

Heaven

*Jim Hoffman
Christian Life Assembly
Summer 2015*

Heaven

- Job 19:25 But as for me, I know that my Redeemer lives, and he will stand upon the earth at last. 26 And after my body has decayed, yet in my body I will see God! 27 I will see him for myself. Yes, I will see him with my own eyes. I am overwhelmed at the thought!
 - Isaiah 60:21 All your people will be righteous. They will possess their land forever, for I will plant them there with my own hands in order to bring myself glory.
-

This summer I will attempt to prove to you these things:

- **God has never given up on the Earth.**
 - **What He created, though marred by the enemy, will be completely restored.**
 - **What we see in the past in the Garden of Eden, perfect people in a perfect world, also happens to be the future.**
-

Today's Big Question #1

If it is true that most civilizations have assumed a heaven, what is the basis for that assumption?

Today's Big Question #2

We have many accounts of life after death experiences by even the unsaved, yet few are anything other than pleasant.

Why?

Life is Hard



Crime

SPRINGFIELD MOTHER MURDERED IN HOME

Baby Son, 18 Months, Beaten

A Springfield woman was found dead in her home on Monday, and her 18-month-old son was found with serious injuries, police said.

The victim, Mrs. Anita Taylor, 34, of 1215 S. 10th St., was found dead in her home on Monday. She had been beaten and strangled. Her 18-month-old son, who was found with serious injuries, was also beaten and strangled.



Mrs. Anita Taylor was found dead in her home on Monday, and her 18-month-old son was found with serious injuries, police said.

Police are looking for a suspect in the murder of a Springfield woman and the beating of her 18-month-old son. The woman was found dead in her home on Monday, and her son was found with serious injuries. Police are looking for a suspect in the murder of a Springfield woman and the beating of her 18-month-old son.

Girl Missing

Federal kidnapping charges have been filed against a Pocatello man missing with a



Pocatello girl since last Thursday.

FBI Idaho-Montana division special agent Robert W. Evans said today charges have been filed against Robert Errol Berchtold, 38, 107 S. 18th. Berchtold is former president of the Freight Outlet furniture store in Pocatello.

Berchtold is charged in the alleged abduction of 12-year-old Jan Broberg, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Dean Broberg, 171 S. 16th. The girl reportedly was picked up by Berchtold from her music lesson Thursday. The two have not been seen since.

Power County sheriff's deputies Friday found a 1974 Maverick registered to Berchtold abandoned in American Falls. FBI agents today said

FBI Files Kidnap Charges Against Pocatello Man

arrived at an intended horseback riding activity later that day.

She has light brown hair, blue-green eyes, and has a lump on the ring finger of her left hand. A description of the girl's clothing the last time she was seen was not available today.

Bond for Berchtold on the kidnapping charge, which carries a maximum life imprisonment sentence, was set Monday at \$100,000 by U.S. Magistrate R. Don Bistline. Berchtold also faces a warrant issued by Pocatello police charging him with second degree kidnapping.

A friend of the Broberg family, Berchtold reportedly had permission from Jan's parents to pick up the girl from her music lesson. The two never



ROBERT E. BERCHTOLD
Former Merchant

City Shamed: Girl gangraped in bus in South Delhi at 9.30pm

3 Arrested; 23-Yr-Old Battles For Life

Three men in South Delhi were arrested on Monday for the gangrape of a 23-year-old girl in a bus. The girl is now in a critical condition in a hospital.

NIGHTMARE RIDE

8.30-9.30pm | A 23-year-old physiotherapy student interlocking at a city hospital watches a film with her male friend at a Sabot mall.

8.40-9pm | They take auto to Mehruva, walk there for bus No. 704 to Subhash Enclave, where woman sits.

9.10pm | Couple boards a white chartered bus with tinted glasses and heavy curtains. There are 8 men inside.

9.20pm | The man forces woman, her friend objects, is beaten up and held in driver's cabin. Woman is beaten and gangraped. She passes out but screams don't stop.

10.15pm | Couple dumped in Mahipalpur after being stripped.

Victim critical, but on ventilator after a four-hour operation.



Cops search for clues in a bus

More rapes than other metros in a

In 2001, 172 women were raped in Delhi against 21 in Mumbai, 56 in Jaipur. Having nearly 3 million more people than Delhi, Mumbai reported less than half the number of rape cases. Of metros reported even by instance, 87 in Kolkata, Chennai, and 96 in Bangalore. The four cities reported a total of rapes, less than the top Delhi alone, P.S.

