the title; **The Fourth Encounter – What we have lost and What we undergo.**

This lost soul expounds on the miseries in the infernal dungeon and says they are of two sorts; *“What we have lost: In this sad dark abode of misery and sorrow, we have lost the presence of the ever blessed God. And this is that which makes this dungeon hell. Though we had lost a thousand worlds, it would not be so much as this one loss. Could but the least glimpse of His favor enter here, we might be happy; but we have lost it to our everlasting woe.”*

Knowing that the presence of God is impossible in hell, there are those today that have lost the presence of God while alive on earth, before they even make it to hell, because of their actions to serve the devil. But as a Christian, while you are alive there is safety to be found in the presence of the God. And this is what the soul in hell has lost for eternity. They lost the safety on earth by going down a road of destruction. Now they're in hell and there is no safety there.

This protection that we read about in Psalm 91 is conditional and can only be obtained by Christians. It's ascribed to have been written by Moses, the servant of God under the Old Covenant, but can only now be attained by born again Christians under the New Covenant. A non-Christian can quote this until they're blue in the face, but it will be to no avail. Until a person repents of their sins, and is born again of the Spirit, Psalm 91 will not work for them.

Psalm 91

“1 He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

2 I will say of the Lord, “He is my refuge and my fortress; my God, in Him I will trust.”

3 Surely He shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the perilous pestilence.

4 He shall cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you shall take refuge; His truth shall be your shield and buckler.

5 You shall not be afraid of the terror by night, nor of the arrow that flies by day,

6 Nor of the pestilence that walks in darkness, nor of the destruction that lays waste at noonday.

7 A thousand may fall at your side, and ten thousand at your right hand; But it shall not come near you.

8 Only with your eyes shall you look, and see the reward of the wicked.

9 Because you have made the Lord, who is my refuge, even the Most High, your dwelling place,

10 No evil shall befall you, nor shall any plague come near your dwelling;

11 For He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways.

12 In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.

13 You shall tread upon the lion and the cobra, The young lion and the serpent you shall trample underfoot.

14 “Because he has set his love upon Me, therefore I will deliver him; I will set him on high, because he has known My name.

15 He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him and honor him.

16 With long life I will satisfy him, And show him My salvation.”

It says that you will see the reward of the wicked, clearly showing that this Psalm is only for those who are in covenant with God. Being wicked means that you've rejected Jesus Christ as Lord of your life, you've rejected His salvation plan, and that makes a wicked and evil person. If you're not serving Jesus Christ, who then are you serving, or who is your Lord? It must be the devil – the author of sin, wickedness and evil. This must be made clear, you can call on God all day and night, but unless you repent of your sins and confess them as sin and receive Jesus Christ into your life in the power of the Holy Spirit, God will not deliver you. He delivers and protects those who intimately know Him. He looks at the thought and intent of your heart and sees if you're calling on Him is sincere or a farce.

Jesus cares for and loves you as a sinner and worldly individual, He's not willing that you perish. The choice of perishing is in your hands and will. You choose to serve Him, you choose to confess and repent your sins and you choose to become born again. You exchange your salvation plan with His salvation plan, that's the only way He's going to hear and rescue you.

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Verse 13 also parallels with what Jesus said in **Luke 10:19**; *Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.*” Jesus has given us, the born again Christian, authority over the devil and his assignments. Just as there were plagues, pestilences, diseases, snares and attacks when Moses wrote this Psalm, so there are today. But the New Covenant written with the blood of Jesus Christ will deliver you from them all.

The story continues with the Lost soul saying; *“Here we have likewise lost the company of saints and angels, and in their place have nothing but tormenting devils.”*

There are people alive on earth who have lost the company of saints and angels already before they make it to hell. Why? Because they’ve rejected Jesus and have chosen to live in selfishness, rebellion and wickedness. They too suffer from the torments of the devil who possess their children and families. Those outside of the covenant of grace, who’ve rejected God’s salvation plan through Jesus, are being tormented by devils, out from the protection of angels and are out of the fellowship with the body of Christ, the saints. They’ve rejected it.

