

## VISIONS OF HEAVEN AND HELL BY JOHN BUNYAN

### John Bunyan's Vision and Visit to Hell – Fourth Encounter

#### A Lost Soul Speaks – Part 3

April 12th, 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 the bottom of page 14 and page 15 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.**

It's important today to talk about the cost of rejecting God's salvation plan for our lives, found in the death and resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ. When you reject salvation, you make a mockery of Jesus' death and resurrection.

**Philippians 2:5-11**; *"5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it [a]robbery to be equal with God, 7 but [b]made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. 9 Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, 11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."*

When you reject Jesus Christ and His salvation extended to you, you're rejecting God himself. You're also rejecting the name, Jesus Christ, that is above every name in this world, past, present and future. Is there a world ruler today that everyone is bowing down to? No. But as we read, there will come a time in the not too distant future, that every knee will bow, whether dead or alive and demon or angel, to the name of Jesus Christ. Regardless of how you reject Him now, a day will come when you will be confessing Him as Lord. Not as your Lord though if you reject Him.

In the story we read what the tormenting devil says to the lost soul; *"Besides," said he, "don't you know you deserved it all? How often were you told of this before, but would not then believe it? You laughed at those who told you about a hell; nay you were so presumptuous to dare Almighty Justice to destroy you!"*

How many people today are mocking Jesus, mocking and making a laughing stock at preachers who talk about hell and its consequences? Just like they mocked and laughed at Noah while he was building the ark, they ignored his righteous preaching, continued eating, drinking, giving in marriage...life as normal...until the day the rain came. Until then, only the mist came up from the ground to water the land. That generation was so blind to truth, they ignored the warning of what was to come upon them. In their eyes, Noah looked foolish.

How foolish do preachers and Christians look today to the unsaved world when we talk about Jesus' soon return, the rapture of the church to take His pure, holy bride and the great tribulation that is to come upon the sons of disobedience. There is tremendous scorn, ridicule, laughing and mocking at this preaching, but when it happens, those who are not born again will face reality just like they did when the flood engulfed the earth and only Noah with his family were saved.

The day you die, you'll have to be accountable to God for rejecting His son Jesus Christ, who is part of the God head and to whom every knee will bow and tongue confess that He is Lord.

Jesus says in **John 3:36**; *"36 He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."*

Today, unbeliever, the wrath of God already abides on you while you're alive because you're rejecting Jesus to be your Saviour. After you die, then judgment comes. There is no reincarnation, purgatory or another chance in another life. It's over. You will stand before Almighty God to give an account as to why rejected Jesus as your Lord. Today is the day of salvation, don't reject Jesus as your Saviour.

The tormenting devil says the following to the lost soul; *"You yourself know you had salvation offered you, and you refused it; with what face then can you complain of being damned? I have more reason to complain than you, but I was turned into hell as soon as I sinned. You had salvation offered you, and pardon and forgiveness were often extended to you; but I never had*

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*any mercy offered me, but was consigned as soon as I had sinned to everlasting punishment. If I had had the offer of salvation, I never would have slighted it as you have done.”*

Wow. The devil tells this lost soul that he had been given every opportunity and mercy extended to him to repent, but the demon absolutely had no opportunity whatsoever. How many times have you been offered salvation? How many times have you rejected God’s mercy extended to you?

The Apostle Paul says in **Galatians 6:7-8**; “7 *Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. 8 For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.”*

When a person rejects God’s salvation plan, in essence they are mocking the death and resurrection of Christ, and as a result secure their future in hell by their own willful rejection. Don’t blame it on God, Jesus, the Christian, your mom, dad or siblings who are serving Christ, or anyone or anything else. It’s your willful rejection of the gospel that sends you to hell.

Jesus also says in **John 3:16-19**; “16 *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. 17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. 18 “He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. 19 And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.”*

The lost soul in hell died condemned while he was alive, and because he loved darkness rather than light and his deeds were evil; he continually rejected the gospel that was freely offered him time and time again. Unless you are born-again, you are already condemned to hell while you live. But Jesus wants you to come out of the kingdom of darkness and into His kingdom of light.

It’s not God’s will that anyone spends an eternity in hell, He has freely given everyone the opportunity to receive His salvation plan, but He will not interfere with their freewill.

In **2 Peter 3:8-9**, the Apostle Peter says; “8 *But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. 9 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.”*

The story continues with the tormenting devil saying; “*To this the devil scornfully replied, “I admit it was my business to entice you here! and you have often been told so by your preachers. They told you plainly enough we sought your ruin, and we went about continually like roaring lions seeking whom we could devour; and I was oft afraid you would believe them, as several did, to our great disappointment. But you were willing to do what we would have you, and since you have done our work, it is but reasonable that we should pay you wages.”*

What are those wages? **Romans 6:23** tells us; “23 *For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

The gift offered to you today is eternal life in heaven with Jesus Christ. But the wages you will receive if you reject Jesus, is eternal death in hell.

**Romans 10:8-10** also says; “8 *But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith which we preach): 9 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”*

What is confession? To repent of and confess your sins, you give them to Christ, you renounce them, you recognize Jesus as your new leader, you renounce the kingdom of darkness and don’t serve it any longer, but you serve Jesus, in your spirit, your soul and your body. When you’re born again, the Holy Spirit comes in and you become His temple.

**Acts 4:12** says; “12 *Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”*

It doesn’t matter what name you could purport today as your salvation, or what religion it is that you’re trusting in. The Bible is clear that eternal salvation is only found in Jesus Christ. It’s clear from reading about the lost soul in hell, that he was given every opportunity to receive Jesus as

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Lord of his life but chose to live in sin, and by his own free will rejected Jesus and His salvation plan.

Jesus did everything he could to save this man's soul and never violated his free will, and that is what sent him to hell, his own free will that chose to yield to temptation, rather than Jesus.

The story continues with the Angelic guide saying; *“How dismal is the condition of these damned souls,” I said to my guide. “They are the devil’s slaves while upon the earth, and when they come to hell, he reproves them and then torments them.” “Their malice against all of Adam’s race,” said my guide, “is exceeding great. And because many souls are ignorant of their devices, they easily prevail upon them to their eternal ruin.”*

The devil is malicious against all of mankind and has only one plan, that's to take them to hell with him. Do you notice the words 'easily prevail'? People like this are easy prey for the devil because of their rejection of Jesus Christ.

**James 1:13-15** says; *“13 Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am tempted by God”; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. 14 But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. 15 Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.”*

Again, don't blame God because of the struggles you're having in your life regarding sin. God does not tempt you. Your decision to sin is in your hands by your free will. Do you know that the devil knows you? He knows your likes, dislikes, pleasures, he observes you, he sees where you go, what you watch on TV and online, he sees where your eyes are wandering, he sees what your habits are. He knows what sins you like. He knows how to tempt to get you distracted and lead you down a road of destruction.

What are you rejecting today, is it God's salvation plan? When you choose a life of sin over it, you're living in death, you're giving birth to death, which is eternal separation from God by your choice and will. By rejecting salvation; you're rejecting Jesus Christ the author and finisher of your faith, you're rejecting Jesus as God in the flesh, you're rejecting the One with the name above all names.

Choose salvation in Jesus today. Give your life to Him.