"Feel unsafe at time, any place"

A Deteriorating Society



Threats of War



Life is Hard

- There are days when I just want to hear – no one was killed today, no one was raped today, and no one was abandoned today.
 - And wouldn't it be nice to have a day when no injustices were done, and no one was hungry.
 - After listening to news cast after news cast, we can become numb to bad news – but it doesn't change the reality of the world in which we live.
-

2 Timothy 3:1-5

- You should know this, Timothy, that in the last days there will be very difficult times. 2 For people will love only themselves and their money. They will be boastful and proud, scoffing at God, disobedient to their parents, and ungrateful. They will consider nothing sacred. 3 They will be unloving and unforgiving; they will slander others and have no self-control. They will be cruel and hate what is good. 4 They will betray their friends, be reckless, be puffed up with pride, and love pleasure rather than God. 5 They will act religious, but they will reject the power that could make them godly.
-

Heaven

- This series on Heaven is about the hope that is ahead for every Christian.
 - It is also about making a distinction between the fate of rejecting Christ and the reward for believing on Him.
 - There is no greater juxtaposition in the universe!
-

Revelation 20:11-15

- **11** And I saw a great white throne and the one sitting on it. The earth and sky fled from his presence, but they found no place to hide. **12** I saw the dead, both great and small, standing before God's throne. And the books were opened, including the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to what they had done, as recorded in the books. **13** The sea gave up its dead, and death and the grave gave up their dead. And all were judged according to their deeds. **14** Then death and the grave were thrown into the lake of fire. This lake of fire is the second death. **15** And anyone whose name was not found recorded in the Book of Life was thrown into the lake of fire.
-

A Current Statistic

2 people die every second.

120 die every minute.

7,200 die every hour.

172,800 people die every day.

Heaven

- J.C. Ryle said “I pity the man who never thinks about heaven”.
 - Randy Alcorn said, “I pity the man who never thinks accurately about Heaven for it is our inaccurate thinking about Heaven that causes us to choose to think so little about Heaven.”
 - I think it is fair to say that the average Christian knows far less about Heaven than we think we do.
-

Heaven

- Perhaps the primary reason for this is that devil wants to over complicate and confuse our view of Heaven.
 - “Satan need not convince us that Heaven does not exist. He just needs to convince us that Heaven is a place of a boring, unearthy existence.” Randy Alcorn
 - And that idea of unearthy boredom, as I will attempt to prove over the summer, is about as far from the truth as can be imagined.
-

Heaven

- “Satan hates the New Heaven and the New Earth as much as a deposed dictator hates the new nation and new government that replaces his. Satan cannot stop Christ’s redemptive work, but he can keep us from seeing the breadth and depth of redemption that extends to the earth and beyond.”

Randy Alcorn

- The motive for Satan to discredit the truth of Heaven is strong, and is rooted in his hatred for God.
-

Heaven

- Few people prepare for death – few try at all to even consider the subject.
 - Philip of Macedon commissioned a servant to tell him everyday – “you will die” and Louis the 14th decreed that death never be mentioned in his presence.
 - Heb 2:14 Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death — that is, the devil— 15 and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. NIV
-

Heaven

- **Heaven is a place everyone wants to go to, but just not right now.**
 - **“I don't believe in an afterlife, so I don't have to spend my whole life fearing hell, or fearing heaven even more. For whatever the tortures of hell, I think the boredom of heaven would be even worse.”
Isaac Asimov**
 - **“The secret source of humor itself is not joy, but sorrow. There is no humor in heaven.” Mark Twain**
-

Heaven

- **John 14:2 – in my Father’s house are many rooms.**
 - **Jesus deliberately choose words and descriptions that we could relate to, but is that all that is meant?**
 - **Is he just setting up an analogy, or is it possible he meant literal rooms in a literal mansion?**
-

Heaven

- **Why do you suppose we feel so much at home in this world?**
 - **Because our bodies were designed for these exact conditions – the conditions of the earth.**
 - **God has never given up on His original plan!**
-

Heaven

- **A resurrected Savior.**
 - **A resurrected people.**
 - **On a resurrected Earth.**
-

Foolish Views of Heaven

- “How you behave toward cats here below determines your status in Heaven.” Robert A. Heinlein
 - “I don't like to commit myself about heaven and hell - you see, I have friends in both places” Mark Twain
 - “HEAVEN will be no HEAVEN to me if I do not meet my wife there.” Andrew Jackson
-

Heaven

- **Matt 4:17** From that time on Jesus began to preach, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near." NIV
 - Jesus spoke often of 'the kingdom of heaven' and it is obviously difficult to grasp because he used more than a few illustrations of what it is like.
 - When Jesus spoke of the kingdom of heaven he was speaking of a realm, a culture, and a way of life that is to be lived here, but fully realized there.
-

Heaven (Matthew 13)

“The Kingdom of Heaven is Like”

- Like a man who sowed good seed. (separator)
- Like mustard seed. (small, but mighty)
- Like yeast. (unseen, but has huge effects)
- Like treasure. (has life changing value)

Three things that are good for us to know:

1. Heaven is a real place with real citizens, but is not yet our experience.

2. We will experience a real earth in real flesh.

3. The fact that we are not there yet, does not mean that we cannot live by heaven's rules and try to bring it's culture to earth.

Questions / Comments