When even one person repents and receives Jesus as their Lord and Savior, the very angels of God receive joy. Jesus says so in **Luke 15:8-10** in the parable of the lost coin; *“8 Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? 9 And when she has found it, she calls her friends and neighbors together, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the piece which I lost!’ 10 Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”*

This lost soul, by not repenting, has lost the joy of the angels rejoicing over his salvation. When you become a Christian, the angels are rejoicing in heaven over your salvation and then they’re commissioned to watch over you.

Hebrews 12:1-2 says; *“1 Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”*

This is a great loss for the non-Christian, for not only do they lose their salvation, they lose out on the opportunity to run the race of faith while alive with a host of heavenly witnesses cheering them on.

Lost soul continues to say; *“Here we have lost heaven too. The seat of blessedness. There is a deep gulf between us and heaven, so that we are shut out from there forever.”*

What is the seat of blessedness? The Christian is seated in heavenly places in Christ Jesus while they are still alive in earth and this is our assurance of salvation.

This is another great loss for the non-Christian, in that they have no assurance of salvation, and have lost the opportunity of living forever in heaven.

Ephesians 2:4-7 says; *“4 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.”*

A person who is not born again, is living in hell while alive on earth and they can’t even perceive it because they’re so blinded by satan and the love of the world.

Philippians 3:20-21 also says; *“20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.”*

What a glorious promise we have as saints, that our lowly bodies will be transformed and conformed into His glorious body! Our passport and citizenship are in heaven! But not for the one who has not received Christ into their lives.

The Lost soul says: *“To make our wretchedness yet even more wretched, we have lost the hope of ever being in a better state, which renders our condition truly hopeless. The most miserable man upon earth still has hope.”*

No matter how miserable your life is on earth, you can still have hope and can repent of your sins and receive Jesus as Lord and Savior, but the lost soul in hell does not have that hope, it’s over and they can never again obtain salvation that was offered to him freely while alive on earth. Never. Being a lost soul while alive on earth, the devil is killing, stealing and destroying everything from you every moment. From stealing the presence of God, to stealing the fellowship of the saints and angels and robbing you of protection.

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Revelation 20:11-15 talks about The Great White Throne Judgment. It states; *“11 Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. 12 And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. 13 The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. 14 Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. 15 And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.”*

Is your name written in the Book of Life? The Lost soul says: *“What we under go: Here is a fire that is inextinguishable to burn us with; a lake of burning brimstone ever choking us; an eternal chain to tie us; here is utter darkness to frighten us, and a worm of conscience that gnaws upon us everlastingly. And any one of these is worse to bear than all the torments mankind ever felt on earth.”*

Jesus says in **Matthew 25:46**; *“And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”*

Revelation 14:9-11 also says; *“9 Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, “If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand, 10 he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. 11 And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name.”*

So all of the sickness, disease, mental illness, violence etc. on earth, cannot compare to what you suffer in hell, and I believe this is because you are in a supernatural body that does not perish, a body that experiences that which is beyond the 5 physical senses.

Again, the Lost soul says: *“Another thing that makes our misery awful is the extremity of our torments. The fire that burns us is so violent that all the water in the sea can never quench it. The pains we suffer here are so extreme that it is impossible they should be known by any one but those that feel them. “Another part of our misery is the ceaselessness of our torments. As various, as universal, and as extremely violent as they are, they are continual, too. Nor have we the least rest from them. If there were any relaxation, it might be some allay. But this makes our condition so deplorable that there is no easing.”*

Whatever a person could dream up of as being hell on earth, cannot compare the lake of fire. The demon that fills your life with sin now – non Christian – may be the same demon that will be tormenting you for eternity in hell. That demon or demons that are filling your life with all sorts of sin to get you separated from the presence of God, separated from the body of Christ, separated from protection of angels; may be tormenting you for eternity.

Jesus says the following in **Matthew 16:24-26**; *“24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. 25 For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. 26 For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?”*

I believe that the greatest torment in hell is going to be that you were given the opportunity to obtain salvation but rejected it and that there is now no hope in hell of obtaining it again. This will surpass all of the other torments that will be there, this will be the greatest.

Salvation is a free gift but it will cost you your life, but what is your life on earth when you compare it to an eternity in heaven or hell?

Please watch this short video entitled [“The Great White Throne Judgement”](#)